

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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NOTES OF THE WEEK

THE WEEK

The British offensive in Libya is going well. It is well to remember that the Axis strength is considerable, but the scale of operations is very wide and with the aid of the undaunted spirit of British and Empire land forces and the supremacy in air, success is fairly certain. General Rommel's forces have been caught in a triangle, Bardia, Fort Capuzzo and Gambut have fallen as also Augila, taken by Indians. Sidi Rezegh has been re-taken and Bir El Hamid captured. Contact has been made with Tobruk.

The latest news about fighting in Russia is favourable. There has been a great success west of Rostov, Germans having been driven west by about 60 miles. The situation near Moscow is, however, very serious. In the northern sector, Germans are being steadily pushed back and the threat to Leningrad is considerably less than it was some time ago.

It is good to know that M. Maisky, the Soviet Ambassador in London, has declared that the Soviet Government would like to base its post-war policy on the closest possible collaboration with Britain. He hoped that as there was goodwill on both sides this could be accomplished. On questions concerning peace and international policy, Mr. Eden declared, there was no reason why there should be any conflict of opinion between Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

Moscow Radio states that Soviets have lost some 2,122,000 men, including 490,000 killed, 1,112,000 wounded and 520,000 missing. The Germans have lost over 15,000 tanks, 13,000 planes and 19,000 guns, while the Soviets have lost 7,900 tanks, 6,400 planes and

12,900 guns. Germans have lost about six million men, killed, wounded or taken prisoners so far.

M. Molotov has handed a note to the Ambassadors and Ministers of all countries making a definite charge that the Germans are torturing Soviet prisoners by branding them with red hot irons, putting their eyes out and cutting their hands, feet, ears and noses off.

At Kragujeva, in Central Serbia, the Germans are said to have shot 2,300 civilians as a reprisal for killing 26 German soldiers. Some intellectuals have been taken out of their homes and shot. Not being able to find enough hostages among the adult population, the Germans are reported to have arrested hundreds of students between the ages of 16 and 18, some of whom have already been executed. This brutal act has caused great emotion and distress among the population.

It is announced by German controlled Paris Radio that the French battleship *Dunkerque*, damaged in the bombardment of Mers El Kebir, has been repaired and is ready for service.

In accordance with the pledges already given, the independence of Ethiopia will be recognized by Great Britain. An agreement has been prepared and will be concluded shortly.

Lebanon has been declared to be an independent sovereign State by General Catroux, the Free French Delegate-General in Syria. The State forces will, for the duration of the war, be under the Allies.

A small British patrol landed on the coast of Normandy on Sunday last and returned complete. The German communiqué on the subject says that the attempt to land on the coast was repelled.

The Italians at Kulkober and Ferrober, east of Lake Tana, have surrendered. The British forward columns have captured Tadda Ridge, only seven miles from Gondar in Abyssinia.

The Anti-Comintern Pact will be prolonged for another five years. This was decided at a meeting of representatives of thirteen States in Berlin, including Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Croatia, Slovakia, Holland and Spain. The German Foreign Minister stated that Bolshevism has been dealt a blow from which it could never recover. Speaking at a luncheon to the delegates, Herr von Ribbentrop indulged in abuse of the United States which, he said, would suffer as a result of Mr. Roosevelt's policy. He added that the tank and the dive-bomber would preclude the possibility of revolt in disarmed, occupied territory, that Europe would be reconstructed after the war and that Great Britain had no business on the Continent. He was further confident that the odds were obviously against Britain and that, when the main fighting forces of Germany and her allies were employed against the British Isles by land, sea and air, Britain would be laid waste and must sooner or later suffer defeat.

Speculation is rife about the negotiations between the United States and Japan. The Japanese Envoy and the Ambassador, after receiving a note from the Secretary of State, have seen the President. The note is said to contain a reaffirmation of the views of United States of America. It is stated that a breakdown is inevitable and that America is insistent that the Nine-Power Treaty concluded in Washington should be observed, which means that Japan will have to withdraw from China.

There have been frontier incidents between Thailand and Japanese forces and the Bangkok Radio states that circumstances might force Thailand to abandon her neutrality, defend herself and appeal to other friendly countries for help. Some classes of reservists have been called up. Assurances have been given by United States of America and Great Britain regarding Thailand's independence. Japan has assured Thailand that she has no hostile intentions, but it is believed in Washington that large massing of Japanese troops in Indo-China may be for the purpose of aggression against Thailand.

The developments in the United States during the week which are worthy of note are as follows :—

1. The aero-engine output of the United States is now 5,000 per month, equalling the German output.

2. Export of petroleum products of any kind to Spain and its possessions has been banned. Algeria, French Morocco and Tunis are within the ban. This step has been taken because there was the fear that there was leakage of oil through Spain to the Axis Powers.
3. The Lease and Lend Act has been extended to Iceland and negotiations for its extension to Australia are proceeding.
4. United States troops have, with the consent of the Netherlands Government, been sent to Dutch Guiana to protect the bauxite mines in Surinam. Surinam supplies 60 per cent of the United States' bauxite requirements which are so necessary for the manufacture of aluminium.
5. The Chairman, the United States Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, has said that the United States should take over French Guiana and Martinique. Probably this action is advised as a counter-move to Axis activities in those countries.
6. In Washington the existence of a secret weapon for detecting ships and aircraft at great distances has been disclosed.

HITLER'S CONFERENCE

White House has announced that it has heard that Hitler intends to hold a conference some time in December or January of European Powers, excluding Great Britain, but including "some belligerents, all Axis Powers and some neutrals," for the purpose of considering the question of "economic rehabilitation and restoration of independence for all European nations." There can be little doubt that reports of this kind provide unmistakable evidence of Germany's difficulties, not of her strength.

Such rumours have been already categorically denied in Berlin. There is no smoke without fire, and there are reasons to believe that the conference was originally intended to be held in Moscow with due pomp and ceremony where the New Order was to have been proclaimed. Moscow has not yet fallen. Perhaps, the conference may be held in Vienna. What is the purpose of this conference? It may be to convince the German public that their sacrifices have been rewarded by a decisive victory and that major operations on the Eastern Front were over. It may also be to convince Britain and the United States that, since Europe is now happily united under German leadership, further fighting or continued aid to Russia would be useless. Japan may also be told that her "hour of destiny" has arrived.

The morale of the German troops is, of course, high, though there may be some disappointment. But it is unmistakable that the home morale is weakening. Dr. Goebbels said the other day: "The question of how this war will end is more important than the question of when it will end. If we win it, we have won everything—raw materials, free supply communications and living space, the bases for the social reorganization of our state and for the possibility of full development of the Axis Powers. But if we lose it, all that and more would be lost, namely our whole national life We know only too well the heavy sacrifices demanded by war from all of us, but are not sacrifices borne by the beaten nations, even if they are already living outside the war, incomparably greater than ours?" This speech certainly implies that there was some doubt cast upon the certainty of final victory.

Incidentally, the question arises whether Germany is still thinking of the invasion of England. Ribbentrop has again threatened it. It will be attempted probably in the form of air-borne troops in fleets of towed gliders, but England is fully alive to the magnitude of the danger. What can unmistakably shake German morale as nothing else can is defeat on the battlefield and that would depend on the scale of British Empire and American war production in the coming winter months. There is, however, no doubt that Hitler youth is being decimated on different fronts. This means that they would have to be replaced by older age groups with longer memories and more faculties of criticism. The Nazi Party is also being weakened by the dispersal of special S.S. troops for service at the front and in the occupied countries. With acts of sabotage in occupied countries and growing discontent, something would have to be done to keep up enthusiasm and perhaps the object of the conference is to tell Germany and the world that great things have been accomplished and it only remains for Europe to accept the New Order, that is, as Mr. Stephen Early, Press Secretary to President Roosevelt said: "a series of puppet states throughout Europe with Germany always holding the strings." Of course, as Mr. Early remarked, the Conference should be discounted well in advance by people who really believe in democracy and oppose military domination not only of Europe, but of the entire world. The probabilities are that Hitler will wait for some time yet before he holds this show.

VICHY'S PLIGHT

Vichy has to come into the picture because Hitler is convinced that, without France, the settlement of Europe under Germany's auspices would be practically useless, but that is not the only object of the new developments that have taken place in the relations between Vichy and Germany. Things are not going too well in Russia for Hitler, who is further

anxious that, as a compensation for the British penetration into Libya, Bizerta, Algeria, Oran, Casablanca and perhaps Dakar should fall into his hands. It is because General Weygand would not agree to the German demand for the use of the French naval base at Bizerta that he has been dismissed by Vichy. It is reported that Marshal Petain yielded because, otherwise, Germans threatened to occupy all France and take over the French fleet. Vichy's surrender is likely to have very serious repercussions. For one thing, there is already a movement in America to seize Dakar for forestalling possible German moves. The Administration in Washington is gathering facts in regard to Vichy-German relations in order to determine the future policy to be followed towards Marshal Petain's Government. The fact that a German military and economic mission is expected to leave for Africa cannot but be viewed by Great Britain and America as portending serious developments. If the British blockade in the Mediterranean is tightened up as is very likely, and if America refuses to send supplies to North Africa, then the plight of that country would become precarious and it might force Admiral Darlan to direct the French fleet to convoy French Mediterranean merchantmen.

The forthcoming meeting between Hitler and Marshal Petain may, in the circumstances, prove to be a crucial one. Tunis, Algeria and Morocco will figure largely in these talks as they serve not only as important supply bases for Axis troops in Libya, but can afford shelter to the enemy if he is pushed westward from Tripoli. The French naval bases if they come into German hands might threaten British sea communications east and west of Gibraltar, while the routes across the Sahara and the Trans-Sahara railway, on which work has already begun, would connect the Mediterranean ports of Oran and Algiers with French African ports on the Atlantic. Germany would, if these things occur, have in its rear a solid block of controlled country comprising the whole of North and West Africa.

But things are not at all likely to proceed according to Germany's plan. French Africa, after the collapse of France, became divided in its allegiance, the Northern and Western possessions remaining faithful to Vichy, and the Equatorial possessions lining up one by one behind General de Gaulle in support of the Allied cause. Laval was dismissed because he had pronounced pro-German sympathies, but the Germans are past-masters in strategy and treachery. Recent moves clearly indicate that Vichy is being pressed to meet German demands. The German policy has been anti-French, though called collaboration. The Moors in French Africa are being incited towards separatism. Spain has been induced to renew her claims to French Morocco and

the German infiltration into North Africa has been going on steadily for a long period. Dakar, Casablanca, Mers El Kebir and other French naval bases have been fortified by four or five thousand German technical experts. The Armistice Commission in Morocco is so big that, it is said, it can be stated to be an army of invasion.

THE FREE FRENCH

But Free French Africa is a thorn on the side of Germany. There was a gap between the Allied territories and this has been closed by the adhesion of French Equatorial Africa, which comprises Gabon, Middle Congo, Ubangi-Shari, the Chad Territory and the mandated territory of the Cameroons. While the western flank of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan is thus protected, the southern borders of Italian-occupied Libya are laid bare to the Free French forces, especially the virile fighters of the Chad Territory. American aid can also be rushed through Free French ports of Gabon and Cameroons to operate trans-African air communications between the Atlantic and the Red Sea. The British Government have taken certain financial measures in Equatorial Africa calculated to benefit both that country and Great Britain. The latter has made advances to cover the colonies' immediate requirements. The whole of the 1940-41 crop of cocoa in the Cameroons, cotton of Equatorial Africa, and palm-kernels of the French Congo are being purchased, as also the existing stocks of hides, skins, bees-wax and glue. Essential mineral oils are being exported to these countries.

Besides, President Roosevelt has declared that the defence of the territories under General de Gaulle is necessary for the security of America, thus making it possible to extend the benefits of the Lease and Lend Act to the Free French.

LABOUR TROUBLE IN AMERICA

It should be a matter for satisfaction to all those who are opposed to Hitler that the United States coal-strike has ended and President Roosevelt's proposal for the appointment of a Board of Arbitration has been accepted. Three members have been appointed to this Board which would begin its work immediately. Labour in America is not so well organized and developed as in Great Britain. The two Labour organizations are the American Federation of Labour (A.F.L.) and the Committee of Industrial Organization (C.I.O.), the former representing the skilled and the latter unskilled workers. Relations between the two are not very friendly. "The A.F.L.," it is observed, "is infested with racketeers as the C.I.O. is plagued with Reds." American employers, on their side, have not yet begun to realize that a contented staff requires not only reasonable hours and conditions of work, but

also some means of self-expression through the trade unions. They also resent any interference from anybody in the management of their concerns or even curiosity about their profits. President Roosevelt is known to be the workers' friend and he has called upon all engaged in industry to realize the importance of war effort. He has further set up a mediation board, sought to control the prices and take over particular factories for national purposes. Labour is perfectly sound on the war and American public opinion will not tolerate either workers or capitalists to interfere with the production or armaments for the Allies.

The American Labour dispute is a technical one. The mine-workers do not want to admit non-union labour in independent mines, and want to establish the principle of "closed shop." They want to extend the principle to "captive" mines, that is, mines owned and operated by the steel companies. The "closed shop" principle, however, does not extend to the steel companies and the steel companies fear that a concession in the matter of captive mines will prove the thin end of the wedge for the whole steel industry.

It is probable that labour legislation will be undertaken providing for a "calling off" period before strikes were declared and that the President will be empowered to inaugurate compulsory arbitration, if necessary.

A complication which has since arisen is that in the St. Louis area there is a general strike of 8,500 machinists belonging to the American Federation of Labour. The dispute centres round the failure of two factories to reinstate machinists who struck last month. Four hundred industrial factories are involved and many workers in the aircraft industry are supporting these machinists.

WAR IN RUSSIA

It is exactly five months and a week since Hitler treacherously attacked Russia but he is as far as ever from attaining his objectives. He is now making a last desperate effort to capture Moscow and score a "prestige" success before the winter sets in in grim earnest. He is throwing everything into the battle and his troops have advanced some distance in the Mojaisk sub-sector, the Russians falling back to prepared positions in perfect order. Grim fighting, the fiercest of the war, is also reported from Tula, south of Moscow, and from Kalinin in the north where the Nazis are attempting to penetrate into Klin on the Kalinin-Moscow road. They are also trying their utmost to advance along the Volokolamsk-Moscow highway. But everywhere the Russians are not only showing a firm front but counter-attacking whenever they get an opportunity. Even if the Germans make a slight advance as in Mojaisk, the Russian line remains unbroken and then re-forms to deliver a counter-blow.

Such tactics have been employed with striking success in the Leningrad front where the Russians, after dislodging the Germans from the town of Malaya-Vishera, 40 miles north-east of Novogorod on the Leningrad-Moscow railway, have now re-entered the important railway centre of Tikhvin. Leningrad, like Moscow, continues to stand firm despite intensified German pressure.

It is in the south, however, that we get a true picture of the fluctuating fortunes of the war. Early this week the Germans announced with a flourish of trumpets that they had entered the important oil-rail centre of Rostov on the Don. It now appears that they have entered only the southern approaches and that a fierce hand to hand fighting is going on in the streets. In order to relieve the Russians defending the greater part of the city and to threaten the German flank, Marshal Timoshenko has launched a very skilful counter-attack west of Rostov. Progressing at the rate of a mile an hour, the Russians have already registered a 70 miles advance. The German defences have been broken, the 16th German Tank division (the flower of General von Kleist's Panzer group) being smashed as also a picked S.S. Division and the 39th Mounted Infantry Corps. This Russian counter-offensive holds immense possibilities, the Germans having already lost over 10,000 men, killed and wounded, in this area. Meanwhile, Russian guerillas have been active behind the German lines in the Donetz Basin and recently they engineered a terrific explosion in the docks at Tagarong.

Latest reports from Sebastopol state that units of the Red Army and the Black Sea Fleet continue to hold their positions and that the enemy has lost heavily, trying to break through, as he has throughout the Crimean campaign, in which he has lost well over 100,000. So far, in the entire Russian campaign, Germany has lost six million men, killed, wounded or taken prisoner, as against the Soviet's casualties of just over two million men. The losses of material are also in much the same ratio.

"Hitler still has some reserves, but they will soon be exhausted since the Red Army does not intend to give the Germans one minute's rest throughout the entire winter campaign," said M. Lozovsky, the Soviet Information Chief, when summing up the results of the first five months of the Soviet-German war. "The Germans," he went on, "have the stupid idea that they can

stabilize the front for the winter until summer sets in, but I can assure the Germans that they will be unable to stick it out calmly throughout the winter on the Eastern Front and enable themselves to remove a considerable part of the force for an attack on England." M. Lozovsky continued, "Plans for a *blitzkrieg* have failed and the hopes of Hitler to unite the world against the Soviet Union have collapsed and the tables are now turned. Hitler's hopes of annihilating our forces have also not been justified. Hitler had hoped that the Soviet Union would be exhausted by the loss of some industrial centres, but we have many places far beyond the reach of German planes, where evacuated factories are working successfully. Therefore, all Hitler's calculations have been futile, the war is becoming protracted and the resources of the Soviet Union and its friends and allies are inexhaustible. That is why Germany and Italy, in spite of successes, are arriving at the sixth month of war with negative results."

And the British offensive that is going according to plan in Libya will soon tell on the German strength in Russia. As M. Lozovsky said, "Any blow against the Germans on any front is advantageous both to Britain and to the U.S.S.R." Not only that. If Britain succeeds in driving the Axis from North Africa, the way will be open to an all-out offensive against Italy with incalculable effects on Germany herself.

Finally, we may take heart from the fact that supplies are being rushed to Russia both from Britain and the United States of America. In a broadcast from London, Mr. Averill Harriman, United States Lend and Lease Representative in Britain, said, "You have set the United States a fast pace in the supplies you are pouring into Russia. Mr. Churchill, with characteristic vigour, lost not a single hour giving the necessary commands and when Lord Beaverbrook returned (from the Moscow Conference) he saw that item by item was released in quantities needed. Nothing was allowed to stand in the way. I pay a tribute to Mr. Churchill's leadership and Lord Beaverbrook's energy and resourcefulness. The response too of the British people—your demand for even greater action has been an inspiration. You have set the pace—you can have the confidence that we will do our share. President Roosevelt is as determined as Mr. Churchill. He understands clearly the destructive forces that are loose in the world and the inter-dependency of American destiny with that of the British. He hates Hitler and all he stands for with the same burning hatred as Mr. Churchill."

BATTLE OF LIBYA

BRITISH ADVANCE CONTINUES

The British drive in Libya is in full swing and so far has been going extremely well for the Allies. With the Royal Navy hammering away at enemy fortifications along the coast, with the Royal Air Force taking terrific toll of Axis aircraft (both in the air and on the ground), tanks and troop-concentrations, the Empire Forces, among whom Indians are giving a good account of themselves, are relentlessly closing in on the enemy and destroying his armoured force. This Battle of Libya is likely to go down in history as one of the greatest battles of all time so far as strategy and tactics are concerned.

For months past, material has been entering the Middle East and been piled up in the Western Desert. A glance at the map reveals that the real battle front stretches through the two Continents of Asia and Africa for thousands of miles. Beginning at Tobruk, where a gallant Allied garrison has not only undergone a siege for over 230 days but has immobilized strong Axis forces outside its defences, the line passes through Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Iran and, at one point, bends sharply northwards and links up with the Russian armies in the Caucasus. The front is one of great distances as well as all varieties of country—mountains, deserts, great rivers and cultivated tracts. Rapidity of movement is, therefore, essential to successful operations. While each component country—Iraq, Iran, Syria, Palestine, Egypt—had its own transport systems, they had not been planned as a whole and, in many cases, had not been adequately linked together till the outbreak of the war. This work was undertaken by the Allied authorities with the utmost vigour, speed and foresight possible. The accumulation of supplies, the concentration of men and the development of easy lines of communication went on apace—thanks to British enterprise and the ready and willing co-operation of the United States.

An idea of the gigantic nature of these operations can be gained from a bare recital of some facts and figures. British railway workshops completed in 10 weeks 1,000 railway trucks for Iran and sent 142 locomotives; rolling stock also came from America, India and Australia and it is hoped to quadruple by the end of this month the present maximum number of trains per day along the Trans-Iran Railway. At the port of Bandar Shahpur, an American engineering staff has been enlarging dock facilities for the daily handling of 2,000 tons of war material and Indian engineering firms have been busy improving port facilities along the Persian Gulf. At Basra a plant is being erected to assemble 300 United States aeroplanes a month. An American Mission in Cairo is entrusted with the task of dealing with United States cargo

ships which arrive at Suez at the rate of 30 a month, consisting of trucks, light and heavy tanks, armoured cars, and aeroplane parts. The main highways (including the road from Baluchistan to Iran) and the chief ports of all the Middle Eastern countries are now hives of activity on a scale unequalled even in the busiest days of the last war.

Britain's growing air strength and America's increasing collaboration with the Allied cause have also been emphasized by the inauguration of a new air service between Cairo and Teheran. British Airways, who have established the new service, are using American Lockheed-Lodestar planes. These were made available under the Lease and Lend Act and the planes first used (to open the service) had been ferried across the South Atlantic and Africa by pilots of Pan-American Airways. The planes fly between Baghdad and Teheran in less than three hours, thus saving three days of arduous road travel. Cairo to Baghdad, and *vice versa* now takes four hours instead of three days of trans-desert road travel.

THE NEW EIGHTH ARMY

The official announcement a fortnight ago that a new army had been formed in the Western Desert, called the Eighth Army, therefore, came as no surprise. The fact that this new formation is of such a size as to form a separate army shows that it must be well equipped with modern arms. Meanwhile the British Navy under Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham had since August sunk or severely damaged 175 Axis transport and supply ships in the Mediterranean. The Italian Navy has lost since the war began one battleship (the *Conti di Cavour*), four heavy cruisers (the *Fiume*, *Gorizia*, *Pola* and *Zara*), two light cruisers (the *Armando Diaz* and *Bartolomeo Colleoni* and possibly a third of the *Eugenio di Savoia* type) 25 destroyers, 10 sea-going torpedo-boats and 16 motor-boats in addition to numerous submarines. The task of keeping the Axis forces in Libya supplied and reinforced is becoming desperate, especially in the face of the non-stop British air offensive against military objectives in Southern Italy and Sicily and Axis bases in Libya.

It was soon obvious to everyone that a British offensive would be launched in Libya to turn the tables on General Rommel. It will be recalled that, early this year, when General Wavell, after overrunning Cyrenaica and destroying the Italian army under Marshal Graziani, had in honour to divert most of his troops to help Greece in her mortal peril, the

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TO-DAY IN GREAT BRITAIN

FINANCIAL POSITION

We discussed last week the latest phase in the Battle of Britain and brought out the "warm" reception that awaits Hitler if he decides to hurl his hordes against this Bastion of Democracy. Mr. Churchill, in his speech to the Commons on 12th November, told us that the economic and financial position of Britain is as sound as her military position. The latest reports reveal that her people—"forty-six million Churchills" as a New York paper has aptly described them—spare no effort and count no sacrifice too much to smash Hitler. The Government's measures against inflationary spending have had the result that despite a 25 to 30 per cent rise in production during the first two years of the war, and despite the employment of hundreds of thousands of new workers, the note circulation has risen very little, indeed.

At the end of October 1941, the total circulation of bank notes throughout Britain amounted to £695,000,000. Compared with the corresponding period last year, the increase is roughly 17 per cent. It is useful to recall that during the same period ordinary revenue has increased more than 60 per cent, while ordinary expenditure has registered a rise of approximately 27 per cent. The people, therefore, cannot be convicted of wastefully spending their new found resources and thereby upsetting the equilibrium of war production. The return for their hard and conscientious labour is duly made to serve the purpose of sharpening the tools of freedom in the shape of genuine savings. For two years the Bank of England bank rate has remained unaltered at two per cent. There has been no shortage on the money markets for the first two years of the war. And there has been no rise in prices during the past half-year, but an actual decline. The Ministry of Labour cost of living index in April was 122, in September 121.8. The index for foodstuffs was 111 in April but only 107.1 in September. Even wholesale prices which are subject to foreign influences have remained remarkably stable. The total profit of 498 British industrial companies for the third quarter of 1941 has shown an increase over the corresponding period of 1940. But the net profit has declined owing to heavier taxation, i.e., increased income-tax and the 100 per cent excess profits tax. Ship-building indicates an appreciable rise in its net profits, while iron, steel, rubber and oil industries show a greater total but a lower *net* profit.

PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORT

It is worthwhile observing the astonishing resilience displayed by the British steel industry. After the collapse of France, England, deprived of a valuable source of Continental supply, was left in a really perilous position. British iron and steel concerns had

to readjust themselves to such supplies as they could obtain from overseas and scrap collections at home. Despite this their capacity remained at its former level, i.e., approximately 13 million tons annually. America now adds her inestimable strength to that of Britain's. The ideal that the British worker places before himself is the ever elusive "better:" a 40 per cent rise in productive effort by winter is what all have set before themselves, by a better utilization of existing man power, plant and raw material. Transport organization is to be further improved. Loading and unloading in the docks, to deal with the increase in goods due to the falling off in shipping losses, has been speeded up. New and far-reaching plans have been made regarding transport in general. Government has under its direct control some 500,000 lorries and mechanically propelled vehicles. By means of a new agreement with transport companies lorries will now be used only for short distances. Long distance work will be done by the Railways which are functioning smoothly with a considerably replenished rolling stock. Glasgow and Birmingham collected over £13 million and over £10 million in a week, respectively, for a battleship to be built, bearing the name of the city. Before Christmas 144 Warship Weeks are to be held and 350 have been arranged for the first few months of the coming year.

EXPORT TRADE

There is a prevalent misconception that England's export trade is suffering unduly owing to her Lease and Lend obligations with America. This is incorrect, as the Prime Minister recently pointed out to the Manufacturers' Association. While England does not want to encroach on American ground because the U.S.A. is devoting much of her effort to help England, she at the same time continues her essential export trade to obtain dollars and thereby a fresh accession to her armed strength through American endeavour. This is a genuine example of the English-speaking nations' union.

FOOD

Here are some extracts from Mr. Churchill's speech in Parliament on November 12:—Referring to the dietary he said: "It is sufficient for our physical needs, I hope we shall be able to give a large share of supplies of meat to workers who need it most. The figure we prescribed for the minimum food imports will now be probably achieved. We have amassed stocks of our bulkier articles of diet which amount to double what they were

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IRAN ROAD

SOUTHERN SUPPLY ROUTE TO RUSSIA

Since June 1941 the improvement of Middle East communications has become not only desirable but imperative. The purpose of those improved communications is two-fold. They facilitate the defence of the area between the frontiers of Libya and India against a possible German drive through the Caucasus and/or Turkey. They enable a bigger volume of supplies to be sent into Russia. So every effort is being made to speed aid to Russia by weaving a great new net-work of roads and railways linking Suez and Basra with Merv and Baku.

Two of the biggest railway systems in Britain—the Southern and the Great Western—have curtailed their services in order to despatch a thousand railway trucks and 142 railway engines to Iran. Other rolling stock, locomotives and operating staff are on the way from India, Hong Kong and Australia. The maximum normal capacity of the

Trans-Iranian Railway is 350 tons a day. By the end of November that capacity will have been quadrupled.

Already more than 5,000 labourers are at work improving the road surface on the most easterly branch of the Iran Road, which leads from India *via* Baluchistan, to Zahidan and on through Birjand to Meshed, where the road links up with the railway system leading to Merv.

Other sections of the Iran Road link Bandar Abbas and Bushire (*Iran*) and Basra, Khaniqin and Rowanduz (*Iraq*) with the Caspian coast. All the Persian Gulf ports are packed with ships of almost every nationality unloading their cargoes of aid to Russia. Tens of thousands of Iranian, Iraqi and Egyptian workmen have found lucrative employment at the docks and on the roads and railways. Indian civilian lorry drivers are engaged on the route from India.

BATTLE OF LIBYA—(Continued from page 6)

German forces under Rommel pushed back the greatly weakened Allied forces from Benghazi to Sollum. However, the enemy was well held at the Egyptian frontier by the troops under General Sir Alan Cunningham who had won Ethiopia back for the Emperor Haile Selassie. It is of happy augury that General Cunningham is co-operating with his brother Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, and Air Vice-Marshal Conyngham in the present Libyan advance.

THE CAMPAIGN

The Allied forces have done well in the first few days of the offensive. They rendered useless the German frontier fortifications in the north by a speedy drive to their rear from the extreme south. The Germans were completely taken by surprise and lost the first round almost immediately. The Indian troops have occupied Sidi Omar Nuovo; Sidi Rezegh, Fort Capuzzo, Bardia, Bir el Hamid and Gambut have fallen to the British and Empire forces. Even more important than the extent of the advance—a hundred miles in three days—is the systematic annihilation of the enemy's armoured force. For once the British and Germans are meeting each other on equal terms, as Mr. Churchill has pointed out. And the Royal Air Force ranges supreme over the sky and gives effective aid to the land forces. In the first three or four days, General Rommel had lost half his tanks. Trapped in the triangle—Tobruk, El Gobi and Sollum—the German "Panzer" divisions have been making desperate efforts to break out of the British ring. "We are continuing to destroy enemy tanks," it is authoritatively stated in Cairo. "It can be stated on high authority that our objective is not Tobruk or prisoners,

but the destruction of every German tank in Libya. That is what we are doing at the moment." It is heartening to hear that our troops from Tobruk have sallied forth and effected a junction with our troops advancing towards them at El Duda. The sally ran up against some known minefields, but there was little difficulty in negotiating them.

The German forces encircled in the various sectors of this front must fight back. The alternative is death or imprisonment. Already in one action near Sidi Omar, the Indian troops have taken over 8,000 prisoners. The Allies, too, may have to fight hard because it is the Germans they are meeting this time, not the Italians. The Nazis will spare nothing, men, machines or material; for the future of the Axis in North Africa depends upon the outcome of what Mr. Churchill has called "this supremely important battle." But the Allies have begun magnificently, they are as well armed as the Germans, they have a great leader in General Cunningham and they know they can rely on invaluable support from the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. They may well be expected to give a good account of themselves. Indeed, they have dealt effectively with a German diversionary move from Gabr Saleh eastwards to the Egyptian border. While a fierce tank and infantry battle is now proceeding in the centre of Cyrenaica, British forces have made a rapid march and captured the Gialo Oasis, 250 miles west of the Egyptian frontier and Indian troops, not to be outdone, have taken Augila close by. If these successes are followed up, they may well help to cut off the entire enemy forces in Cyrenaica from their main base at Tripoli.

FUEHRER'S FRUSTRATION

ATTEMPTS TO EXCUSE FAILURES IN RUSSIA

"We are before Leningrad," said Hitler on October 3. Already the German *communiqués* had claimed to be approaching Leningrad so often that Lozovsky was led to remark that, had they been advancing on all fours, the Germans should have reached the town by this time. On November 9, when Hitler was due to speak again, the defenders of Leningrad were still scorning the Fuehrer's "advances." He could only retort that it was "sheer nonsense" to say the German forces were "on the defensive before Leningrad." The true position was that they could take the city any time they chose, but "I shall not sacrifice a single man more than is absolutely necessary."

Yet Hitler knows as well as anyone that possession of Leningrad would have provided him with a forward base, supplied from Germany along the short sea-route, from which he could have struck in behind Moscow and perhaps destroyed the Russian Army of the Centre. Instead, he has been obliged to concentrate two million of his best troops between Kalinin and Kursk for a suicidal frontal assault on the capital. On October 15 the Nazi radio in Norway said: "The Germans do not envisage a long siege of the Russian capital." On October 28 the Nazi radio station at Prague said: "Moscow will fall immediately. Hitler considers it necessary."

If Hitler did not yet consider the fall of Moscow necessary he would not have chosen to pin down two million soldiers in the Central Sector when they might otherwise have been switched to the South. For it is

in the Donetz Basin drive that the Germans have come within an ace of overwhelming victory. At all costs, this Russian central core must be broken, both for reasons of prestige at home and abroad and to cover the left flank of von Runstedt's advancing army in the South. But, in reply to Moscow's scorn—just as in the case of Leningrad—Hitler can only say:—"Leave it to me. I shall do it in my own way and in my own time."

When the world contrasts the speed of his advance in Russia with the speed of his other advances, Hitler retorts: "We determine the speed of our advance ourselves." He talks (November 9) about the task of the German infantryman who has to march "over impassable roads, through swamps and marshes." A military commentator on the Berlin radio (November 15) blames the "extraordinary weather" and draws attention to "torrential rains and mud and high winds", concluding: "The progress will therefore be much slower than last summer and the final victory will entirely depend on the morale of German soldiers."

Moscow remains the glittering prize. Five months of flaming carnage have produced a very small dividend—the development of a threat to the Caucasus. Hitler's position now is rather like that of the bidder at an auction who has almost reached the limit of his purse and feels that one more bid must surely outbid his opponent and cause the hammer to fall in his favour. Hitler has not conquered. But he must conquer or perish. That is why, however costly his Russian gamble proves, he must go on pushing up the stakes.

TO-DAY IN GREAT BRITAIN—(Continued from page 7)

in September 1939. The corn harvest is 50 per cent greater than in 1939. We shall have much greater crops of potatoes, sugar, beet-roots, and other fodder crops. The weekly quota of meat has been increased by 18 per cent. Game, poultry, and fish have never come under the umbrella of rationing. In July sugar ration was increased by 50 per cent. A similar rise is anticipated in November. Fats are to be increased by 25 per cent in November. And milk supply has never been artificially curtailed. There is nothing Hitler will dislike more than a recital of these prosaic facts."

RIGHT OF CRITICISM

Hearing criticisms on this and that, one is apt to forget the vast implication of this very

right of criticism and to concentrate too much on the minor details set out by impatient dissentients. As Mr. Churchill has said: "It is very hard to bring about success and very easy to make mistakes. . . . Our universal resolve to keep parliamentary institutions in full activity has been proved. The Government bases itself on the House of Commons. . . . Those who vote against the Government will not be assaulted with rubber truncheons, sent to concentration camps or otherwise molested. We are fighting for Parliamentary institutions." Look on this picture and on that furnished by the States that Hitler wants to drag into his "New Order."

BURMA-CHINA COMMUNICATIONS

LASHIO-KUMMING RAILWAY PROJECT

Rangoon is linked with the Burma-China frontier—

- (1) by railway to Lashio and thence by road;
- (2) by road all the way from Rangoon following the same route;
- (3) by river to Bhamo and thence by road; and
- (4) by rail to Mandalay or Katha, thence by river to Bhamo and thence by road.

On the Chinese side there is only one first-class route in existence, the "Burma Road" to Kunming, but a second line will be available when the new railway from Lashio to Kunming is completed. Many pack routes, of course, exist which have long been used for trade between Burma and China.

There is also air communication between Rangoon and Chungking, via Lashio, a passenger and postal air service being operated by the Chinese National Aviation Corporation. Air freight services from Lashio or Myitkyina to China, which would relieve pressure on the Burma Road, have also been considered but have not yet been put into operation.

The focal point of Burma communications is the capital, Rangoon, situated on the Hlaing or Rangoon River, some 20 miles from its entrance into the Gulf of Martaban. Almost the whole of the trade of Burma passes into and out of Rangoon, and, to cope with this trade, reconstruction and improvement of the harbour facilities at Rangoon took place about 12 years ago and again within the last two or three years.

Rangoon is also the headquarters of the Burma railway system, controlled by the Burma Railway Board, a statutory corporation responsible to a Burman minister on matters of railway policy. The railways are entirely of metre gauge. The main line runs from Rangoon to Mandalay, a distance of 440 miles, and from there continues to Myitkyina, a branch linking with the Irrawady River at Katha.

A branch line from Mandalay to Lashio, 120 miles long, takes the bulk of the China traffic. Between Mandalay and Maymyo, the Headquarters of the Army in Burma, this line mounts the escarpment to the Shan Plateau, and this section includes a stretch of 13 miles of a gradient of 1 in 25 containing four reversing stations. From Mandalay the line is in long switchbacks, since the Plateau is deeply scored by large valleys and gorges; one of these gorges is spanned by the famous Gokteik Viaduct, which is approximately 2,200 feet long.

Beyond this gorge the line continues through mountainous country to Hsipaw, the capital of the Hsipaw State, and from there, still climbing on the whole, to Lashio. Between Hsipaw and Lashio the Burma Corporation's private railway branches off to the Great silver and lead mine at Bawdwin, and the plant at Namtu. Lashio, the terminus, is the administrative headquarters of the Northern Shan States.

THE BURMA ROAD

A first-class motor road runs from Rangoon to Lashio following much the same route as the railway, and at Lashio the famous Burma Road to Kunming takes off. The section in Burma, 120 miles long, is a mountain road but in good condition. The total distance from the railhead at Lashio to Kunming is 738 miles and the journey takes on an average five days for private cars and seven for trucks.

The section in China to Kunming, the capital of the Province of Yunnan, was opened in 1938 and has remained open since then apart from temporary stoppages owing to landslides and Japanese bombing. The Road crosses the Salween and Mekong rivers by suspension bridges and contains some very steep gradients, particularly that beyond the Mekong Valley where the road rises in a short stretch from 4,000 feet above sea level to the great height of about 7,500 feet.

In view of the limitations of road traffic, which is not suitable for all types of goods, the Chinese Government has consistently pressed the need for railway communication between Burma and China, and early this year the decision was taken to build a railway from Lashio to link up with a railway from Kunming on which work had already been started.

The question of railway communication between Burma and China has been under discussion for many years. It was, in fact, first examined in the '90's. Some three years ago the construction of the whole line both in Burma and in China was under consideration by private commercial organizations, but this came to nothing as it was doubted whether the line would become a paying proposition from the point of view of private investors.

BRITAIN TO FINANCE RAILWAY

Similar considerations precluded the Government of Burma from undertaking the project from their own resources; but it has now been decided that as a long term project the railway will be constructed from funds provided by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, the Government of Burma to be given the option to acquire the railway at a later date.

(Continued on page 13)

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED

Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East
FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 8—15, 1941

THE SPIRIT OF BRITAIN

"And this brings us to the real subject, the war in the Atlantic, German attacks on shipping have made the whole food rationing scheme go to the bottom of the sea . . . And that is why we think that the British food position must be a good deal more serious than Lord Woolton cares to admit."—(*German topical talk in English*, 11th November 1941).

"The danger of inflation is hanging over every British head. England's economic situation is desperate. Paper money has increased of late. Great nervousness is evinced at the Bank of England's plight."—(*Italian news in English*, 18th November 1941).

Mr. Churchill said on November 12, that the dietary of the people "*is sufficient for their physical needs*" and soon "*a large share of supplies of meat to workers who need it most*" would be effected. "*We have amassed stocks*" he went on, "*of our bulkier articles of diet which amount to double what they were in September 1939. We shall have much greater crops of potatoes, sugar, beetroots, and other fodder crops.*" Weekly meat quota has recently been increased by 18 per cent. Game, poultry and fish have never come under the razor of rationing. Sugar and fat rationing has in recent times been doubled and milk has always been free from any restrictive legislation.

Axis economics are as shaky as its tottering political structure. Cost of living index figures for England actually show a drop and increase in note circulation despite increase in employment for the whole year has been only about 17 per cent. The Bank rate has been steady and low and the money market has never been tight. In fact in one week Glasgow and Birmingham collected over £13 and over £10 million respectively for the construction of battleships bearing their names.

ROMAN REVERIES

"It is noteworthy that the English ships have to make a voyage round the Cape of Good Hope to reach the ports of North Africa, while Italian units merely cross the Mediterranean. As the British merchant fleet is avoiding the Mediterranean, while the Italian fleet is crossing it uninterruptedly, it is perfectly clear which of the two adversaries controls the sea. The domination of Italy in the Mediterranean is so strong."—(*Italian news in French*, 12th November 1941).

Mussolini's naval strength to-day is—

- 5 battleships.
- 10 6-in. cruisers.
- 45 torpedo boats.
- 4 8-in. cruisers.
- 37 destroyers.

Approximately 80 submarines.

When he tried to whisk 10 laden supply ships along the 500 mile route from Taranto to Benghazi on November 2, all 10 were destroyed before they got half way to their destination. Three escorting destroyers were sunk, two others were seriously damaged, and two heavy cruisers were put to flight. Admiral Cunningham accomplished this brilliant feat with two light cruisers, two destroyers, and one submarine. They did their work and withdrew without loss. In 92 days between August and October British submarines and aircraft have sunk 80 Axis ships (39,000 tons) and damaged 61 ships (267,000 tons). The Mediterranean is now Mussolini's Night Mare.

"Victory will give Italy all she has fought for. We cannot forget the betrayal of Britain. Now things stand better, much better. Germany is not Britain. We have at last found a friend we were looking for since 1848."—(*Italian news in English*, 11th November 1941).

Italy entered the war as a presumptuous blustering equal, with a cry for Corsica, Tunis, and Savoy on her lips. Now a tattered lackey, she is not allowed to occupy a town in Savoy, much less cast covetous eyes at the French Empire in Africa. Hungary has slipped out of Italy's greasy fingers, and in the Vichy-Berlin negotiations Italy is not given even a dishonourable mention. Gestapo-ridden, starved of her agricultural products, she now depends abjectly for the very source of warmth and power on Germany—coal.

FEBRILE FABRICATIONS

"According to a report from Istanbul, the defence expenditure of the Egyptian Government has abnormally increased. To please the British military authorities the Government has so far spent about *two million Egyptian pounds* on the construction of shelters and on other air raid protection measures. More air raid shelters are now under construction."—(*Italian news in Arabic*, 8th November 1941.)

On December 10, 1940 due to indiscriminate Italian bombings, the Egyptian authorities hastened the construction of shelters and voted for the purpose credits to the value of £200,000.

On June 13, 1941, the *Al Masri* stated in an editorial:—"We have received a huge number of letters from all parts of Egypt expressing the deep gratification produced throughout the country by the British Government's donation of £1,000,000 for A.R.P. The pleasure produced by this generous gift is heightened by the fact that the Germans and the Italians at the same time gave their friends the Egyptian Moslems, the gift of death, destruction, ruin. . . ." The British Government also sent several leading A.R.P. experts to Egypt to provide technical assistance.

"As the Spanish paper A.B.C. reports the British public still nourish false hopes about the possibility to continue the Soviet resistance by basing it on the alleged supplies from the Urals territory and Siberia."—(*German news in English*, 10th November 1941.)

Tula's factories have been evacuated, Khar-kov's tractor and electrical plants have been moved away well in time. This is the positive aspect of the scorched earth policy that is burning the paws of the Panzers. The Urals have the largest steel plant, chemical factory, machine building works, copper smelter and heavy tractor plant in the country. And Siberia is rich in deposits of gold, platinum, silver, antimony and magnetic iron.

ANOTHER HITLER SPEECH

The Voice Today

"I wanted to spare further sacrifices but that was not understood by those who have never yet made a sacrifice in life."

"Certain Englishmen quite openly declared that war would last for three years. These people are the owners of armament industry."

"What could be more plausible than that one day that power which is the greatest servant of Jewry would rise against Germany."

The Voice Yesterday

"The world can only be ruled by fear . . . Terror is the most effective political instrument. I recognize no moral law in politics."—(*Hitler Speaks*.)

"War is eternal. War is universal. War is life."—(*Hitler Speaks*.)

"Neither the Russians nor the German government want to be drawn into war. It is in the best interests of both nations to have an understanding with each other."—(*Hitler at Danzig*, September 19, 1939.)

The Voice Today

"I gave the order to strike against the Soviet, *It was the most difficult decision of my life.*"

"You know our allies. To begin with that gallant little nation the Finns. . . the Slovaks, Hungarians, etc. The occupied territories are being fairly treated."

"South America is as remote as the moon as far as I am concerned."

"We have a goal which embraces the whole of this continent and the German state in particular."

The Voice Yesterday

"We see in Bolshevism a bestial, mad doctrine which is a threat to us. *We cannot negotiate with Jewish Communist leaders.*"—(Hitler at Nuremberg, 13th September 1936.)

"*The day of small states is past. We do not seek equality but mastery. We shall not waste time over minority rights and other such ideological abortions of sterile democracy.*"—(Hitler Speaks.)

"*We have a right to South America.*"—(Hitler Speaks.)

"We have no wishes or demands; we desire peace. *No people can need peace more than we.*"—(Hitler at Saarbrücken, 9th October 1938.)

HITLER SQUEAKS

"I don't like any bloodshed."—(Hitler, Nov. 9.)

BURMA-CHINA COMMUNICATIONS—(Continued from page 10)

The railway will follow a different alignment from the road for about two-thirds of its length, thereafter following much the same route as the road to Kunming. The length involved in Burma is 110 miles across the hilly plateau of the Federated Shan States.

In Burma the first half is comparatively straightforward, but the second half will involve many cuttings and bridges. The chief task in the Burma section is the bridging of the Salween, a river 500 feet wide at the point involved.

The first section in China is comparatively simple, running up the Namting Valley; thereafter comes a very difficult section in which immense ranges of hills 7,000 feet in height with precipitous sides have to be crossed, including a major bridge over the Mekong River. The eastern half of the Chinese section is easier; on this part a good deal of work has already been done. It is estimated that the Burma section will cost not less than £2,000,000 and will take about two years to complete. It is possible that both skilled and unskilled Chinese labour will be employed on the Burmese as well as the Chinese section.

Another line of communication to China is *via* Bhamo, goods being carried up the 870 miles of the Irrawaddy River from Rangoon on floats towed by steamers. The journey by boat takes 9 or 10 days, but this time can be shortened by taking the goods by rail to Katha and transferring them to the river at that point.

Bhamo lies on the old trade route from Burma to China which followed a pack road *via* Tengyueh to Kunming. In spite of difficulties trade flourished on this route for many years and as far back as 1894 a convention with China was concluded, which dealt with mutual trade and fostering of trade relations between Burma and Yunnan.

The Bhamo-Tengyueh route is not passable for trucks, but a motor road runs from Bhamo *via* Panghkam in Burmese territory to join the Burma Road near the frontier. The first section of this, though mountainous, is in fair condition but the second section, which is on comparatively low ground along the river Shweli, is indifferent, being liable to flooding in the rains.

DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

22nd Nov.—The German air "ace" Moelders is killed in an air accident.

23rd Nov.—In Royal Air Force sweeps over Northern France, six enemy fighters are destroyed as against one British plane.

Scattered enemy raids on coastal places in South and South-West England cause neither casualties nor damage.

24th Nov.—The Royal Air Force raids the naval bases at Lorient and Brest, the docks at Dunkirk and aerodromes and factories in occupied France.

Two enemy planes are destroyed over Britain.

25th Nov.—Gen. Wilberd of the German air force is killed in a plane crash.

26th Nov.—The Royal Air Force raids Cherbourg and Brest beside bombing enemy vessels in the straits of Dover.

Enemy planes make stray raids on points in South-West and North-East England.

27th Nov.—Emden and other objectives in Northern Germany as well as the docks at Ostend are bombed by the Royal Air Force.

Nazi bombs dropped on the South Wales Coast cause slight damage but no casualties.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

21st Nov.—In big tank clashes near Sidi Rezegh and Sidi Omar, the Germans lose over 130 tanks and are beaten off by the British forces advancing in Libya. British aircraft bomb Tripoli, Benghazi, Naples, Brindisi and Messina.

The British Imperial Forces, advancing on Gondar in Abyssinia, penetrate a fortified enemy position at Ioimariam.

22nd Nov.—Trapped in the triangle between Tobruk and the northern and southern ends of the Egypt-Libya border, the Germans lose half their tanks. The British Imperial Forces capture Fort Capuzzo. An enemy air-field is captured at Sidi Rezegh with all the aircraft and personnel there. The British garrison at Tobruk sallies forth to join the Empire forces.

The Italians at Kulkober and Ferrober, east of Lake Tana, surrender to the British forces closing in on Gondar. Ethiopian Patriot forces particularly distinguish themselves. In the north the Italian garrison at Gurlia is surrounded.

23rd Nov.—The British Imperial Forces occupy Bardia and Sidi Omar, the Indians taking Sidi Omar Nuovo. Thousands of prisoners are taken by the Indian and other troops.

British planes score a direct hit on an enemy cruiser escorting a convoy in the Mediterranean. Another cruiser is torpedoed and possibly sunk by a British submarine. A destroyer is also hit by two torpedoes and probably sunk.

24th Nov.—The British Imperial Forces capture Gambut, an important enemy supply-centre.

Gondar comes under British artillery fire.

The Royal Air Force destroys 18 enemy aircraft in Libya and three over Malta for the loss of 13 British planes. Enemy troop positions in Libya are ceaselessly bombed.

25th Nov.—British forces capture the Gialo Oasis, 250 miles west of the Egyptian frontier, and Indian troops take Auglia close by. Fierce infantry battles are reported. The Royal Navy sinks two more enemy supply ships in convoy and withdraws all Australian forces from Tobruk and replaces them with British troops without rousing Axis suspicions. It is revealed that 119 enemy planes have been destroyed in Libya from the dawn of 19th Nov. to the midnight of 23rd Nov.

British Imperial forces capture Tadda Ridge, seven miles from Gondar.

26th Nov.—Indian troops capture Jalo. Fierce fighting is reported from Sidi Rezegh. An enemy column staging a diversion from Gabr Saleh eastwards is promptly tackled.

27th Nov.—British and Empire forces capture Bir el Hamid and recapture Sidi Rezegh which had changed hands many times. A junction is effected at El Duda with the British forces from Tobruk.

Ethiopian Patriots cut the Celga-Azozto Road west of Gondar.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

21st Nov.—Col. Knox, United States Secretary of the Navy, launches the new battleship *Indiana* (35,000 tons).

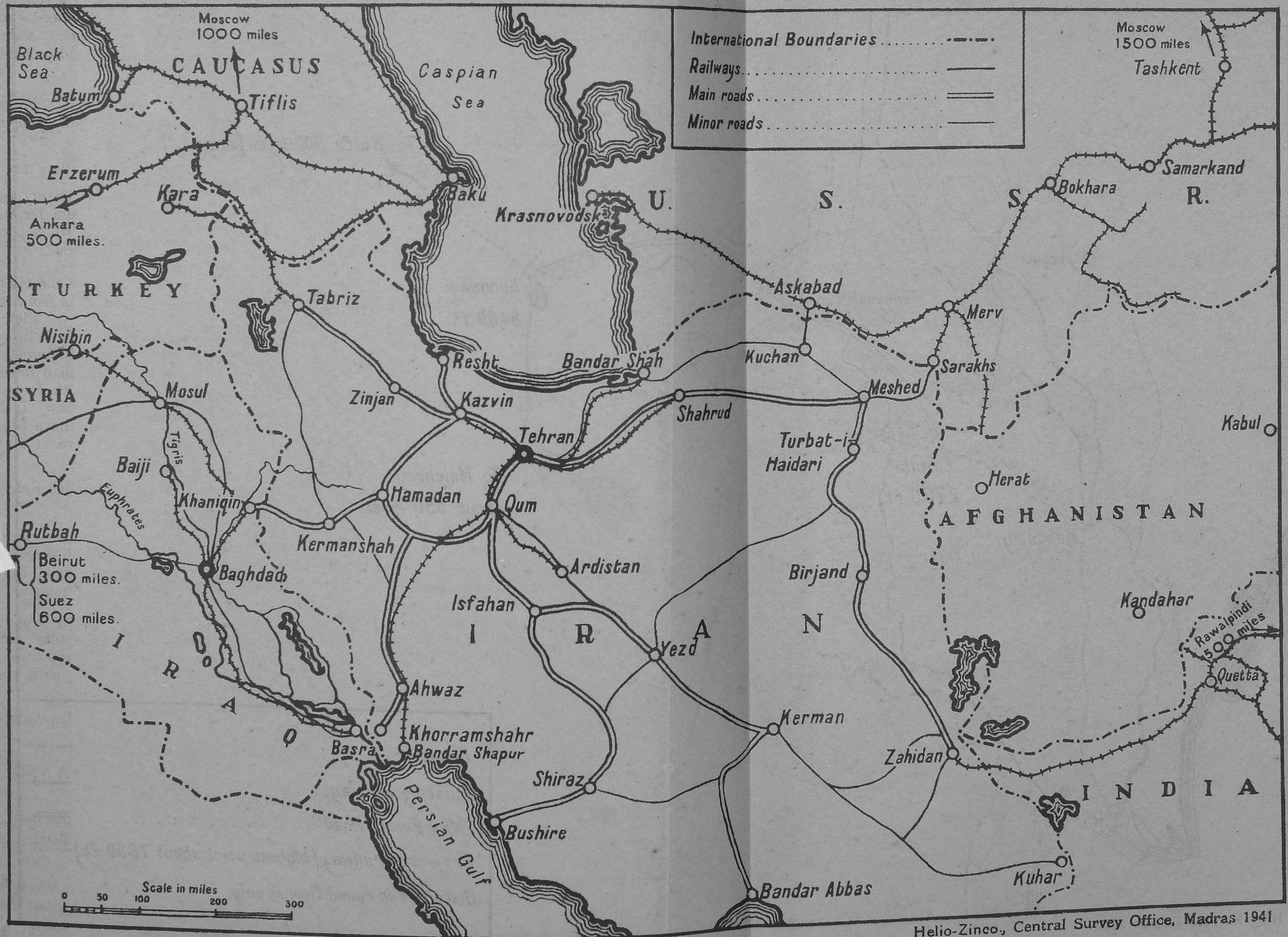
22nd Nov.—The United Mine Workers accept President Roosevelt's proposal for ending the coal strike, namely, arbitration to a board of three: Mr. John R. Steelman, head of the Labour department's Conciliation Service, as public representative, Mr. Benjamin Fairless, President of the United States Steel Corporation, and Mr. John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers' President, representing labour.

Two destroyers and a submarine are launched at Kearny (New Jersey) months ahead of schedule.

24th Nov.—It is officially announced that a contingent of United States troops will move into Dutch Guiana to protect the valuable bauxite mines at Surinam in close co-operation

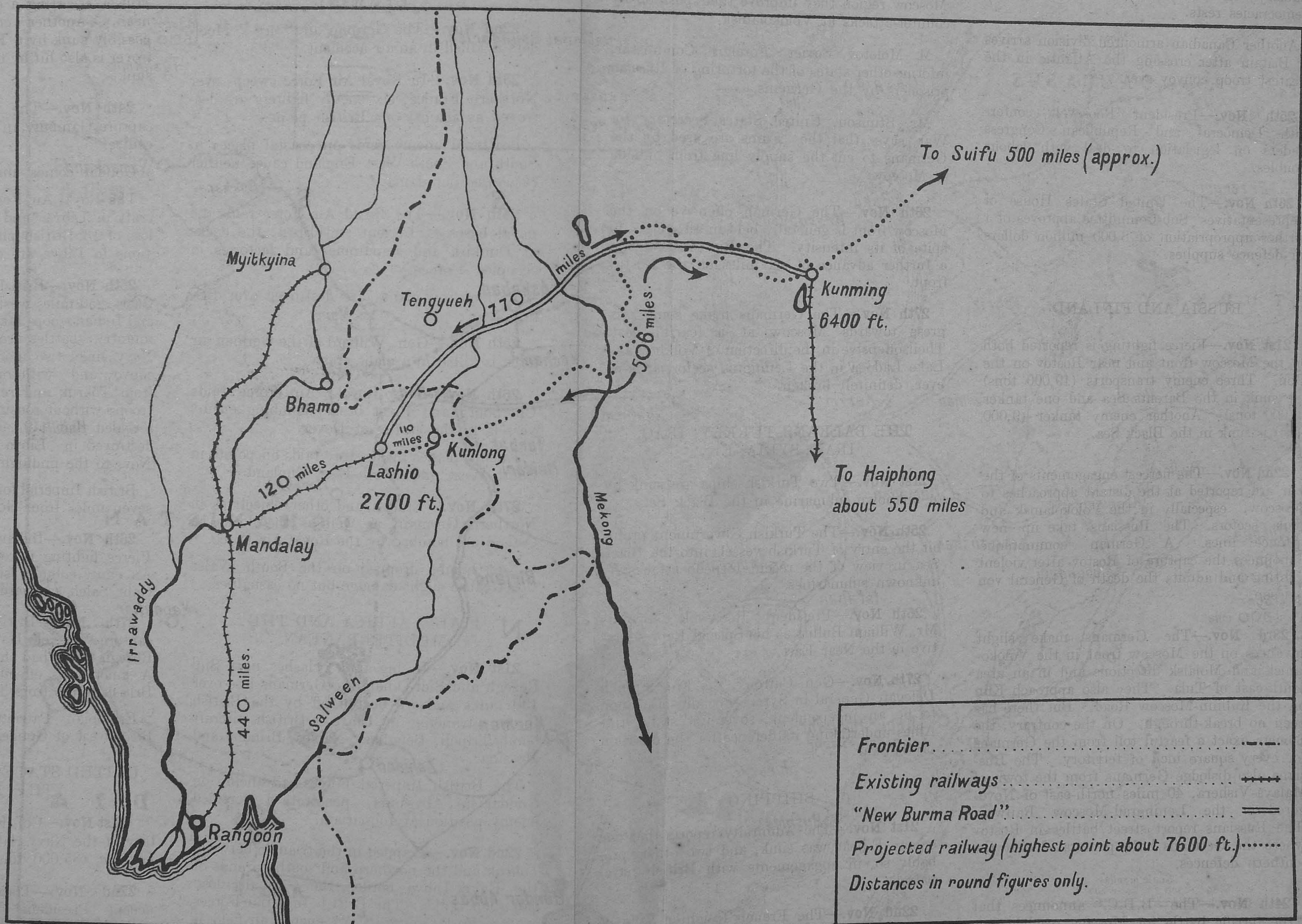
IRAN ROAD

3,000 tons a day for Russia



BURMA ROAD

400 tons a day for China



with the Netherlands and Brazil Governments. Bauxite is vital to the American aluminium industry on which the defence of the Democracies rests.

Another Canadian armoured division arrives in Britain after crossing the Atlantic in the greatest troop convoy ever.

25th Nov.—President Roosevelt confers with Democrat and Republican Congress leaders on legislation to deal with labour troubles.

26th Nov.—The United States House of Representatives' Sub-Committee approves of a further appropriation of 8,000 million dollars for defence supplies.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

21st Nov.—Fierce fighting is reported both on the Moscow front and near Rostov on the Don. Three enemy transports (19,000 tons) are sunk in the Barents Sea and one tanker (5,000 tons). Another enemy tanker (9,000 tons) is sunk in the Black Sea.

22nd Nov.—The fiercest engagements of the war are reported at the distant approaches to Moscow, especially in the Volokolamsk and Tula sectors. The Russians take up new defence lines. A German communiqué announces the capture of Rostov after violent fighting and admits the death of General von Briesen.

23rd Nov.—The Germans make slight advances on the Moscow front in the Volokolamsk and Mojaisk directions and in an area south-east of Tula. They also approach Klin on the Kalinin-Moscow Road. But there has been no break-through. On the contrary, the Soviets exact a fearful toll from the Germans for every square inch of territory. The Russians also dislodge Germans from the town of Malaya-Vishera, 40 miles north-east of Novogorod on the Leningrad-Moscow Railway. The Russians report street battles in Rostov where the Germans have penetrated only the southern defences.

24th Nov.—The B.B.C. announces that "the terrific battle for Moscow reaches new heights of fury", the Germans throwing in all available tanks and nearly three-quarters of a million men. In the Mojaisk sector, 60 miles from Moscow, the Russians retire in good order to prepared positions; in other sectors they hold their own. The Russians register a 60-kilometres advance on the southern front in a brilliant counter-attack west of Rostov. And on the Leningrad front, the Russians take several important positions, two German infantry regiments totalling 3,000 men being completely smashed in one sector.

25th Nov.—The Russians register a 60 miles advance on the Rostov front. In the Leningrad sector, they re-enter Tikhvin. In the Moscow region they improve their position by counter-attacks at Volokolamsk.

M. Molotov, Soviet Foreign Commissar, informs other states of the torturing of Russian prisoners by the Germans.

Mr. Stimson, United States Secretary for War, says that the Finns are used by the Germans to cut the supply line from outside to Moscow.

26th Nov.—The German offensive on the Moscow front is generally held in all sectors in spite of its intensity. The Russians register a further advance of six miles on the Rostov front.

27th Nov.—The Germans make some progress towards Moscow at a fearful cost. Their offensive in the direction of Volkhov and Lake Ladoga in the Leningrad sector is, however, definitely broken.

THE BALKANS TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, SYRIA, Etc.

21st Nov.—Two Turkish ships are sunk by an unknown submarine in the Black Sea.

25th Nov.—The Turkish Government prohibit the entry of Turkish vessels into the Black Sea in view of the recent torpedo attacks by unknown submarines.

26th Nov.—President Roosevelt appoints Mr. William Bullitt as his Special Representative in the Near East.

27th Nov.—Gen. Catroux, the Free French Delegate-General in Syria, proclaims Lebanon to be an independent, sovereign state, the Allies undertaking its defence for the duration of the war.

SHIPPING

21st Nov.—The Admiralty reports that one enemy E-boat was sunk, and two others probably so, in engagements with British naval patrols.

22nd Nov.—The French freighter *Ville de Tamatave*, captured by the British Navy, arrives in New York under the British flag.

23rd Nov.—President Roosevelt approves of legislation authorising the Navy Department to construct or acquire at least 300 small vessels for mine-sweeping, etc.

27th Nov.—The Royal Air Force sinks an enemy supply-ship off the Dutch Coast and another supply-ship and two anti-aircraft ships near France, beside shooting down two enemy fighters.

THE FAR EAST

21st Nov.—The Thailand press reports violation of the Thai frontier by planes and troops from the direction of Indo-China.

The official Russian (Tass) News Agency contradicts the Japanese report that Soviet soldiers violated the Manchurian frontier on 16th November.

22nd Nov.—Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, confers on the Far Eastern situation with the British and Chinese Ambassadors and the Australian and Netherlands Ministers.

It is announced that the International Settlement Police are taking over control of the American sector of Shanghai as from the departure of the American Marines.

23rd Nov.—Mr. Cordell Hull again confers with Admiral Nomura, Japanese Ambassador, and Mr. Kurusu, Japan's Special Envoy.

Mr. Duff Copper states that there is not the slightest chance of the Burma Road being again closed.

The Chinese People's National Political Council decides to send a goodwill mission to Britain, United States of America and Russia.

25th Nov.—Some classes of reservists are called up in Thailand where the Bangkok Radio warns Thailanders that there is only faint hope of peace.

26th Nov.—The Japanese Premier and the Foreign Minister report to the Emperor on the negotiations with the United States of America.

27th Nov.—It is learned authoritatively that the United States of America and Japan have failed to reach an agreement. Mr. Cordell Hull hands over America's final terms to Japan.

Mr. Roosevelt, who receives the Japanese envoys, also confers with the Chinese Ambassador on Lease-Lend aid to China.

A mine-field is laid at the eastern approaches to Singapore.

VICHY AND OCCUPIED FRANCE

21st Nov.—Iraq breaks off diplomatic relations with Vichy.

22nd Nov.—It is stated that a German military and economic mission will shortly leave for French North Africa.

American press reports say that Hitler is to visit Marshal Petain in Occupied France and demand his consent to send troops to French North Africa.

23rd Nov.—Gen. Odic, former Chief of the French Air Staff, joins Gen. de Gaulle as a protest against Vichy's policy.

It is stated that Mussolini is to be present at the coming Hitler-Petain meeting.

25th Nov.—President Roosevelt authorizes Lease-Lend aid to Gen. de Gaulle's Free French forces as territory controlled by them is "vital to the defence of the United States".

A successful British landing on the Coast of Normandy is reported, all the troops returning after finishing their task.

OTHER OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

21st Nov.—King George of Greece postpones his visit to the United States.

22nd Nov.—The Danish Minister in Iraq breaks off relations with the Copenhagen Government because it is dependent on the Axis.

An announcement from the White House says that Germany is planning a conference of European nations (from which England is to be excluded) in order to propose a high-sounding formula of economic rehabilitation and restoration of independence.

24th Nov.—It is revealed that over 2,000 "hostages" have been shot by the Germans in Yugoslav towns. Nevertheless, Yugoslav "guerillas" have re-occupied part of the country.

25th Nov.—The protocol extending the Anti-Cominteru Pact for five years is signed in Berlin by representatives of 13 states, including Finland and the Nanking Government. Tokyo reports say that the Soviet-Japan Pact is unaffected by this.

26th Nov.—The White House at Wahington says it has received information that the Germans are preparing to raze Belgrade to the ground because they think it is the base of Yugoslav guerilla fighters.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

22nd Nov.—The Argentine Parliamentary Committee complete their fifth report on Nazi activities in Argentine.

24th Nov.—Over 125,000 Cuban workers demonstrate in favour of full aid to Russia, Britain and China.

America revokes licences for exports of petroleum products to Spain and her possessions as well as licences for the export of any goods to French North Africa.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Information Officer and Special Press Adviser, Madras.]