



# PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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The Editor will gratefully receive contributions, in English or Tamil, of articles on matters of *National War Front interest*, and publish them, if suitable, as signed articles, in the Bulletin. The articles should be short and reach the Editor a week in advance.

LECTURE CXCVI.

## M. STALIN'S MAY DAY MESSAGE.

**THE WOUNDED GERMAN BEAST WILL BE HOTLY PURSUED AND  
FINISHED OFF IN ITS LAIR.**

Peoples of our country are meeting on May 1 in the midst of outstanding successes by the Red Army. Since the defeat of German Divisions at Stalingrad, the Red Army has been conducting a practically incessant offensive.

Our great Allies, the United States of America and Great Britain, are making considerable contributions to the Red Army's successes by holding the front in Italy against the Germans and by diverting a considerable part of German troops from us. The Allies are supplying us with very valuable strategic raw material and armaments, and are subjecting military objectives in Germany to systematic bombing, thus undermining Germany's military might.

The success of the Red Army might however, have proved unstable, and might have been reduced to nought by the very first serious enemy counter-blow, had not the Red Army been backed in the rear by our entire Soviet people and our entire country. In their battles against the enemy the Red Army has displayed unexampled heroism. But the Soviet people have not remained in debt to the Red Army. Under difficult war-time conditions, the Soviet people have achieved decisive successes in mass-producing armaments, ammunition, clothing and provisions, and delivering them to the fronts in time. During the past year, the power of Soviet industry has substantially increased. Hundreds of new factories and mines, and dozens of power stations, railway lines and bridges have put into service. Fresh millions of Soviet people took their places at lathes, mastered most complex professions, and became experts in their jobs.

## AXIS POWERS BREAKING.

Under the blows of the Red Army, the bloc of Fascist powers is breaking and falling to pieces. Fear and confusion reign among the Rumanian, Hungarian, Finnish and Bulgarian Allies of Hitler.

These henchmen of Hitler, whose countries have been, or are being occupied by the Germans, cannot fail to see that Germany has lost the war. Rumania, Hungary, Finland and Bulgaria have only one chance left to them to escape the catastrophe—to break with Germany and withdraw from the war.

But it is hardly to be expected that the present Governments of these countries would be capable of breaking with Germany. It is to be supposed that the people of these countries will have to cope themselves with the task of their liberation from the German yoke. The more they do themselves, the more they can count on the sympathy of the democratic countries.

## THE TASK AHEAD.

As a result of its successful offensive, the Red Army has emerged at our State frontiers over a distance of more than 400 kilometres (250 miles) having liberated from the German-Fascist yoke more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of occupied Soviet territory. The task before us now is to clear our entire land from Fascist invaders, and restore the State frontiers of the Soviet Union along all lines from the Black Sea to the Barents Sea.

But our task cannot be confined to the expulsion of the enemy forces from the boundaries of our country.

The German Army can now be likened to a wounded beast, which is forced to crawl away to its lair—Germany—there to heal its wounds. But the wounded beast in its lair does not cease to be dangerous.

In order to eliminate the menace of enslavement from our country and the countries allied to us, it is imperative that the wounded German beast be hotly pursued and finished off in its own lair.

While pursuing the enemy, we must liberate from German bondage our brother Poles and Czechoslovaks and other people of western Europe allied to us, who are under the heel of Hitlerite Germany. It is obvious that this task is more difficult than the expulsion of German troops from the boundaries of the Soviet Union.

It can only be accomplished by a joint approach by the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, by combined blows from the east by our armies and from the west by the armies of our Allies.

There can be no doubt that only by such a synchronised blow can Hitlerite Germany be completely crushed.

Comrades, Red Army men and Red Navy men, Sergeants, Officers and Generals, men and women guerillas, Soviet working people, brothers and sisters who have temporarily fallen under the yoke of German oppressors, or have been forcibly driven to Fascist penal servitude in Germany, I greet and congratulate you on May Day.

Eternal glory to the heroes fallen in the battle for freedom and the independence of our country. Death to the German invaders.

# WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

## (A)—LEADING EVENTS.

- 24—4—44 (Monday). Allies drop 500,000 incendiary bombs on South GERMANY.
- 25—4—44 (Tuesday). Wave of Sabotage continues in COPENHAGEN. German tanks appear in the Streets.
- 26—4—44 (Wednesday). Allies Capture MADANG in NEW GUINEA. Gen. Tito's forces in YUGOSLAVIA capture KORCULA in the ADRIATIC.
- 27—4—44 (Thursday). Allies drop 8,000 tons of bombs on EUROPE in 24 hours. Red Army storms across the PRUTH below JASSY.
- 29—4—44 (Saturday). U. S. Bombers attack BERLIN in very great strength in daylight.
- 30—4—44 (Sunday). M. Stalin thanks Allies for Aid to RUSSIA.
- 1—5—44 (Monday). SPAIN agrees to expel Axis agents in TANGIER and on Spanish mainland.

## (B) NEWS IN BRIEF.

**Russia.**—The lull continues. Static warfare of a kind is being waged in the SEBAS-TOPOL, LWOW and GALATZ areas.

The Red Army has launched a new offensive on the Lower Dniester on a wide front, south of TIGHINA and DUBASARI.

The Polish underground army has blown up railway bridges in the region of PRZEMYSL and SANOK, on the road to LWOW.

The Red Fleet is carrying on operations in the Black Sea.

**Italy.**—Activity is limited to local skirmishes.

Supported by Allied Naval and air forces, Yugoslov Partisans have landed on MLJAT Island, close to the Dalmatian coast, and captured KORCULA Island in the Adriatic. They have also taken MOJKORAT, SANDJAK, SVETI, IVANZELINA, IVANAC, and SABOVICI on the Coast.

**Air-war.**—The chief targets of the week were KARLSRUHE, MUNICH, PLOESTI, BUCHAREST, FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, AULNOYE, MONTZEN, STUTTGART, BERLIN, and the Invasion Coast. For ten days in succession, mammoth raids have been made, with about a thousand planes a day, dropping bombs of 8,000 tons sometimes, and making 5,000 individual attacks in 24 hours.

**The Pacific.**—U. S. Forces have occupied UJELANG atoll in the MARSHALLS.

Australians have captured MADANG and ALEXISHAFEN in NEW GUINEA. The HUON Peninsula has been cleared.

**Burma Frontier.**—The Japanese have cut the SILCHAR track, west of BISHENPUR (south-west of IMPHAL) at two points. The offensive on IMPHAL has lost its momentum. The initiative has been wrested from the Japanese. KANGLATHONGBI, 5 miles north of IMPHAL has been captured by Allied forces.

Heavy fighting has broken out in the village of KOHIMA round the District Commissioner's bungalow.

## ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

23-4-44. (Sunday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—

Aircraft factories at WEINER NEUSTADT (Austria).

An airfield near VIENNA.

Air bases in FRANCE and BELGIUM.

NIGHT:—

MANNHEIM (Germany).

Signals-equipment at VILVORDE (Belgium).

ITALY.

(51 enemy planes destroyed; 17 Allied planes missing).

Bridges in the ATTIGLIANO area.

Railyards at CECINA.

Harbour installations at ANCONA.

An ammunition dump at VALMONTONE.

Gun positions in the CASSINO and ANZIO areas.

The airfields at RIETI, FOLIGNO and PERUGIA.

Railway targets in DUBROVNIK and VALONA areas.

Shipping in the AEGEAN.

Target: at SAN STEFANO, PIOMBINO, GENOA and PARMA.

RUSSIA.

(51 enemy planes shot down).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

MOEN, ETEN and PARAM (Truk Atoll).

Enemy positions in the MARSHALLS.

Airfields at WEWAK (N. Guinea) and RABAU (N. Britain).

BURMA.

MAYMYO.

Railway between MOULMEIN and MARTABAN.

Enemy communications in North BURMA.

Targets in the MAYU, KALADAN and ARAKAN areas.

24-4-44 (Monday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

(103 enemy planes shot down).

(55 Allied planes missing).

DAY:—

Aircraft and other factories at FRIEDRICHSHAFEN.

Air fields in the MUNICH region.

Railway yards at BUCHAREST and PLOESTI.

The Aircraft factory at BELGRADE (Yugoslavia).

Railway yards at LOUVAIN (Belgium) and AMIENS (France).

Docks and shipping at DIEPPE.

NIGHT:—

(39 Allied planes missing).

Targets at KARLSRUHE, MUNICH and DUSSELDORF.

The railway depot at CHAMBLY.

Laying mines in enemy waters.

ITALY.

(29 enemy planes destroyed).

(14 Allied planes missing).

Rail communications in Central ITALY.

Shipping near LEGHORN.

Aircraft on the ground at CANINO road.

Rail traffic in the AVEZZANO area.

Shipping off the YUGOSLAV coast.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Airfields in the WEWAK area (N. Guinea), and RABAU (N. Britain).

The runway at TOBERO.

Troop laden barges near NANANUMA.

The seaplane base at TRUK.

Jap bases in the MARSHALLS.

RARAMUSHIRU & SHIMUSHU Islands (Kuriles).

BURMA.

(2 Allied planes missing).

Two Bridges in PYING AING area.

Enemy troops, gun positions and rivercraft in the WUNTHO, CHIN Hills and UPPER CHINDWIN areas.

Targets in the KAMAING, MOGAUNG and MYITKYINA areas.

Airfields at HEHO and AUNGBACH.

25-4-44 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

(15 enemy planes shot down).

(12 allied planes missing).

DAY:—

Industrial targets in S. W GERMANY.

Airfields at NANCY, METZ and DIJON areas (in France).

Military targets in the PAS DE CALAIS area.

Two Airfields in BELGIUM.

NIGHT:—

COLOGNE.

Laying mines in enemy waters.

The rail centre west of PARIS.

An airfield in FRANCE.

ITALY.

An aircraft factory at TURIN.

Railway yards at FERRARA.

A bridge at PARMA.

Enemy rail and communication targets north of the battle area.

An ammunition dump North of VALMONTE.

A large motor convoy near ELBASAN.

Shipping in the AEGEAN.

RUSSIA.

(79 enemy planes destroyed).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

**FAR EAST.**

Jap bases in New GUINEA, New BRITAIN and MARSHALLS.

**BURMA.**

The airfields at HEHO and AUNGBANG.  
Enemy positions on the KOHIMA, IMPHAL and TIDDIM road.

26—4—44 Wednesday.

**EUROPE** (German occupied).**DAY:—**

Industrial targets in BRUNSWICK area.  
Airfields in FRANCE.  
Military objectives in BELGIUM.  
Railway centres at LOUVAIN and ST. GHISLAIN (France).  
A Convoy off NORWAY.

**NIGHT:—**

Industrial targets at ESSEN and SCHWEINFURT.  
Railway yards at VILLENENEUVE (near Paris).  
Targets at HAMBURG.  
Laying mines in enemy waters.

**ITALY.**

Communications behind the battle areas in ITALY.

**RUSSIA.**

(22 enemy planes destroyed).  
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

**FAR EAST.**

No information.

**BURMA.**

Enemy positions on the KOHIMA, IMPHAL and TIDDIM Road.  
Targets in the ARAKAN, MAYU, KALADAN, and CHIN Hills areas.

27—4—44. (Thursday).

**EUROPE** (German occupied).**DAY:—**

Military installations in Northern FRANCE,  
German airfields at NANCY and TOUL.  
Marshalling yards at BLAINVILLE and CHALON-SUR-MARNE.  
Targets in BELGIUM including the railway yards at HAINE ST. PIERRE.

Night:—(36 Allied planes missing).

Railway yards at MONTZEN (Belgium).  
Railway junctions at AULNOYE.  
Targets at FRIEDRICHSHAFEN and STUTTGART.

Laying mines in enemy waters.

**ITALY.**

Bridges and dumps in the ANZIO area.  
Shipping in the AEGEAN.

**RUSSIA.**

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

**FAR EAST.**

No information.

**BURMA.**

Enemy positions in the KOHIMA and IMPHAL areas.  
The railway line at SHWEDO and YWATAUNG.  
Store dumps at KALEMYO.  
Rivercraft and enemy positions in the battle areas.

28—4—44 (Friday).

**EUROPE** (German occupied).**DAY:—**

Airfields in FRANCE.

Military installations in the CHERBOURG area.  
Aircraft repair plant at TOURS (France).  
German positions in FRANCE and BELGIUM.

**NIGHT:—**

Air frame factory at OSLO (Norway).  
HAMBURG.

**ITALY.**

(5 enemy planes destroyed;  
15 Allied planes missing).

The ports of PLOMBINO.  
ORBETELLO and SANSEFANO.  
Bridges at ORVIETO, INCISA and AREZZO.  
Gun positions and rail targets in the battle areas.  
The harbour at GENOVA.

**RUSSIA.**

(71 enemy planes shot down).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

**FAR EAST.**

The airfield at WEWAK (N. Guinea).  
Enemy held positions along the New GUINEA coast.

Targets at RABAU.  
GUAM and CAROLINE Islands (Central Pacific).

**BURMA.**

Enemy positions in the KOHIMA and IMPHAL areas.  
Targets in the ARAKAN, MAYU, KALADAN, and CHIN Hills areas.

29—4—44 (Saturday).

**EUROPE** (German occupied).

(88 enemy planes destroyed).

**DAY:—**

(77 Allied planes missing).  
Industrial and Military targets in BERLIN.  
Military targets in BELGIUM and Northern FRANCE.  
Shipping in TOULON harbour.

**NIGHT:—**

No information.

**ITALY.**

(12 enemy planes destroyed;  
11 Allied planes missing).

The viaduct at TERNI.  
Bridges at ATIGLIANO and PONTESIEVE.  
Targets on the DALMATIAN coast.  
Installations at PORT ILLUZ.  
The harbour installations at GENOVA.

**RUSSIA.**

(50 enemy planes destroyed).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

**FAR EAST.**

WADKE (D. New Guinea).  
A Jap freighter in GEELVINE BAY.  
Store targets near CONDAR Point (N. Guinea).  
Jap bases in the MARSHALLS.

**BURMA.**

(3 Allied planes missing).

Air combats over HEHO and AUNGBANG airfields.  
The airfields at KANGAUNG and MEIKTILA.  
Supply dumps in the KALEWA area.  
Bridges near PUOWBWE and in the KALEWA area.  
Targets in PROME and in ARAKAN, MAYU, KALADAN, NAGA Hills, MYITTHA Valley and MANDALAY.

## ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

24-4-44 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

Several places in S. & W. ENGLAND  
(5 enemy planes shot down).

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

25-4-44 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

LONDON area

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

26-4-44 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

LONDON area (only an alert).

RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

An airfield in ASSAM (3 Jap planes destroyed).

27-4-44 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

Slight enemy air activity over ENGLAND  
(1 enemy plane shot down).

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

28-4-44. (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

29-4-44. (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

A town in West ENGLAND (3 German planes  
destroyed).

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

30-4-44. (Sunday).

BRITAIN and RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

The Allied base at AITAPE (N. Guinea).

## SIDE LIGHTS.

### THE WAR SITUATION.

The lull of last week continues. Russian Communiqués continue to be silent. On the Italian Front, only minor clashes are reported. On the Indian frontier, there has been no action of major importance. In the Pacific, save for the fall of MADANG and ALEXISCHAFEN in NEW GUINEA, only the air raids continue.

Yet, it would be wrong to presume that the Allies are inactive. Hard warfare of a kind is continuing, both extensively and intensively, and it is either exploratory, or preparatory to the great offensives that are to follow. For instance, on the eastern front, the Russians have launched a new offensive on the lower Dniester, and the Polish underground forces have begun to be active. On the Adriatic Coast, the Partisans, with Allied help, are capturing important islands, and places on the coast. On the Burmese frontier, the Japanese frantic attempts to reach IMPHAL before the monsoon sets in are being repulsed.

### MAMMOTH RAIDS.

But by far the most important phase of the war is the air-offensive over Western EUROPE, which has now reached gigantic proportions. The attacks are now on a colossal scale. On April 24, 1,000 Lancasters made a round-trip of 2,000 miles across North ITALY and over the French Alps, and suddenly switching round, altered their course, and dropped 500,000 incendiary bombs over MUNICH. KARLSRUHE was also attacked. The enemy was completely fooled.

Again, on April 27, 5,000 bombers and fighters dropped 8,000 tons of bombs and made 5,000 individual attacks in 24 hours; this was the tenth day of such mammoth attacks. On April 29, U. S. bombers attacked BERLIN in daylight dropping more than 1,800 tons.

### WATCH THE BOMBING

#### PATTERN.

As Air Chief-Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder once said, 'If you want to forecast the progress of the war, watch the bombing pattern.' So, as we watch the bombing pattern to-day, we discern the Allied plan. While Allied bombers continued as usual to

demolish the enemy factories producing aircraft and their components, during the last two weeks the centre of gravity has shifted to three other kinds of targets, airfields, communications and unspecified enemy military objectives on the Channel Coast, in N. FRANCE, BELGIUM and W. GERMANY. The bombing pattern is to prepare the ground for the coming Invasion by destroying communication centres. For instance, AACHEN which was attacked last week is a bottleneck on the Franco-German border, through which supplies must pass from GERMANY to the Invasion Coast.

The enemy admits the gravity of the situation. Says the Berlin Radio, "The grand air offensive against the Reich has now begun in real earnest; the strategic aim of the enemy is to drive the *Luftwaffe* from the sky. The number of long-range fighters which accompany the bombers can be called gigantic."

To meet the menace, the German fighter-strength on the Invasion Coast, which was only 25 per cent of the entire force last year, has now been increased to 75 per cent. But this does not imply any increase in the German over-all production. The Eastern Front has been depleted of its much needed fighter cover to strengthen the Western defences. The enemy is hoarding his planes, hoping to use them on the day when the Allies will deliver the crucial attack, but meanwhile, they are being worn down steadily by gigantic air battles.

As the air offensive intensifies, German Commentators are trying to console their public by telling them that the Allied losses resulting from these attacks, are also high. A Berlin broadcast recently stated that roughly 20,000 Anglo-American pilots have been eliminated in the course of the first three months of this year. The figure is a clear exaggeration, but it is poor consolation to the German to be told that air-war is not a one-way traffic but a business in which both sides must lose. Let the Germans find consolation here if they can, but they must also see that the Allied losses, whatever the scale, will not retard the tempo of their air offensive. The Allied offensive has been a rising curve, and will continue to rise till the Nazi is laid low.

### THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

SEBASTOPOL, LWOW, and GALATZ are the chief centres of German defence as well as of Russian pressure.

Though the Russian occupation of nearly the whole of the CRIMEA in a week was a marvellous military operation, it was only to be expected that they would be halted before SEBASTOPOL. German resistance has stiffened here in order to gain time to evacuate, if possible, the imprisoned garrison at SEBASTOPOL by sea. But the fall of SEBASTOPOL cannot be delayed long. All the German aircraft here are reported to have been grounded; the city is in flames, and the Red Fleet is attacking by sea.

Once SEBASTOPOL falls, the Russian armies now storming the fortress will be released to join Russian forces pushing into RUMANIA, and the Red Fleet will be free to operate in the Danubian waters.

### LWOW,

at the head of the plains of POLAND, and of the Galician oil-fields, is a bastion of vital importance. Russian successes in this sector have already undermined its strength. TARNOPOL, BRODY and KOVEL are the three great fortresses guarding LWOW. Of these, TARNOPOL has fallen and the other two have been surrounded. In TARNOPOL, the Russians have a base from which air attacks can be easily delivered on LWOW. Once LWOW falls, the way will be open to CZECHOSLOVAKIA and POLAND.

**THE GALATZ GATE,**

of gap, is a German defence-line based on the marshes of the Danubian deltas, between the city of GALATZ and the town of FOSCANI. On it depends the security of BUCHAREST, the PLOESTI oil-fields, and Central RUMANIA. Already, the Russians who have reached TIRASPOL, menace KISHINEV (CHISINAU) which lies near GALATZ, and other Red Forces which have reached PASCANI threaten POSCANI.

It is unnecessary to add that the Germans regard this latest Russian advance with alarm. Ribbentrop is reported to have said, 'we might as well give up BERLIN—You may rest assured that German soldiers will defend Rumanian soil, as though it were their own native soil'. The stake is high indeed at GALATZ, and there is no doubt that the Germans will make every effort to hold the gap. It is also possible that the Russian drive by land will be synchronised with a naval attack in the Danube by the Red Fleet. Who knows, but the decisive action of the war may even be fought, as has often been predicted, on the banks of the Danube.

In these operations, Anglo-American air-forces are playing a part by carrying out raids on HUNGARY and RUMANIA, by cutting off supply lines as at TURNU SEVERIN and BRASOV, and by dropping mines from the air on enemy shipping in the Danube.

**THE BURMA FRONT.**

The Japanese reports of the fighting on the BURMA Front do not tally with facts. Tojo's boast that his forces, having entered India, are 'achieving an unbroken series of brilliant successes' has yet to be made good. The 'major battle' in the IMPHAL area, which the Tokyo Radio announced as 'impending' has yet to be joined. The present situation which is still fluid appears to be as follows :—

(1) The enemy is at liberty to infiltrate behind our position and lodge temporarily astride our communications in the rear.

(2) But, by infiltration alone he cannot make any lasting gain. For that, he must meet and fight our force.

(3) The Allies have the advantage in numbers, equipment, and air-power.

(4) The IMPHAL plain (area—about 700 sq. miles) is surrounded by mountains rising to 5,000 feet. While the Allies hold the plain, the Japanese who are on the mountains may be theoretically supposed to have surrounded the plain. But this does not mean that IMPHAL is in a state of siege, because every Japanese attempt to descend into the plain has been so far repulsed and all enemy attacks on KOHIMA have been defeated. His attempt to by-pass KOHIMA by reaching DIMAPUR on the ASSAM railway has also been foiled.

The Japanese are striving to occupy IMPHAL before the monsoon sets in, and this the Allies are intent on preventing. In a statement on the situation Lord Mountbatten said in effect :—

"The BURMA front stretches some 800 miles from ARAKAN, through the CHINDWIN and HUKAWNG to YUNNAN. It is a jungle country, into which penetration cannot be prevented. If the enemy has penetrated into the IMPHAL area, we have penetrated deeper into the BURMA area. We are now engaged in the initial task of pinning the enemy down and cutting off his communications. The enemy's advance instead of delaying, has accelerated the construction of the Ledo Road. The enemy made a big mistake in attacking us at IMPHAL. Had he concentrated his strength against us on the Ledo front he could have slowed down the Chinese advance towards MYITKYINA. There is every reason to think that the outcome of the present Allied operations will be successful. The enemy will be attacked and destroyed."



**FACT OR FICTION?**

Hitler and Mussolini are reported to have met in conference, somewhere on German 'soil', while rumours are persistent that Mussolini's mental and physical condition is too bad to admit the possibility of such a meeting. Residents of the Lake Como District, in which Mussolini's villa is situated, have not seen him for a considerable time. His physicians no longer visit him. Graziani, in whose company he is said to have inspected Italian troops during the conference, is reported to be a German prisoner. The story of Mussolini's sudden appearance and burst into activity, is therefore highly suspicious.

The German News Agency announces the 'conference' in the usual Axis way. The meeting was cordial, complete understanding having been reached, the conference ended in mutual assurances of final victory, for which Mussolini, without an army, or fleet or airforce promised the fullest co-operation. Hitler, on his part, railed against the Bolsheviks and the Western Plutocrats, and guaranteed EUROPE his 'New Order.'

**SWEDEN.**

The Allies are certainly not satisfied with the Swedish Note stating that she is obliged to send supplies to GERMANY firstly, because she cannot abrogate her original agreement with GERMANY, and secondly because she is obliged to GERMANY for 83 per cent of her imports against 17 per cent from the Allies. It may be that she continues to trade with GERMANY out of fear. But the fact, as Mr. Cordell Hull has pointed out, remains, that the turn that the war has now taken in Allied favour, makes it no longer necessary for SWEDEN to fear GERMANY or yield to her pressure. Every help rendered to GERMANY will prolong the war unnecessarily. SWEDEN has therefore been again warned that she will forfeit benefits she has hitherto derived from her earlier agreements with AMERICA. RUSSIA has declared that, in the present situation neutral countries receiving vital commodities from the Allies, must cancel their contracts with GERMANY.

Dr. Dingle Foot, Parliamentary Secretary to the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, told the House of Commons on April 26, that the Allies have made no less than 20 major, and 35 additional night attacks on German ball-bearing producing centres, which has appreciably reduced the production of this important component, and that BRITAIN was not going to tolerate its replacement by Swedish co-operation with the enemy.

**SPAIN AND EIRE.**

Negotiations are proceeding with SPAIN to cut off supplies of wolfram to GERMANY.

EIRE is being further isolated, by withholding navicerts for EIRE ships bringing wheat and paper from AMERICA *via* LISBON.

**DENMARK.**

Sabotage has been extensive in DENMARK, 120 to 40 cases are reported daily. There are also rumours of a British parachutist descent on DENMARK. The Germans have cut off all communications between DENMARK and SWEDEN.

**BRITAIN'S SIXTH WAR BUDGET.**

is impressive in several ways:—

- (1) The expenditure reaches the dizzy height of £ 5,937,000,000.
- (2) The Revenue is expected to be £ 3,102,000,000.
- (3) Of this, taxation will provide £ 2,000,000,000, or 52 per cent of the expenditure.
- (4) There will be no new taxation.

## FIGHTING FOR THE DANUBE VALLEY.

(From *The Times*).

Some speculative prophets have always predicted that the decisive action of the war against Germany will be fought in the Danube valley.

Such a consummation would have double appropriateness. First, because the earliest outrage of the Nazis against the liberties of other nations was committed in the Danube's greatest city, and the main avenue of the expansion of their tyranny has been down the course of the great river. Secondly, because the characteristic raw material of this mechanized war has been oil, and the main source of the enemy's oil supply which he has tried so vainly and so disastrously to supplement with the plunder of the Caucasus is at Ploesti in the Lower Danube basin.

A campaign to wrest control of this great waterway from the enemy, to open up the approaches to Central Europe from the east, and deprive him of the economic resources of the valley, has now been fairly opened. Marshal Konev's drive down the Pruth and the Sereth has induced the enemy to declare martial law in the Galatz city, and in the gap between the Carpathians and the sea from which an invader naturally begins his advance up the Danube. Farther back, the civilian evacuation of Bucharest has been in progress for several days.

At the same time, the correlation of the Allied war in the Mediterranean and the Ukraine has become visible through the formidable expeditions of air bombers based on South Italy. They have delivered heavy blows at both Budapest and Bucharest, and they have inflicted severe damage on the oil refineries at Ploesti, and they are reported to have struck hard at hostile communications by laying mines in the river itself. The Mediterranean Allied air forces, of which the American component has provided most of the bombs and the British mines, probably possess sufficient power to cope with all the needs unassisted, but if supplementary aid is found desirable, Russians in the Crimean airfields will be within 400 miles of Ploesti, and they have already given the enemy a reminder of their proximity by bombing the Black Sea oil port of Constanza. With his main source of oil supplies at Ploesti liable to be crippled at any moment, not improbably lost to the Russians before the season is far advanced, Goering has published a decree requisitioning the whole oil supply of South-Eastern Europe for military use.

At the same time, a broadcast from Budapest has acknowledged the success of the R. A. F. in cutting hostile communications, by announcing that the traffic on the Danube has ceased because of the mines. Meanwhile, the thrust of the Soviet armies to the Galatz gap, which seems to have been suspended while supplies are brought up rather than checked by the enemy, has still to be faced by forces that have hitherto shown little capacity to withstand the advance. Defence of Rumania, which has been so loudly proclaimed, can scarcely be undertaken without a substantial reinforcement of these oft defeated armies. Yet the enemy well knows that to bring up fresh troops from the obvious quarter, the Balkans, where he has so signally failed to complete the conquest of Yugoslavia or break the spirit of Greece, may be to lift the lid from a boiling cauldron.

Marshal Tito's men, especially, must have had some heartening moments as they watched the Allied bombers passing overhead on their way to Ploesti and Bucharest. There is already a remarkable convergence of Allied pressure towards the Danube; its effect will be doubled again when there is another towards the Rhine.

# BRITAIN PREPARES TO STRIKE AT HITLER'S EUROPEAN FORTRESS.

(By A. J. McWhinnie).

After the Dunkirk evacuation of the British Army in 1940, Britain was woefully short of naval resources to resist any German attempt at landing on Britain's southern shores. No fewer than 70 British destroyers were damaged in the Dunkirk operations, and were in the shipyards for repairs for several months. That must have left fewer than 100 destroyers to be stretched across the world to safe-guard the main trade routes.

In the English Channel itself, fishing trawlers, hastily requisitioned from fishing ports, had to make up for the naval deficiency in the narrow waters across which invasion by German forces was expected hourly. While the official facts about Britain's naval dispositions at that time have never been released, I estimate that in that vital stretch of water we had fewer than a score of frontline destroyers and sloops, helped out by armed trawlers to meet a German invasion armada if it came.

Yet, the German navy was very much more powerful then than it is to-day. It was known that preparations for invasion of Britain were almost complete. Large numbers of Rhine barges and big Dutch canal boats were ready on the opposite shores to be loaded with troops and escorted by the German navy across to the British Isles.

## NAZIS WERE KEPT AT WATER'S EDGE.

British naval men who took part in those anxious night patrols in the English Channel are now scattered around the world's oceans. But wherever they are they still talk, marvel and speculate about the way in which the German invaders were kept at the water's edge by a score of destroyers and sloops, armed fishing trawlers and handful of motor torpedo boats.

In Britain to-day nobody doubts that the Navy is well able, with its new strength and its old fighting traditions, to deliver assault craft, guns, tanks, trucks, food and supplies at the right place—or places—at the right times. All realise the dangers of making a landing. But they do not doubt that landings will be made.

The landings of Allied armies in Sicily, Italy, in North Africa, in India and Ceylon were accepted generally as the "Navy does it again."

## THE "BIG SHOW".

Even the term "invasion" is rarely used in Britain to describe the coming biggest amphibious operation the world has ever known. Some talk about the "liberation of Europe", others about the "big attack on Hitler's Europe" and most about the "big show".

The dangers facing thousands of ships which will be involved in the operation are very real. Hitler will have bombers, shells from big shore batteries, torpedoes, shells and bullets from naval guns, minefields and even, it is now rumoured, Midget submarines to oppose the passage of the greatest armadas the world has ever known.

Yet, despite the knowledge that the operations will cost fine ships and the lives of gallant men, no one in Britain to-day has the slightest doubt that a big scale Dunkirk in reverse will succeed.

The vast majority of British merchant seamen, after all their hazards in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and other seas, are volunteering in thousands to play their part in the liberation of Europe. Old men—too aged for frontline activities—are volunteering to man harbour-craft and small vessels and to service actual invasion ships.

### HUGE FOOD STORES READY.

Not only have vast armies and war materials been brought into Britain in readiness Britain, but has also become the larder of the United Nations. Eight thousand food dumps at strategic parts of the country guarantee that the liberating armies and the men behind them, civilian war workers of Britain and the liberated peoples, will have enough food to enable supply ships to be diverted to the Second Front operations.

In addition to warships and vast numbers of merchantmen, no fewer than 50 different types of British landing craft will take part in the biggest naval exploit of all time. Those 50 different types of landing craft are in themselves a symbol of the way Britain with her back to the wall is prepared for the big offensive. They were designed as offensive craft at the very time Hitler was preparing to invade Britain.

Within six months of Dunkirk, those first major landing craft were undergoing trials on the River Mersey. Soon, they were being built in their thousands all round the British coast, and even in factories and garages miles away from the sea. Blue-prints were flown across the Atlantic for production to be started in America.

There have been many developments since those days. Landing craft have lost many of their former discomforts and disadvantages. But they still symbolise the traditional British outlook towards landings in Europe.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

(From "Behind The Head Lines".)

For reaching the Czechoslovak frontier the Supreme Soviet of the U. S. S. R. has awarded, for the first time, the Order of Victory to the Commander, Marshal Zhukov and the Chief of the General Staff, Marshal Vasilevsky. Apart from the military importance of reaching the Czechoslovak frontier, which is great, the political significance of this event for the future of Europe is by no means inconsiderable. For Czechoslovakia has been rightly described as a bridge which connects the Eastern half of Europe with the Western half. With her frontiers restored after the war, she will border on Germany, Austria, Hungary, Rumania and probably on Russia and Poland also. She is linked by the Danube with the first four of these states in addition to Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

What was envisaged in the Czechoslovak-Russian Treaty of December 12, 1943 now promises to be accomplished. This treaty was meant to put a stop for ever to Germany's *Drang nach Osten*—her urge towards the East, and was intended to fit into the great political system which, through the co-operation of the United States, Britain and Russia, was designed to form the framework of the future peace.

The effect of the Red Army on the Czechoslovak frontier will, it is hoped, be felt in Poland, and give a new start to the negotiations, sadly interrupted, which were designed to bring Russia and Poland together. A protocol attached to the Czechoslovak-Russian Treaty explicitly invited the adherence of any country which had been a victim of German aggression. The reference was to Poland, and it is clear that without her participation the beneficent effect of the Treaty cannot be felt to the full.

### NAZI 'NEW ORDER' IN PERIL.

A Polish *rapprochement* with the Russians and the Czechs can, however, be arrived at peacefully, since all three together with Britain and the U. S. are at war with a common enemy. The more immediate task is the liberation of Czechoslovakia, and the abolition of the Nazi system which has tried to perpetuate the dismemberment of the nation. The dismemberment was brought about by the Germans themselves—Bohemia and Moravia becoming a "Protectorate" as a part of the German Reich; Slovakia becoming an "independent" (puppet) State and the southern Slovakia and Ruthenia (Sub-Carpathian Russian) becoming a part of Hungary. After the Munich agreement, Hitler had forced Czechoslovakia to cede to Poland the Olsa area with the town of Teschen. This dismemberment was carried out in the typically cynical fashion of the Nazis. A strong democratic nation had to be destroyed, and it was done by playing up one national minority against another, by giving large parts of the national territory to States, like Poland and Hungary, whom Hitler wanted for the moment inside the Nazi camp.

### IN RUTHENIA.

With the Red Army on the frontier, it is useful to attempt a brief analysis of the situation inside Czechoslovakia. From east to west, the four main provinces of Czechoslovakia are Ruthenia, Slovakia, Moravia and Bohemia. The Red Army is therefore nearest to Ruthenia.

Hitler gave Ruthenia and bits of Slovakia to Hungary after the second Vienna award, but Ruthenia, Dr. Benes has said (June 8, 1943), has "never ceased legally to be a part of the Czechoslovak Republic; and this fact has been recognised by the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union, as well as by all the other United Nations." There are at least two Ruthenians in the National Czechoslovak Council in London, and Ruthenian soldiers there are in the Czechoslovak armies both in Soviet Russia and in Great Britain. Gen. Svobda, the commander of the Czech brigade with the Red Army, already forms the spearhead of Marshal Zhukov's forces on the Czechoslovak frontier and has made contacts with Ruthenian guerillas. These guerillas have, in fact, always kept up a running battle with the Hungarians and the Germans in the Vihorlat mountains and are now supposed to have established contact with the Polish guerillas in the Tatra mountains. They will play a large part in facilitating the Russian advance, and in overthrowing the Hungarian rule in Ruthenia.

### IN SLOVAKIA.

The Nazis formed the nominally independent State of Slovakia in March 1939, under the pretext of liberating the Slovaks from the alleged "oppression" of the Czechs, and found in the President Tiso and Premier Tuka two Quislings to carry on the Government and supply them with men for the Russian front. So long as things went well for Germany these Quislings toed the Nazi line, but the intensification of the war to its present pitch has resulted in the waning of German influence over the Slovak satellite. Tiso and his henchmen are pressing their claims, and want the "land ceded to Hungary back into the

Slovak fold. There are also indications that the Slovak Government, while maintaining for the time being its surface loyalty to the Axis, is quietly preparing to transfer the claims against Hungary from its own blotted account to the respectable Czechoslovak ledger. Of late there has been a noticeable soft-peddling of the anti-Czech and anti-Benes propaganda. It is also significant that in a broadcast to Czechoslovakia as early as April last, Dr. Benes stated that emissaries of the present Slovak Government had attempted to contact him to justify and excuse their treachery to the Republic.

### IN THE PROTECTORATE.

Bohemia and Moravia—or the Protectorate—have always been the two most rebellious of German occupied territories in Europe, and the fact that the Nazis have had to employ men like Heydrich, Himmler and Frank to put down the perpetual rebellion is the most striking testimony to Czech resistance in these areas.

The Czechs and Slovaks belong to a common stock, and possess a common racial heritage. In the early centuries of the Christian era, they were often joined under one ruler. The Magyar inroads of the ninth and tenth centuries split these Slavic kinsmen, enslaving the Slovaks for nearly 1,000 years. The Czech revival found strong repercussions in Slovakia, and the two co-operated together in getting rid of the German-Magyar yoke. In 1918, they elected Masaryk as President.

Czechoslovakia had the best form of democracy beyond the Rhine. It gave way only in the greatest of conflicts, which proved to be too much even for such a great and old democracy as that of France. But the country which was the first to suffer, and suffer most, at the hands of the Nazis, will probably be the first to overthrow the Nazi yoke.

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## THEY RUN TRUE TO FORM.

Frederick the Great left these maxims for his heir's instruction, maxims to which Prussian policy has ever since paid homage :—

“As to war, it is a trade in which the least scruple would spoil everything..... Do not suffer yourself to be dazzled by the word ‘Justice’. I should never have done anything if I had been hampered by it”.

“Policy and villainy are almost synonymous terms”.

“It is good policy to be always attempting something, and to be perfectly persuaded that we have a right to everything that suits us”.

“We must always try to dupe other people”.

“Do not be ashamed of making interested alliances from which only you yourself can derive the whole advantage”.

“Do not make the mistake of not breaking such alliances when you believe that your interest requires it”.

“When Prussia shall have made her fortune, it will be time enough for her to give herself the air of fidelity to her engagements”.

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## NOW THE POLISH UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT WORKS.

“I would like you to meet a man who left England in February last year and who has just returned after spending 12 months in occupied Poland”.

This was how Professor Cot, Polish Minister of Information, recently introduced a remarkable young Pole, Mr. George Jur, to *The Times* diplomatic correspondent.

George Jur personifies new Poland, Poland that has been reborn under brutal German occupation. It need not be said that he is a brave man. He is certainly a modest man. But he is resolute, determined and efficient. He is not obsessed with anything except love of his country which burns clear, steady and white. If he were passionate about anything else, it would be about efficiency.

He would say that two things above all characterise the Polish underground movement, in which he worked before he originally escaped from Poland and to which he returned on his 12-month mission, and they are patriotism, its mainspring, and efficiency which enables it to operate in a manner more extensive and more successful than can be publicly claimed for it.

The underground movement taught him and his colleagues that unless there is absolute efficiency, underground operations are not worth trying. The consequences of inefficiency and failure are too great.

### POLISH PATRIOTS.

Nothing can be revealed about the way Jur travelled from Britain, or the way he returned, except that the outward journey from England was more rapid than his return route. Nor can the nature of the mission be described, nor how he lived among the Germans in his country and where he went. The lives of other Polish patriots would be endangered.

He was sent on his mission to the Polish Delegate and Commander-in-Chief of the Polish underground army by General Sikorski. The Polish Government and Parliament in London have their counter-parts in the underground movement in the homeland. The Polish Delegate is the head of the underground organisation and has the rank of Deputy Premier. The Underground Council of National Unity in Poland corresponds to the Polish Parliament in Britain, and is composed of a coalition of parties—namely, Socialists, Peasants, Christian Democrats and National Democrats. It is an advisory body to the Delegate who is the Chief Executive Officer of the underground movement.

The army under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief in Poland is, of course, far larger than that abroad, commanded by General Sosnkowski.

### UNDERGROUND POLISH STATE.

Jur's mission took him into many branches of the underground Polish State and to many parts of Poland. The Polish underground army is trained, though its weapons are inadequate. How young men are drilled and taught to use weapons has to remain a secret, but these things are done and done well.

Just as remarkable is the Polish struggle against the greatest German crime against Poland, an attempt to destroy its civilisation and to make of the Poles hewers of wood and drawers of water. This story cannot be told either in any detail. But the Poles fight hard and successfully for their culture.

The Germans have forbidden all Polish education beyond the elementary stage except for a little minor technical education. Secondary schools and universities are closed, and yet secondary education is widely given 'underground'. Underground university education also flourishes even in scientific faculties. In some faculties, it is estimated that as many as two-thirds of the normal numbers of students are receiving instruction. Of course, it is sometimes defective, but the general standard of work is extraordinarily

high. This is due to an extraordinary seriousness of purpose which has come over the Polish youth in the nation's trial.

Jur saw with his own eyes much of the intensified German terror campaign which began last October in Warsaw, Cracow and many other Polish towns, in retaliation for the growing boldness of the Polish underground movement. Men and women were rounded up daily, and public executions were intended to strike terror into the hearts of the Polish people. Victims were driven half dressed into public squares in lorry convoys for execution. Their hands were tied behind their backs, and their mouths sealed with sticking plaster, to prevent their shouting patriotic defiance to their executioners. Loud speakers were erected to strike deeper terror by reading the lists of hostages who had to be executed in turn if the underground movement continued the struggle.

Before their execution many of the Poles were made to undergo blood transfusions for the benefit of wounded German soldiers.

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## RESTORING EQUALITY TO RUSSIAN WORKERS GERMANY'S SIGNIFICANT REFORM.

*(From the Times).*

The German Ministerial Council for the defence of the Reich has published one of the most significant new labour decrees issued since the great triumphal period of the German armies in 1942.

The decree formally abolishes all discrimination against millions of Russian labourers now employed in the German economic war machine, at the factories, in agriculture, on road work, clearing bombed ruins and every other branch of activity.

Hitherto, the Germans have officially and in practice divided the imported workers into two main classes, called "foreign workers" (*auslandische arbeitskrafts*) and "eastern workers" (*ostarbeiter*). All factories or other employers paid the same wages for the same work done whether by German or imported labourers, but a special tax reduced the earnings received by all imported labourers. Since 1942, the German Ministerial Council had ordered a special exclusive tax on the "eastern" or Russian labourers, which it was officially admitted was designed to reduce the net earnings to between 10 and 17 marks weekly. The employers were obliged by law to deduct a further 10½ marks weekly for board and lodging, or the whole of the net earnings if these were below 10½ marks.

Thus the lowest classed Russians received nothing and the highest paid Russians were paid 16½ marks weekly.

Naturally, the Russians did only the minimum amount of work, and that when they were driven hard. The German war effort and the continual combing out for the army created an increasing scarcity of labour, and the present changed attitude to the Russian workers is admittedly a part of an attempt to solve or mitigate Germany's great labour problem. In the future, the Russians are promised the same treatment as other foreign labourers with the same pay. They will receive premiums for more and better work, and certain entertainment facilities and other privileges devised to stimulate their efforts. It is also hinted that instead of the hated "ost" badge they may be allowed to wear a more attractive badge "which every Russian can wear with pride." The reform will cost the German State 10,000,000 marks daily.



# "MINES WERE LAID IN ENEMY WATERS",

*(Wing Commander L. V. Fraser).*

At a time when every man and gun are needed by the Nazis to meet the great Anglo-American air assaults by day and night, large forces of ships, guns and men are being retained to deal with a menace carried to them by some 10 per cent of the R. A. F. Bomber Command devoted to the unobtrusive job of mine-laying. Just four years ago the R. A. F. dropped their first mines from the air into enemy waters. Mine-laying is seldom a spectacular operation if one excepts the breaching of the Mohne and Eder dams, but its results mount up in deadly fashion. It is just one dividend alone that mines laid by aircraft of the R. A. F. Bomber Command have so far sunk or damaged at least 500 ships and that the toll in tonnage has passed the million mark.

Germany has been forced to maintain a fleet of mine-sweepers along the coastline stretching from the Bay of Biscay to distant Norwegian waters. Flagships have to be stationed along the routes by which hundreds of Lancasters, Halifaxes, Stirlings and Wellingtons make their way to the seas and waterways frequented by Nazi shipping. Ports and harbours have to be defended by thousands of highly trained anti-aircraft gunners.

## SOWING HIDDEN DANGER.

Yet R. A. F. mines continue to sow hidden danger in all European coastal and inland waters through which the enemy tries to pass some supplies that must otherwise choke his already overladen railways and roads.

The Nazi invasion of Norway and Denmark in April 1940 opened up a huge area for this new form of air warfare. By August that year Handley Page Hampdens had flown half a million miles, delivering mines to those regions which Nazi shipping used for bringing essential raw materials to the Ruhr. Mines in the Baltic and bombs on Stettin seriously crippled enemy supplies of troops and ammunition when the Germans turned to attack Russia. The German Generals retreating before the Russian armies are now reaping the grim return of the R. A. F. almost nightly sorties along the coasts stretching from the Spanish frontier to the Gulf of Danzig. They impeded the traffic of iron from Sweden and Norway. They struck at the coastline traffic taking supplies to occupied France and bringing back loot.

Just as the R. A. F. prepared for long-term bombing policy at a time when fighters for defence were the first essentials in air war, so mine-laying was also planned on a long-term scale. In the early days, aircraft designed for other purposes had to be adapted. The men who laid mines in those early days did so through incredible hardships. Some spent six hours at a time in aircraft with open cockpits in temperatures well below zero, unable even to warm themselves with hot tea—every time they uncorked the flasks, the tea was flung back by the slipstream to freeze on their faces. They came down to cliff-top height in enemy coastal waters; they slipped down over shipping routes, dropped their mines, and slipped home again. They never saw the results they achieved. Months later, perhaps, an announcement from a neutral country that a vessel carrying nickel or iron to Germany had gone down off the coast of Sweden or Denmark would reveal that another mine had found its mark.

From those pioneer days, R. A. F. mine-laying has grown to a major offensive. Known destruction by airborne mines is impressive. The Kiel Canal was blocked for several months by a ship laden with iron-ore which struck a mine in the canal itself—an 18,000-ton liner carrying troops and supplies for the Russian front struck a mine laid by Bomber Command in the Baltic and became a total wreck. A troopship laden with equipment for the *Luftwaffe* in the north of Norway, together with a full complement of the ground crew, struck a mine in Kattegat and sank. The ill-fated *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* were both damaged by mines in their dash from Brest to the Baltic.

### EFFECT ON U-BOATS.

Train ferries in the Baltic have met the same fate. Ports in the neighbourhood of large-scale mine-laying operations by Bomber Command are believed to have been closed for periods ranging from 24 hours to a week. The confusion brought about by such delays at key points of Nazi supply routes is of the utmost strategic importance.

U-boat commanders too have rightly recognised the potency of Bomber Command's magnetic mines. Kiel Bay was once an ideal training area for submarine crews. R. A. F. mines compelled them to move further east, so that the Gulf of Danzig became No. 1 U-boat training area. Hitler thought he had outwitted the mine-layers. But the R. A. F.'s technique in air-sea warfare had advanced too. Bigger and better bombers carrying bigger and better mines—to-day their average weight is 15,000 lbs—brought the Gulf of Danzig within easy reach.

It is significant to note that the man who commanded the group of Handley Page Hampdens which first laid mines in 1940 is to-day Commander-in-Chief of Bomber Command.

Those are the known results. The rest we shall not know till the war ends. To-day there are no sealanes or protected waters over which Nazi supply ships can move unmolested.

## RECONSTITUTION OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

*(From the Daily Telegraph).*

Marshal Badoglio's resignation is a prelude to his formation of that more broadly based Italian Government which all Allied nations, and not some only, have keenly desired ever since the fall of Mussolini. It completes the concessions to the susceptibilities of the Democratic parties, who were known to desire a reconstitution of the Government as distinct from a reshuffle, before abandoning abstention in favour of participation in responsibility for their country's affairs.

Many factors have contributed to this salutary change of view. The King has helped by a pledge to surrender his powers to the Crown Prince as Lieutenant-General of the Realm directly the Allies enter Rome. The Italian Communist Party took a broad hint from the Soviet recognition of the Badoglio Government, and came out for joining that Government.

Though it is not necessary to accept the implication of the former Soviet Member of the Advisory Council for Italy that the Russian insistence has been the sole reason for a more conciliatory atmosphere, undoubtedly the influence of Signor Togliatti, newly home after 23 years residence in Moscow, proved very powerful. Not only those who had formerly refused to co-operate will be in the new Government. It is reported that Marshal Badoglio's present civilian Ministers, who have been loyally trying to discharge a most difficult task, have themselves formed a distinct party possessing undoubted claims to participate.

Without questioning the merit or sincerity of the abstentionists, those who have allowed nothing to retard reconstitution of some sort of Italian authority, have certainly not been less representative nor less patriotic.

It remains to note that even the new Government can only be provisional. Nothing can detract from the right of the Italian people to choose their own Government, once all their country is liberated. The hope may, however, be entertained that the new move does reflect greater concentration upon the task of liberation, and thus augurs its more speedy achievement.

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## SHAPE OF POST-WAR WORLD. PROFITING FROM LESSON OF 1918—19.

*(From the Times).*

The bitter climax of the war is at hand. As it approaches, the logic of events, far from discouraging renewed concentration upon the form and ends of victory, positively compels it.

It becomes more than ever clear that the world cannot afford to repeat the experience of 1918—19. Mr. Cordell Hull's speech, the visit of Mr. Stettinius to London, the forthcoming gathering of Dominion Prime Ministers, the recent report of the International Labour Office following the Hot Springs Conference, and the establishment of the U. N. R. R. A., are cumulative evidence of determination to profit from experience so dearly bought. The nature of the peace settlement will depend as much upon peoples as upon Governments. It is not enough, it has never been enough, to know what we are fighting to destroy. The belligerent temper of the fighting nations, the attitude of neutral powers, and the powers of resistance of the enemy, can all at this critical moment be powerfully influenced in the direction of victory by a clear view of what the United Nations mean to build in place of Hitler's catastrophic "New Order".

The time has not yet come for schemes in detail. What is needed now is an agreement upon principles to the extent that the agreement will travel, and a binding declaration to apply these principles in actual policy.

Two major principles were formulated by President Roosevelt early in the war. They are the elimination of fear and the elimination of want, and they were given priority by Mr. Bruce in his address to the American Chamber of Commerce the other day. He welcomed evidence that the first of these had been accepted by the Governments of the United Nations.

The best practical means of applying some international agency can now be worked out quietly by a discussion, taking full account of all difficulties, moral as well as material, and by devising means whereby they can be overcome. Mr. Bruce hoped that there would be no delay in arriving at decisions, since the whole future of the world depends upon their success. He devoted the greater part of his address to the second main principle, elimination of want. There is a striking similarity between Mr. Bruce's view and that expressed in the resolutions drafted for submission to the I. L. O. Conference. Success in a policy of expansion demands not only that it shall be followed in all important countries, but that they shall keep in step and consult together to secure the utmost harmony and reciprocity in the means of execution. It would be fatal if any major country were to endeavour to secure employment, not by increasing the internal purchasing power of its citizens, but by pushing its sales abroad, refusing to accept goods and services in exchange, and thus in effect endeavouring to "export unemployment" to other countries.

An essential thing to remember is that many of the most recalcitrant problems will become comparatively easy to solve if the nations, in their common interests, can agree upon a policy of expansion and full employment, and will undertake to pursue it in active co-operation with one another.

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## ALLIED AND JAPANESE AIMS IN BURMA CAMPAIGN.

*By Lieut.-General H. G. Martin, the Daily Telegraph  
Military Correspondent.*

The Japanese no less than the Allies had their plan for this campaigning season on the Burma frontier. The Japanese command feared a building-up through Assam of a considerable American bombing force in China. Moreover, it needed success to restore its prestige, somewhat tarnished by the march of events in the Pacific. It laid its plans accordingly.

At the beginning of January, the East Asia Command sent a corps into Arakan with the object possibly of taking Akyab, and certainly of diverting the Japanese reserves to Arakan from North Burma where we had further plans in view.

The Japanese retorted by using our Arakan offensive for an exactly similar end of their own. At the beginning of February, they counter-attacked intending first to encircle the seventh Indian Division east of the Mayu range, and then the Fifth Indian Division west of it in the belief that by drawing our reserves to Arakan, they would weaken our Assam front which was to be their main offensive theatre.

Thanks to the magnificent performance by a group of the Seventh Division, the Japanese plan failed. Early in March, there followed the main Japanese offensive on the Assam front from Chindwin, that is against the Manipur valley and Imphal-Dimapur road. This offensive has cut the road. Though there is an alternative track which runs westward to the Assam-Bengal Railway at Silchar, the closing of the main link with the railway is a serious embarrassment. Yet the Japanese must do more than that, if they are to get a decision before the monsoon breaks in full force about June 15.

They must get out of the jungles and establish themselves in Manipur and so secure supplies, air fields and the use of the essential road from Tamu as a monsoon supply-line forward of Chindwin. Fortunately, we have a good reason for the confidence that the course of events will be very different. The Japanese who emerge from the jungles will find the trouble for which they are looking; those who remain in the jungle will get malaria; the monsoon at last will wash the jungle clean.

## JAPAN AS MECCA FOR ALL FAITHS.

*(From the Far East News Letter).*

The Japanese army in Burma is shipping to Japan sacred Buddhist relics which have been in Burma for centuries. This is being done with the agreement of Dr. Ba Maw and his administration, though the Japanese may have had to use considerable pressure before they got their way.

The collecting of religious relics is part of a definite Japanese plan. There is a method in it. From the Government of Siam last year the Japanese got some of the sacred ashes of Buddha, which were buried in the Temple of the Emerald Buddha in Bangkok. From Indo-China the Japanese got 23 packing cases filled with artistic treasures, including loot from the mysterious temples of Ankor, the famous Ankor Wat in Cambodia, and other institutions.

But the Japanese have not disclosed what Buddhist relics they are now taking out of Burma. Burma has some very holy relics. The Shwe Dagon Pagoda in Rangoon is the repository of eight hairs said to have come from the head of Buddha. There is another temple in Lower Burma which has two hairs, and there is a temple in Arakan which has a tooth of the Buddha. Also in the Shwe Dagon are relics of three Buddhas who preceded the Buddha, the Prince Gautama. These are the only Burmese relics of the Buddha which the Buddhist world looks upon as genuine. But it is not stated whether the Japanese have taken any of these famous relics, or others which are less holy, others which are not genuine relics of the Buddha at all.

The Japanese are certainly attaching very great importance to their new acquisitions, for they are going to build in Japan a special pagoda in which to house them. They are building a pagoda, which will be an exact copy of a famous Rangoon temple which was destroyed early in the war by aerial bombing.

At the Shwe Dagon the other day, tens of thousands of Burmese were marshalled by the Japanese for a service of prayer to mark the formal handing over of the relics. The Shwe Dagon in Rangoon is the most famous of all Buddhist temples, more famous even than the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, and certainly more famous than any of the elaborate Buddhist temples of Japan. It is a huge building. The base of the pagoda measures a quarter of a mile round, and it rises higher than St. Paul's Cathedral. The whole of the pagoda is covered with gilt, and with gold foil brought by the hundreds of thousands of devout pilgrims who have visited the Shwe Dagon from every part of the Buddhist world. At the very top of the pagoda is the *hti*, or umbrella, also made of gold and gilt, and encrusted with diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds.

Forty thousand people are said to have attended the ceremony in Rangoon when the relics were taken away by the Japanese. Of course, the Japanese are trying to make Japan the Mecca for all the religions of Asia. They have looted religious treasures from all over Asia. They have taken 23 packing cases of treasures from Cambodia; they have practically destroyed the Tatung Caves in North China, caves known the world over for their marvellous sculptures; and they may also have acquired, since their invasion, articles robbed from the Imperial tombs at Hsiling and other parts of North China. The loot from these included an immense pearl which was taken from the mouth of the mummified body of the famous Empress Dowager.

Some 18 months or two years ago, the Japanese even sent an expedition into Mongolia in an effort to get hold of the body of Genghis Khan, whose remains have been guarded from the world for centuries by his descendants, the tribal chiefs of Mongolia. The Japanese are said to have found the secret burial place, but the Mongols had already removed the remains.

There is a great deal of plain looting in all this, but the Japanese political aim is very obvious. They want to get hold of religious relics, as they have just done in Burma, or objects of veneration and tribal worship, such as the body of Genghis Khan.

The Japanese are a pretty shrewd people. It would be a mistake to underrate this politico-religious offensive. Some years ago, when the Japanese began making up to the Muslim world, it was pointed out that there were no Muslims in Japan; Japan was not a Muslim country and was unaffected by Islamic culture. Well, the Japanese soon put that right. They began building mosques. They built one in Kobe, and another in Tokyo, and the Foreign Office and the War Office ordered some of their secret service agents to be converted to Islam, in order to give the thing astart. The only real Muslims in Japan at that time were a handful of Indian residents, and some Tartar refugees from Central Asia.

But the Japanese have worked chiefly through Buddhism. They pose as the leaders of the Buddhist faith, although the Buddhist Church in Japan frankly speaking is degenerate, a victim of the Shintoist revival which accompanied the Imperial Restoration of 1868. In the 70's of last century, the Japanese disestablished the Buddhist Church. Dozens of famous temples were razed to the ground, and their treasures looted. There were massacres in which hundreds of priests and monks were killed. It is to Buddhism that Japan owes everything that is noble in her art and culture. What she has become to-day she owes to Shintoism. The Japanese are no longer Buddhist, but they pretend they are, and in looting the sacred relics and treasures of the temples of Burma, Siam, China and the other Buddhist countries of Asia they are striving for the recognition of Japan as the Buddhist Mecca. It is one of the most dangerous and daring political machinations in modern history. For a time the Japanese may even be successful; the people of the occupied countries may be duped. But in the end the Japanese will fail; the priests will fail along with the generals and the admirals. For there is one unconquerable obstacle. The Japanese cannot admit any challenge to the divinity of the Emperor. Japanese Buddhists and Japanese Christians have solved the theological puzzle to their own satisfaction; they have turned the Trinity into four, and they have absorbed the Buddhas into the Shinto pantheon. But they cannot expect the rest of the world to understand that rigmarole.

## POSSIBILITIES OF REACHING CHINA BY SEA.

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The Stockholm *Tidningen* publishes an article by its naval correspondent, Captain Oeberg, on the sea-route to China. He says:

Events have shown that the American Navy is anxious to join battle with the Japanese fleet. It is possible that the Japanese consider that time is not yet ripe for a naval battle. The longer the delay, however, the more experienced the American Navy will become and the more islands the Americans may be expected to take. The further west the battle takes place the more difficult it will be for the Americans to take their damaged ships back to Pearl Harbour for repairs. Assuming that Truk falls, the waters of the South Caroline islands as far as the Philippines will lie open to the Americans, especially if Yap and Palau islands are captured and form operative bases for the Americans. The Japanese would be restricted to operations south of Micronesia, and there would not be any obstacle in the way of American troops landing on the Philippines. The Japanese would then be obliged to move their lines of sea communications west of the Philippines, and the Americans would obtain a broad base line from the Marshall islands to Palau for an attack on Japan from the south.

### LANDING ON FORMOSA.

If the Americans obtained bases on the Eastern Philippines, they might possibly be able to carry out a landing on Formosa. If the waters east of the Philippines were closed, the Japanese waters round Formosa would form a bottleneck through which all transports between Japan and her occupied territory to the south would have to pass. If the American Navy is not defeated by the Japanese before this occurs, the Japanese in South-East Asia will be placed in an extremely serious position.

From the waters south of Formosa, an air service could be operated to China by means of aircraft-carriers, just as in the summer of 1942, Malta was provided with fighters in this way. In order to be able to land troops on the China coast, it looks as though the Americans would be obliged to attain bases on the northern part of Luzon, preferably Formosa also, in order to be able to provide sufficient air cover. From bases on Luzon, Japanese shipping in the East China sea could be attacked much more effectively and this would complicate the position of the Japanese armies in China.

### AMERICAN PLANS.

A Japanese naval victory would put a stop to the Americans' progress, either indefinitely or for a long time. A Japanese defeat would ensure the carrying out of the American plans. The Japanese still possess Guam, Truk and other islands, and their positions on the Carolines and the Marianas cannot be knocked out by naval artillery as easily as those in the Marshall islands.

When the Americans are approaching the Philippines, offensives from the west and south-west, and from Burma in the direction of China and Thailand, will be able to give support to the American offensive from the east. A certain amount of support may be rendered by operations on a larger scale than hitherto on the Kuriles from the Aleutians.

Even if there are sufficient troops, it is more than doubtful whether there will be sufficient tonnage for any large-scale transport of troops to China until the war in Europe is more or less over. The Chinese cannot be expected to make much more progress in their efforts to drive the Japanese from China until a contact is made with the Allies by sea through some Chinese port or ports.

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## THE HUMAN TORPEDO.

*(From the Times).*

Although in the evolution of the means of waging war, no less than in every other field of human activity, mechanisation, ever more mechanisation, is the order of the day, that process has not eliminated opportunities for the display of individual initiative, daring and skill.

Mechanisation has produced, among other things, the single-seater fighter, which gave the gallant few of Mr. Churchill's famous epigram opportunity to show themselves to a unique degree individual champions of their country in the lists of modern war.

### THE MIDGET SUBMARINE.

In another element, it has produced not only the Midget submarine, the wonderful exploits of which in the remote Arctic Fjord recently thrilled the whole nation, but also the even smaller "human torpedo," of the existence of which and the gallant service of those who manned it against our Mediterranean enemies, the public is permitted to learn to-day.

From photographs of this weapon in action, just issued by the Admiralty, the name would not seem fully appropriate. "Torpedo" suggests a deadly weapon that is launched at an enemy ship to explode and rend her hull on impact; except in shape the new weapon has less in common with it than with the submarine, though the crew ride outside of instead of within its hull. Though they wear diving suits it is clearly a warm water weapon. It would need the physique of an Eskimo to navigate it in high latitude. The crew act as their own periscopes.

Apparently, they navigate on the surface with only their heads showing until close alongside of the quarry. Then, they dive under her, fix the explosive charge to her bottom, and paddle away after having started the time-fuse that is to explode it when they are beyond its range of destruction—a method of action proposed by Robert Fulton 140 years ago for the submarine he invented and that was rejected by Lord St. Vincent. Fulton built his submarine but never reached the point of attaching an explosive to a target ship. Lieutenant Greenland and Sub-Lieutenant Dove, each with his gallant seaman companion, have taken the new invention successfully to its appointed end and richly have they deserved the decorations awarded them.



# PRICES OF ELECTRIC BULBS FIXED.

## PRICE LIST TO BE EXHIBITED.

According to a Notification under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary, the Central Government have fixed maximum retail prices, which may be charged by a dealer or a producer in respect of the electric bulbs specified in a Schedule to the Notification.

Another Notification directs all dealers in electric bulbs to mark, within seven days, bulbs exposed or intended for sale with the sale price or, where marking is not feasible, to exhibit on the premises a price-list showing correct controlled selling prices as fixed by the Central Government. Producers are directed to print the retail selling price on the carton in respect of all bulbs leaving their godowns on or after May 1, 1944.

The maximum selling prices, per bulb, of the specified varieties of imported and locally produced bulbs are as follows:—

Imported bulbs: 15 and 30 Watt Vacuum bulbs Rs. 1—4—0 at Calcutta and Rs. 1—5—0 elsewhere; 40 Watt Vacuum bulbs Rs. 1—6—0 at Calcutta and Rs. 1—7—0 elsewhere. The prices of gas-filled bulbs range from Rs. 1—8—0 for 40 Watt bulb to Rs. 8—7—0 for 300 Watt bulbs at Calcutta, and from Rs. 1—10—0 to Rs. 8—14—0 elsewhere.

Locally produced ELMI bulbs: 15 and 30 Watt Vacuum bulbs Rs. 1—0—0 at Calcutta and Rs. 1—1—0 elsewhere; 40 Watt Vacuum bulbs Rs. 1—2—0 at Calcutta and Rs. 1—3—0 elsewhere. Prices of gas-filled bulbs, range from Rs. 1—3—0 to Rs. 6—11—0 at Calcutta and from Rs. 1—4—0 to Rs. 7—0—0 elsewhere.

Other locally produced bulbs, anywhere in India: from Rs. 2—0—0 to Rs. 2—4—0 for Vacuum bulbs up to 60 Watt. Prices of gas-filled bulbs range from Rs. 2—4—0 to Rs. 12—8—0 from 40 Watt to 300 Watt respectively. The price of a 30 Watt gas-filled bulb has been fixed at Rs. 2—8—0.

Members of the public are requested to make a free present of any suitable old Tamil books they can spare for the perusal, in their leisure time, of our soldiers outside India.

Books so given will be handed over to the Superintendent of the State Press, who will arrange to despatch them.

## PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

### PROGRAMME.

#### LECTURE CXCVI. (Batch 6).

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 6- 5-44 Municipal Office ... 6.00 p.m. | 10- 5-44 Vellanur ... 7.00 p.m.       |
| 7- 5-44 Kilanilai-Puduppatti.. 7.00 ,, | ,, Sembattur ... 7.30 ,,              |
| ,, Kilanilai ... 7.30 ,,               | 11- 5-44 Malampatti ... 7.00 ,,       |
| 8- 5-44 Perumanadu ... 7.00 ,,         | ,, Perambur ... 7.30 ,,               |
| ,, Pulvayal ... 7.30 ,,                | 12- 5-44 Malaikkudippatti ... 7.00 ,, |
| 9- 5-44 Sadayampatti ... 7.00 ,,       | ,, Tulaiyanur ... 7.30 ,,             |
| ,, Oliyamangalam ... 7.30 ,,           |                                       |

#### LECTURE CXCVII. (Batch 1).

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 13- 5-44 Municipal Office ... 6.00 p.m. | 17- 5-44 Pungudi ... 7.00 p.m.     |
| 14- 5-44 Kiranur ... 7.00 ,,            | ,, Satyamangalam ... 7.30 ,,       |
| ,, Nanjur ... 7.30 ,,                   | 18- 5-44 Mirattunilai ... 7.00 ,,  |
| 15- 5-44 Puvarasakudi ... 7.00 ,,       | ,, Arimalam ... 7.30 ,,            |
| ,, Venkatakulam ... 7.30 ,,             | 19- 5-44 Udayalippatti ... 7.00 ,, |
| 16- 5-44 Perungalur ... 7.00 ,,         | ,, Killukottai ... 7.30 ,,         |
| ,, Adanakkottai ... 7.30 ,,             |                                    |

#### RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

|                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7- 5-44 Kodumbalur.            | 13- 5-44 Vettamviduthi. |
| 9- 5-44 Perambur.              | 14- 5-44 Virachchilai.  |
| 10- 5-44 Kilanilai-Puduppatti. | 16- 5-44 Konapattu.     |
| 11- 5-44 Alangudi.             | 17- 5-44 Karambakkudi.  |
| 12- 5-44 Pudukkottai.          | 18- 5-44 Kulipirai.     |
|                                | 19- 5-44 Pudukkottai.   |