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Lead
Us
To
VICTORY



Mr. CHURCHILL

SALUTE and best wishes to the youthful veteran of 68, coupled with warm congratulations upon your brilliant war survey last night I returned from my English visit confident that you, in company with other grand leaders of the United Nations, will yet under the heaven's blessings lead us to one of the great victories in world history

GENERAL SMUTS, in cabling birthday greetings
to Mr. Churchill on Monday (Nov. 30)

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Running Commentary

History Repeats itself in Russia : Another great step in the Soviet plan for the destruction of Hitler's armies in Russia was taken by M. Stalin in 1941 and 1942. The new offensive he has started on the Central Front. Here the Red Army has effected a break-through along a distance of 19 miles in the area of the town of Velikie Luki. To the west of the town of Rzhev, the enemy's line was broken in three places. It may be expected that the Red Army will succeed in carrying the new attack to a successful conclusion and establishing itself in the Moscow-Smolensk road area. If this is done, Smolensk itself might be captured soon and all the German armies in the Central sector facing Moscow would be in direct peril. The German armies further north would also be threatened. The successes in the Stalingrad Front will

go to affect the position of the German Caucasian armies, for over the entire southern front, from Serafimovich along the Don Elbow to the Central Caucasus, the Red Army has taken the offensive. It has achieved successes in the counter-offensive operations at Novorossisk, Tuapse, Nalchik, Kalmuch and north and south of Stalingrad. These successes show that the Axis troops were not given the chance to dig in and consolidate their victories of the Summer.

History has repeated itself in the Russian campaign. Last year, at this very time, the Nazis were denying winter-quarters in Moscow and Leningrad, and this year German plans to establish winter-quarters in Stalingrad, Grozny and Trans-Caucasia have been frustrated by the Red Army. The present position bears a close resemblance to that of November of last year. The position on November 22, 1941 was that

Mr. Churchill

Mr. Winston Churchill, Britain's great Prime Minister, celebrated his 68th birthday on Monday, November 30.

A birthday greeting from Field Marshal Smuts is published on the front page. The photograph of Mr. Churchill published on that page was taken soon after the outbreak of the war. Mr. Churchill who was appointed First Lord of Admiralty (the post he occupied at the outbreak of the war of 1914-18), is seen arriving at the Admiralty, London, on September 4, 1939.

Stalin's Leadership

"All the world wonders at the giant strength which Russia has been able to conserve and to apply. The invincible defence of Stalingrad is matched by the commanding military leadership of Stalin."

—MR. CHURCHILL.

the Germans had reached the environs of Leningrad and had taken Tikhvin; encircled Moscow on three sides; advanced beyond Yeletz in the Central sector; over-ran the Ukraine and Crimea; and entered the town of Rostov-on-Don. This year, at about the same time, the Germans were entrenched near Stalingrad; and having crossed the Don had swept into Northern and Central Caucasia; and were threatening Novorossisk, Tuapse and Grozny. Last year, the Russians were on the defensive all along the front, and they were helped by the advent of winter and General Auchinleck's drive to Benghazi. This drive diverted a considerable portion of the *Luftwaffe* to the Western Desert. This year winter has set in, and Allied operations in Egypt and French North Africa

Hitler on the Defensive : Will Napoleon's Retreat be Put into Shade ? Hitler used the winter of 1941 to recoup his losses and strengthen his forces, but this year's winter will now see a further dissipation of his strength. Tremendous casualties on the Russian front have affected the position considerably. No decisive victory has been achieved by the Germans, in spite of the enormous cost of men and material. The defensive line of the Axis is now longer than it was last winter. Hitler's U-boats have to patrol, not only the vast spaces of the Atlantic and the Arctic, but also the Mediterranean route, to prevent Allied aid reaching Russia. Hitler has to fortify the "East Wall" to prevent a Russian break-through, and the "West Wall" to prevent an attack



German troops taken prisoner in the Western Desert Campaign.

have diverted the *Luftwaffe* from the Russian front, enabling the Russians to launch offensives in more than one sector.

It may be said that the situation, so far as Hitler is concerned, has worsened. Last winter, Hitler was able to stabilize his winter line at a comparatively low cost and send some of his soldiers back to German factories to produce munitions for the coming spring and summer. At that time, there was no threat of Allied activity in the West, and to offset the lull on the Eastern front Hitler called in his last reserves, the Japanese, on December 7, to engage the Allies in the Pacific. But, this year, he will have no respite of that kind, thanks to the great Allied victories in North Africa, Russia and the South Pacific. The Axis has now been definitely put on the defensive in Africa, Europe and Asia.

from Britain, and construct a "South Wall" to protect Italy, in the first instance, against the threat of Allied action from the newly-acquired bases in North Africa.

Hitler must have realized only too well that this means the beginning of his end. He said in his Munich speech on November 8 that Germany must now defend what she holds. So far as Russia is concerned, her immediate task is to remove the two dangerous salients north and south of Stalingrad, in the same way as she relieved the threat to Moscow last year. A good beginning has been made by the capture of Kalach, north-west of Stalingrad, and by the launching of an attack from the direction of Krassonarneisk in the South. The other task facing the Red Army is also the same as that of a year ago, namely, to prevent

(Continued on page 6.)

France Will Rise Again

IN a broadcast to the people of France five months ago (July 3), General de Gaulle said, "It is a great thing in war to have won the first battles, but it is the last one which decided everything. It will take place in France France herself will fight this battle. In it, she will play a decisive part. Let every Frenchman prepare. This is his sole duty. This is the only solution." Many things have happened since the great General's exhortation. So far as France is concerned, Hitler's stranglehold tightened, and tightened, till it brought about its complete annihilation. In the words of Mr. Churchill, the sorry farce and fraud of the Vichy Government has become extinct by Hitler's occupation of the "free" French zone and his futile attempt to capture the French Fleet at Toulon. Mr. Churchill, in his broadcast on Sunday night, further pointed out that these developments in France were to be welcomed by the

United Nations, because they were a necessary prelude to that reunion of France without which French resurrection was impossible. Now that the artificial position between occupied and unoccupied territories was swept away, all Frenchmen in France were equally under the German yoke, and would learn to hate it with equal intensity. Mr. Churchill agreed with General de Gaulle that the last scales of deception had now fallen from the eyes of the French people.



GENERAL DE GAULLE

Clemenceau's Choice

It has taken nearly two-and-a-half years for the disillusionment of the French people to become complete. Three men stood in the way of this awakening—Petain, Laval, and Darlan. Petain symbolised the defeatist spirit and weakness of France. He was always a defeatist. It may be recalled that Clemenceau preferred Foch to Petain in 1917. He said, "I had to choose between a General who wanted us to retire to the banks of the Loire and lay down arms, and another General whose only wish was to keep on fighting. The choice was obvious, since I did not wish to capitulate." What France avoided in 1917 happened in 1940. Petain had a remarkable inferiority complex before the Germans and it was this which was responsible for France laying down arms on 22nd June 1940. Petain's faith in the good intentions of Hitler was childish in the extreme. Otto Abetz remarked of him that he had "eyes of a child in the head of an old man." Petain is personally an honest man and a patriot. He regarded himself as something like a French Hindenburg. In fact, he resembles him in some respects; he is old, he is honest, and he is a Marshal. Petain had been a sincere believer in the idea of "regeneration through suffering." Now that belief must have been shattered. He has been compared to a respectable *façade*, behind which all those elements of big business, finance, professional politics and treachery, which combined to ruin France, were taking cover.

The Vichy Regime

The regeneration of France, he thought, could be best achieved by collaborating with Germany, instead of fighting her. He believed that, under his paternal guidance, France will become industrious and disciplined and recover her old strength. He seemed incapable of understanding the responsibility of the army for the collapse of France and preferred to think that political corruption and intrigue were responsible for it. The Vichy regime which he established was inspired by mediæval authoritarian notions. He ignored the fact that such a thing as the French Revolution took place in 1789.

He wanted France to revert to its old position as a Catholic peasant country with industry taking a second place and concerned mainly with the production of high-quality artistic goods. He thought his simple, paternal, and authoritarian rule would bring about a renaissance of the old French virtues and finally the salvation of France.

A true soldier, he thought he would treat honourably with Germany's greatest soldier, Adolf Hitler. But he never bargained for the fact that corporal Hitler would break the Armistice of 1940 and over-run unoccupied France. Petain believed that the policy of appeasement which brought about the Armistice saved France, but the Armistice has led to the annihilation of France, and he himself had to lodge a protest! Hitler's new act of aggression must have rudely awakened the Marshal, and his protest must have been the protest of a soldier who has been deeply wronged. Evidently, he now realises that he has made a mistake. But it is too late!

Marshal Petain created the most deplorable situation in France by his policy of weakness and surrender. Referring to the tragedy that overtook France and the "guilty Frenchmen" who were responsible for it, an English writer says, "It is all the more deplorable that the name of Petain—which in French eyes is still synonymous with personal honesty and public integrity—should be used to rivet the chains on France; that the man with whom is associated the heroic *Ils ne passeront pas* should be the man who is opening the door to the Germans in France. Had it been done by Laval, without the cover of Petain's name, it would not have been so dangerous, for there are no illusions in France about Laval. It is a tragi-comedy of the most ironic kind that all this should be done with the formal sanction, at least, of the old military gentleman who believes in 'peace with honour, as between soldiers'."

The Villain of the Piece

Laval is the real villain of the piece. He never made any secret of his desire to see the Germans win, and he did all in his power to help them and betray France. He helped them not only in France itself, but in Indo-China, and he attempted to do the same in Madagascar and Martinique. Though he is not popular among the French people, he became the real 'boss' of France under cover of Marshal Petain and the patronage of Hitler. Some mystery has surrounded the conduct of the men of Vichy long after the capitulation at Compiègne in 1940. Were they misguided patriots, or confirmed traitors? Were they intent on saving France or themselves from the fury of Hitler and his hordes? Different events gave different conclusions, but so far as Laval is concerned, his path seems the most clearly marked and most sinister in treacherous behaviour.

Darlan, the last of the Vichy Triumvirate, has come into the picture now with a saving grace, because of the help he rendered to the Allies in North Africa. His co-operation with the Allies has brought about a somewhat delicate and difficult situation, but President Roosevelt has made the position of the Allies clear by stating that the arrangements made by General Eisenhower with Admiral Darlan were purely of a military character, and they were made because it was essential to save American, British and French lives from unnecessary danger. Help had to be taken wherever it could be found. In a time of crisis, one cannot pick and choose.

But the one man picked and chosen to symbolise the spirit of *La France Combattante* is General de Gaulle. He joined the struggle for freedom before the men of Vichy enslaved France to the Germans. The turn of events in North Africa must have given him satisfaction, because of the great accession of Frenchmen to the cause which has as its slogan, the old Jacobian cry, *Liberte ou la mort*, and not the Vichy watchword, *L'esclavage plutot que la mort*.

The first of French patriots, General de Gaulle never pretended or aspired to be the head of a legal Government in exile like those of other nations in London. His "French National Committee" is nothing else but the directing organ of the Fighting French Movement. And it will go on and on fighting, till the Nazis are driven out from the land of the free and the brave—which owing to weak and treacherous leadership became the land of slaves and cowards.

France will decide fate of *Festung Europa*

France, as Mr. Churchill said on Sunday, will rise again, and men like General de Gaulle will play a leading part in it—a part that will restore to her the lost freedom and dignity. As the great French patriot pointed out six months ago, the real battle will have to be fought out in France, and it will decide the fate of Hitlerism in Europe. If Hitler's *Festung Europa* is to be shattered, it will have to be done mainly on the French soil. And then, France will rise, as though from a long sleep, and freedom will dawn. Meanwhile, the freedom-loving world will continue to exclaim: *La France est mort, Vive la France!*

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(Continued from page 3.)

the Germans from establishing a straightened winter line within easy striking distance of their major objectives. It is gratifying to note that the Russians have cut the railway supply route to the German troops on the eastern bank of the Don. Their great victory at Ordzhonokidze has relieved the pressure on Grozny oil-fields, one of Hitler's very important objectives.

Viewing the whole position it is clear that Hitler's dream of capturing Leningrad, Moscow and the Caucasus is as far off as ever—perhaps further off than ever before, and we may wonder with *Reuter's* Military Commentator whether this winter and early spring may not see a German retreat from Russia which would put Napoleon's retreat from Moscow into the shade.

* * * *

Fighting in Tunisia : Serious Threat to German Forces

A great struggle has begun in right earnest for command of the strip of water in the Mediterranean bounded by Sardinia, Sicily and the Tunisian peninsula. In German hands, this will be a forward bastion for the defence of southern Europe. In Allied hands, it will be a spring-board for the invasion of France or Italy, or both. The object of the German airborne invasion of Tunisia was to get control of the entire territory under the Bey of Tunis from the Mediterranean coast to the borders of Tripolitania. They want to establish in this region air bases which would give them control of the Central Mediterranean and enable them to cut Allied sea communications between East and West North Africa. Their object is also to prevent an Allied back-door entry into Libya. It is with a view to preventing any Allied infiltration into Tunisia from Algeria that German forces have spread out west and south-west of Bizerta and Tunis.

But in spite of stiff resistance of the enemy, Allied troops have successfully effected entry into Tunisia. Advanced elements of the opposing forces are fighting each other a few miles west of Bizerta. Allied parachutists have attacked Italo-German positions near Mateur, an important railway junction on the Tunis-Bizerta line, 24 miles from

A Good Job Done Well!

Our readers must have read in the papers about the exploits, in Solomon Islands waters, of the U.S. light cruiser *Boise*. It might interest them to know that the *Boise* underwent repairs in an Indian yard at Bombay last March by Indian labour.

To judge from the account of herself given near the Solomons, the repair job done on the *Boise* by Indian labour must have been first-rate!

Bizerta and 38 miles from Tunis. Further south, Allied forces were operating from bases along the Feriana-Gafsa railway line and are gradually advancing eastward. This advance affords a serious threat to German forces which are likely to be split into two. To prevent such a danger it is reported that German troops in Southern and Central Tunisia have been ordered to cut their way through to the North.

Germans are digging in both in the Tunis area and some 30 miles south-west of Bizerta with a view to making a resolute stand. The *Luftwaffe* is well entrenched in Tunisia, and it is expected that severe fighting will take place before the enemy is ousted. Recent reports show that Germans are using air attacks in an endeavour to hold up Allied advance but only with moderate results. Transport planes are being used by the Allies to supply troops and air forces from the main base.

Later reports state that British and American forces have driven their wedge between Tunis and Bizerta and that the Battle for Tunisia has reached a decisive stage.

* * * *

Confusion in Enemy Radio Propaganda—Berlin and Rome on African Fighting

There has been a good deal of confusion in enemy radio propaganda as a result of the sudden burst of Allied offensive activity in the Mediterranean area. In a broadcast, Mr. W. A. Sinclair, B.B.C. propaganda expert, has

analysed and interpreted recent trends in Axis propaganda. A few extracts from his broadcast are given below :—

“ Apart from confusions among themselves, the Italians as a whole and the Germans as a whole have gone on separate propaganda lines. The German line was that the campaign in Egypt and Cyrenaica did not greatly matter. Hitler, you will remember, in his last speech dismissed it in half of one sentence and, since then, Nazi propagandists have tried to minimise the African fighting by filling up their news bulletins with reports of enormous Allied shipping losses.

“ The Italians, on the other hand, took the line that the African fighting was the most important in the whole war In his effort to exaggerate Italy's importance, the radio commentator Mario Appelius, on November 7 made the absurd statement: ‘ Britain has throughout the war concentrated her main forces against Italy’ Mario Appelius, later in the same broadcast, said: ‘ This has been a heavy burden, but it is also a great honour that we Italians have constantly and soundly withstood the age-old might of the greatest modern empire.’ ”

“ We know, of course ” (Mr. Sinclair continued), “ that, when things were going well for the Axis in Africa, the Italians carefully pointed out that the Commander-in-Chief was an Italian Marshal (whose name I have forgotten). Of late, they have taken to speaking of Rommel as being in command. It is quite plain that the Italians dislike the Germans and fear them; and it is quite plain that the Germans despise the Italians, but they have put themselves in the same boat and they have got to make shift to get on together.”

Axis broadcasts give the general impression that their Governments are disturbed and alarmed about the present military situation and about the stability of the home morale of their own people. Mr. Sinclair says :

“ Italian morale does seem to be at a low ebb. It seems to be fundamentally unhealthy. That is the only conclusion that anyone can draw from the weird mixture that constitutes Italian Home Propaganda. Some of it consists in almost pathetic appeals to stand firm and the rest is bombastic stuff about their lion-hearted soldiers.

THE DAWN OF 1943

“ The dawn of 1943 will soon loom red before us, and we must brace ourselves to cope with the trials and problems of what must be a stern and terrible year. We do so with the assurance of ever-growing strength and as a nation with a strong will, bold heart and good conscience.”

—Mr. CHURCHILL.



British “ Valentine ” tanks are being supplied to Allied armies in various theatres of war. Numbers sent to Russia were used in the defence of Stalingrad and Moscow. Picture shows : A British “ Valentine ” Mark II tank being lowered into the hold of a supply ship.

He points out that one of the queerest points in Italian Home Propaganda at present is that Italians are being urged to behave with courage and composure similar to that of the British at the time of Dunkirk. Italian broadcasts say, “ the behaviour of Churchill and the British was not without greatness,”

and implore the Italians to behave similarly. He also refers to considerable discontent among the German civilian population. He says:

"The German Government seems to have resigned itself to the fact that there is widespread discontent, and it seems to have decided that mere discontent as such will have to be tolerated. What will not be tolerated is action arising out of that discontent. Goebbels made this very clear in his weekly article in *Das Reich*. This was even more extensively broadcast and commented on than usual, so he must have regarded it as particularly important. He drew a distinction—I think quite a sound distinction—between the German people's mood (the German word was *Stimmung*) and their attitude or bearing, their *Haltung* as he called it. Moods of discontent and the like, he said, are temporary, they pass, they do not matter; but bearing—*Haltung*—does matter. And then he went on to explain tactfully that the German people might indulge themselves in having a despondent or discontented mood, or *Stimmung*, from time to time, but that they would get into trouble if they had a despondent or discontented bearing."

This does not mean, Mr. Sinclair makes it clear, that because the Germans are discontented they are therefore a weaker enemy to overcome, for though discontentment in a democratic country may weaken the Government, and even bring about its downfall, in a totalitarian country like Germany, such discontent will be only a minor inconvenience. The German Government can control, not the mood of the people, but only their bearing, and it is their bearing that affects us in that it makes them fight the Allies. But if that discontent reaches a high pitch as the result of a crushing military defeat; it will affect the bearing of the German people directly as it did in 1918.

WAR IN EUROPE

"It may well be that the war in Europe will come to an end before the war in Asia. The Atlantic may be calm, while in the Pacific the hurricane rises to its full pitch."

—Mr. CHURCHILL.

A 267-Day Adventure

AFTER 267 days of travel by foot, naval pinnace, canoe and raft, three A.I.F. sergeants who were in the Rabaul garrison on January 23 when the Japanese made their successful invasion have now arrived at a New Guinea base. These soldiers are three victorians: Sergeants J. Flucker, A. Vine and P. Beenie.

Evading the Japanese they made their way from Rabaul to the south coast of New Britain but got away when a Japanese naval landing party, which was subsequently cleared out by Australian forces, landed there. Flucker and his companions, hiding on a river bank, saw the Japanese emerge from the jungle on the opposite side. Continuing down the coast of New Britain, the Australians came upon a rich plantation and established camp. They assisted a number of other Australians who arrived during the few days they were there. On the beach they found a 15-foot open boat. They were not experienced sailors but decided that they would try to reach Australia.

For a week they and a few others were at sea trying to get along the coast of New Britain. The weather was bad and they were blown back to where they began. Some became sick and one died of fever. They went ashore to bury him. Returning to a small harbour on the southern coast of New Britain, the Australians were told that troops were being evacuated from the northern side of the island. They arrived five days too late to get aboard the last evacuation ship. They remained for a few days and found plenty of food.

When a small naval pinnace showed up, the party went along the coast seeking others who might be attempting to escape and were close to being picked up by a Japanese naval patrol. They landed on a small island where they hoped to be picked up, but after waiting months for transport they decided to try to push across to New Guinea. After an amazing trip from small island to small island they finally reached the north-east coast of New Guinea 200 days after first leaving Rabaul. They then tramped for weeks through the New Guinea jungle evading districts where there were Japanese. Finally they made a raft and sailed down a river to the south coast. Even then they were still 260 miles from an Allied base. It is estimated that altogether they travelled 800 miles on foot and 2,000 miles by boat. All are fit and will be posted to their unit soon.

The Blockade Weapon

BY

LEONARD INGRAMS

WAR, in its former sense of conflict between armed forces, will hardly describe this present opposition of whole economies to each other. The challenge of the Axis War States is corporate, concerted force. Their striking power is rooted in the daily lives of all their nationals. The clear dividing line between the soldiers and the people is quite untraceable. The railway, the larder, and the workshop are fronts on which their enterprise can fail. Every process in their planned economies is part of their military campaigns.

The answer to this challenge of the Axis War States is twofold. They must be met by force to match and to exceed their own, and their concentration of their own resources must be limited, confused, and dissipated in every possible way. The threatened citizens of the free world must equally concentrate their energies to the single purpose of offensive force, and while they are building up their armies the enemy must be prevented by all means possible from adding to his strength and maintaining his effort.

The day of his defeat must be hastened by mobilising the resources of the United Nations and by immobilising simultaneously the resources of the Axis—by attacking the whole complex of materials, machines, men, organisation, and will that go to make up his economic fighting power. This latter task is economic warfare. Its most impressive weapon is blockade.

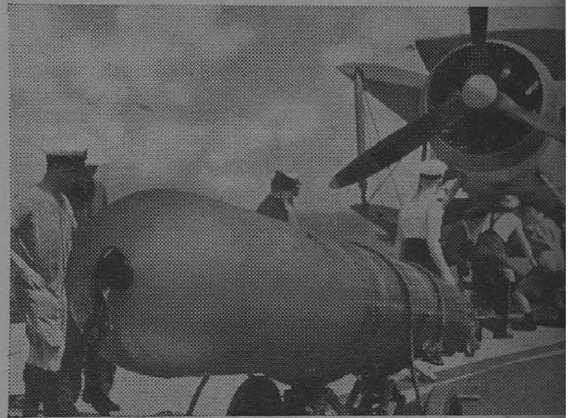
The seas were out of bounds to German shipping when the war began, and contraband, which means in practice anything to help the enemy, was seized off neutral ships as well. Britain's international commercial strength was mobilised to help the Navy. British controlled bunkers and water, repairs, towage Britain's banking facilities and insurance, were reserved around the world for friendly ships, and by the end of 1941 the enemy's supplies from neutrals overseas, however indirect, were being effectively cut off at the source.

Important penalties were placed on help to Germany from neutral territory and Europe too. Private businesses who dealt with Germany were listed as declared enemies of Britain. Now they're proclaimed enemies of America as well, and aiding or abetting Germany is most unprofitable.

The American Government, co-operating increasingly in economic warfare, has also frozen European funds in the United States, and works with Britain to buy up supplies of vital materials within reach of Germany on the European mainland in competition with the Axis.

CONQUEST OF EUROPE DID NOT BREAK THE BLOCKADE

Within their legal frontiers, neither Germany nor Japan had natural resources enough to maintain for long the effort of modern warfare against determined opposition. The plan of both was to rely on force, as bandits do, to get them what they lacked. The method of both was to pile up vast quantities of raw material and general supplies. The intention of both was to win with blitzkrieg tactics if not final victory then



BRITISH FLEET AIR ARM ACTIVE IN MEDITERRANEAN: This photograph taken aboard a British aircraft carrier shows a torpedo being loaded on to a "Swordfish" torpedo bomber aircraft just before it took off, on a search for the enemy fleet.

new resources to reinforce their own and vantage points to defend them from, and then to plan, if need be, further conquest. If need be! Hostilities were far from finished when Germany's lightning conquest of almost all of Western Europe was completed. Above all, the blockade was unbroken. The Japanese explosion in the Pacific was equally impressive in its results. But of these results, by far the most important occurred on the American Continent. In neither case had the Axis partners yet gained control of an area rich enough of itself to feed the hungry mouths of their huge victorious war machines for ever. Broadly speaking, Japan has more raw materials than she wants, and Germany—with lack of raw materials and man-power—has in Europe more factory space than she can use. Both of them are short of cotton, wool, and copper, but both have huge advantages to offer to each other if they could easily exchange their products. Their greatest

need in either case is victory to give them time to exploit their gains and check the wastage of their strength in battle. And failing victory, they both must base their strategy on economic factors. The importance of military decisions will be reckoned in terms of their economic consequences, the plus and minus of resources they entail.

Germany started the war with a large reservoir of strength. Something of that ran out in the campaigns of 1939 and 1940. But her strength was replenished with loot and plant and workers when Western Europe capitulated. Early in 1941, brother Mussolini was bogged and beaten in Greece and hollering for help. In aid of Italy, the Balkans were invaded. Here on balance, the plus and minus of economic gains and losses was not so favourable; in fact, the trade agreements carefully built up for years before the war to ensure steady flow of food to Germany were thoroughly upset. Men and horses were mobilised from the fields, sowing and reaping were interfered with, and the Balkan peasantry turned actively hostile to the conquerors. In June last year Germany attacked Russia, while, as she calculated, there was still enough reserved in blockaded Europe to tide her over until Russia could be conquered and Russian territories organized to yield rich dividends.

HOW RUSSIA HAS HELPED IN THE BLOCKADE

The effects of blockade have been tremendously accelerated by the drain on Germany's reservoir that Russia's heroic resistance has made. Here was not blitzkrieg, and no loot; no systematic winter pause for men to return for a while to the fields and the factories; better still, as winter gave place to spring of this year, still more men had to be combed out of industry and agriculture for the forces. Material resources, too, ran out at a far greater rate than they could be replaced. To keep the Army up to strength and fully equipped and supplied has meant in practice that the Army has first call on manpower, oil, leather, textiles, transport and food; industrial production, agriculture, fisheries, and civilian life generally have to make do with what is left over.

In those cases particularly that I have mentioned it hasn't been enough, and now, while the blockade of Europe is still maintained, aggressive weapons in the economic war grow daily with the growing strength of the United Nations. Sea and air forces are relentlessly driving the enemies' coastwise traffic off the seas and on to over-burdened inland traffic lines. In Northern waters the offensive against shipping has notably increased this year. Bomber Command, meanwhile,

has entered the scene in force. Raids on a greater scale than German raids on Britain in the winter of 1940-41 have now been carried out for several months on the key war industries of German Europe. Well-placed bombs on plant and machinery are hampering production, and more important still, they are dislocating the nice balance of the enemy's resources of man-power and materials as between his home front and his battlefield. They are striking at those daily lives of enemy nationals in which the enemy's striking power is rooted. The Germans have had to calculate—as we have seen—how much of effort could be spent upon the Army and its needs, and how little could be allocated to meet the barest civilian necessities and to maintain the health and stamina of the people and their efficiency.

Like a camel, their home front has been told to live off its hump, to make things do till the war ends; and like a camel its master has placed upon it just as much as its back is calculated to bear without breaking.

Heavy air raids create new tasks of re-equipping and rehousing displaced populations, restarting interrupted services, and reorganizing civilian life. These new tasks must call for their accomplishment, not on reserves of labour and materials—of which there are none—but on the very sinews of the war machine itself.

SPIRITUAL FORCE OF FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLES

There is another factor in the economic war, which has grown daily in force and which can equally help to paralyse the striking arm of Germany. The United Nations have no monopoly of the spiritual force that men and women derive from man's passionate insistence on his right of freedom. There is no country of Europe in which this force is not at work. In the West, workers resist pressure to fill up under duress gaps in German manpower. In the South-east, peasants rebel against an imposed lease-lend which forces them to lend to oppressors they dislike on a lease, the terms of which they distrust. Peasants of South-east Europe who exported last year only one-fifth of the corn and maize and only half of the oil seeds that they did before the war are blockading Germany as truly as a British policy that stops Argentine maize and Indian oil-cake from reaching her.

All these factors—blockade in the West and fighting in the East, dislocation from the air and rebellion on the border—are forming themselves to-day into a single scheme in which the Axis War States will be finally overthrown by military defeat—A recent B.B.C. talk.

Italy's Cancer of Corruption

ON the credit side, Italy, in this war, has gained a few square miles around Mentone, the holiday resort on the French coast; a couple of barren border districts in Western Greece; and an Italian prince has been made King of Croatia but has not yet dared to set foot in his kingdom. On the debit side, Italy has lost half her imports and exports. Her war production to-day is little more than half of what it was three years ago. Her African Empire has crumbled to pieces and, worst of all, Italy herself has come virtually under German control.

To-day this question of German control is certainly the most vital and crucial problem, because it affects all walks of Italian life. Nazi officials are sprawling in all Italian ministries. Plain clothes Gestapo and S.S. officers, arriving in batches of fifty or a hundred, spread themselves over the country. Officially they are 'undergoing special colonial training.' German engineers and technicians hold key positions in the more important factories, mainly in chemical and armament works. The Germans have established a rate of exchange between the German reichsmark and the Italian lira to their own advantage, and they are thus able to buy up stocks of many goods sorely needed inside Italy. Specially appointed German-Italian committees are taking stock of all plants and machinery in Italian key industries. Some people say that they are preparing for a wholesale transfer of Italian factories to Germany.

ITALIAN BUSINESSMEN'S GRAVE FEARS

At a recent meeting of Italian businessmen at Pisa grave fears were expressed about the Nazis' future plans for Italy. Some Italians fear that the Nazis want to smash all Italian industries so laboriously built up in the years of Mussolini's big self-sufficiency drive. These fears and doubts were certainly not allayed by recent Nazi statements about German war aims. Italians must have heard of the sensational article by Gestapo leader Werner Best, who mapped out a plan for Germany's future rule in Europe and allotted to Italy the place of a German colony.

A prominent Fascist paper recently reproached Germany for not paying any attention to the real conditions in Italy. Italy, so the paper said, has lost its bargaining power in negotiations with other countries. Since Germany grabs all that Italians have to give, Italy cannot fulfil her obligations towards third countries in return for goods imported from them. More than 600,000 skilled

Italian workers are toiling in the Reich—on East Prussian fields, in Ruhr mines and Rhineland factories. Not only manual workers, but clerks and typists have been conscripted to work in the Reich.

To-day Germany is the destination of many Italian men and women in need of work and livelihood, just as the United States was the destination of the masses of Italian emigrants before and immediately after the last war. With the difference, however, that to-day the Italians are forced and conscripted to work in a country they do not like.



BRITAIN'S "FOREIGN LEGION"—Among the aliens serving in the British Army Pioneer Corps, and largely employed in constructing camps in various parts of the United Kingdom, are engineers and architects, doctors and chemists, musicians and writers, mostly Germans and Austrians incorporated in one company. Many of them fought against Britain in the last war, yet a large number have passed through the horrors of Nazi concentration camps. They are commanded by British Officers . . . Here a carpenter from Vienna is seen at work in one of the camps.

FOOD PROBLEM IS VERY SERIOUS

The food problem is now very serious in Italy—it is probably worse than anywhere in Europe, except perhaps Greece and Finland. If you want to grasp the whole relationship between the junior and the senior partners of the Axis, you only have to compare Italian and German food rations. The Italian housewife gets only half as much bread a week as her opposite number in Germany. She gets one-third as much meat, just over half as much sugar, and just about half as much fats. The bread situation has lately grown worse, and the daily ration of the Italian

amounts to little more than an equivalent of two small rolls. Potatoes are rationed locally. In Rome, for instance, the ordinary citizen, this summer, was allowed one small potato a day.

In industrial districts the food shortage makes itself particularly felt. Mussolini himself admitted this recently in a message to the workers of Milan. Nearly every day Italian newspapers contain appeals asking the public to be patient with those in charge of food distribution. One day Rome housewives find the fruit and vegetable markets empty. The next day women in Turin or Genoa search in vain for meat.

As a matter of fact, the first proper Food Offices to supervise rationing regulations and food distribution were only set up in August of this year. Italians who were asking for an explanation of this state of affairs were given one reason. It was stated bluntly in the annual report of one of the most important Italian financial concerns, the Bank of Naples. It said: 'We Italians have made a mistake about the duration of this war, and the result of our miscalculation, which we have maintained for fifteen months, was that the most important requirements of the war effort have been neglected.'

If this is a plausible reason for faults of organisation it is certainly no excuse for the extent of racketeering and profiteering going on in Fascist Italy to-day. The Black Market is thriving. Day by day scores of butchers, grocers, wine merchants, and innkeepers are taken to account before emergency tribunals. Restaurants and bars sell food and drink at exorbitant prices. Farmers who are ordered to sell their produce at fixed rates to the so-called Wheat Pools, which the Government established at the outbreak of the war, now prefer to sell on the Black Market. This Black Market has not only become a general problem, but one involving the leaders of the Fascist Party. The cancer of corruption has penetrated deeply into the body of Fascism.

SEVERE REVISION

Officials of the Fascist Party have taken advantage of their special privileges. They have forged ration cards, hoarded foodstuffs, and sold stocks from the State Depots. They have discredited the prestige of the Fascist Party and its Duce in the eyes of even the most tolerant Italian. Little more than a month ago Mussolini summoned the chiefs of the Fascist Party to his marble-walled study at the Palazzo Venezia. At the end of this conference he signed a decree expelling some sixty-six thousand members of the Party and dismissing scores of officials. A fortnight later he appointed two new regional inspectors and five provincial leaders of the Fascist movement. But the crisis is by no means over. Only a few days ago one of the Vice-Secretaries of the Fascist Party, Carlo

Ravasio, said in a speech at Trieste: 'Party comrades: at present a severe revision of the Fascist Party's ranks is being made.'

The task of carrying out this 'revision' of the declining Fascist movement has fallen to a new man—to Vidussoni, Mussolini's twenty-six-year-old Secretary of the Fascist Party. Vidussoni is a fanatic. He belongs to that young generation of Italians who only know Fascism, who have grown up in the Fascist mentality, fed by such empty phrases as 'Italian glory,' 'living space,' 'Italy's imperial mission,' and so on. To-day these young Fascists are perhaps the most disappointed of all Italians. They are disgusted with the inefficiency, slackness, and corruption of the bigwigs. To Mussolini they might become dangerous. He, therefore, decided to take the wind out of their sails and appointed one of them, Vidussoni, his second in command. The indifference, the almost cynical attitude of many Italians to this war comes out in a quip which is current in Italy at the present moment. It runs: 'If England wins the war, we are losers; if Germany wins it, we are lost.'—From a recent B.B.C. talk.

Warrior Stalin Hits Back

THE Germans expected the Russian blow between Leningrad and Moscow. It has come at Stalingrad. Every man hopes that it is only the start, writes the *Daily Express*.

All through the dangers of the summer, warrior Stalin has been putting by. He has been grouping armies and assembling supplies for an offensive that has hit the invaders with its first blast.

A few months ago the Germans would not have regarded the fact of being partly surrounded as danger. They would have found safety in attack. They would have snapped bigger pincers outside the Russian pincers. They would have held hedgehog defences even nine-tenths surrounded. They would have been ready to burst out as Rommel has done more than once.

That is no longer the German attitude. More prisoners are among the Russian booty. What has made this difference? The difference is that the Allied attacks have been smashers. They have not under-estimated the enemy. They were designed to paralyse his power to hit back of which Hitler and Goering have been talking.

The Russians have learned the need to hit hard or not at all. So has the Bomber Command of the Royal Air Force. So have the men who planned the Allied campaigns in Africa and crowded big guns into every 23 yards of the Egyptian front.

Italians Want Peace

By GUIDAO DELLA ROSA

ONE important result of the Allied victories in North Africa is their reaction among the Italian people. The invincible Rommel has been routed, abandoning a large part of the Italian forces to their fate—destruction or imprisonment—while the occupation of French North Africa by the Americans has brought a direct threat to the Italian mainland.

More than ever before the Italians feel that the continuation of war can bring them no advantage and that they are merely pawns in the German game and their only hope for the future lies in a speedy end to hostilities. The longing for peace was widespread among the Italians long before the events in Africa brought the danger close to Italy itself.

The causes of this war-weariness are not difficult to find. Here we will summarise the more important.

(1) Italy has known no respite from war for nearly eight years. The war in Abyssinia launched in 1935 was followed by the Albanian and the Spanish campaigns until Mussolini dragged his country into the world war.

MORAL SICKNESS

(2) The Italian people are profoundly dissatisfied with the Fascist regime. The antagonism of the individual citizen to the existing regime can best be likened to a moral sickness affecting the life of the whole country. During the nine months of dangerous equivocal neutrality from September 1939 to June 1940 there was a certain revival of faith in Mussolini as saviour of the people but disillusionment was all the greater when on June 10, 1940, war was declared on the Allies and now dissatisfaction has become general loathing of Mussolini and his regime.

(3) All Mussolini's propaganda has not been able to counteract the strong Catholic traditions of the Italians and his attitude to the Church has not made him more popular with the deeply religious masses of the people. The Pope's frequent denunciations of dictators have only served to intensify the people's fundamental hatred of the Fascist party and war.

(4) Hatred of the Germans is now stronger than fear of Allied victory. The Italians have never felt any particular fondness for the Germans and their dislike has been sharpened to outright hatred by resentment at the arrogant behaviour of the German soldiers, the secret police and officials who are interfering in so many fields of Italian life and at the German treatment of the Italian Divisions in the battle of Egypt.

FOOD SHORTAGE

(5) Food shortage has brought unparalleled privation and hardship to the Italians during the last two years. Yet under cover of "trade agreement" the Germans continue to rob Italy of its home-produced supplies. In recent months, it has frequently happened that trains on their way to Germany from Italy have been stopped and pillaged by angry crowds.

(6) The economic and financial crisis is growing month by month more acute and the German policy of withholding raw materials and war products is reducing Italy to complete economic dependence upon the Reich.

(7) It can no longer be hidden from the Italian people that their army and navy have suffered one defeat after another—in Greece, Abyssinia, Libya and in frequent engagements with the British fleet in the Mediterranean—now in new battles in North Africa.

(8) The Royal Air Force bombing attacks on large Italian towns have brought home to the Italian civilian population the full horror of modern war and have filled them with terror and panic from which only an end to the war can save them.

OVERSTAYED HIS WELCOME

All these factors have influenced in greater or lesser degree the different classes composing the Italian population each of which has its own particular reasons for desiring peace.

(1) The Crown is realizing more and more clearly that Mussolini has overstayed his welcome and that the hour is ripe to translate the wishes of the people into action against the Fascist party before it is too late.

(2) The Church has for years watched the fluctuations of Fascist policy and is ready at the right moment to exert the powerful influence that it has always had among the Italian people.

(3) The armed forces have lost all hope of victory and are realizing that the only way to avoid disaster is to leave the Germans to fight their own battles.

(4) The peasants and workers alike long for peace, the peasants because they are compelled to surrender their crops and are suffering more and more from labour shortage, and workers because they see their own factories on the verge of closing down altogether for lack of materials and live in constant dread of transfer to Germany.

(5) The industrialists have realized that their country is ruined economically, with its industry and resources pledged to Germany and that only one way of escape lies open—to ask for peace. Peace can only be attained in one way—by the overthrow of Mussolini and the Fascist regime. Italy must pay the price for peace, she must pay for the years she has allowed herself to be dragged along the German war path and prove her readiness for peace by cleansing her own country of Nazis.

Nazi "New Order" in Baltic States

BY

J. PALECKIS,

Chairman of the Presidium of the Lithuanian, Soviet Socialist Republic.

WHILE indulging in demagogic talk about rights of self-government and promising the Baltic peoples a "fitting place" in the "New Europe," the Nazis are actually robbing them of all state sovereignty, obliterating the very names of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia from the map by designating them all under the general title of "Ostland." Hundreds of thousands of persons are languishing in prisons and concentration camps, or have been transported for slave labour.

In order to weaken the Baltic nations and paralyze their resistance, the German Fascists are shipping large numbers of workers, particularly the youth, to Germany for slave labour either in Germany or to the region of the front. Moreover, a certain number of men have been deluded and forced to take up arms against their countrymen. According to a recent announcement, high school graduates are admitted into college only on condition that they serve in Hitler's army or work in Germany.

COUNTRY STRIPPED BARE

Openly declaring that all the interests of the Baltic are wholly subordinated to the task of supplying the Nazi army stationed in the Baltic states, the occupationists are stripping our countries bare. Peasants are made to give up all their produce but a small quantity barely sufficient to keep body and soul together. The population has been forced under the threat of severe punishment to give up all metal and rubber articles, bicycles, warm clothing and footwear.

In view of the wide boycott of such orders, particularly on the part of the peasants, the Hitlerite authorities have threatened to deal with offenders as with enemies at the front, i.e., shoot them on the spot.

In the kingdom of lawlessness and oppression established by the occupationists in the Baltic, the Germans are placed in a privileged position. Every German receives twice as much bread as a Lithuanian, Latvian or Estonian worker. The Baltic peoples are made to feel at every step that the German is the master in their lands.

POLICY OF "GERMANIZATION"

The policy of "Germanization" is being systematically carried out through the schools, the cinema, radio and other cultural institutions. The German language has been declared the first official language, and a knowledge of it is obligatory for students enrolling in local colleges. Publishing houses are engaged in issuing Fascist, anti-Semitic literature.

There is no doubt that the aim of the Fascist "new order" in the Baltic is to exterminate the local peoples and turn the Baltic into an adjunct of Germany as has been done in the case of west Poland.

This aim, however, is too obvious to the peoples of the Baltic, and they are resisting it with all their strength. The guerilla movement is spreading steadily in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

A large number of men from these countries are fighting in national units in the Red Army.

The peoples of the Soviet Baltic firmly believe that the heroic struggle of the Soviet peoples, supported by their brothers-in-arms in Great Britain and the United States and the other countries at war with Hitler, will bring liberation and victory.—*Condensed from Moscow News.*

Mussolini Squeals

Referring to the R.A.F. raids on Northern Italy, Mussolini said in an address to the Fascist Party on Wednesday, that the Italian casualties, as a result of R.A.F. raids on Northern Italy, were 1,876 killed and over 3,300 injured. In Genoa the number of houses destroyed was 5,772. "We have made hundreds of millions of lire on shelters that can resist the biggest bombs," he said.

Mr. Herbert Morrison, Britain's Home Secretary, in a speech in London on the same day said that it is clear from the Duce's figures that the R.A.F. must have been exceedingly successful in finding military targets at which it aimed. He added: "When Britain underwent its blitz, the British did not squeal. Mussolini does."

R.A.F.'s Work in Middle East

THE first thing that struck me on visiting the Royal Air Force in Egypt was the complete absence of traditional English class distinctions. In the Royal Air Force of to-day the only criterion is courage. Mechanics, clerks, writers, lords, sergeant-pilots or officers share the same mess, and one cannot help being struck by the complete camaraderie between them, writes the Special Correspondent of the *Yeni Sabah* and *La Turgie*.

Another noticeable fact in the Royal Air Force is that there is none of the traditional stern military discipline but, instead, an instinctive understanding that every man has his duty and will do it. These new hard, courageous youngsters who have learned to fight and to kill are very different from when they first came out. Then they regarded fighting as a gentlemanly sort of sport. If they have any regrets to-day, it is only that they could not kill more.

Another striking fact about the Royal Air Force is their extreme conservatism in claiming the destruction of enemy aircraft. Unless a pilot can actually see a plane crashing on the ground and bursting into flames, he cannot claim it as shot down. An enemy machine may be coming down completely wrapped in smoke, so that there is not the slightest doubt that it will crash, but the pilot can only claim it as probably lost.

MAGNIFICENT WORK

Every officer I met could not give enough praise to the magnificent work being done by the Royal Air Force ground crews. On busy days these men work from two hours before dawn all the day through in insufferable heat far into the bitterly cold desert night. Fighters will be taking off and landing all the day long, and the task of reloading, refuelling and repairing never ceases. One Royal Air Force officer told me that he had once landed with the tail of his machine shot to pieces, but in a few hours a new one had been fitted and he could take off again.

With such adversaries, it is not perhaps surprising that nowadays German and Italian airmen show no desire to fight. Spitfires are the *bete noire* of Axis flyers. Whenever they see Spitfires, they invariably bolt for home. Even the best Axis fighter, the Messerschmitt-109, always does its utmost to avoid Spitfires.

One has to be out in the desert with the Royal Air Force and see them at work, to appreciate the truth of General Auchinleck's words when he spoke of the "great and glorious part played by the Royal Air Force."

Another remarkable feature in the desert is the work of the tank and aircraft salvage units. They work in the frontline, often under enemy fire, and share all the hardships and dangers of fighting men. I have seen the heaviest tanks hauled back on tank recovery trucks to desert workshops, or rather factories, where repair work goes on 24 hours a day.

The Eighth Army paratroops are the toughest possible individual fighters. All are picked men between 20 and 25, and their training is harder and more strenuous than any other unit. They have nightly marches of between 20 and 30 miles in the desert, and



The extreme simplicity and unequalled efficiency of the "Owen" gun has proved it to be the best light sub-machine gun of the war. With a lower trajectory over 300 yards it is far deadlier than other Tommy-guns, firing with greater velocity, deeper penetration and less recoil. It is mudproof and sandproof, can fire 30 rounds in three seconds. A flick of the finger gives either automatic or trigger control, while a simple catch allows spent magazines and hot barrels to be released instantly. Invented and being mass produced in Australia, the "Owen" gun weighs 10½ lb. and costs less than six Australian pounds.

Picture shows: An Australian soldier charging the 30-round magazine of the "Owen" gun, so named from its inventor.

learn to jump on and off trucks moving at 30 miles an hour.

I have seen British service women in thousands in the Middle East doing splendid work. They drive heavy lorries, cook, do cyphering and many other kinds of work to release men for the frontline. The devotion and heroism of British nurses will never be forgotten. They are everywhere, even in the most forward positions, working night and day. They never grumble, and always think of their patients, never of themselves.

India's Sailors in Action

SAILORS of the Royal Indian Navy who have recently brought to India some of the Navy's new warships constructed in the United Kingdom describe experiences of submarine warfare during the voyage to their motherland.

In protecting merchantmen in convoy they helped to beat off several attacks by enemy submarines.

One of India's new warships towed a badly damaged vessel for no less than 500 miles. Another sighted survivors from a torpedoed vessel and picked them up. Her log book tersely tells the story:

"1015. Raft bearing Green 90. Away sea-boat's crew." A little later: "Sea-boat secured. Resume course and speed."

A further entry reads: "At sea. A ship torpedoed astern."

The convoy system, under which merchantmen proceed in company escorted by warships, has reduced the loss of merchant shipping to small proportions. Some losses are, nevertheless, bound to occur, but fortunately a steady toll is taken of the attacking submarines.

At one period the warship mentioned above formed part of the escort for a convoy of 40 vessels.

Officers and men serving in the new warships are now eager to play their part in the defence of the sea lanes round India—and they serve in ships whose capabilities match this enthusiasm.

Compact and fast, these additions to the fleet are well equipped for dealing a death-blow to marauding submarines and aircraft, and are also fitted for minesweeping.

By Candlelight!

Old Lady: "Ten pence a pound for candles. That's very dear, ain't it?"

Grocer: "Yes, but you see they are dearer now on account of the war."

Old Lady (in surprise): "Lor' a mussy! You don't say so. An' be they a-fightin' by candlelight now?"

Stick on Axis Ant Heap

BY

MAJOR LEWIS HASTINGS

WHAT does it mean, this great design, as the Prime Minister called it, this rapid extension of Allied power over the coast of Africa? The first objective of the operation—reaching from the Nile to Casablanca, and surely this must be the biggest synchronised task in military history—of course, is the possession of the whole North African coast—every yard of it. What will this mean, if it comes about?

Well, first of all, far more effective command of the Mediterranean, and together with that immense relief to our shipping. As the airfields fill with Allied aircraft all along this coast, sea power in the great inner sea will come into its own again. The value of a powerful fleet to-day such as, thank God, we possess, is not doubled, but quadrupled, when it can operate under the protection of shore-based aircraft.

INESCAPABLE FACT

Then it means that the soft flank—what the Prime Minister called the "under belly"—of the Axis, is now exposed to attack, first from the air, and next, well, as it may seem good to the Allied command. And then, dispersion of force, which has had tragic consequences for us in the past, is now a weakness inflicted on Hitler. You can see something of that already. The effect on the Axis has been just like pushing a stick into an ant heap—all Nazi Europe is buzzing with anxious activity.

The fog of war is pretty dense just at present. We are not giving anything away to the enemy, and there is no sense in guesswork, but it is an inescapable fact that at last, at long last, the strategic initiative of this war is in the hands of the Allied Nations. Of course, the Germans will react with all the violence with which they are capable—they are reacting already—but I do not believe they will ever regain that control of events that they have had for three full years.

Something has been started in the Mediterranean, and there is not going to be a fade-out. Things may often be slow, but they will keep going.

—In a recent B.B.C. talk.

Turkey and the War

FOR the moment it seems as though the immediate danger of which President Inonu recently warned the country has been postponed, at least for weeks, perhaps for months (observes Gordon Young in a cable to the *Daily Express* from Istanbul). But, calmly studying plain military facts, Turkish experts see a number of compelling reasons why, as the President said, Turkey is now nearer war than she has ever been before.

THREE REASONS

There are three reasons why Turks think this possible, if not probable. First, it would give Hitler a quick, spectacular move admirable for the propaganda purpose of diverting attention from German failures elsewhere. Secondly, if successful, it would give him control of the Dardenelles and enable him to send Italian ships against the Russian Black Sea fleet. Thirdly, it would allow him to make the best possible use of Bulgaria's half a million soldiers by sending them against Turkey, exploiting the traditional hostility between the two countries.

The clearing of North Africa by the Allies would alter the whole Mediterranean picture for the Turks in many important ways. For



BUILDING GIANT BOMBERS: Girls in every part of the British Isles are working on the construction of Stirling heavy bombers, which weigh 30 tons and carry 8 tons of bombs. Once their bomb load is dropped these monster aircraft possess exceptional manoeuvrability, often surpassing that of German fighter aircraft. This photograph shows five British girls working on a section of a "Stirling" bomber.

Nobody supposes that Turkey could be invaded by Hitler like France or Holland. Obviously he could not make a sudden sweep in winter through a vast country stretching 1,000 miles into Asia and traversed everywhere by rugged mountains while about a million Turkish soldiers stand under arms and another million can be mobilised at short notice. But he could, and might, decide on a sudden blitzkrieg with limited objectives on that small corner of Turkey which lies in Europe. He might try to thrust quickly through the 150 miles of plain which is all that lies between the Tureo-Bulgarian frontier and the Bosphorus—the entrance to the Black Sea.

one thing, it would mean that Turkey could receive Allied shipments of food and other supplies much more quickly. There would also be changes in the Balkans to which Turkey could hardly remain indifferent.

FACED WITH GRAVE DECISIONS

It seems clear, therefore, that by next spring—if not before—Turkey is going to be faced with some grave decisions of her own on matters of both internal and external policy. In making these decisions, she will certainly bear in mind her desire to remain neutral and unmolested and her determination to be represented at the final peace conference.

That determination is strong. All Turks to whom I have spoken made it clear that no post-war settlement in Eastern Europe can be permanent or satisfactory if Turkey does not have a voice in it corresponding to the importance of her strategic and political position.

You can be sure that any decisions that Turkey may take in the coming months will be influenced neither by Nazi threats nor foreign propaganda nor emotionalism but by the strictest military and political considerations. As far as the country's private sentiments go, conversations that I have had with Turks of every class show that their natural friendship for Britain has been strongly reinforced by our successes in North Africa. It was Premier Sarajoglu himself who recently referred to the Turco-British alliance as the "most fundamental factor in our political system."

Opening Blows of 1943 Campaign

IT is scarcely too much to say that before he has begun to recover from the Russian campaign of 1942 the enemy has felt the opening blows of the campaign of 1943, declares *The Times* in a leading article. The paper refers to the German attempt to blame the Rumanians for the failure at Stalingrad and observes that Germany's satellites, fighting as they do in the cause of their own enslavement, can scarcely be expected to maintain their enthusiasm when their faith in the invincibility of their masters is shaken. Signals of distress from Italy have already shown that this flagging among his helots may become an increasing factor in the enemy's embarrassments, says *The Times*; but his own direct losses are likely to be the greatest of all. Within the past month he has seen two panzer divisions smashed in Africa and two more badly mutilated in the Caucasus, while now three have come to grief between the Volga and the Don. At the same time it is now known that since the beginning of the war British and American tanks to equip 20 divisions have been delivered to Russia.

Even if the demands of defence against the new threat from Africa were not about to drain Nazi strength, the enemy would at this date be looking for a respite and recuperation on the eastern front, continues *The Times*. But he is well aware that Russian strength is being marshalled at many points of it and that the offensive spirit of the Soviet will not be quenched by winter.

China and Britain

THE official *Chung Yang Sao Tang Jih Pao* in a leading article welcoming the British Parliamentary Mission observes that the visit will not only create a new page in the history of Anglo-Chinese relations but leave an indelible record in the history of democracy. It is the first time in the 700 years' history of the British Parliament that a goodwill mission has been sent abroad on behalf of both Houses of Parliament. The paper says that the Mission's four members are old and distinguished statesmen, representative not only of both Houses of Parliament and of the three major parties of Britain but also of British business and labour.

Relations between Britain and China have a long history, observes the paper. Between the two cultural intercourse has been unceasing. In her reconstruction China has received much assistance from Britain. British influence over China has been prominent. Since the beginning of China's war of resistance, Britain has given China great assistance in communications and technical matters. Had it not been for this assistance, declares the paper, China's situation to-day might not have been what it is. Such kind assistance from the British Government and people will linger for ever in China's memory.

RE-BUILDING WORLD PEACE

The paper proceeds to say that it is not only necessary to retain their present friendship but to promote it so that it may become a most effective link between the two nations. In war the two countries have fought shoulder to shoulder and shared tribulations and perils. After the war they will shoulder jointly the great task of re-building world peace. They must co-operate not only economically but also politically, militarily and culturally. China needs a strong and prosperous Britain no less than Britain needs a free and prosperous China.

The *Ta Kung Pao* (independent) observes that the creation of a new front in North Africa is in accordance with the demands of Anglo-American strategy. It will have a vital bearing on the future of the war and can produce the same effect as a second front in Europe. Allied control of the Southern Mediterranean will render easy the invasion of the Continent from Africa. When the Allies stage this invasion, the Axis will not only move their guns stationed along the Atlantic coast to the Mediterranean but also move troops from the Russian front to the Mediterranean, thus relieving pressure on the Soviet. The Allies are passing from the defensive to the offensive and Axis collapse is not far off.

The Job Britons Have Done

BY
WALTER KARIG

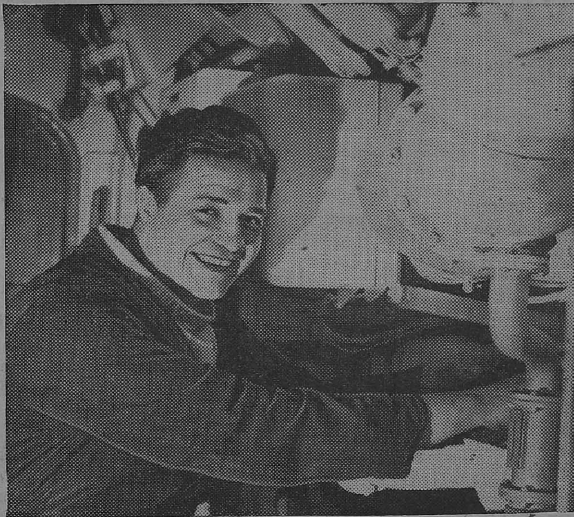
LET us take a look at the job the English are doing and have done. If they had not done it so superlatively well, Hitler would be in Windsor Castle today. He might even be in Ottawa, to hearten his troops invading the United States.

Remember that for more than two years the concentrated Nazi might and power has been perched only 18 miles from England, and that the island has been under almost continuous bombardment all that time. Old stuff, but remember it anyhow.

Everything in Britain is mobilized for the winning of the war—everything and everybody. Two out of every three persons—not men alone but women and children, too—who are able-bodied and between the ages of 14 and 65 are working full-time in the armed forces, in civilian defence, or in war industries.

Every able-bodied male between 18½ and 51 has been drafted into the armed forces unless irreplaceable in an essential industry. In England you work in a munitions factory or you fight, unless you are bedridden or imbecilic.

Seven million British women have been registered for the draft. Unmarried women between 20 and 30 are being sent into the uniformed auxiliary services of the army, navy, and air force. Women of any age can be drafted for war work. Already 5,500,000 are toiling in the munitions industries, and millions of other housewives are working part time.



Ever since the treacherous German invasion of Holland, Dutch warships and submarines, escaped from their bases, have operated as an integral part of the British Royal Navy. Dutch submarines in particular have taken part in many successful actions against the enemy. Photo shows a typical rating aboard a Dutch submarine.

What the British are doing and have done is of tremendous importance to each and every one of us who are their partners in this war and in the peace to come. It is also an object lesson in what "all-out war" means, which we are going to find out for ourselves as sure as shooting.

EVERYTHING MOBILIZED

The time is not far off when the petty inconveniences of sugar, gasoline, and tyre rationing are going to seem like fun. What we are going to do without is not just silk stockings and trouser cuffs. Before this war is many months older we are going to live almost as austerely as the British have been doing for a long, long time.

CIVILIAN DEFENCE

Every person able to walk is trained in some duty during air raids. There are 1,500,000 trained civilian defence workers, 4,400,000 fire-fighters, 2,000,000 invasion-repelling Home Guards—all civilians who undertake these duties after the day's turn in mill, mine, or field is finished.

Industrially, the 6,500,000 unionized war workers cannot quit their jobs nor can they be fired without Government permission. In the factories joint labour-management committees work out what troubles arise, be they problems of personnel or production.

One home in every five has been destroyed or damaged by bombs, and more than 44,000 civilians have been killed in air raids.

All right. What are these British accomplishing with all this daily regime of blood, sweat, and tears?

Last year we sent the British about 2,500 airplanes. Britain sent out to Allied war fronts 9,781 of her own manufacture. We sent them about 200 tanks; they put 3,000 into action. Sure, we are doing better this year, tremendously better, and the best is yet to come. But the same things are true of the "limeys." Their production of airplanes has doubled in the last 12 months.

A pair of shoes has to last the average British wearer, strictly rationed on clothing, two or three years. But that is because the British have sent some 4,000,000 pairs to Russia.

For every airplane England imports from the United States she exports four of her own manufacture to Russia. She has sent the Red Army 2,000 tanks in eight months. British railroad shop workers did a year's work in ten weeks to build 1,000 freight cars for the Trans-Persian line which American engineers completed to carry British and American supplies from the Persian gulf to the Caucasus.

To amplify this transportation, the British built an automotive assembly plant on the Persian Gulf, and every month it turns out 200 big trucks which are loaded with supplies and delivered, complete, to the Soviet forces.

On top of all that, Britain is maintaining an army of more than 2,000,000 men, is equipping and supporting military and naval units of the Free French, Norwegian, Polish and Netherlands Governments in exile, and is not doing a bad job with its own navy.

There are no profiteers in England. On an income of \$3,000 a married man pays \$955 in direct income-taxes; on \$25,000 he pays \$15,000. Excess profits are taxed 100 per cent. But the per capita purchase of war savings bonds is \$318, and the English have subscribed \$15,000,000 to Russian War Relief.

—Condensed from *Liberty*, New York.

JAPANESE NOT TRUE ASIATICS

There is a very good reason why Japan's war-cry of 'Asia for the Asiatics' does not, and never will appeal to the rest of Asia, namely, that the Japanese are not *true* Asiatics themselves—and this is admitted by the author of 'The True Face of Japan.' They are chiefly a mixture of the aboriginal stock of Ainos who now inhabit the far north of Japan, Mongoloids from the continent and Malays from the southern Pacific islands of Polynesia. The temperate climate of Japan has turned this mixture into a hardy, maritime, if somewhat imitative race, but it has not eliminated that spirit of ruthlessness and that want of sensitiveness to the dictates of humanity which is said to be so characteristic of 'a savage.'—*Dr. Reginald le May, in a recent B.B.C. talk.*

British Supplies for Russia

IN September 1940, Britain was sorely pressed to make good the heavy losses in war materials she had sustained in France. Today, in the space of those two years—years of battle in many theatres of war—she has succeeded in building up a vast arsenal, enough not only for her own needs, but also to help supply those of her mighty Russian ally.

British tanks are shipped to the U.S.S.R. at the rate of 50 every week. For every hundred planes Britain promised her companion in arms, she has sent 111, as good measure. And she has sent many a hundred and eleven. Moreover, an endless flow of essential raw materials—aluminium, rubber, copper, tin, wool, lead, jute, shellac, cobalt and many others—pour forth from the British Isles, to reach Soviet factories via one or other of the two main supply routes. Everything that Britain undertook to send has been despatched to Russia, from the last ounce of phosphorus, to the last yard of army cloth. That is one of the ways in which two great nations make common cause to defeat the common foe.

NAZI LOSSES

Then, too, the Anglo-Soviet forces are slowly, but inexorably, draining Germany of a commodity for which the Nazis can supply no 'ersatz' substitute—man-power. Nazi losses on the Eastern battlefield are colossal.

Furthermore, the British blockade in playing an important part in increasing Germany's man-power problem. Huge quantities of war materials must now be made synthetically by the Nazis—a method that is highly extravagant in its use of men. For instance, to produce the 4,000,000 tons of synthetic petrol needed every year, the Nazis must employ not only 100,000 workers in the actual factories, but 50,000 miners in the pits who must first of all bring up the necessary coal. And petrol, of course, is but one of the commodities which Germany is forced to produce by synthesisation.

On land, the effects of Britain's blockade are even greater—the lack of imported food-stuffs and fertilizers has forced the Nazis to employ 4,300,000 extra farm hands to grow the same amount of crops she produced in 1939. Altogether, it has been estimated reliably that no fewer than 5,000,000 Nazi workers, who might otherwise be directing their efforts to the support of the German forces in Russia, must now try and make good the deficiencies caused by the British stranglehold.

Schoolboys Bring in Wartime Harvest

By HOMER SMITH

HAD it not been for the fact that one of them was riding an ox into the field, the three Kuibyshev schoolboys on the big Volga collective farm where this writer was a week-end guest might have been called the "three horsemen."

A few months ago Genadi Grafkin, 14, and Ilya Frankin, 15, fifth-class pupils in Kuibyshev Secondary School No. 25, would not have approached any too close to the horses parked on Kuibyshev's streets. As for Victor Smirnov, 15, sixth-class pupil in the same school, I doubt whether he was any too familiar with the habits of oxen.

The war has changed all that, as it has radically altered so many other aspects of Soviet life. Now these three city boys not only nonchalantly ride these animals, but drive them all day long during the harvest campaign. Even the country lads born and bred, we were told by one of the farmers, are beginning to envy the skill with which their temporary city-born fellows handle their animals.

"SIGNED UP"

Along with thousands of other city school pupils who swarmed to the countryside to help with the crops, Genadi, Ilya and Victor signed up "for the duration" (of the school holiday) at the Way of the Peasant Collective Farm.

"They arrived with big eyes, loads of ambition and 'pep,' but no knowledge of farm work," stated Kirill Safonov, chairman of the farm. "Everything was new to these young city greenhorns and I hardly knew what to do with them. But here they were, I was short of help, so I decided that they might like to become acquainted with horses as a change from the automobiles of Kuibyshev."

When Genadi and Ilya were first handed the harness for their horses they were not sure whether the bridle bit went into the horse's mouth or under its tail, and when the horse looked around at them, as horses will do, they quaked inwardly. Three days of instruction by a farm boy, and all the "mysteries" were solved.

CHAUFFEURING ONE-SPEED BEAST

As for Victor, he admits that at first he thought they were "pulling his leg" when they gave him the ox. But since no more horses were available, he resigned himself to "chauffeur" this docile and one-speed beast.

"Weren't you afraid at first?" we asked Victor.

"Just a bit," he confessed, "but I soon found him to be quite gentle and harmless. The only trouble with him is that he's too slow and seems always to be half asleep. I tried speeding him up but the country folk tell me it's no use."

Threshing of rye was almost over when we arrived at the collective farm. Genadi and Ilya and their horses and wagons hauled the threshed grain from the threshing machine to the grain elevators about one mile away. Victor covers less territory—he drives his ox and rake only a few feet, drawing the straw away from the threshing machine to the hay pile nearby.

"GETTING FINE"

During the dinner intermission we asked Genadi and Ilya how they were getting along with their work.

"Khorosho" (Fine), they answered in unison, as they buried their sun-tanned faces into slices of watermelon from the farm's melon patch. Without being asked, Genadi proudly added that his father was driving a tank at the front. When we suggested that within four years he would be of military age and could also drive a tank, he looked up and in a tone of assurance mixed with disappointment, remarked that "the war won't last that long."

Ilya seemed somewhat downcast at the thought that the secondary school would be re-opening shortly, and that he would have to leave his horse and the broad, golden steppe, the chug-chug of tractors and mountains of rye around the threshing machine for the four walls of the class room.

TYPICAL OF THE DOZENS

"These three lads are typical of the dozens of Kuibyshev school pupils helping us this summer," declared chairman Safonov, when we asked him for a brief estimate of his youthful auxiliary help from the city. "Once they are 'broken in,' they work just as well as, and in some cases better than, farm-born youngsters.

"They show comparatively better discipline and susceptibility to organization, which is natural and characteristic of city folk in general, as compared with rural people. They have coped well with all the tasks assigned them. And there was plenty to be done before the present threshing: weeding potatoes, pulling corn, sheafing wheat, gathering vegetables, etc."

—Moscow News.

Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

27th Nov.—The Royal Air Force attacked targets in north France and Brittany.

28th Nov.—Two German fighters machine-gunned in a coastal district in south-east England.

29th Nov.—The Royal Air Force attacked and scored a hit on an enemy supply ship off the Dutch coast.

30th Nov.—In a broadcast, Mr. Churchill said: "We are becoming ever more entitled to be sure that the awful perils which might well have blotted out our life and all that we cherish will be surmounted for further service in the vanguard of mankind."

The Royal Air Force attacked targets in Holland and northern France.

Mr. Churchill was the recipient of good wishes and congratulations from all parts of the world on the occasion of his 68th birthday.

1st Dec.—According to "Frontline, 1940-41", a book issued by Mr. Herbert Morrison, Minister of Home Security, revealing official secrets of Nazi blitz on Britain, "In three months from September 1940, 36,000 bombs fell on London and nearly 13,000 people were killed. London was bombed for 57 consecutive nights. In 11 months, between 45,000 and 50,000 bombs hit London. In nine months, 1,150,000 London homes were destroyed and 375,000 people made homeless. During the whole air attack on Britain, 43,667 civilians were killed and 50,387 seriously injured".

2nd Dec.—The Royal Air Force raided railway yards in northern France.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

27th Nov.—President Roosevelt and more than 200 leaders of armed and civilian services led the nation in a special thanksgiving ceremony at the White House, Washington, joining in prayer for peace to ultimately unite the world in "firmer fellowship" for the good of all mankind.

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

27th Nov.—The Royal Air Force attacked the railway station at Myingyan in Burma. Three Japanese aerodromes in Heho, Mingaladon and Meiktila were also attacked.

29th Nov.—British troops occupied Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean.

30th Nov.—The Royal Air Force attacked the Japanese aerodrome at Shwebo in Burma.

1st Dec.—The Royal Air Force attacked the Japanese aerodrome at Magwe in Burma.

2nd Dec.—American aircraft made a daylight raid on Port Blair in the Andamans. Docks and warehouses at Rangoon were heavily bombed in a night attack.

It was revealed that the Japanese do not hold the whole of Burma.

3rd Dec.—The Japanese brought up supplies to Akyab from Rangoon. The Japanese Commander-in-Chief in south-west Pacific inspected Burma, Thailand and Indo-China. The Royal Air Force raided Akyab and Toungoo. A Chinese military spokesman revealed that the Japanese were preparing for an invasion of India.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

27th Nov.—It was revealed that in the Royal Air Force raid on Genoa on November 13, the aircraft carrier *Roma* was sunk and a 35,000-ton battleship *Impero* was damaged. The damage done in Milan was enormous.

Allied forces contacted enemy between Jedabaya and El Agheila.

It was revealed that many Italian paratroops refused to jump.

Bizerta was heavily bombed.

General Smuts said at a press conference: "The initiative now rests with the Allies and for them the war is entering the offensive phase."

28th Nov.—Toulon was occupied by German forces. French troops offered resistance to German and Italian troops. All vessels of the French squadron at Toulon harbour scuttled themselves. A big wave of Nazi bombers flew over Toulon.

Allied troops were 10 miles from Tunis. Ships in the harbour in Homo and Tripoli were bombed. American planes raided Tunis.

Mussolini assumed command of the Italian forces in Libya.

According to a Vichy Radio announcement, Admiral Darlan and General Giraud were deprived of their nationality.

Francesco Agello, Italian ace fighter pilot, was killed in a test flight.

29th Nov.—Nine Axis supply ships were sunk and three damaged in the Mediterranean.

British troops infiltrated into Axis lines in the Medjez El Bah region.

Three hundred and fifty thousand people left Milan from fear of further British air raids.

30th Nov.—The Royal Air Force bombed targets in Bizerta. Allied troops occupied Djedeirda, north-east of Tebourba. Two German paratroops in Arab dress were captured by an Allied patrol.

Allied troops contacted Axis forces near El Agheila.

The Royal Air Force raided Turin and great damage was caused.

1st Dec.—Hitler held an extraordinary meeting of his High Command at Berchtesgaden to discuss future operations in Africa.

A simultaneous conference was held in Rome.

It was reported that all Axis forces would be withdrawn from Tunisia and Tripoli within six days.

Tunis and Bizerta were bombed by Allied aircraft. Fighting continued on the eastern side of Djedeirda.

It was reported that Mussolini was seriously ill. Hitler sent more Gestapo men to Italy.

The Royal Air Force attacked Turin. About 300,000 people evacuated Turin.

Plans were made for the trial of those responsible for scuttling the French Fleet at Toulon.

2nd Dec.—Allied forward units maintained pressure on enemy's positions near Matour and Djedeirda. American Flying Fortresses attacked Bizerta, Tunis and Gabes.

Riots broke out in the naval arsenal at Toulon. The French army and navy were disbanded.

French submarines that escaped from Toulon reached Algiers and Valencia.

3rd Dec.—Mussolini, speaking to Italian officials and Fascist party members, said that in the Royal Air Force raids on Italian cities, 1,876 were killed and 3,300 injured; 5,772 houses were destroyed in Genoa. During 30 months of war, 40,000 Italians were killed, 232,700 taken prisoner.

The Italian Socialist Party distributed leaflets, appealing to the Italians to launch a civil disobedience movement.

British and American forces smashed the biggest German counter-offensive in Tunisia. Coast between Sfax and Gabes was reached.

Admiral Darlan assumed the powers of Chief of State in French Africa.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

27th Nov.—Axis troops, 300,000 in number, were trapped in the Don elbow as the Russian pincers closed in. The Kharkov-Stalingrad railway was cut. There was no sign of a German counter-offensive to save the trapped troops from annihilation.

28th Nov.—The Russians made new thrusts near Nalchik and Tuapse. They made a fairly deep penetration on the Toropetz front. German forces retreated across the Don. The Red Army reached the area of Veliki Luki, an important key-centre north west of Smolensk.

UNITED NATIONS AND CHINA

“The United Nations cannot afford to let China be cut off . . . This is fully appreciated in London, Washington and Delhi, of course, and the Anglo-American raids on Burma are presumably just tokens of what will be done about it. Let no one doubt that it is worth doing thoroughly, for a Japanese failure to make good there, before communications with India are reopened through the Mediterranean, would have as depressing an effect on Tokyo as Japanese occupation of the Kunming airport would have on Chungking.”

—New York Herald Tribune.

29th Nov.—Russians retook Kletskaya. The Russian pincer closed on the Don, south of Kalach, surrounding the large Axis army in the Stalingrad pocket.

30th Nov.—The Russians opened an offensive in the Central Sector; 30,000 Axis troops were killed. Soviet forces were near Voronezh. The entire factory area in Stalingrad was recaptured.

According to *Izvestia*, the total of Germans killed on all fronts in Russia in the past 10 days was 100,000.

1st Dec.—The Red Army advanced on the Rzhev-Vyazma front. Enemy defence line was broken through on the eastern bank of the Don.

2nd Dec.—The Red Army made 4 to 6-mile advance before Stalingrad. Between Kalinin and Toropetz, a great tank battle was in progress.

M. Stalin assumed personal command of the Russian forces in the Central Sector.

3rd Dec.—It was reported that M. Stalin was personally directing the battle at the Rzhev front. The Red Army repelled seven German counter-attacks north of Stalingrad.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

27th Nov.—All members of 1933, 1939, 1940 and 1941 classes in all military regions were called up under partial mobilization order in Spain. Spain also strengthened her garrisons in the Canary Islands, Spanish Morocco and the Balearic Islands.

28th Nov.—Air raid alerts were sounded twice at Lausanne and Geneva.

1st Dec.—An air raid alert was sounded in West Switzerland.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

27th Nov.—Hitler ordered the extermination of all Jews in occupied Europe by the end of 1942.

All Jews in Norway numbering 2,300 were arrested by Nazis.

Mass murders of the Jewish population were carried out in Poland by the order of Herr Himmler.

1st Dec.—Mr. Cordell Hull appealed indirectly to the people of Albania to revolt.

2nd Dec.—It was revealed that when British and American forces landed in North Africa, the Vichy Cabinet refused, by 8 to 6 votes, against the German demand, to declare war on the Allies.

THE FAR EAST

27th Nov.—Allied bombers sunk two Japanese destroyers and damaged a third in south-west Pacific. Japanese aircraft raided Guadalcanar.

American aircraft attacked the Japanese controlled oil refinery in Bangkok, Thailand.

28th Nov.—The Japanese landed reinforcements in Buna. Darwin was raided by Japanese bombers. Damage was slight.

29th Nov.—The Japanese bombed Guadalcanar. Their counter-attacks were repulsed in New Guinea.

30th Nov.—Allied aircraft raided Timor. The Japanese reoccupied Attu island.

1st Dec.—One Japanese destroyer was sunk and another probably sunk in south-west Pacific.

In an air raid on Canton by the American air force, 19 Japanese planes were destroyed. A 10,000-ton ship was sunk and another damaged.

2nd Dec.—United States aircraft bombed the Japanese coaling station and power station at Hongay in Indo-China.

Twenty-three Japanese planes were shot down over Canton by American aircraft.

A Japanese convoy west of New Georgia were attacked by American aircraft. Three enemy planes were shot down.

3rd Dec.—The Japanese renewed their attempts to reinforce Buna. It was revealed that the Japanese sustained heavy shipping losses.

Two Messages

“When I was leaving the Kremlin, in the middle of August, I said to Premier Stalin: ‘When we have decisively defeated Rommel in Egypt, I will send you a telegram’; and he replied, ‘When we make our counter-offensive here’—and he drew an arrow on the map—‘I will send you one.’ Both messages have duly arrived.”

—MR. CHURCHILL, in a Broadcast
on Sunday (November 29).