

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV

FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1943

No. 43

China's Seventh Year of War



Mr. CHURCHILL

At the opening of China's Seventh Year of War I send you the greetings of the British people. Since the day 18 months ago when China and Britain became Allies in name as well as in spirit, our two countries have been through many vicissitudes together. Now, with the victories in North Africa, and the successes on the Yangtse, we have tangible evidence, in the east and the west, of what is to come.

Neither Great Britain nor China is very likely to underestimate the difficulties and immense battles

which still lie before us. The pattern of events is now becoming clear; the initiative is being wrested from the grasp of the enemy; and we can look forward with confident hope to the time when all over the world the aggressors are driven to unconditional surrender.

Then, when we face the gigantic task of reconstruction, and the civilized arts can once again be practised, I have no doubt that Anglo-Chinese collaboration, tested and tempered in the fire of war, will play its rightful part in the solution of the problems of peace.

Mr. CHURCHILL, in a message to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, on July 6

THE NAVY SUPPLEMENT

A ROYAL INDIAN NAVY SUPPLEMENT consisting of 24 pages is issued along with this Number of the "Madras War Review." It is appropriate that the Supplement should be published now, as it was in July two years ago that H.M.I.S. "TRAVANCORE," the first vessel of the Royal Indian Navy to be built in Indian shipbuilding yards, was launched.

The Editor wishes to thank Naval authorities who have contributed articles and pictures to this Supplement and hopes it will be of some help in increasing mutual respect and good fellowship between the Navy and the Civil population.

CHINA WILL FIGHT ON

"Our people will fight on until the unconditional surrender of our common enemies."

—GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK, in a message to United Nations, on July 7.

* * * * *

HEROIC DEFENCE

"This day marks the end of the sixth year of heroic defence of your soil under the leadership of the great Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. The promises of the United States are always kept and our pledges are always redeemed. It is good to know that the hopes and promises I expressed on former occasions are all being borne out to-day."

—PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, in a message to China, on July 7.

* * * * *

LET US GET ON WITH THE JOB

"Two years ago we were threatened from the west. German forces and German intrigue were endeavouring to thrust towards India through Syria, Iraq and Persia. The gallantry of our Russian allies and our own defence of the Eastern Mediterranean frustrated those efforts. We now face a direct threat from the east, and this threat will continue until the Japanese are driven back whence they came.

"The Japanese are hard and determined fighters and always ready to die for their country. Defeat them we must and it is necessary for each one of us to put this task above all others and to allow no consideration of comfort or self-interest to interfere with our determination to win. We have no time to lose. Let us get on with the job."

—GENERAL AUCHINLECK, *Commander-in-Chief in an Order of the Day to the Armed Forces of the India Command, on July 4.*

* * * * *

CLAMOUR FOR A RUSSIAN BOOK

There is now an acute shortage of almost every commodity in the shops. But you'll never guess the article which, at present, is most in demand. It's not silk stockings: women have long ago given up hope of seeing silk stockings again until after the war. It isn't food: our diet is now so completely regularized and disciplined by coupons that free-lance buying of eatables has virtually ceased. And, for the same reason, it isn't clothes. It's a book. More precise than that. It's one particular book. And the title is *War and Peace*.

Since the Germans' first retreat from Moscow last winter, interest in Tolstoy's vast novel about Russia in the Napoleonic Wars has been steadily growing. Now *War and Peace* is the most popular book of the day.

The trouble is that *War and Peace* is such a vast novel that the book publishers haven't been able to find the paper—in the present shortage—to print new editions. So the second-hand value of copies of *War and Peace* has rocketed. And, human nature being what it is, the clamour to buy the book has become louder than ever.

WORLD'S GRATITUDE

"The world is full of gratitude to the people of China. But we must say it more and more with deeds. And I think these deeds are coming."

—MR. WENDELL WILLKIE.

* * * * *

REAL BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR

"The resistance of China to Japanese aggression marks the beginning of this world war of the rapacity of great nations. It will, please God, also mark its end."

—MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

* * * * *

WILL NOT BE VERY LONG

"As a result of recent conferences, there is good ground for the hope that it will not be very long before the large scale plan of dealing deadly blows to Japan will unfold itself. The whole Chinese nation is eagerly waiting for the day when the Chinese army will be able to launch a general offensive against the enemy and drive him back to his native islands."

—DR. WELLINGTON KOO, in London, on July 7.

* * * * *

Madras War Review

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV

FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1943

No. 43

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Mussolini and Fascist Party—Rift in the Lute? On Monday the Rome radio broadcast a report of a recent speech made by MUSSOLINI to the Fascist Party Directorate, in which he has referred to the report of CARLO SCORZA, Secretary of the Fascist Party. MUSSOLINI observes that there have been wrong interpretations of that report. He says, "Men have committed errors in the past, and we shall speak about this later, but these errors were always committed in good faith." It is of interest to note that SCORZA and the Fascist Party Directorate made certain outspoken and blunt criticisms of MUSSOLINI and his regime very recently. They sent an open message to MUSSOLINI calling on him to impose ruthless discipline on the party and gave a list of drastic measures to be undertaken to repress all attempts to undermine the material and moral cohesion of the Italian nation. The significant thing about the message was that it did not contain the fulsome tributes to the Duce, which used to characterise such party documents. SCORZA demanded ruthless enforcement of existing laws, stricter measures against all internal enemies of the Fascist regime, expulsion of useless foreign elements, increased administrative efficiency, better control of distribution, elimination of the black market and strict supervision of luxury hotels and restaurants. In the report of the speech broadcast by Rome radio, MUSSOLINI is reported to have said: "Drastic measures will be taken against the black market. Luxury restaurants and all institutions of luxury will be closed."

Scorza vs. Mussolini?—Discontent in Party Another interpretation might also be placed on SCORZA's action. He may be acting without MUSSOLINI's approval. Is he then engaged in a rash attempt to oust MUSSOLINI from power? Or is he trying to force an unpalatable policy on the Italian dictator? The first is highly unlikely, because there is no reason to believe that the Italians in general are openly blaming MUSSOLINI for the present plight. Their hatred seems to be chiefly against profiteers, corrupt officials and the Germans. As regards SCORZA's suggestions for drastic reform, it may well be that, as head of the Party Directorate, SCORZA feels that he has become indispensable and, therefore, is using his power to enforce his own ideas of reform.

Two reports are going abroad. One is that MUSSOLINI is himself gathering around him the nucleus of the old guard of the Party whose conservatism in earlier days he had always ignored. The other report is that SCORZA is introducing younger and hotter blood into the Fascist Party Directorate and trying to use the Fascist militia to force a revolutionary reconstruction of the State on some such basis as "dictatorship of the proletariat."

Whatever it be, one thing is clear: there is considerable discontent in the Party and in the country against MUSSOLINI. An article published in MUSSOLINI's family review *Gerarchia* frankly admits the existence of such unrest and discontent. PAOLO BEDUSCHI, an unknown author, has written this article, which could not have been published without MUSSOLINI's knowledge and approval. The writer says, "Many Fascists seem possessed by an iconoclastic and revisional fury"; they have become uneasy because of "evident divergence between some (Fascist) theories and general practice." But he says significantly, "Where a political movement has at its head a man who is its immediate and daily creator, that cry may also appear to be an expression of weariness on the part of his followers and almost seditious."

The recurring theme of the article is: "We must have something positive to offer to the people." The writer says: "Spiritual disquiet among Fascists is evident since it has been possible for the theory of return to origin (of the Fascist Party) to take root Sometimes there is a cracking faith when the masses feel and express these wavering and when anxiety takes the place of certainty We must shake off this disease of scepticism, discouragement and retreat If a new spirit of revival were to permeate our hierarchs, if at our Duce's side—for he has always been a creator and builder, negative ideas being reserved solely for polemic rejoinder—new spirits arise, the present crisis would be easily overcome." It is clear from this article that in Fascist circles there seems to be considerable anxiety, distrust and indecision.

Incident without Precedent—Pre-arranged Affair? How is it that the Secretary of the Fascist Party has, for the first time in the history of the Fascist regime, indulged in outspoken criticisms and demanded sweeping reforms which, in any other country, would be regarded as a full programme for a party about to challenge the administration in power? It may be a pre-arranged affair. In a totalitarian state like Italy, it is quite possible that SCORZA is acting under instructions from MUSSOLINI himself. It is a favourite device of dictators in troublous times to pose as noble leaders who have been misled by faulty advisers and dishonest subordinates. One of their own men is inspired to level certain criticisms and deflect popular discontent away from the leader and direct it against individuals who are "dishonouring" the Fascist cause and its leader. By this method MUSSOLINI wants the public to dissociate him from his disgraceful past. SCORZA makes certain blunt criticisms. Immediately drastic reforms in the administration and purge of all undesirables from the Fascist party follow. The whole thing may be a camouflaged attempt to recover public confidence in a renewed MUSSOLINI and a cleansed Fascism.

HANDLOOM WEAVERS AND THE WAR EFFORT

By R. H. HOBDAY

[In providing for the supply of cheap cloth for the use of the poorer classes in India, Government of India's scheme inevitably depends much on mill-made products. Government of Madras, however, in seeking to promote the cheap cloth supply, continue their policy of supporting the handloom weaver in the Province, a class of skilled labour, very strong in number and with a tradition that has been widely recognized.]

CHEAP cloth has recently featured very frequently in all sections of the Press, due to the necessity for clothing being made available to the poorer classes at a price they can afford to pay, and because of the steps taken by Government to see that such cloth does become available.

As for the handloom weaver, probably most of you, even if not connected with either the industry or with textiles, have at some time or other seen a weaver at work, and for those of you who are interested only from the point of view of the weavers' welfare, I can recommend the co-operative movement as a most absorbing and interesting study, and a full of opportunities for constructive help. The majority of the weaving community are not generally educated according to modern popular standards, but nevertheless they have inherited considerable skill in their particular craft.

Unfortunately, for lack of funds, the individual weaver has for years past been forced into the hands of others who have given him advances in terms of cash at high interest rates, or yarn with which to weave cloth, when the rates fixed for the yarn and the finished article have been much in favour of the dealer, with the result that the weaver has eventually arrived at a position where the best he could expect is sufficient return for the labour to just support himself and his dependants. This condition of affairs does not apply in all cases, of course, and many weavers working outside the co-operative movement have much better experience and fair treatment. Considerable progress to help the weavers has been and is being made by the formation of co-operative societies, run by the office bearers elected by the weavers, but under the care and supervision of the Co-operative Department and the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society, Ltd.

IN A WEAVER'S COTTAGE

Now, I want you to imagine you are in a small room of a weaver's cottage, where the clack-clack of the loom as the shuttle flies up and down gives you at once the impression of industry—now glance at the cloth which quickly forms under the skilled manipulation of the weaver—the soft colours and the intricate design—very soon that saree will be the object of the latest fashion talk in a ladies' drawing room. The loom on the other side is busy too—this is a plainer cloth—what is it? That's a length of shirting to be sold under the cheap-cloth scheme for this Province. The weaver has put one loom on this production, and as such he is performing a most useful contribution to the War effort by ensuring that you may buy your requirements at a reasonable price. Clack-clack they go, two hands and two feet—this weaver's forefathers were using their hands and feet with equal dexterity to supply fine clothes for the ancient Greeks and Romans, and that was a long time ago.

Now, you have all read of the steps being taken to place cloth, on the markets throughout India at controlled and reasonable prices. Originally this scheme was based upon the supply of cloth manufactured by many of the Textile Mills in the country. Now in this Province with such a large handloom weaving population, a large section of which found it difficult to obtain adequate earnings for even the most simple living, the Government of Madras has for many years given considerable attention to the improvement of the weavers' lot, and so, in adopting the cheap cloth scheme it was decided that the machinery in existence in the form of the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society, coupled with the many affiliated weavers' societies should provide a large part of the cloth required in the Province.

SUPPLY OF YARN

Government in co-operation with the Cotton Spinning Mills throughout the Province, are supplying yarn each month at rates fixed by the Cotton Textile Directorate, which are based on actual costs and a reasonable profit, and are periodically reviewed for fixing the prices of yarn required for War purposes. These rates are naturally far below current market prices, which in the absence of control reached ridiculously high levels.

However, yarn prices are not a part of this talk, but I want to try and give you the picture showing how cheap cloth is arriving on the market. The yarn is distributed among weaving societies who in their turn issue it to their individual members. The wages for producing the

various types of cloths have been agreed between the Provincial Society and the Committees of the producing societies, and the yarn, when woven is taken over by the Provincial Society, by arrangement with the Yarn Commissioner, and distributed for sale.

An organization for this distribution of shirtings, sarees, dhotis and towels is set up and in many centres the cloth is now being sold regularly. It is contemplated that before long, emporiums belonging to the Provincial Society and some hundreds of co-operative societies and stores registered throughout the Province will have shirtings, etc., in their several varieties available to the consumer. The prices are based on actual costs with a reasonable margin to enable each and every handloom weaving co-operative society to become a unit sound, both in finance and organization, to continue to act as the recognized medium for the production of handwoven fabrics, to the benefit of both the consumer and the large population in the Province who are hereditary weavers.

TWOFOLD OBJECT

The scheme of cheap cloth has a twofold object (1) to provide the public with clothes at reasonable rates and (2) to help the weaver. While on the subject of cheap cloth, I would like to say that before very long our progressive production will reach more than 35 lakhs of yards per month and ultimately we hope to pass the 60 lakhs of yards mark. I am aware that these figures will not meet the demand, especially in the earlier stages, but when it is remembered that we do not all buy clothes every month, the supply will go far to meet this demand, particularly from the poorer classes, but this deficit will of course be more than met by mill-made standard cheap cloth likely to come on the market very soon. Steps are being taken to bring both the production as well as the marketing sides up to full strength and efficiency, and I am sure you will find your requirements easily available, whether you live in Madras itself, or in the villages of the mofussil in a very short time, if they are not there already.

Along with cheap cloth, the Provincial Society is controlling the balance of production of its affiliated societies and the specialized products for which many Madras weavers are famous will also be sold at reasonable prices.

ANCIENT INDIAN INDUSTRY

Now for the weavers themselves. Some of you may be surprised when I tell you that Ancient India sent the finest muslins, and other cloths to Egypt, Greece and Rome, while the Western World was a regular export market through the Middle Ages. Various factors and reasons have been put forward to show why this ancient export industry declined during the 19th century, but prior to the outbreak of this War specialized goods were still exported to Burma and Ceylon, Africa, Europe and America. Even in olden days various districts specialized and as an instance, Masulipatam has been recognized as a foremost centre for printing fabrics since early times. As a matter of interest particularly just now, the khaki dye used for Military uniforms, etc., was first introduced by the handloom industry on the West Coast, and it was during the course of a visit there that Lord Roberts, the then Commander-in-Chief of India, saw the khaki and recommended its adoption by the Military. It is said that the colour was invented by a specialist in weaving who came to the West Coast from Europe in 1851. The same man—a Mr. Haller—first introduced the fly shuttle loom, which, with Government and other influential encouragement, has very largely displaced the older throw shuttle and materially helped to increase the weavers' production and of course his earning capacity. Sharing in this industry, Madras easily tops the list with some 340,500 looms. When it is realized that this is essentially a cottage industry, and one to two looms generally support the weaver and his family, you can imagine what a large number of people are dependent upon the continued popularity of handwoven goods. The only available figure I can find is of nearly 487,000 weavers and this excludes non-working members of their families such as young children, etc. To increase the popularity of handloom fabrics, the Provincial Society has started a factory of its own, with the object of bringing out new designs in cloths and furnishings, and the associated weaving societies will be kept in close touch with the

(Continued on page 8)

CHINA—THE “SEVEN-SEVEN” DAY

WORLD WAR II is going on. It is really two wars in one. One war began on September 3, 1939. This war is nearing its fourth year. Another war began on July 7, 1937. This war has entered on its seventh year. The year is seventh, the month (July) is seventh, and the date is seventh. This “Seven—Seven,” as the Chinese call it, has been celebrated in India as the China Day. (The Chinese do not use names for months, they call them by their numbers. September 4 would be “Nine—Four”; January 6 would be “One—Six”; and July 7, “Seven—Seven”). In Madras City, the Chinese flag flew over many public buildings and business premises.

BRITAIN has celebrated the China Day, as also other freedom-loving countries. In a message to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek on the eve of the seventh anniversary of the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War, Mr. Churchill has sent the greetings of the British people to the great Chinese nation. He has referred to the Sino-British alliance of 18 months ago, an alliance which made China and Britain “Allies in name as well as in spirit.” He says: “Our two countries have been through many vicissitudes together. Now, with the victories in North Africa, and the successes on the Yangtse, we have tangible evidence, in the East and the West, of what is to come.”

THE Tunisian and Yangtse victories have given an advance picture of the shape of things to come, but when we celebrate the China Day, our mind naturally goes back to the great struggle against Fascism begun by China in the East six years ago.

IT all began with the “Lukouchiao Incident.” Lukouchiao was an important railway junction on the Peking-Hankow railway line. Its western end was connected by a shuttle line to the Peking-Tientsin Railway. The eastern terminus of this shuttle line, Fengtai, was illegally occupied, by the Japanese a year earlier (May 1936), and they wanted Lukouchiao, which was 15 miles south-west of Peking, so that they could have control of all southern rail entries to Peking. A few hundred yards east of the Lukouchiao railway station was the ancient walled town of Wanping. The Japanese pestered General Sung Cheh-Yuan who was in command of Chinese troops in North China to concede some 1,000 acres near this area to build an aerodrome and a permanent military barracks. But General Sung was evading them. He did not actually refuse the land near Lukouchiao and Wanping, but was putting them off. He could not, however, prevent them from holding military manoeuvres in the neighbourhood of this area, but these manoeuvres became too frequent!

ON the night of July 7th the Japanese wanted permission to enter the town of Wanping on the pretext of searching for one of their soldiers who was missing. The magistrate refused to give the permission and the Japanese attacked the town with trench mortars. The missing soldier existed only in imagination, for neither then nor afterwards did they produce any evidence that a soldier was really missing. They were not even willing to discuss about this question when press correspondents asked them for details.

WAS the incident planned by the Special Service Section without the knowledge of Tokyo? Or was it done under instructions from the Japanese High Command? The fact will never perhaps be known, but subsequent developments clearly proved that Tokyo was prepared to exploit the Lukouchiao incident to the utmost. Later, there were attempts to settle the matter, but Japan would not listen.

EDGAR SNOW, American Correspondent in China, was an eye-witness practically to what happened during this period. He writes in his famous book “Scorched Earth”: “Japan did not want any agreement at all with a sovereign North China, she simply wanted North China. It was as evident to us on the spot then as it is in retrospect now, that Japan’s negotiations for a settlement merely provided diplomatic cover for military preparations to nullify all settlements, except one to be achieved by force.”

SHOULD there be war or peace, struggle or submission, was the question at issue. The Chinese Government met at Kuling, the summer capital, and decided that further retreat or capitulation would not be in the interests of China. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek made an unequivocal statement on July 17th (1937) in which he set down four points—the “minimum conditions possible as a basis for negotiation for any nation, no matter how weak it may be.” The four points were: (1) A settlement must not infringe upon territorial integrity and sovereign rights; (2) the status of the Hepei-Chahar Political Council (of which General Sung was Chairman), being fixed by the Central Government, could not illegally be altered; (3) North China officials, including General Sung, could not be removed at the will of Japan; and (4) no further positions could be yielded to Japan by the 29th Army.

IT is this determination, reinforced in strength and vigour by six years of struggle, that is evident in the message to the United Nations sent by China’s great leader on Wednesday. He said, “Our people will fight on until the unconditional surrender of our common enemies.” In this message also the Generalissimo set down four points. (1) There must be no negotiated peace; (2) The future peace should seek the emancipation of all mankind; (3) A joint machinery for signing the peace as well as war should be set up by the United Nations; and (4) there must be a post-war world organization with an international police force.

ALL these four points seem to be really concerned with post-war problems, as Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek feels convinced that the victory of the United Nations is very certain. “What disquiets the mind of the Chinese,” he says, “is not whether the United Nations are going to win the war, but when they are going to win and at what price?”

CHINA has been paying a heavy price, but she has withstood the crisis, thanks to Britain and America. Baron Tanaka said in his memorial to the Japanese Emperor years ago: “In order to conquer the world, we must first conquer China.” After all these years, even the preliminary thing remains to be accomplished! Japan is still being held by the indomitable spirit of the united Chinese nation. The wonderful guerilla tactics of the Chinese people have hamstrung Japan’s mightiest offensives, and her scorched earth policy has deprived the enemy of many of the advantages of his ill-gained conquests.

NOW great events are in the offing in the Far East, and General MacArthur’s offensive in the South-East Pacific is only a prelude to bigger events which will unfold themselves in course of time.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND THE COMMONWEALTH

5TH JULY.—The Australian Parliament was formally dissolved. General election will take place on August 21, and the new Parliament will assemble not later than September 27.

6TH JULY.—Mr. Churchill paid a tribute to the memory of General Sikorski in the House of Commons.

7TH JULY.—Brazilian Ambassador in London stated that Brazil was willing to send an expeditionary force to help the Allies.

6TH JULY.—Field Marshal Smuts speaking at a mass rally of his supporters in Johannesburg stated that all prophecies of the opposition about the outcome of the war were a dismal failure and that the idea of withdrawal from the war was an insult to the intelligence of the electorate.

7TH JULY.—The first war-time elections in South Africa were held to-day. Results will take at least a fortnight for announcement. War or neutrality is the only main issue. There is country-wide confidence that General Smuts is going to win.

7TH JULY.—British Finance Bill was read for the third time in the House of Commons without division. Sir Kingsley Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that the average citizen paid one-third of his entire income in taxation.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES AND THE ATLANTIC

2ND JULY.—A 71,500 million dollar bill was signed into law by President Roosevelt, three times as much money to spend in the next twelve months as America spent during the whole of the last war.

* * * * *

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

1ST JULY.—Mr. Amery gave details of India's food position in the House of Commons, and attributed shortage to grave maldistribution. In answer to another question he declared that no cost of living index numbers were available for the whole of India, but working class index for Bombay city, which was a reliable guide, showed the figure 225 for last April (1943) compared to 105 for August 1939. Wages had risen by 75 per cent and there were also cost of living allowances.

1ST JULY.—The Tenth Session of the National Defence Council opened at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi.

1ST JULY.—The Royal Air Force in India continued their harassing attacks on Japanese monsoon quarters in Arakan.

Bombers of the Tenth United States Air Force bombed the oil refinery at Syriam in Burma. Medium bombers attacked many targets in Central Burma.

2ND JULY.—The first group of 24 young officers of the Indian Air Force for operational experience under the Empire Training arrangements arrived in London and was received by Mr. L. S. Amery, Field-Marshal Lord Wavell and Mr. Malcolm Robertson, M.P.

3RD JULY.—Sugar and Sugar Products Control Order was published by the Government of India.

4TH JULY.—His Excellency General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, has issued an Order of the Day to the armed forces in the India Command reminding them that we now face a direct threat from the East.

5TH JULY.—India celebrated the 163th anniversary of American Independence.

5TH JULY.—Food Conference met in Delhi; His Excellency the Viceroy addressed the gathering which included Provincial and State representatives.

6TH JULY.—Mr. M. S. Aney has been appointed Indian Envoy in Ceylon.

6TH JULY.—His Excellency General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief of India, made his first public utterance at a press conference in New Delhi, and said that two years ago India was a base of operations, but now she had a war front and had to defend her own frontier.

* * * * *

ITALY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

1ST JULY.—British Admiralty Communiqué announces sinking of one transport ship and three supply ships by His Majesty's submarines in Italian waters.

1ST JULY.—Communiqué from Allied Headquarters in North Africa announces bombing of Messina and Palermo and important air fields in Sicily on the night of June 29-30 by the North-West Africa Air Forces. Allied bombers also caused considerable damage in Cagliari.

2ND JULY.—Bombers of the Ninth United States Air Force attacked the aerodrome at Lecce in Southern Italy.

4TH JULY.—General Sikorski, the Polish Premier, was killed in an aircraft crash near Gibraltar while he was on his way to London from the Middle East. Seventeen of the crew including the General's daughter are missing, and the pilot is the only survivor. The General was 62.

4TH JULY.—King George of Greece broadcast from Cairo to his people in Greece and promised a Constituent Assembly after the war to consider political reforms.

5TH JULY.—Heavy round-the-clock offensive by American and British bombers battered Sicily's air bases and knocked 44 enemy planes out of the sky.

Small British land forces carried out raids on air fields in Crete.

6TH JULY.—Thirty-six hour non-stop bombing took place against Axis air fields in Sicily which ended only to-day.

Formations of heavy bombers of the Ninth United States Army Air Force in the Middle East attacked harbour installations at Messina in Sicily.

Squadrons of German Air Force have been transferred to Italy from the Russian front.

6TH JULY.—Landing grounds in Gerbini in Southern Sicily were attacked by strong formation of heavy bombers of the Ninth U.S.A.A.F. in daylight, dropping more than 285,000 pounds of high explosive and fragmentation bombs.

7TH JULY.—Responsible Government is to be given to Malta after the war, stated the Colonial Secretary Colonel Oliver Stanley in a statement in the House of Commons.

* * * * *

RUSSIA

1ST JULY.—Long range Russian aircraft raided the Port of Kerch in the Crimea and Sennaya. German communications between the Crimea and the Kuban are getting heavy air raids and the Germans are still unable to use Novorossisk in spite of their being in possession of it for the last eleven months.

2ND JULY.—Polish Premier, General Sikorski gave the terms on which good relations between Poland and Soviet Russia could be resumed.

3RD JULY.—Scouting operations on the western Moscow front. Similar encounter took place west of Rostov. Artillery activity is reported on the Volkhov front. German key ports in the Kuban bridgehead received increasing attacks from the air and frontal land attacks.

The Japanese Ambassador in Moscow visited Kremlin and met Molotov, the Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs.

5TH JULY.—Germans have launched a big offensive along a 180-mile front between Orel and Kharkov and north-west of Byelgorod.

6TH JULY.—Continuous fighting took place on the Russian front during the last 24 hours and attack has extended north-west beyond Orel. Germans are attacking on a 250-mile front from Byelgorod. Fighting is assuming violent proportions north of Kursk.

Russian army has started a counter-offensive against the German lines at Veliki Luki.

7TH JULY.—In two days offensive Germans lost 1,271 tanks and 314 planes, says a communiqué from Moscow. The first forty-eight hours of the new offensive have shown Red Army's defence as powerful, resolute and effective. German army is under the command of Field Marshal Gunther Von Kluge who is now 61.

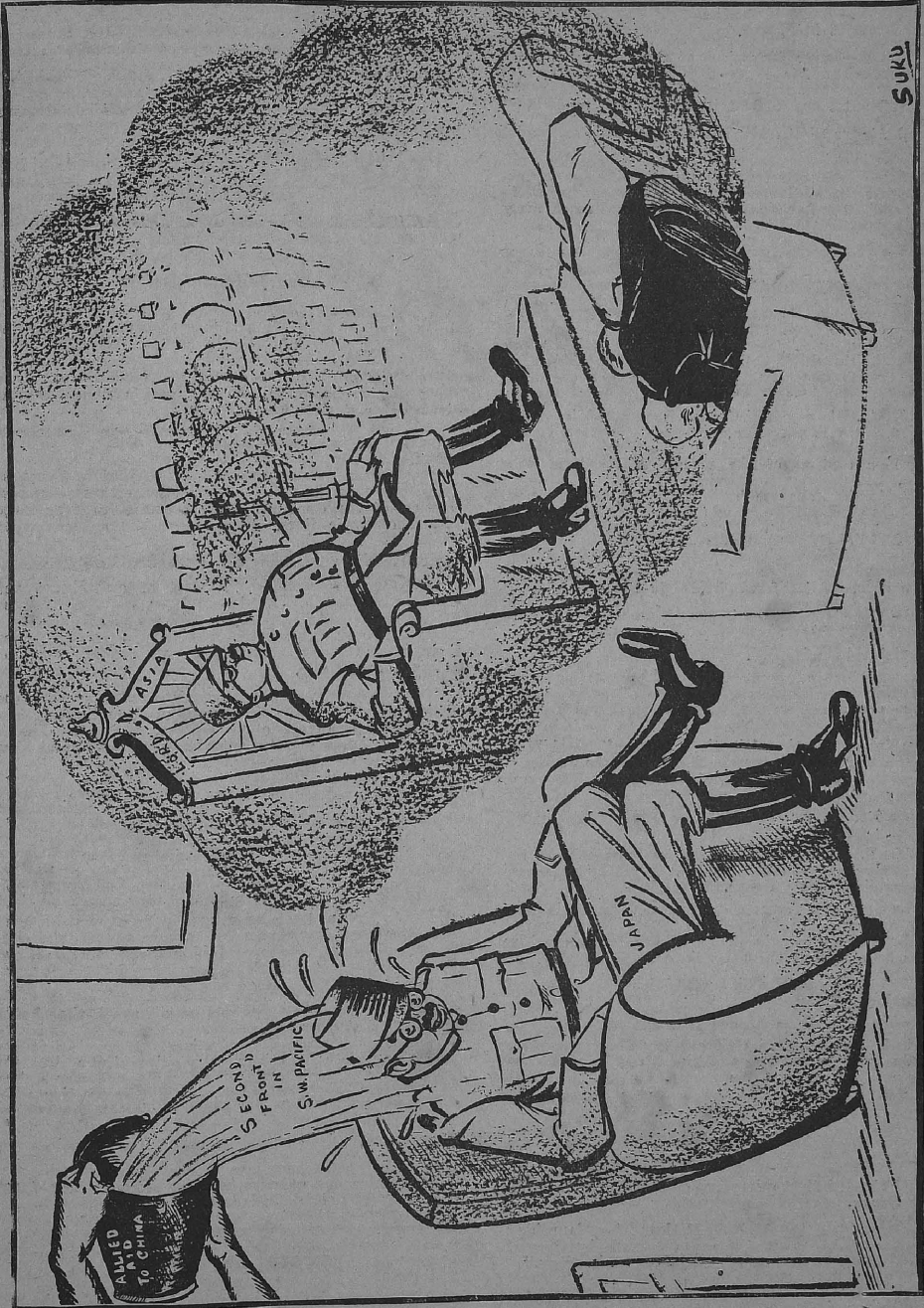
* * * * *

GERMANY AND OCCUPIED EUROPE

1ST JULY.—American fighters swept over Northern France and the Low Countries.

Sofia has become the supreme Axis operational headquarters for the entire Balkans.

2ND JULY.—Strong force of the R.A.F. flew over France and Holland and hit railway lines near Ghent, Lille and Coaltra.



A COLD DOUCHE

2ND JULY.—Polish Prime Minister General Sikorski outlined a scheme of redivision of Europe after the war, envisaging two related federated blocs, northern and southern.

3RD JULY.—Strong British bomber formations attacked Cologne, a great industrial area in France. There was an air raid on Hamburg also.

4TH JULY.—Large formations of American bombers attacked targets in France.

5TH JULY.—Large formations of the Flying Fortresses of the American Air Force took off from Britain and attacked German aircraft factory at Le Mans, repair shops at Nantes and U-Boat installations in La Pallice.

Royal Air Force Mitchell bombers attacked marshalling yards at Amiens.

7TH JULY.—Reports from France reaching London say that Marshal Petain is now virtually a prisoner in Laval's hands, and that Laval is now forming a French army corps to fight for the Nazis.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

1ST JULY.—Mr. De Valera has been re-elected Prime Minister of Eire by 67 votes to 37.

THE FAR EAST

1ST JULY.—A new Allied offensive started in South-west and South Pacific with the invasion of Rendova and New Georgia among the Solomon Islands. Immediate objective is capture of the islands of Rendova, New Georgia, Lae, Salamaua and Munda, and the ultimate objective is the Japanese base at Rabaul and clearance of the Japanese from the island fringe, north of Australia.

2ND JULY.—Rendova was captured and Japanese garrison in the island wiped out. One hundred and twenty-three Japanese planes were destroyed in the last two days. Allied forces landed in New Georgia.

3RD JULY.—Allied forces in the Nassu Bay sector have reached a point from where they can see Salamaua. Rabaul has been bombed.

Large numbers of American warships are steaming through the Pacific and a naval clash, more vehement than the one at Midway, is expected in Allied attempt to take Bougainville island.

Heavy fighting continued in the suburbs of Owenikow, one of the four strategic bases still held by the Japanese on the south bank of the Yangtse river in China. Yangtse drive began on May 4, 1943, and between that and June 30 Japanese lost more than all the total number of forces employed.

4TH JULY.—Salamaua, the Japanese stronghold on the north coast of New Guinea, is closely ringed by American and Australian jungle troops.

The important Japanese aerodromes at Munda in New Georgia and at Rabaul have been bombed from the air. Munda is the main Japanese naval and air base and has been bombed 150 times since last November.

4TH JULY.—Madame Chiang Kai-shek has returned to Chungking.

6TH JULY.—In South-west Pacific Theatre a short sea battle took place in Kula Gulf off New Georgia between American and Japanese warships, and considerable damage was inflicted on the enemy.

American forces have gained control of the Vangunu island.

6TH JULY.—Kiska in the north-east Pacific was bombed by United States Surface forces.

7TH JULY.—Sixth Anniversary of the Chinese struggle against Japan.

An appeal to the United Nations for launching immediate offensive against Japan was made by General Chiang Kai-shek on the occasion of the "China Day."

7TH JULY.—In the Kula Gulf naval engagement between United States surface fleet and Japanese fleet, six Japanese ships were sunk, and four damaged.

FREE FRANCE

1ST JULY.—Mr. Churchill made a statement in the House of Commons on Britain's relation with the French political controversy in North Africa.

M. Pierre Charles Cournarie has been appointed to succeed M. Boisson (resigned) as the Governor-General in French West Africa. Cournarie had been General de Gaulle's Governor in French Cameroons since November 1940.

Vichy High Commissioner of Martinique, Admiral Robert has asked U.S.A. to send an envoy to fix terms for a change of French authority on Martinique.

6TH JULY.—French Committee of National Liberation, meeting in Algiers, decided on dissolution of the French Popular Party with all associations and groups attached to it. This party had maintained Nazi connexions through M. Jacques Doriot.

7TH JULY.—General Giraud visited President Roosevelt in the afternoon.

7TH JULY.—Martinique has joined Free France.

HANDLOOM WEAVERS AND THE WAR EFFORT

(Continued from page 4)

varying demands in the market, and with all technical information to assist in a steady turnover of production. A printing plant will shortly be installed with trained designers and technicians, and from the demonstrations I saw the other day I am quite confident that before long printed handloom fabrics equal in design to any imported materials will be available. The man in the street, not familiar with weaving centres is perhaps apt to think of the textile industry in terms of factories, but for Madras at any rate this is certainly only partially correct, and the reorganization of the industry on co-operative lines, will, I hope, ensure that this large section of the community will continue to progress on sound economic lines.

EXPORT OF MADRAS HANDKERCHIEFS

Aside from co-operative weavers, of course, are very many who work on a piecework or contract basis for master weavers. However, whether weavers are on a co-operative or other basis, they form a very important part in our economic structure and we must see that their lot is a happy one.

They are very skilled and there is a good and continued demand throughout India for sarees from Salem, Coimbatore, Madura and other centres, whilst as another example Madras handkerchiefs take an important place in our normal foreign exports of piecegoods. Exports of furnishing fabrics, lungies and coatings are part of the wide variety of articles in regular production.

I commenced with the reference to cheap cloth and I will close on the same subject. Don't buy more than your actual immediate requirements—the price won't go up to-morrow; pay the price stamped on the article and remember, that in restricting your purchases to your actual needs you are helping your neighbour who also wishes to buy, and the large community of weavers, many of whom are busily engaged in producing bandage cloth and gauze, etc., for the medical branches of the Indian Navy, Army and Air Force, or grey shirting for your friends in the A.R.P. and similar services.

Handloom cheap cloth is sold only through the Provincial societies' own emporiums or through registered co-operative stores and institutions. If you are offered any cheap cloth by others at a price higher than that stamped on it, and bearing the Handloom Weavers Trade Mark, don't buy it. In any case the prospective seller is making himself liable to action under the Defence of India Rules and lack of social conscience must be discouraged.

The handloom weavers are in the war effort; we must so help them and thereby help ourselves.—A recent talk broadcast from A.I.R., Madras.

INDIA AND CHINA

"The associations between India and China are close. They shared dangers that make for mutual confidence and understanding, and I am sure that during the coming years of my Viceroyalty, I shall see firm bonds between the two great Asiatic peoples."

—FIELD-MARSHAL LORD WAVELL.