



PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE XCV.

NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

I

(Broadcast by H. E. The Viceroy).

Handwritten notes: "56 V2 1194/1963" and "m. 1942" with a scribble.

The military and air strength of India is growing daily. Under a commander in whom we all have implicit confidence, our armed forces are going to give a good account of themselves against any attack that our enemy is able to launch.

What of the rest of us, the unarmed forces of the country?

Are we going to give a good account of ourselves? Not, I suggest, unless we stand shoulder to shoulder and work actively for the common cause.

I have often heard it said lately: "We are unarmed; what can we do? Let Government put arms in our hands, and we will spring to the defence of India like one man."

Well, here is my answer to that.

Were the people of Great Britain armed in June, 1940? Were the people of Russia armed in June, 1941? During the long agony of China, have ordinary men had arms in their hands? The answer is, "no." The mass of the people have never carried arms in any country or in any modern campaign.

The activities of irregular bands operating behind an enemy's advanced lines can be of very great value, provided they are fully trained for this most exacting task.

This phase of warfare is being developed, and will be developed more fully as arms become available. Meanwhile, the position is that the expansion of the regular army proceeds apace, and we put no limit on it. We require, therefore, for fully trained soldiers all the modern arms that are available.

SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE.

What then can we, the unarmed forces of the country, do?

Let me remind you of what General Wavell has said. That of the elements which contribute to success in modern war, the spirit of the people is the most important.

That is our responsibility, yours and mine, and that is why I invite you again to join together in building a **National War Front**.

I do not care, whether we spell this with capital letters. I do not care, in fact, what we call it.

We all know what it means: a united determination, transcending all racial, religious and political differences, to stand up and stand together to defend the things we have and hope to have, and to make sure that they shall never be so threatened again.

I used the word "build", for India's war front will not come into being just by wishing or talking, but only by doing.

Two things—and two things only—are needed, the will to unite and the will to act. I see no difficulty in finding unity; there is nothing in our objects to which any one need hesitate to subscribe, unless, indeed he sympathises with the way of life which our enemies would impose on the world—and to such I make no appeal.

MAIN OBJECTS OF NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

These are the objects which those who join us will adopt as their own:

To do everything possible to help and maintain public morale, that is to say, to strengthen the war resistance of the people;

2. To eradicate all elements tending to undermine it, and, in particular, to counteract Fifth Column activities of all kinds, including all talk, thought, writings and rumours likely to produce a defeatist mentality;

3. To inculcate faith, courage and encouragement;

4. And to consolidate the national will to offer united resistance to Nazism and Fascism in every shape or form, whether within or without the country, until their menace is finally overthrown.

I say with confidence that every man and woman in this country can subscribe to a creed such as this, without sacrificing a single principle or abandoning a single aim.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ?

Many people ask the question: "What can I do?", not, I know, as an excuse for doing nothing, but in genuine uncertainty.

Let them reflect that, in a war like this, there is hardly anything which a man does or omits to do which does not help or hinder victory.

To those for whom a place in the armed forces is waiting I say; "Fill it quickly."

For the rest of us there are opportunities galore. The Civil Defence forces are crying out for wardens, fire watchers, doctors, nurses, ambulance men and helpers of all kinds. Civic or Home Guards and Pioneers need men.

Women are wanted in hospitals, in offices, to run canteens for troops. There are refugees to be helped.

Let us look into our daily lives. Are we wasting money, food, clothes, electricity, petrol, coal? If we are, we are delaying victory.

Do we travel when we need not do so, taking up space badly required for troops and munitions of War?

Are we farmers? Then can we not grow more food grain? Are we factory hands? Then, are we working our utmost?

Whoever we are, rich men, poor men, officers, clerks, businessmen, labourers, housewives, servants, be sure there is something which we can do which will hasten the day of victory.

A determination cheerfully to do our best in fulfilment of the ordinary humdrum tasks and duties of our daily lives, and to continue in this despite any attempt by the enemy or his agents to disturb or frighten us, is for many of us the greatest contribution that we can make towards winning the war.

Do not forget what even one day added on to the war means in terms of human suffering and material loss.

AN ATTACKING FRONT.

We must achieve unity and action, and we must combine them in a spirit of attack. Passive defence or masterly withdrawals, forced on us as they are at times, do not win wars.

Let us attack our work, attack the rumour-monger, attack the defeatist. We must make our front an attacking front, and think always in terms of the offensive.

There is no one in India who does not know that, if all that we value is to survive, if hope is not to die, this war must be won. Every thinking man knows that with the resources which the United Nations have it can be won

Now that many people who had gone overseas have returned home, and that emigration to Ceylon has been stopped, there may be more people ready to take to cultivation.

The Government are no longer charging Kudiswamiyam price when assigning waste lands. There is no charge on second or third crop. Moreover, in the year of assignment they charge only a third of the assessment, in the second year, two thirds and the full assessment not till the third year. As is well known, remission is now liberally granted on wet lands if the season is bad. During the duration of the War, the Government will not charge any water rate on food-crops raised on dry lands and irrigated with permission.

The Government are always ready to help the ryots to get good seed, either by sale at cost price or by granting loans. They will also grant loans at a low rate of interest, to buy manure, to sink wells, to buy plough-cattle and to reclaim waste lands.

The Government have an Agricultural Farm in the Town under the management of an Agricultural expert. There are also two Touring Agricultural Instructors. They are giving the ryots any advice that they may need on matters of agriculture.

It is for the ryots to take advantage of these benefits, to bring more lands under the plough, and to raise more and more food-crops, vegetables and fruit.

Finally, a word as to home-pounded rice. People largely use milled rice. Doctors tell us that home pounded rice is far more healthy. The Darbar hope that people will give up eating milled rice, and take to home-pounded rice and thus improve their own health.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

9-5-42 to 15-5-42.

Burma.—Since the fall of LASHIO Japanese forces cutting across the Chinese border have advanced to WANTING, CHEHFANG, PAOSHANG and LUNGLING; the last mentioned place being the utmost limit reached so far inside the Chinese province of YUNNAN; it lies 40 miles north-east of CHUNGKING and 60 miles from the Burmese border. Japanese forces have also reached YEU, and attacked SHWEBO on the Chindwin river and KUNGSHIN on the Salween front; the British have withdrawn north of YEU to KALEWA. Counter-attacking, the Chinese have recaptured

CHEHFANG and MAYMYO, and cut the railway between LASHIO and MANDALAY. The Chinese strategy is to attack continuously, so that the enemy may have no time to rest or consolidate:—

The following Chinese communiqué dated Saturday, May 10, explains the operations of the week:—

“After the occupation of Lashio, one Japanese column advanced north into Yunnan province, while another moved west to complete the occupation of the railway between Lashio and Mandalay, at the same time aiming to cut off the retreat of the Chinese forces in the Mandalay area.

“Meanwhile, the Chinese columns in the Japanese rear became very active, particularly a strong Chinese unit which had recaptured Taung-gyi. This column made a forced march towards the north, and on May 6 occupied the strategic city of Maymyo on the Lashio—Mandalay railway. This occurred at a time when the Chinese forces north-east of Chehfang (in Yunnan province) were inflicting a crushing defeat on the Japanese column advancing into China.

“From Maymyo, the Chinese are at present continuing to advance north along the railway to attack the rear of the Japanese forces at Lashio. As a result of this movement, the Japanese column which was rushed forward to cut the Chinese communication lines now faces the danger of being sandwiched between these two columns. It is expected that this Japanese column will be liquidated in a few days.

“Chinese field dispatches from Paoshan on the Burma Road indicate that the Chinese counter-attack in Yunnan is making satisfactory progress. The Japanese trying to advance along the Burma Road are stated to have suffered heavy losses.

“Of the two Japanese columns which attempted to move round the Chinese wings, one has already been wiped out, while the second yesterday morning tried unsuccessfully to break through the Chinese cordon which had been thrown around them.

“The Chinese are continuing their pressure.”

Small Japanese forces have entered AKYAB, a former station on the Empire air route from CALCUTTA to RANGOON. The place is of no importance, being an isolated point on the coast of ARAKAN with no communication with the hinterland.

China.—The Chinese have launched a general offensive on their eastern sea-board, and raided SHANGHAI, NANKING, HANGCHOW, NINCHANG, NINGHO and AMOY. Japanese troops are attacking in CHEKIANG province in south-east CHINA. Two hostile columns are simultaneously marching southward and south-westward along SIAOSHAN and SHAOSHIN. The Chinese have raided ICHANG, a port on the Yangtze.

India.—CHITTAGONG had two air raids on Friday and Saturday, marked by high-level bombing and machine-gunning. The damage was slight and the casualties few. With the exception of 'some submarine activity' there have been no reports since the attack on CEYLON of enemy naval units in the Bay of Bengal. Large reinforcements of troops have arrived from KENYA, UGANDA, TANGANYIKA, NYASALAND, ZANZIBAR and Northern RHODESIA. American and British planes have also arrived in large numbers. The Indian Army, already numbering a million-and-a-half, is increasing at the rate of 50,000 a month.

The Battle of the Coral Sea.—The triumph of the week has been the success of the naval battle off the Coral Sea. A naval engagement between American naval forces and those of the Japanese had been in continuous progress, since Monday, May 4, in a general area to the south of BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO in the Coral Sea, and closed on Saturday, May 9. The Japanese have been put to rout and driven northwards, with a loss of 18 ships sunk and 4 damaged, including 2 air-craft carriers, one cruiser and 6 or 7 destroyers. The Japanese claims of Allied damage and their version of the battle are entirely 'fictional' and fantastic. As a matter of fact, the Allied success in the Coral waters has smashed the Japanese temporary naval ascendancy gained by the initial treacherous attack on PEARL HARBOUR and the chance success which resulted in the loss of the *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse*. It has frustrated for the present the Japanese aggressive attempt to effect a landing on Australian soil. This action, which has inflicted the greatest defeat yet on the enemy, though it may not decide the war, has won the first round of the Pacific battle.

Libya.—Normal patrol activities continue. Months of strenuous labour have resulted in strengthening the defences and communications in the MIDDLE EAST. The railway linking TRIPOLI with HAIFA is nearing completion.

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Representatives of the Middle Eastern supply-centre in CYPRUS, MALTA, TURKEY, SYRIA, TRANS-JORDAN, PALESTINE, EGYPT, The SUDAN, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, East African territories, SAUDI ARABIA, ADEN, IRAQ and PERSIA are attending a three-day conference in CAIRO presided over by Mr. Casey, in order to discuss questions relating to food supplies, shipping and the development of local industries.

Malta.—As a result of the arrival of large reinforcements of the R. A. F. the defences of MALTA have been considerably strengthened. The result is seen in the heavy losses of the *Luftwaffe* on Saturday and Sunday last, amounting to 29 destroyed for certain, 27 probably destroyed and 37 damaged.

Russia.—In the War Communiqués of the week 'offensive battles' are mentioned for the first time since winter. On the MURMANSK front the Germans have withdrawn their planes from their forward bases as a result of Russian pressure, and the Russians may be said to have thus won the first stage of the spring offensive in this sector. A German army of 24 armoured divisions is reported to be active along a 250 mile front from DNEPRO PETROVSK in the north to the KERCH peninsula in the south. But the big news to-day is the German offensive against the Soviet bridgehead in the KERCH Peninsula, which starting on May 8 has met with some success in the northern sector though repelled in other parts of the front. Although local and objective in character, it is being waged on a comparatively considerable scale, the Germans having thrown in several divisions, supported by tanks and dive-bombers. But it is unlikely to be the beginning of the big much-heralded spring offensive, though it looks as though the Germans were seeking some quick local success to give a flip to the morale of their troops after the series of depressing reverses they experienced in the winter. The Germans call it 'the Battle of the Breach' and claim to have breached the Russian positions at PARPATSCH at the neck of the isthmus.

On the KHARKOV sector Russian troops have passed to the offensive and are advancing successfully.

R. A. F. Raids.—On May 4 shipping and port installations were destroyed in GDYNIA, the harbour of POLAND, and on May 8, WARNE-MUNDE was attacked and battered. Speaking at BIRMINGHAM on May 8, Sir Archibald Sinclair, Air Minister declared:—

"The initiative is passing from GERMANY to the United Nations.

The time has come when we are beginning to hit back hard, but on a scale which still only foreshadows the force of the Anglo-American bombing effort to come. Then will come the invasion—the invasion of the Continent of EUROPE.

A terrible summer is in prospect for the *Luftwaffe*, day and night, in the air, and on the ground where they are resting, squadrons of the *Luftwaffe* in Western EUROPE will be exposed to unrelenting attack. The *Luftwaffe* knows now that its power is waning. That is our opportunity. We must give it no rest. We must hammer it out of shape.

On the second front which it has already constituted the R. A. F. has much work to do."

Madagascar.—Arrangements are in progress for the administration of MADAGASCAR by the Free French.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment	Aircraft losses for	
			Allies.	Enemies
4—5—42 (Monday).	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY —				
	The docks at LE HAVRE.		}	7 planes.
	Offensive sweeps over northern FRANCE.			
	Ships and harbour installations at GDYNIA (POLAND).			
NIGHT :—				
	The important industrial town of STUTT-GART.		}	3 planes.
	The SKODA works at PILSEN (Czechoslovakia).			
	The docks at NANTES.			
	Enemy air fields in FRANCE.			
	Shipping off the coasts of HOLLAND and NORWAY.			
	Aerodromes at MANDAL (NORWAY).			
	LIBYA. (By British planes).			
	The harbour at BENGHAZI.			
	Offensive sweeps over the forward areas of CYRENAICA.			
	RUSSIA. (By-Russian planes).			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		8 planes.	14 planes.
	FAR EAST—NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
	The aerodrome, harbour and shipping at RABAU.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—cont.

Date. **Targets.** **Damage caused by air bombardment.** **Enemy air forces for Allies.** **Enemies.**

7-5-42 (Thursday)—cont.
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes). 26 planes. 71 planes.
 Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire front.

FAR EAST—SOLOMON Islands. (By American and British planes).
 Jap Nvaal units in the COBAL Sea.

8-5-42 (Friday).
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).
Targets at DIEPPE.

DAY:—
NIGHT:—
 The Baltic port of **WARNEMUNDE** } Big fires started.
 Enemy air fields in the **LOW COUNTRIES** }
 and Northern **FRANCE.** }
 A large supply ship off the coast of **NORWAY.** } 9 planes.

LIBYA. (By British planes).
 The harbour and shipping and **BENGHAZI.** 1 ship sunk. }
 Offensive sweeps over the forward areas of **CYRENAICA.** } 3 planes.

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes). 26 planes. 71 planes.
 Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire front.

FAR EAST—S. W. PACIFIC. (By American and British planes). 4 planes.
LOUISDALE ARCHIPELAGO.

9-5-42 (Saturday).
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).
Targets at HAZEBROUCK and BRUGES. 7 planes. 1 plane.
 Offensive sweeps over the **GALAIS BOULOGNE** area. 1 plane.

Date. **Targets.** **Damage caused by air bombardment.** **Allies.** **Aircraft losses by Enemies.**

NIGHT:—
 No information available,
LIBYA. (By British planes). }
 The harbour at **BENGHAZI** }
 Offensive sweeps over **CYRENAICA.** } 6 planes.

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).
 Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole front. 18 planes. 25 planes.
FAR EAST—S. W. PACIFIC. (By American and British planes).
LOUISDALE ARCHIPELAGO.

BURMA. (By American and British planes).
 The aerodrome at **MAGWE.**

10-5-42 (Sunday).
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).
DAY:—
 Patrol over the **ENGLISH CHANNEL** and Northern **FRANCE.**

NIGHT:—
 No information available.
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes). 12 planes. 38 planes.
 Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.

FAR EAST—SOLOMON Islands. (By American and British planes).
 Shipping at **KESSA.** }
 Two transports hit.

BURMA. (By American and British planes).
 The aerodrome at **MAGWE.**
 Enemy transports in North **BURMA.**
 Reconnaissance over occupied **BURMA.**

SIDE LIGHTS.

OURSELVES

Following on the clarion call of H. E. the Viceroy which we reprint on the front page of this issue this bulletin is renamed, 'The National War Front Bulletin, Pudukkottai', and will devote itself hereafter, among other things, to the promotion of the aims and objects of the great movement which has been inaugurated by His Excellency. Readers will please note the change of title, and address all future communications to the Secretary, National War Front Bureau, Pudukkottai'.

THE BURMA CAMPAIGN.

The following extract from a broadcast by Captain Cyril Falls on May 2 gives a bird's eye view of the recent campaign in Burma :—

'After the capture of Rangoon the Japanese made their main advance, indeed practically their sole advance, up the parallel valleys of the Irrawaddy and the Sittang—both of which were followed by good roads—two of the best roads in BURMA. Their progress was fairly rapid, but it was continually delayed by our rear-guard actions and counter-attacks, and they actually suffered some pretty sharp checks. It was apparent that they could, if they desired, broaden their front towards the east, that is, towards the river Salween and the frontier of SIAM. But they showed little signs of doing so for some time. Indeed the Chinese at one period made a raid into Siamese territory. In the middle of April the Japanese on the extreme Chinese left, suddenly made a fierce thrust northwards from KARANIN province, where up to then there had only been fighting of a minor character. They advanced very rapidly up to TAUNGGYI. Here they met with strong resistance from the Chinese, who counter-attacked and actually retook the town.

'With armoured fighting vehicles in the van the Japanese drove another 75 miles due northward without a check. These few days changed the whole situation. The Japanese had been very much closer to MANDALAY than to LASHIO but they thrust their way towards LASHIO, without moving towards MANDALAY.

'Our people have put up a great fight against odds—odds especially in the air. At the moment it must be confessed that the picture is an ugly one—there is one consolation, which may prove to be very important in the long run. It is that the dogged struggle in BURMA has given INDIA time to make better preparation, for her defence and for subsequent counter-offensives.

'The Japanese Prime Minister has been telling the people that from their point of view the War had only just begun, and that the real test was to come. As regards the War with Japan, we have to bear that in mind too.'

THE NEXT MOVE.

With the occupation of a greater part of BURMA, JAPAN has now reached the end of another phase of her campaign, and speculation is rife again as to where she will strike next—whether it will be CHINA, or INDIA or AUSTRALIA. She has entered Chinese territory by the BURMA Road, raided CHITTAGONG in INDIA and fought a naval action in the Coral Sea. JAPAN is evidently exhausted after her late mad adventures, and it is safest to assume a lull in her activities will follow for the present, though it would be foolish to remain unprepared for an attack at any and every point. But the immense forces she lately employed in reducing CORREGIDOR go to show that her present pre-occupation is more to strengthen her lines of defence; to consolidate her already occupied territories in BURMA, MALAYA, the DUTCH EAST INDIES and the PHILIPPINES; and to close, if possible, the 'China Incident', which has been on her hands for the past five years. To achieve the last object she may now launch an all-out offensive against CHINA in the hope of finally breaking her resistance or forcing her to a compromise peace.

This is also the impression at CHUNGKING. It is held that the Japanese may attack the Chinese capital, carrying out a three-fold offensive—from LASHIO over the BURMA Road, from FRENCH INDO-CHINA which French perfidy has made available to JAPAN and from CANTON on the sea coast. The push may be three-pronged and simultaneous from all the three directions.

CHUNGKING faces the situation with every optimism; she had long been preparing for this hour, and now has every reason to hope that in addition to supplies which are arriving uninterruptedly for the present, American production, growing to a peak in September at the latest, will soon arrive in such strength as to overwhelm the enemy. By that time the Pacific tide also will have turned in the Allied favour.

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REPRISAL RAIDS.

The recent German raids on the British towns of BATH, EXETER, NORWICH and YORK are described by the enemy as 'reprisals' for the British attacks on LUBECK, ROSTOCK and COLOGNE. A comparison of these places will show however that while BRITAIN has been aiming her blows at German military objectives, GERMANY has been attacking objectives of no military value whatever and only out of "frightfulness."

LUBECK and ROSTOCK are ports for transport of war materials to DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN, FINLAND and the Baltic. ROSTOCK, in addition, has important aeroplane and submarine works. COLOGNE is one of the greatest industrial cities of the Rhineland. LUBECK no doubt has a picturesque medieval quarter and COLOGNE the largest cathedral in EUROPE: but these are incidental.

On the other hand BATH, noted for its Roman baths, is *mainly* a 'residential city of retired people'; it has only one small factory of any military value. EXETER and NORWICH are cathedral cities, important only as agricultural centres. YORK, though a garrison town, is not an industrial city at all and famous only for its minster.

The motive behind these senseless, barbaric attacks on unoffending towns can only be mean. There is widespread discontent in GERMANY. Something has to be done to convince the German people that the British are getting it back. But there are not enough planes in GERMANY now for retaliatory large scale attacks. Hence these raids, with a few machines on undefended, unimportant places. The Nazi knows that all the large industrial centres of BRITAIN are now so heavily defended that any raid on them would be punished with total destruction of the invading planes. Even over partially protected NORWICH, 4 out of the 20 invading planes were destroyed. So Hitler attacks residential quarters knowing his impotence against factory centres.

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THREE OUTSTANDING

PROOFS.

During the week and fortnight there have come to light at least three new proofs of the serious damage caused to GERMANY by the R. A. F.'s effective raids. Of them foremost are the so-called raids we have mentioned above carried out by the Nazis on what Mr. Morrison calls 'Badaeker towns,' health resorts like BATH, in return for the punishment dealt to German industrial centres like LUBECK and ROSTOCK, KIEL and HAMBURG.

A second proof is Dr. Goebbel's 'manufactured agony', his pretended lament over the sufferings of German civilians in the R. A. F. bombed areas and the fate of German public monuments incidentally wrecked by the R. A. F. The British offensives are never planned, after the Nazi model, in order to strike unoffending civilians or commit vandalism; it is very much to be suspected on the other hand that the Goebbelian lament is an attempt to conceal and camouflage the real cause for sorrow—the smashing up of the German industrial machine, which the R. A. F. is carrying out so successfully.

A third proof lies in the recent recriminations, whinings and threats by which Hitler has announced his intention to start reprisals against British cathedrals and historic monuments. But these threats have lost their potency now. In 1940 he uttered worse threats; he said he would, as Mr. Churchill put it, 'rub them out'; he also had a good try; but the threats proved unavailing. Now the boot is on the other leg and BRITAIN, far from being on the defensive can hit back. Mr. Churchill promises to carry more bombs into GERMANY than GERMANY ever brought into

BRITAIN, and increase them 'all summer, all autumn and all winter'. The perpetrators of the outrages of ROTTERDAM, WARSAW and BELGRADE have none to blame but themselves, if the day of reckoning should soon overtake them. The mills of God grind slowly but they grind well and small.

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R. A. F. AND VICTORY.

In strange contradiction to the Nazi threats and wails, which, as we have shown are sure indications of the extent of the damage inflicted on the enemy, is the German propaganda attempt to belittle the weight and effect of the attacks when it suits their ends. There has been a welter of such propaganda of late, to show—especially the British public—that their bombing policy is 'strategically valueless'. But the British Public know better: they know that in spite of adverse weather conditions the R. A. F. has undertaken bigger raids than any GERMANY has yet mounted, and that, for instance, a greater weight of bombs was dropped on the Renault works than during the two biggest German raids on LONDON. Though these British raids may not by themselves win the war, there is no doubt they are hastening the day of victory, by destroying the German industrial potential, and by drawing off half of the *Luftwaffe* from the Russian, Libyan and Maltese fronts. They are also immobilising and destroying the *Luftwaffe* in the western areas, and once this monster is crippled, German towns and areas can be bombed and occupied one after another. This was the German air strategy in POLAND and HOLLAND.

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GERMAN EFFORTS TO PREVENT ROT ON THE HOME FRONT.

For some weeks past a series of decrees have been issued in GERMANY, all of them designed to tighten the grip of the Nazi party over all branches of the administration and every section of the community. The Reichstag meeting of May 21, at which Hitler asked for full powers was its culminating point. A decree had been already issued on March 21, purporting to simplify the administration of Justice, but really to abolish in effect the last remnants of independent jurisdiction, by giving power to Hitler to dismiss judges at will.

A parallel tightening of control over the civil administration has been simultaneously carried out. By a decree of March 26, the appointment, promotion and transfer of all German officials has been placed directly under the Gauleiters. The German civil servant, according to a high official of the German Ministry of the Interior, must be a National Socialist 'to the marrow of his bones'. In other words, direct National Socialist control now permeates the civil service from top to bottom.

Thirdly, control over these party controllers themselves has been tightened up. By a decree of January 16, Bormann at the head of the Nazi

party has been given extensive powers over the Gauleiters themselves. Behind Bormann stand Himmler and the Gestapo; and Himmler himself by a decree of April 9 has been armed with special powers to prescribe severe penalties, including the death sentence, upon persons in the civil service found guilty.

In the opinion of competent observers all these portend another 'blood bath', which will be more terrible than the earlier one. The German people have no doubt submitted to these measures because, they are told, the alternative is defeat, and their being handed over to the United Nations awaiting them across the frontier ready to deal justice. For the present there is no impending crack of the German home-front, which is keyed up to breaking point for the coming supreme effort—the spring offensive. The German military machine is yet undefeated, though hemmed in; a German victory is still promised by the German war lords as a way to avert the world punishment awaiting their crimes. So the ruthless precautionary measures—the decrees of tyranny now promulgated inside GERMANY, are obeyed without outward murmur. But when the will-o-the-wisp of victory disappears, as it soon will, German morale will not merely crack—it will crash.

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THE CURRENCY JUGGLERY. *The Ruralisation of France:*—According to a series of articles now appearing in *Semaphore* a MARSEILLES paper, FRANCE is no longer to have a currency based on metal but a faked one based on raw materials, such as iron, steel and agricultural products. This *monnaie materia* ('Matter Money') will replace 'Bank money' in all industrial, commercial and agricultural transactions. Notes of 50, 10, 5, or one 'ton' denomination, will be issued and the French peasant will store them up as his wealth to be used against the day of his needs. The French peasant, who till now depended for his agricultural enterprise on the Bank's mortgage valuation of his land-assets, will hereafter depend on the number of these faked notes he will be able to buy in exchange for his products. To the French peasant, who has always looked on land as an asset, this will have an enticing appeal, for he will now be led to think that his capacity to buy other things in general will hereafter depend only on his capacity to exploit his land and not on the bankers.

But GERMANY's real motive behind the move is not the enfranchisement of the peasant but rather his conversion to the condition of a serf, because the Germans will become the chief buyers of the agricultural products of FRANCE, and consequently the sole disposers of the fortunes of the French peasant. Having first tempted the people of FRANCE to ruralise the whole country by the use of the faked 'notes', the Germans will soon become masters of French produce and so impose their own terms. This device will also strictly limit the peasant's facilities to the conveniences and demands

of the German master, and being deprived both of metal currency and the power of barter he will be shut out of the world's markets, except the German. The long-range effect on FRANCE must be serious. The French peasant, in course of time, will cease to be the real owner of his land, and be reduced to the position of a mediæval serf cultivating the land at the good will of the Prussian junkers. He will have no insurance against old age as his currency will be of no value in the world's general market. Thus, FRANCE will not only be ruralised gradually but enslaved and impoverished, and the German dream of converting FRANCE into a German farm will be fulfilled with a vengeance.

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MADAGASCAR.

To those who have been following the trend of recent events, the British occupation of MADAGASCAR will have caused no surprise. Lying athwart the communication lines between CEYLON, INDIA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND and the MIDDLE EAST, its strategic importance cannot be overestimated. It lies within striking distance also of the important South African ports of CAPE TOWN, DURBAN and SIMONSTOWN. An enemy occupation of the island would be a source of constant danger. JAPAN's irruption into the Indian Ocean and attack on COLOMBO have made the danger imminent; Laval's accession to power has emphasised it, and President Roosevelt's declaration on April 28 that 'the United Nations will take measures to prevent the use of French territory in any part of the world for military purposes by the Axis powers', showed a determination to act promptly in order to forestall the enemy.

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POISON GAS.

It has been reserved to the Nazi to threaten his enemies with the use of poison gas in his impotence to conquer otherwise. The use of gas has many times been interdicted by International Law, at the HAGUE in 1899 and again in 1907, in the Treaty of VERSAILLES, in the Five Power Treaty (1922 WASHINGTON) and the GENEVA Protocol (1925) to mention only a few. But what is law to the Nazi? An outlaw and a savage among nations he knows no moral code. The only language he understands or will understand is retaliation, and Churchill did well, the other day, when he declared in no uncertain tones:—

"I wish now to make it plain that we shall treat the unprovoked use of poison gas against our Russian ally exactly as if it was used against ourselves, and if we are satisfied that this new outrage has been committed by Hitler, we will use our great and growing air superiority in the west to carry gas warfare on the largest possible scale, far and wide against military objectives in Germany.

'It is thus for Hitler to choose whether he wishes to add this additional horror to aerial warfare.'

"GRIN AND BEAR IT!"

BRITISH MAN IN THE STREET'S REACTION TO BUDGET.

by

Rennie Smith.

Budget day is traditionally one of the star days in the Parliamentary year. The total expenditure for 1942-43 is estimated at £5,286,000,000. This is £700,000,000 more than last year, an increase which but a few years ago was more than the requirements of the British Budget. It means that this year the nation is spending nearly £2,000,000 a day more than it did a year ago. Of this colossal total sum, we are told, £4,500,000,000 falls directly on the backs of British tax-prayers: £2,400,000,000 is to be raised in the course of the year from taxation, and the balance of £2,100,000,000 is to be gathered together from the voluntary savings of the British people.

Yet the House, facing the greatest national financial burden and test of its history, was in cheerful mood. All three parties handed compliments to the Chancellor. The Parliamentary Labour leader, Mr. Arthur Greenwood, summed up what the House thought of this unsensational budget day of the third year of war when he said that, provided people really felt that an honest and ruthless attempt was being made to deal with black marketeers, to kill wasteful spending, and to mobilise our industrial resources to the maximum of efficiency, he was satisfied that the country would carry the burden with cheerfulness and hopefulness.

The word of the man in the street is simpler still. It is, "Grin and bear it!"

"AN EMPIRE WITOUT IMPERIALISM".

AN AMERICAN VIEW OF ENGLAND.

"Behold England" is in effect what Americans are asked to do by the *Time* magazine in a remarkable article which holds up the mirror to England, 1942, "in an attempt to estimate England's character—her spirit, feelings and attitudes". The article tries to answer the question, "If character is destiny, what is the character of England now?" Here are some answers reproduced in the *Daily Express*.

"There are two words around which the thought and feeling of England revolve: 'Socialism' and 'Empire'. The English people think they don't want an Empire. They may perhaps want Socialism, but actually they have not even begun to imagine what it would be like not to have an Empire. In England capitalism is not so much despised as gradually becoming extinct.

"England is unanimously non-imperialist—and unanimously unprepared for a break-up of her Empire. The contemporary Englishman has taken the Empire for granted—assumed that it would always be there. Therefore he has been non-imperialist. He didn't wish to be bothered with it, either to fight for it or have it on his conscience. England as a whole didn't have any serious thought whatever about her Empire.

"REWARD OF GENEROSITY".

"Apparently, when Great Britain declared war, neither Government nor people felt any certainty that the Dominions would come in. The fact that they did join, the fact that they have contributed generously and gallantly to England's cause, is the most complete vindication of the policy of an Empire without imperialism. There is perhaps no better example in history of a generous spirit generously rewarded.

"The rising mood of England is to be realistic, rough, tough and terribly competent—more terribly than the Germans, Russians or Japanese. Tough for what purpose? They haven't yet formulated the answer, but you encounter it especially among the serious young men of England. They have a certainty that man must have something greater than himself to live for."

BLOCKADE BY BOMBING.

FAR-REACHING EFFECTS OF R. A. F. RAIDS.

by

Wing-Commandar L. V. Fraser.

The Baltic port of Lubeck was stuffed in which stores in warehouses and ships in waterways ready to cross the sea to the Russian front as soon as the ice should melt. The ice has melted, but most of the stores have not crossed the sea. The R. A. F. has stepped in.

Spring is here now, marking the beginning of the year's offensive for an R. A. F. grown beyond anything the Germans were likely to have imagined at the beginning of the war. First reports of the blitzes on German towns speak of fires and sudden explosions. Then come reports on night photographs like those taken over Lubeck which showed wide areas aflame until, at the end of the attack, the films were fogged by the glare below. Obviously there was devastation but its full extent was then undetermined. Day photographs follow. Those taken at Lubeck show that few German towns have suffered as Lubeck has. Acre upon acre of roofless houses are revealed; many factories are burnt out; wharves and warehouses are down.

The effect on German morale, as many reports have made clear, has been tremendous. But this was not the sole, or even the main, object of the attack. It is only after the passage of some time that the effect which the raid was designed to have can be revealed; now reports unfold a story of packed stores that did not cross the sea. It is, as we know, on the Finnish front that the sudden attack on Lubeck has made the Germans feel the pinch.

FIVE DIVISIONS' ARMOUR WRECKED.

The attacks on the Renault works and the Matford factory in France had similar results. Photographs proved the damage to these two great armament works. The whole armour of five panzer divisions has been utterly wrecked. But as yet it is not known where precisely the lack of five armoured divisions will make itself felt. It may be in Russia; it may be in Libya; it may be in the defence of the continent of Europe. Still less can it be predicted where first the enemy's fighting forces will begin to falter because some factory in Europe cannot get its steel from the Ruhr. Perhaps even in Eastern Germany some factory will be idle because the R. A. F. has put heavy bombs through the roofs of the great Thyssen steel works at the western end of the Ruhr.

The effects of the R. A. F.'s bombs extend yet farther. The British Admiralty and Air Staff work always in close co-operation with entire understanding of each other's weapons. A bomb on Hamburg or on an Augsburg factory which made Diesel engines for Germany's ocean-going submarines or on any of Germany's great naval bases may have its final, though remote, effect in the most distant of the seven seas. For, ultimately, this is blockade by bombing, and no weapon of war is so far-reaching or more intimately related with every aspect of the war effort than blockade. It is a weapon which Britain has always known how to use in all her wars in the past. She is using it now with entirely new tactics and new instruments of war. It is appropriate to note a recent message from the Commander-in-Chief of the Bomber Command to workers in the bomb factories of Britain. "We are determined," he said, "to keep up our export trade to Germany; we must not neglect our duty to our customers."

DAYLIGHT SWEEPS GROW.

It is not only bombing which reacts on all fronts on which Germany is fighting. There is also the combined daylight offensive in the west of the Fighter and Bomber Commands. With the coming fine spring weather, British fighters have crossed the Channel in their hundreds on more days than not. With them go fast-flying Boston bombers, a menace which the Germans dare not neglect and which forces them to send up their Messerschmitts to risk combat with our fighters. All-time bombing in daylight saps German

resources on the Western Front. All-time fighting in the air weakens the fighter force which the Germans urgently need elsewhere. Add this to the army of 1,500,000 men kept for the sole purpose of active or passive defence against the Bomber Command's nightly attacks—an army which must include its own air arm of highly trained night fighter squadrons. Remember, too, the fact that every squadron of R. A. F. bombers and fighters over the Continent swells the number and encourages the resistance of that great army which German rule has been steadily raising against itself.

AMERICAN PRESS COMMENTS.

Roscoe Drummond in the Christian Science Monitor, April 17.—It is being done! The staggering production goals in airplanes, tanks and munitions set by President Roosevelt last December are to-day being met. From an unquestionable authority it is possible to state as a fact that victory on the production front is now an absolute certainty. There will be 60,000 planes in a few months; 45,000 tanks are going to be produced, not next year but this; 20,000 anti-aircraft guns are coming from the assembly lines; 8,000,000 tons of shipping will be put on the water in 1942. It is a flow and it will soon be a river, and in another two months the river will be a torrent.

The New York Times, April 10.—The Victory Committee of German-American trade unionists, consisting of representatives of the American Federation of Labour and the Congress of Industrial Organisations in the New York area, announced yesterday that it would launch a drive for a bombing plane to be presented to Government to "symbolise the desire of German-Americans to see the United States take the offensive and crush Hitler. As Americans of German birth and descent, we feel we must make a special contribution to the victory of the democratic cause".

The Providence Evening Bulletin, April 18.—The true France; the honourable, proud and intensely nationalistic France; the France of beautiful cathedrals and free men—this France did not die in the summer of 1940. It suffered a terrible defeat but it did not die. It is alive still—alive despite its betrayers. He has tried hard, but Hitler has not yet been able to destroy it. Nor will Pierre Laval be able to destroy it.

THE BOMBER'S LONG ARM.
THREE REMARKABLE INSTANCES.
HOW BRITAIN AIDS RUSSIA.
HITLER'S REARGUARD COMMANDER.

by

Lieut. Gen., Sir Douglas Brownrigg.

The week ending April 23 has been chiefly remarkable for some extraordinary long-range bombing attacks carried out by American and British aircraft in the Far East and Europe.

First we had the wonderful achievement of General Ralph Royce and his formation of heavy bombers, which attacked the Japanese in the Philippines, and were so nonchalant in their task that they stopped to pick up over 30 passengers, and then brought them to safety to their base. Where that base is we have, very rightly, not been told, but it is safe to assume that it is a long way from the target which was so successfully engaged.

A few days later, we were given news of a long-distance low-flying attack on the German industrial plant at Augsburg by the R. A. F. Of 12 bombers which started on this hazardous undertaking, seven fell by the way, but the other five performed their task, and returned to tell a tale unsurpassed in the history of air warfare. The Prime Minister voiced the feelings of the country in his message to the squadron, when he said that the importance of the results of this attack truly meant that no life had been sacrificed in vain.

ATTACK ON JAPAN.

The third long-distance air attack was made by American bombers on the main island of Japan, when Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya and Kobe all received a foretaste of what they may expect in larger doses in the none too distant future. There is still a deal of mystery about the whole affair, but its results have been most heartening. It is wise, however, not to indulge once more in the wishful thinking of 1939. It is too often said that Tokyo, with its many paper houses, is an ideal target for incendiary bombs. That is true. But it is well to remember why these houses are built of light material. It is to save the inevitable loss of life which would occur if the poorer districts were built more solidly, in a land where people expect their cities to be partially demolished by comparatively frequent earthquakes. The effects of a severe earthquake are not dissimilar to those of an air raid, and I feel that we should expect the Japanese to attain a very high standard of air raid discipline, and not rely on the reverse happening.

RAIDS OVER GERMANY.

Apart from these long-distance air raids on enemy territory, there has been an increase in the daily sweeps over France, and there has been no diminution in the scale of night attacks on Germany. The effect of these attacks must be to anchor in France and Western Germany a large proportion of the *Luftwaffe*.

Similar results have been achieved by the gallant defenders of Malta, who have occupied the attention for some months of one whole German air fleet, which might otherwise have been employed against the Russians.

Thus do Britain and her empire more effectively assist Russia than by opening up at this stage another so-called "front", which would inevitably eat up so much of that precious commodity on which we were making so many calls—our shipping. Thus we secure economy of effort, until such time as the United Nations can pool sufficient shipping to carry troops to fresh theatres of war, and at the same time keep up the supply of munitions of war to Russia and China. Mr. Harry Hopkins has given a clear hint to this effect.

LAVAL'S ROLE.

I cannot omit to mention the political changes in France, because in total war no changes in dispositions either political or military are without their effect on strategy. **The juggling of Laval into power is in effect the appointment by Hitler of a rearguard commander whilst his own attention is directed in the east.** The chief military danger lies in a probable attempt of the rearguard commander to provide himself with portions of the French fleet, to help him in the performance of his treacherous task. It is true that the capital ships of France can be in no fit state for battle, after their damage and subsequent idle sojourn in the ports of North Africa and France. But smaller craft, and particularly submarines, would be a very welcome addition to Axis strength in the Mediterranean, beneath whose waters not fewer than 47 Italian submarines lie rusting.

VON PAPEN'S RETURN TO ANKARA.

POSSIBLE DIRECTION OF GERMAN OFFENSIVE.

TURKEY STANDS BY BRITISH ALLIANCE.

by

Leonard Kirschen.

Every day brings us nearer to the German spring offensive. Lately, the number of prophecies on what the Germans would do have dried up, not that

political circles here are not very active in their speculations. In fact, under the appearance of calm, there is a certain concern to see the German busy elsewhere, and all signs that this is so are eagerly noted and compared.

PAPEN BLAMES TURKEY.

To-day, after von Papen's return, there is no indication that Turkey's policy has changed. It is true that Papen has tried during his interview with the Turkish Foreign Minister to complain about the difficulties of the Commercial Agreement. He has tried to throw the blame for its halting development—as a matter of fact very little trade if at all is done now—on the Turks.

It was pointed out to von Papen that the Germans themselves had not kept to the fundamental principle of the Agreement, which stipulated that German goods were to be sent down first, and that only then a corresponding amount's worth in £T would be ready for shipment to Germany.

The Germans have bought large quantities of tobacco in Turkey, the only produce they have bought of any importance, and have been unable to ship these, partly for the reason mentioned above, partly because the Black Sea is not safe, and partly because there are no direct railway communications with Europe since the Maritza bridges on the Simplon route are still down. In the meantime, in Germany smokers wait for hours in front of tobacconists shops, and are turned away disappointed when their smoker's ration card fails to produce more than five to ten cigarettes.

ASSURANCE DEMANDED.

Well informed political circles in Ankara say that during the same interview, for the first time Von Papen was not the one to give assurances to Turkey that the country would not be attacked, but that he actually asked for assurances himself on behalf of Bulgaria.

It seems that Germans have still a certain difficulty in making the smaller axis satellites march with them. But there is no doubt what the final result will be, they will have to whether they want to, or not. Thus Bulgaria has always been pretending that there existed a Turkish menace. For some time past the Bulgarians Minister in Ankara has been rushing round the town trying to get assurances. What he received in the form of assurances, was not apparently sufficient to satisfy him and von Papen had to be sent instead.

All political men to whom I have talked throughout the last week are nearly positive in saying that Turkey does not come in for an attack during this spring and summer. The same reasoning has taken place in Rumania,

too, although there are some weak parts in the arguments used by the Rumanians.

COMING GERMAN OFFENSIVE.

The few merchants who have lately come from Rumania have told Turks here that the main weight of the German offensive is directed against Russia, and especially in the south towards the Caucasus. The Germans want to get the Russian oil at all cost. The Rumanian production of oil has been put up to 6,000,000 tons from 5,400,000 tons—the last official figure published in 1939, but over this point they have not been able to go, owing to the lack of boring equipment.

What is now so very important to Germany is not the aviation petrol but the fuel oil, for industrial purposes, and for running the submarines. They are running short of fuel oil, which cannot be produced by synthetic means. When the American shipping programme comes into full swing, the Germans will try to put their submarines to the supreme test, and they cannot do it if they are running short of fuel just at the critical moment. If we expect this to happen next winter or spring, we see the necessity and hurry of the Germans to get to the Caucasus before autumn, so that they can get the oil wells in working order before the spring.

The Rumanians then say that should the offensive against the Russians fail, only then would the Germans attack Turkey in order to reach the Iraqi oil-fields. But it seems to all Turkish circles in Ankara, that a failure to pierce the Russian front would also mean that the German army had been beaten and would have to go through another Russian winter. Also, from the military point of view it is pointed out that a deployment of large mechanical masses is possible only in southern Russia.

In some circles the possibility of an attack launched from Crete on Cyprus is still thought probable. This eventuality has been under discussion for nearly two months now, and there is information that should the Germans try and launch this attack **they would meet many surprises in the way of defence, both in Cyprus which leads them nowhere, and in Syria which does lead them somewhere, but where fresh forces Allied and British are ready for any eventuality.** British military circles in Ankara call this plan a military adventure, and point out that Germany has not yet embarked on adventures of any sort.

TURKISH NEUTRALITY.

In the meantime, the political situation in Turkey is calm. We are now witnessing the Ankara trial against the accomplices in the bombing attempt against von Papen. It will take some time for this trial to end, because there is only one session a week. In the intervals the testimonies and documents

in Turkish are translated into Russian, so that the co-accused Russians get a fair chance of defence.

It is too early yet to form an idea whether this trial is likely to have political consequences. The Turks are making every effort to avoid international or political implications, and have been treating the case impartially. The main interest of Turkey is to show that she herself cannot be held responsible in the interests of her own neutrality. Although the trial has been used a vehicle of propaganda by both the Germans and the Russians against each other, the Turkish press is not commenting. So far the Germans seem to have had some satisfaction out of the trial from the depositions of the Turkish accused, but on the other hand one does not notice a worsening of Soviet-Turkish relations.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

What helps to give Turkey an atmosphere of complete neutrality is the fact that on Tuesday two hospital ships, one British and one Italian steamed into Smyrna harbour. The next day began the exchange of heavily wounded prisoners and protective personnel. These are the first two ships, and more are to follow. In the middle of the turmoil, **Turkey, the Switzerland of the eastern Mediterranean**, has been chosen for an act highly humanitarian.

For six laborious months negotiations had been going on between the interested Governments, with the help of the Turkish Government and the International Red Cross. These have been crowned with success. The Smyrna correspondent of *Vatan*, the Istanbul newspaper, cabled to his paper saying: "Smyrna, a Turkish town, has been chosen for this humanitarian operation. The inhabitants of Smyrna are proud."

UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

In the meantime, it is difficult to comment or foresee the march of events, and extreme caution is advisable in handling international events from here at the moment. All that matters is, as one political personality told me a few days ago, that Turkey has not changed her foreign policy from the beginning of the war, and is not going to do so. The next few weeks will probably make of Ankara the most important observation point throughout the whole world, for watching the battle between giants, and Ankara is settling down to it in the hope of remaining an interested spectator for at least another summer.

FROM AUTOMOBILE CENTRE TO WAR ARSENAL. DETROIT'S TRANSFORMATION.

Detroit, the large city in America's Middle West, formerly the centre of the gigantic automobile manufacturing industry, has been transformed into a tremendous war arsenal. Manned by a million men, it is described by Marc Rose in an article in the *Reader's Digest* as "the most stupendous feat of the machine age."

Nothing in history is comparable on a scale so vast, except Russian industrialization, which required a series of five-year plans, he says. Tackling the assignment with characteristic drive, Detroit ruthlessly wrecked the automobile achievement of two generations, tossed costly machinery into the snow, cut miles of intricate installations into shapeless chunks, thus clearing space for war production.

The writer saw long rows of immensely costly automobile production machines standing out in the weather, covered with a thick layer of protective grease, and thousands of shiny automobiles which had been completed prior to the conversion order, awaiting shipment until rationing regulations had been issued.

A DIFFERENT PICTURE.

The automobiles are replaced by a procession of grim tanks, test-charging at high speed through mud, over steep grades bigger than any ever imagined even in the movies, with more guns—swifter and much quieter than older models. The cows in pastures across the road have become so accustomed to the tank test—runs that they do not notice them.

Detroit's most important asset is the production managers, men composing the greatest pool of experienced mass-production machine operators in the world. The management is constantly grappling with new problems, and is involved in a constant struggle for more speed and higher quality. **The goal aimed at is eleven billion dollars worth of war implements within the year.**

HARD SPADEWORK.

When planning the conversion of Detroit's factories, 50 managers and engineers in one plant worked from early morning until midnight, seven days weekly for one month, evolving mass production techniques for military material, such as have never before been applied even in Germany's factories. Germany's methods are not called "mass-production" in Detroit.

Detroit is already engaged in big production of airplane motors, military vehicles, small "jeeps" (a new type of scout car), six-wheel armoured mastodons of tanks, machine-guns, automatic anti-aircraft cannon, and marine motors.

The pace is feverish. In the new plants, work is turned out at one end while construction gangs are pouring concrete in at the other. **A smooth working production line, 125 miles long, makes shall-fuse plugs.**

One gun having 125 parts reached production six months ahead of the promised date scheduled.

THE FATE OF SMALL STATES.

From the "Yeni Sabah"

Quisling, who won for himself a sorry reputation following the German invasion of Norway, and whose name will not escape the imprecations of future generations who will consider it the symbol of treason to the Motherland, has debased himself further by accepting the Premiership of his enslaved country. Having reaped the reward of his lack of conscience, he is now taking measures to send innocent Norwegian youths to the slaughter-house of the Russian steppes. This item of news has been announced with undisguised delight by a German newspaper to the German people. For their own salvation the Germans are sending yet another people to the firing-line, and are rejoicing in advance at the very thought of it.

This is the most recent example of the cruel treatment which is meted out by the Axis Powers to the small European peoples. It would be futile to say that this example should serve as an object lesson, for there is no longer a European state which is in a position to benefit by an object lesson. All the small states in Europe have been forced to submit to a yoke of fire, and now, on a luckless road of disaster, suffering and hardship, they are paying for their lack of foresight, and for their cowardice.

When war broke out, all the small European countries had but one concern: to do all that lay in their power to remain out of the war. Their concern was natural and human. Countries which do not covet the territories of another state, can never be the partisans of war. But a war undertaken for the defence of the Motherland is both imperative and legitimate. The small European states did not understand, did not wish to understand, they themselves were the real prizes in the struggle which had begun. They closed their eyes to evidence and fact, for they did not desire to be dragged into the war. They did not wish to fight, no matter what the cost, even if it meant

the loss of their liberty and independence. They believed themselves too small and too weak to fight, they believed that their impotence would cause their downfall at the first onslaught in this struggle of giants. So they clung to a hope, which they knew was doubtful and shaky; they thought that by remaining neutral they would be able to weather the storm, to save their fields and their homes from destruction, to keep death at a distance. In short they wanted to live in comfort and wealth. They were ready to lead a despicable existence: to lose their liberty and independence, so long as their good humour and comfort did not suffer.

That is the road which the small European states have, with a few exceptions, chosen and followed. They clung closely to their neutrality, they shut their eyes tight, and waited, trembling. But the relentless hand of reality has caught them by the throat. First, they lost their liberty and independence. **Their comfort was the next to go. They are now feeling the pangs of hunger, for it is necessary to feed the victors. They are subject to obligatory service and are sent as workers to foreign countries, for it is necessary to speed up the production of the victor's arms and ammunition. But that is not all. What they dreaded most, and did their best to avoid, has finally overtaken them:** they have to fight. Nations which failed in their duty when the liberty and the independence of their own Motherland were at stake are now condemned to fight and to die in distant lands under the command of their victors and in the defence of their victor's territory.

All the small European states which were determined to keep on friendly terms with the Axis hegemony, have been dragged one by one into the war. Up to now Bulgaria and Norway had not been called upon to shed their blood in the Axis cause. But the Russian front, like an insatiable monster, demands more and more human flesh, and more and more human material must be sent there. So, Quisling has been brought to the Premiership in Norway. The German civil administration, for which there is no longer any need, will be withdrawn. A Norwegian contractor has undertaken to act for Germany. And the first act of this man has been to pander to his master's desires by pushing his countrymen to the firingline.

The Axis technique is very obvious now: first, they give guarantees of friendship, they praise and flatter. Then their steel claws tighten on a country. All the economic and labour resources of that country pass into the hands of the Axis and it is compelled to work for the furtherance of Axis interests. Finally, the people of that country are sent to the front, either with the promise that a slice of another state's territory will be given to them, or with the remainder that they are fighting for the cause sacred to humanity. The Axis powers carry out their designs either directly or through the traitors they bring to power.

The small European people which were not prepared to safeguard their neutrality, which were not ready to make every sacrifice so as not to bow down to outside pressure, which did not have enough confidence in themselves to defend their Motherland, their liberty and independence, which have failed in their duty, and are now expecting to receive from the hand of the Axis all the blessings they have lost: what have they gained?

INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS IN JAPANESE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

(Darbar's Press Communiqué R. C. A-10-4128 of 1942 dated 4-5-42).

Enquiries relating to all Civilian British subjects, including Europeans, in *Japanese occupied territories* in Burma and the Far East, should be made to the Indians Overseas Department, and those relating to all Military, Air Force and Naval personnel to the Defence Department.

2. With regard to *Civilians in territories not under Japanese occupation*, enquiries relating to Indians in Empire countries in the Pacific Zone may be addressed to the Indians Overseas Department, while those relating to Indians in foreign countries may be sent to the External Affairs Department. Enquiries relating to British subjects other than Indians in Empire countries in the Pacific Zone, as well as those in foreign countries, may be addressed to the External Affairs Department.

NOTICE.

A WAR FILM

prepared by

The Government of India

and entitled

PASSIVE DEFENCE

(Tamil version)

will be shown at the

VEST TALKIES, PUDUKKOTTAI

from 22nd to 25th May.

National War Front Bureau

recommends it

TO THE PUBLIC.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State National War Front Bureau.

1942—

LECTURE XCV—(Batch 2).

May	...16, Saturday ...	Municipal office	... 6.30 p. m.
	17, Sunday ...	Vayalogam	... 6.00 p. m.
		Kudumiyamalai	... 6.30 p. m.
	18, Monday ...	Nallur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Mandaiyur	... 6.30 p. m.
	19, Tuesday ...	Nachandupatti	... 6.00 p. m.
		Virachchilai	... 6.30 p. m.
	20, Wednesday.	Vengalur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Konapattu	... 6.30 p. m.
	21, Thursday ...	Panayappatti	... 6.00 p. m.
		Rangiyam	... 6.30 p. m.
	22, Friday ...	Kodumbalur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Viralimalai	... 6.30 p. m.

LECTURE XCVI—(Batch 3).

	23, Saturday ...	Town Hall	... 6.30 p. m.
	24, Sunday ...	Alangudi	... 6.00 p. m.
		Kottaikkadu	... 6.30 p. m.
	25, Monday ...	Annavasal	... 6.00 p. m.
		Kilakkurichchi	... 6.30 p. m.
	26, Tuesday ...	Ramachandrapuram	... 6.00 p. m.
		Rayavaram	... 6.30 p. m.
	27, Wednesday.	Malaiyur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Karambakkudi	... 6.30 p. m.
	28, Thursday ...	Valaramanikkam	... 6.00 p. m.
		Embal	... 6.30 p. m.
	29, Friday ...	P. Puduppatti	... 6.00 p. m.
		Vendampatti	... 6.30 p. m.