



PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

BULLETIN]

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

'POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION'

—See Page 15.

LECTURE CCXVIII.

EISENHOWER'S PROCLAMATION.

"I, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force do hereby proclaim as follows :

1. The Allied Forces serving under my command have now entered Germany. We come as conquerors, but not as oppressors.

In the area of Germany occupied by the forces under my command, we shall obliterate Nazism and German militarism. We shall overthrow Nazi rule, dissolve the Nazi party and abolish cruel oppressive and discriminatory laws and institutions which the party has created.

We shall eradicate that German militarism which has so often disrupted the peace of the world. Military and party leaders, the Gestapo and others suspected of crimes and atrocities will be tried and, if found guilty, punished as they deserve.

2. The supreme legislative, judicial and executive authority and powers within the occupied territory are vested in me as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, and as Military Governor, and a Military Government is established to exercise these powers under my direction.

All persons in occupied territory will obey immediately and without question all the enactments and orders of the Military Government. Military Government courts will be established for the punishment of offenders.

RESISTANCE WILL BE STAMPED OUT.

Resistance to the Allied Forces will be ruthlessly stamped out. Other serious offences will be dealt with severely.

3. All German Courts and Educational institutions within occupied territory are suspended. *Volksgerechtshof* (People's Court) *Sondergerichte* (Special Courts), S. S. Police Courts and other Special Courts are deprived of authority throughout occupied territory. The reopening of Criminal and Civil Courts and Educational institutions will be authorised when conditions permit.

All officials are charged with the duty of remaining at their posts until further orders, and obeying and enforcing all the orders or directions of the Military Government or the Allied authorities addressed to the German Government or the German people.

This applies also to officials, employees and workers of all public undertakings and utilities, and to all other persons engaged in essential work."

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

(A)—LEADING EVENTS.

- 26—9—44 (Tuesday). Red Army completes occupation of *ESTONIA*.
8th Army crosses the *RUBICON* in Italy.
- 27—9—44 (Wednesday). Allies withdraw Air-borne troops from *ARNHEM* area to the South bank of Lower *RHINE*.
Russians capture *WORMSI*, an island west of *ESTONIA*.
- 28—9—44 (Thursday). Allies capture *BELLARIA* in Italy.
Americans land on 2 more Pacific Isles in *PALAU* Group.
- 29—9—44 (Friday). Russians cross into *YUGOSLAVIA* from Rumania.
- 30—9—44 (Saturday). Germans at *CALAIS* surrender.
Allies take *MONTE BATTAGLIA* in Italy.
- 1—10—44 (Sunday). Allies land on Greek Islands between Greek Mainland and *CRETE*.
Allies launch an attack on the *SIEGFRIED* Line.
- 2—10—44 (Monday). Polish Patriots' resistance in *WARSAW* ends.
Russians take *DAGO* (an island west of Estonia).
- 3—10—44 (Tuesday). Allies penetrate into the *SIEGFRIED* Line.

(B) NEWS IN BRIEF.**THE WESTERN FRONT—**

(1) **The Coastal area.**—CAP GRIS NEZ and CALAIS have fallen.

(2) **The Antwerp-Turnhout Area.**—WALCHEREN Island lying off the mouth of the Scheldt, near ANTWERP, and consisting mostly of low land reclaimed from the sea, has been bombed and its dyke near West Kapelle, 200 feet wide has been breached. The sea has entered the island through the breach and is engulfing both the island and the German garrison holding it. The Germans have been using the island as a stepping-place for evacuating from south of the Scheldt and to guard ANTWERP.

Three-fourths of the Antwerp Canal and MERKAM, a suburb of ANTWERP, are now held by the Allies. MERXPLAS, RECHT and WEELDE in this area have been captured.

(3) **The Nijmegen area.**—The Line of the Meuse has been cleared of the enemy. The supply corridor has been widened into a salient from OSS to BOXMEER. All efforts of the enemy to retake the Nijmegen bridge have been foiled. ELST, lying between NIJMEGEN and ARNHEM, has been captured.

(4) **The Siegfried Line.**—A new big offensive has been launched along the entire line. A narrow breach in the line has been made near AACHEN. MALLACOURT, JALLANCOURT, CHAMBREY, (all near NANCY) and GREVENMACHER (near LUXEMBOURG) have fallen.

(5) **Inside Germany,** the Dortmund—Ems Canal, an important water-way has been cut for many miles by an R. A. F. raid with 12,000 lb. weight of bombs.

THE EASTERN FRONT—

(1) The Estonian islands of Dago, Wormsi and Mupu have fallen. The German evacuation of LATVIA has begun: the Red Army is converging on RIGA, its capital. The Finns are fighting against the Germans for the town of TORNES on the Finnish Frontier. Russian air-craft and warships attacked the German-held port VADSOE in Northern NORWAY.

(2) The Polish Home Army in WARSAW under Gen. Bor has capitulated to the Germans.

(3) The Battle of CZECHOSLOVAKIA has begun with a Russian offensive against the BESKIDEN Pass in the Carpathians.

(4) The Russians have crossed into HUNGARY. Marshal Tito has reached the Hungarian border. Rumanians have captured GYULA inside HUNGARY.

(5) **In Transylvania,** the fight is for the bridge-head on the Mures River. Here RECHI has fallen.

(6) Sea and air-borne Allied forces are operating on the Adriatic coast including ALBANIA, and the islands of YUGOSLAVIA.

(7) In YUGOSLAVIA, the Germans have withdrawn from VIRSET, and BELA or KUA.

(8) British Forces have landed in three islands between Crete and the Greek mainland. **Italy.**—The chief event of the week is the fall of IMOLA on the RIMINI—BOLOGNA highway. The Allies were forced out of Firenzuola in the Futa Pass.

The Allies have captured the following places during the week :—

BELLARIA, CASTEL DEL RIO, CASTIGLIONE, MONTE BATTAGLIA, SAN MAURO DI ROMAGNA, MONTE CAPELLA, MONGHIDORS, MONTE LALTO, MONTE CAVALLERA and BROGHI.

The Germans are counter-attacking to dislodge the Allies from MONTE BATTAGLIA (Battle Hill).

The Pacific.—Americans have invaded two more islands in the PALAU Group—NGSEBUS and KONGAURU. The first island has been completely occupied.

China.—The U. S. 14th Air Force has destroyed the Japanese air-base at TANCHUK.

Burma.—The Allies are converging on TIDDIM.

ALLIED AIR-RAIDS.

24—9—44. (Sunday).

EUROPE (German-occupied).

DAY :—

German shipping in th North SEA.
Harbour-installations in the ATHENS area.
Rail-yards at SALONIKA.
3 air-fields near SALONIKA.
German tanks near NANCY (France).
Other targets in the battle areas.
Targets in YUGOSLAVIA.

ITALY.

Rail-yards and motor-transport in the battle area.

FAR EAST.

The harbour and shipping at CHICHIJIMA (Bonin Group) and MARCUS Islands.
ROTAOALUIT, WOTJI and MALI.
NANKING (China).
Shipping in the FORMOSA Straits.

BURMA.

Railway workshops and sidings at MYITNGE.
Supply-dumps and enemy-positions in the ARAKAN.

Rolling-stock in Central BURMA.

Bridges in the BHAMU area.

25—9—44 (Monday).

EUROPE (German-occupied).

DAY :—

Marshalling-yards and other military and industrial targets in FRANKFURT, COBLENZ and LUDWIGSHAFEN (Germany).
Enemy fortified positions at CALAIS (France).
Armoured vehicles and enemy positions in the battle areas in France.
Road and rail transport in the RUHR.
Radio equipment at CAP GRIS NEZ.
Communications, troop concentrations and other military targets in YUGOSLAVIA and ALBANIA.

Harbour installations at SALAMIE
SLARAMANGA and PIRAEUS.

NIGHT :—

MANNHEIM (Ruhr).

ITALY.

Military targets in the North ITALIAN battle area.

FAR EAST.

Jap freighters off HALMAHERA and BORNEO.
A coastal vessel off BASILAN Island.
The township of LAUTEM.
Anti-air-craft positions in TIMOR.

BURMA.

The railway-junction at MONYWA.
NAMKHAM.

A railway bridge at TANTABIN.

3 bridges in the MANDALAY area.

Petrol-dumps, motor-transport and bridges around TIDDIM.

River-steamers, rolling-stock and motor-transport along the IRRAWADDY.

26—9—44 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (German-occupied).

DAY :—

Railway marshalling-yards at HAMM.

Industrial targets at BREMEN.

Marshalling-yards and steel works at OSNABRUCK.

Military targets in the battle area.

NIGHT :—

Road, rail and river transport in HOLLAND.

The industrial town and railway centre of KARLSRUHE.

Objectives in FRANKFURT.

Synthetic oil-plant near ESSEN (Germany).

ITALY.

Rail and road-bridges in the PO Valley.

Troop concentrations, rail-lines and rolling-stock, motor-transport and supply-dumps in the battle area.

FAR EAST.

Steel-works in MANCHURIA.

Military targets at LOYANG and KAIFENG.

Shipping off the PHILIPPINES.

BURMA.

Railway-yards at MANDALAY.

BHAMO.

Motor-transport at WANLING.

Enemy positions, motor-transport and camps in

the ARAKAN, TIDDIM Road and MAWLAIK.

Rolling-stock and locomotives and road and

river transport along the Railway line from

TOUNGOO to MANDALAY.

27—9—44 (Wednesday).

EUROPE (German-occupied).

DAY :—

A tank-factory at KASSEL.

Rail-road yards at OPAPU (Germany).

Synthetic oil-plant at LUDWIGSHAFEN.

Rail-road yards and industrial plant at COLOGNE.

Rail-road yards at MAINZ.

Targets in the battle area in FRANCE.

Communications in the RUHR.

NIGHT:—

Marshalling-yards at KAISEBSLAUTEBN.

ITALY.

Troop concentrations, communications and artillery positions in and south of the battle area.

Shipping in the Gulf of GENOA and in the ADRIATIC.

FAR EAST.

2 Jap troop-ships south of the PHILIPPINES.

A Jap transport and a freighter in SULU ARCHIPELAGO.

BURMA.

Targets at WANLING.

Targets on the TIDDIM Road.

28-9-44 (Thursday).

EUROPE (German-occupied).

DAY:—

War industries at MAGDEBURG, KASSEL and MERSEBURG.

Support to ground troops in HOLLAND.

Railway-targets and shipping in the SCHELDT estuary.

Road and rail communications at EMMERICH.

Railway communications in COBLENZ, FRANKFURT MANNHEIM, KARLSRUHE, AACHEN and DUSSELDORF (all in Germany).

Offensive sweeps over ALBANIA, YUGOSLAVIA and GREECE.

NIGHT:—

Objectives in BRUNSWICK.

Air-fields behind the enemy's lines.

ITALY.

Rail-lines and roads along the N.W. ITALIAN coast.

Enemy shipping in the ADRIATIC.

FAR EAST.

Shipping near the Central PHILIPPINES (65 Jap ships and 36 Jap aircraft destroyed).

Targets on HARIEKOE and NAMLEA.

Air-fields, oil-installations and runaways

at CERAM.

FUILORE (Timor).

Jap freighters off BALIKPAPAN and S. E. of KENDARI (Celebes).

BURMA.

No information.

29-9-44. (Friday).

EUROPE (German-occupied).

DAY:—

Industrial plants at MERSEBURG.

Railway-yards at MAGDEBURG.

A tank-factory at KASSEL.

Communications and supplies behind the SIEGFRIED Line.

Targets in the battle area.

NIGHT:—

Military targets in KARLSRUHE.

Laying mines in enemy waters.

ITALY.

Rail installations South of MILAN.

Shipping in the ADRIATIC.

FAR EAST.

4 Jap freighters off BORNEO.

BURMA.

Troop concentrations in the BUTHIDAUNG area.

Shipping in the Gulf of MARTABAN.

30-9-44 (Saturday).

EUROPE (German-occupied).

DAY:—

Railway marshalling-yards at HAMM, MUNSTER and BIELEFELD (Germany).

Synthetic oil-plants at BOTTROP and STERKRADE (Ruhr).

Targets in the battle area.

Communications in the RUHR and the RHINELAND.

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy waters.

RUSSIA.

Russian positions near RIGA (Latvia).

FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

28-9-44 (Thursday).

TO

1-10-44 (Sunday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

25-9-44 (Monday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST

No enemy air activity.

26-9-44 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

27-9-44. Wednesday.

BRITAIN.

No information.

ENEMY AIR-RAIDS.**SIDE LIGHTS.****BASE ALLEGATIONS.**

We are glad that the first task that Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for India set to himself after his return from his recent visit to ITALY was to repudiate certain base allegations against the Indian soldier. Though good wine needs no bush, there is no knowing to what length wilful misrepresentation will go, especially when mixed up with politics. The U. S. A. is on the eve of a presidential election, and malignity has crossed ocean barriers to malign the Indian soldier.

True to his best traditions, the Indian soldier is fighting for his King and Country; he is true as steel and steadfast in duty. All the world knows it, not only the Allies who

are fighting against the Axis but the Axis itself. The Italians know him as the late avenger who drove them out of their 'empire'. The Germans know him too as the irresistible force expelling him from ITALY. The Indian soldier was among the first to rush to BRITAIN's help when she stood alone, the foremost to save the MIDDLE EAST, and the spearhead when JAPAN crept along the Assam border to invade his motherland. His has been a dour fight for five long years, without rest or intermission, in every climate, in all weathers, in valley and mountain, in jungle and flood—fight against man and beast and disease. Yet he has never grumbled. West or East he is among the most trusted, the most loyal and the bravest of the empire's soldiers.

But who can stop the mouth of calumny? He has been called a mercenary and a coward; mercenary because he receives pay and a coward because the Burmese campaign is slow.

The charge of being a mercenary is strange indeed, as if anybody can work without pay with which to feed his family. The American soldier receives much more pay, and yet no one has called him a mercenary!

All the three millions soldiers in the Indian Army are volunteers. Not one is conscripted. Every recruiting office is overcrowded, and the enlistment is limited only by the limitations of equipment and the facilities for training.

Malignity has ascribed the success of Indian recruiting to the famine prevailing in certain parts of INDIA. But as a matter of fact it has been just the other way. The fact is that owing to the advent of famine or to be more correct, the high prices which war conditions have created, agricultural profits have risen beyond the cultivators' wildest dreams, and the aspirant to the Indian army is not offered a pay which will wean him from the land and the lure of the cultivator's profit, without the risks of war service far from his home, wife and children.

Moreover, the recruits, we are told, come only from certain areas and classes, as if this phenomenon were peculiar to INDIA. Do not British seamen come largely from South ENGLAND. The causes are historical, and are not due to lack of faith or enthusiasm in any geographical area or community.

To the calumny that the Indian is a poor soldier, with low morale the history of Indian heroism in every theatre of war, on land, at sea, and in the air is the answer.

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INDIA'S SHIELD.

The 14th Army, to quote Mr. Churchill, is INDIA's shield, and yet its work has been belittled by envious criticism, which has compared it adversely with Stilwell's capture of MYITKYINA. The 14th Army's fight on the Burmese frontier has been called a failure, and stalemate. No one wishes to minimise the American effort to fly supplies to CHINA over the Himalayan 'hump' and to reopen the Burma Road. But that is no reason why injustice should be done to the 14th Army, which has fought and won the largest land-battle yet against JAPAN. To quote Mr. Churchill again:—

'The fighting on the Burma front throughout the year has been the most severe and continuous, and there were times when the issue in particular localities appeared to hang in doubt. However, ten Japanese divisions, which were launched against us with the object of invading INDIA and cutting the airline, have been repulsed and largely

shattered, as a result of the bloody and costly campaign which is still being continued in spite of the monsoon season.

"I think these facts ought to be known and given wide publicity, as I am sure they will be, now that I have stated them, because the campaign of Admiral Mountbatten on the Burma frontier constitutes—and this is a startling fact—the largest and most important ground-fight that has yet taken place against the armies of Japan.

Far from being an insignificant or disappointing stalemate, it constitutes the greatest collision which has yet taken place on land with JAPAN, and has resulted in the slaughter of between 50,000 and 60,000 Japanese and the capture of several hundred prisoners'.

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Mr. CHURCHILL'S SURVEY OF THE WAR.

The above quotation is from the Premier's review of the war before the House of Commons on Sep. 28. Speaking immediately on his return from the Quebec meeting, his survey was not a summing-up of war events so much as it was a review of the political and military situation. Moreover, with the liberation of most of the Axis-occupied countries in EUROPE and the entry into GERMANY itself, the war in the West is drawing to a close. Regular warfare in this theatre will soon be over, and what remains will be some sort of guerilla fighting inside Germany, and the mopping of the Nazis in their home-land, which may take time. But the Allies are not going to wait till the last Nazi desperado has been booked, but at a certain date the Allies will declare the war closed in EUROPE and transfer their forces to ASIA for the next fight. Already British naval forces, which have been modernised and tropicalised for the purpose, have been sent to eastern waters.

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THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

As we said, Mr. Churchill's survey is in the main political. Never he said, has the alliance of the Powers against GERMANY been more cordial. As an illustration of the difference between Nazi tyranny and Allied generosity he pointed out how States that were lately Axis satellities—or 'Allies' as they were called by the Axis—now heartily fight against the Axis. The Finns and the Rumanians are doing this, and the Germans in revenge, as usual, are burning and pillaging the homes of their late friends, before they evacuate the lands on which they had battered for years. In contrast, the Allies who had every reason to punish these culprit States for their intransigence, have been generous beyond expectation in the armistice terms they have granted. BULGARIA's armistice alone is still under negotiation, because she has been the foulest of the Axis satellities who have so far surrendered. In the words of the Premier, she must work her passage home for a long time to come, and make amends by herself expelling the hated invaders from her territory.

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POLAND

is a case apart. For her, BRITAIN unsheathed her sword. But BRITAIN is also vitally concerned with the problem of securing a safe frontier for RUSSIA, which is impossible except by a readjustment of the Russo-Polish frontier. BRITAIN's present endeavour is to pilot the most delicate negotiations now going on between RUSSIA and POLAND, to conclusions which will satisfy both.

ITALY

is turning over a new leaf. Badoglio is doing his best to place the Italian forces—especially the naval forces—under Allied control. Prince Umberto is growing popular. But ITALY should not fall a prey to internal dissensions, which unfortunately have not yet ceased; nor can her affairs be settled finally before the whole of ITALY has been liberated.

FRANCE,

rescued after 4 years of agony is trying to re-form a state out of the ruins to which the Nazis had reduced her. The British hope is that she will soon emerge as a strong, independent and friendly Power.

TIME'S REVENGE.

The whirligig of time has brought its revenges. GERMANY is now experiencing the suffering that she has inflicted on others. All the misery that the *Luftwaffe* brought to unoffending millions has now come back to her weeping mothers, children torn from parents, evacuated cities, refugees blocking the roads, mobilisation of old and young of either sex to dig trenches, the home return of the broken soldier, the expulsion of civilians from the lands of their late occupation, the trickle of deserters, the dislocation of transport of food—and a thousand and other horrors of anarchy and defeat.

Moreover, the horrors of a new revenge are taking shape. With General Eisenhower's radio—call to the foreign workers—in GERMANY some 14,000,000 men—are preparing to rise against the Reich from within. It is going to be the world's biggest and latest Fifth Column in action. British and American engineers smuggled into GERMANY to organise them into sabotage groups, have been supplied with their own news service and listening posts. They are waiting for the moment to throw off their German jailors and guards.

Meanwhile the Nazi clique holds on desperately to the sinking ship of state, seized with the new terror of punishment to war criminals resolved on at QUEBEC.

RESIGNATION.

Gently the German Propaganda Ministry, shorn of its audacity is promising a magic turn of events and a change in German fortunes after winter, with the making of new weapons and is preacting a new philosophy of resignation of which we reproduce a sample: Speaking of the break-away of GERMANY's late 'allies', Rudolf Semmler, one of Dr. Goebbels propaganda spokesmen says:—

"When a family has drawn a winner at a lottery it finds it difficult to protect itself from the assiduities of relatives. Aunts and cousins never heard of before, suddenly appear. Family ties which never existed before are suddenly renewed among general protestations of mutual sympathy. Neighbours, too, begin to show a strong inclination for friendship.

"When, however, the happy winner gets into difficulties, everything assumes a different aspect. He may have a streak of bad luck financially, he may have gambled or lost his millions through difficult circumstances. While before he used to lead a luxury life, now he must again live on his daily earnings. This is sad, but he has no

other choice than to resign himself to the fact that this kind of life is bearable as well. His beloved relatives, however, who had till then done everything they could to supply evidence of their close kinship, now quickly retire from their impoverished surroundings. While he lived in luxury, all his friends and relatives had indulged in manifestations of solidarity. Now, no one is inclined to pay his debts or to restore his business. One can only say: Relatives behave like this. Thus allies behave: FINLAND, for instance, which up to now was much respected by us.'

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PROGRESS OF THE WAR: There has been nothing more audacious in military history than the landing of the British air-borne army in **ARNHEM.** **HOLLAND** on Sep. 17 across a length of 60 miles of hostile territory. The eyes of all the world were rivetted on the turn of events in the tiny village of **ARNHEM** where the gallant men had landed, at the northern end of the long battle-line along the German frontier. The event was of the highest importance, as its purpose was to break through the network of the waterways of the Rhine, and to turn the enemy's defence line. Appreciating the great danger, the enemy came out in strength and cut the line of communications of the land forces pushing up to the relief of the air-borne men.

Great as was the adventure, it had its limitations. All talks of jumping over the Siegfried Line by air are due to the ignorance of this limiting factor. In the words of the *Times* 'air-borne forces, as at present constituted, provide an exceedingly sharp but relatively fragile weapon'. In other words, their success depends on the swiftness with which relief is brought to them by land forces, that is on the speed with which land forces can join up with them. Air-borne forces must be written off, unless relief comes by land in a day or two. They cannot hold out longer. It was by a miracle, in fact, that the **ARNHEM** heroes held out for nine days. The delay in the arrival of relief was due to as many as 4 hurdles—Endhoven, Grave, Nijmegen, and **ARNHEM** having to be crossed by relieving forces. Three of them were cleared but not the fourth. **ARNHEM** had to be given up. But the struggle of the Arnhem heroes had not been in vain. They had enabled the land forces to establish themselves on the Maas and near the Rhine.

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ALL HONOUR TO THE They have won undying fame, and Gen. Montgomery's
ARNHEM HEROES. tribute is in these great words:—

'There is no shadow of doubt that had you failed operations elsewhere would have been gravely compromised. You did not fail, and all is well elsewhere.

'I would like all Britain to know that in the final message from Arnhem area you said; 'All will be ordered to break out rather than surrender. We attempted our best and we continue to do our best as long as possible.'

'There can be few episodes more glorious than the epic of Arnhem, and those that follow after it will find it hard to live up to the standards you have set.

'So long as we have in the armies of the British Empire officers and men who will do as you have done, we can indeed look forward with complete confidence to the future.

CALAIS HAS BEEN CAPTURED and with it CAP GRIS NEZ, from which the Nazis have been shelling across the channel these four years. The long tribulation of DOVER is over at last. No more shells will be fired on her from the CALAIS artillery, there will be no more seeking of safety in the cave shelters in the hills. Victory flags are to-day flying in the streets of DOVER, over houses and cinemas. Men and women go dancing and singing in the streets, cheered by the men who are rebuilding their houses torn by the shells. DOVER's heroism is no less than Arnhem's or any other. For four long years DOVER stood out like a sentinel on the channel coast, facing every blast of Nazi fury. Still DOVER never gave up its normal life; her citizens refused to evacuate but preferred to endure dive-bombing and machine-gunning in addition to shell fire, thereby winning the unenviable appellation of 'hell-fire corner.'

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IN HOLLAND, the enemy has been cleared out of the big bend of the Maas and from most of the triangle between the Waal and the Lek. The Turnhout canal is being forced.

Along the Siegfried line a new major offensive has flared up.

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ON THE EASTERN FRONT, ESTONIA has been completely liberated. The battle of CZECHOSLOVAKIA has begun, and the battle of AUSTRIA is not far off. Russian, Rumanian, and Yugoslav forces are fighting in HUNGARY.

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IN ITALY, the Gothic Line is gone; the historic Rubicon has been crossed, and the Allies are making for BOLOGNA.

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INSIDE BURMA, the battle for TIDDIM is near at hand.

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IN THE PACIFIC more islands have been occupied in the PALAU Group.

LIBERATION OF BELGIUM. PEOPLE'S HAPPINESS.

(By Alexander Clifford in the Daily Mail).

Although the fighting forces have raced ahead across the frontiers into Holland and Germany, there was one aspect of our liberation of Belgium which is worth emphasising and recording. In that country we saw the real, genuine reactions of a people restored to freedom. You can measure how much freedom was worth to them by the unquenchable outbreak of enthusiasm and hospitality. If confirmation were needed, that was confirmation of the overwhelming rightness of what we are fighting for.

I was entertained in a dozen Belgian homes. Always they asked how the welcome had impressed me and whether it was warm enough.

That was the point about Brussels. We saw the expression of an emotion that was indescribably inspiring. It astonished the Germans too. Prisoners as they passed back through the city stared in unbelieving dismay at the crowd scenes.

The Belgians brought out all their hoarded reserves for us. The Belgians obviously knew how to handle the occupation. They have an abiding faith that no occupation will ever last for long. So they have brilliantly and consistently withheld things from the Germans.

They have a little story about it. They saw that in Holland the Dutch were staunch and courageous, unaccustomed to occupation. When the Germans ordered a Dutchman to hand something over, the Dutchman did not reply. So the Germans just took it. In France, where the people are just as brave but more hot-blooded, the Frenchman answered: "No". So the German knocked him down and took it. But in Belgium, the canny Belgians answered: "Yes, yes". And the German found he got nothing at all.

The Belgians have worked on this principle all through the war. They have hoarded and saved always in full confidence of liberation. There was not a household without its bottle of champagne to celebrate the victory, its little stock of pre-war cigars and its tiny store of real coffee. The Germans never understood. They started by being obsequiously friendly and when that did not work they were correct. But no Belgian house or club ever opened its door to a German. People would not even go to the same restaurants.

The Germans tried propaganda. At Courtrai, when some Allied bombs fell in a working-class quarter, they paraded the crew of a crashed Fortress through the stricken streets. And the people stood among their ruined homes, clapped and cheered. Then the Germans turned to oppression, torture and finally savage looting—though they went so fast, that they did not have much time for the last item. They left behind a legacy of hate which undoubtedly baffled and astonished them.

The country is putting on its newly recovered freedom smoothly and easily. But it is putting it on with a mighty flourish. There seems no end to the ingenuity with which people are showing their pleasure. The reality of this enthusiasm is proved by its staying power and its spontaneity.

BACK TO LUXEMBOURG AFTER FOUR YEARS. PRINCE PRAISES PEOPLE'S FAITH.

(By H. E. Madol).

Back in London for a short while the Prince Consort and the hereditary Grand Duke of Luxembourg have been telling me of their three days stay in their liberated capital. There has been no more glorious moment in their lives than this return to their city, four years and four months under the jackboot. An outburst of enthusiasm swept almost the whole population into the streets, all eager to know when the Grand Duchess too is coming home.

"I was among the first to enter Paris, still haunted by snipers," said the Prince Consort. "Things were not different in Luxembourg city whose people had only just emerged from the nightmare. As in Paris, they had already begun to celebrate the liberation when the Germans briefly came back. Hostages were taken and shot when the Gauleiter returned for a few days".

The Prince crossed the frontier near Rodange whence the Grand Duchess and he had left in May 1940. He was too excited to look whether the barriers still showed the Luxembourg colours. Arriving at a small village of the Grand Duchy near the French border he thought that he would escape recognition but was immediately detected, borne in triumph around the market place and invited to taste local beer.

“And at last the good news came. I was told that the Germans were pulling out and offering no resistance in the capital. By a long route I was able to reach the town. The Maquis paraded, magnificent in their loyalty, well organised; I learned there were several thousands of them: people who had lived for months in the forests of Ardennes, always ready to fight the Germans.”

“What about the Quisling, Grat Zenberg?”

“He had left with the Germans, saying that otherwise he was sure to be killed, and he muttered something about coming back later on to justify himself before a Luxembourg tribunal.”

The young hereditary Grand Duke, Prince John, who now holds a commission in the Irish Guards, gave me an account of his momentous meeting with his father in the liberated town, for they had travelled here separately. The prince was a school-boy when he was forced to leave his country in 1940. Now he is filled out and has lately grown a small moustache. At first the people did not recognize him when, in a British lieutenant's uniform, he inquired near the palace for the Prince of Luxembourg.

“‘When is the Grand Duchess coming? When is Prince Joan coming?’ they kept asking,” he said to me. “And I took some pleasure in mystifying them for a moment before revealing my identity. From that moment onwards I was unable to walk three yards in Luxembourg; I was continually borne along shoulder-high among cheering crowds. My father made a short speech and I too was asked to talk to the people.”

Three big Luxembourg papers run by the Germans for four years and four months reappeared in their old guise on the day after liberation. It was a considerable achievement, for there was no electric current, not much machinery and very little paper.

Prince Joan concluded: “Our Avenue de la Liberté has been converted into an Adolf Hitler Street, but I knew this night that it had earned its old name again.”—
“Evening Standard.”

TONE OF FRENCH AND BELGIAN PRESS

“SERIOUS AND UNSENSATIONAL”

(By *Vernon Bartlett in the News Chronicle*).

The first batches of French and Belgian newspapers printed since liberation have reached London. Almost without exception, they have returned to the pre-war format and type, although they now consist of two pages only; and paper supplies are so short, that it may be difficult to maintain the issue even of this single sheet.

One typographical exception is the title of the famous Paris *Soir*, which has a new title *Liberation*—superimposed in large letters upon it. One exception to the rule of single sheet is that of the Paris *Figaro*, which comes out on Fridays with four pages, of which two constitute its traditional Literary Supplement.

Nothing about French papers substantiates the picture given by some British and American war correspondents of Paris as the world's playground, in which most of the inhabitants concentrate their attention upon women's fashions. Indeed the general tone of the Press is serious, unsensational. Even war news takes up less space than discussion of political, social and economic problems.

It is clear from the French Press that the description by some British correspondents of isolated acts of vengeance against "collaborationists" is looked upon as unfair. Most members of the French Maquis are very young, and the hatred which German behaviour has instilled in them might well have found expression in much more violent acts of retribution. Paper after paper emphasises that "collaborationists" must be handed over to the authorities for trial. It is also clear that there will be many more such trials than we who have escaped enemy occupation might have expected.

The most impressive feature about Paris newspapers is the obvious recognition by young men of the resistance movement that despite the newly acquired freedom of speech, France will need rigid discipline in order to maintain unity.

There is similar seriousness about Belgian papers, although the resistance movement differs considerably from that of France. This would seem to be due to two causes. One is that the older men, who organised resistance during the last war, have played a great part during the present one. The second reason is that the Belgian army, unlike much of the French, has not been interned or imprisoned in Germany. It has, therefore, been able to help considerably in underground resistance.

The first newspapers appeared in Brussels within 48 hours of liberation, and the editorial staffs consisted exclusively of journalists who had refused all kinds of collaboration with newspapers published under German control during the occupation.

The Brussels Socialist paper *Le Peuple* of September 5 gave prominence to a manifesto of the Socialist Party demanding justice, liberty and peace.

The Brussels *Soir* of September 7 carried a great headline: "Press is free and Government will exercise no censorship."

All together, the newspapers have expressed their relief that literally and figuratively the people of Belgium may again open their windows and breathe freely. Belgian enthusiasm over the arrival of the British is unbounded, and much of the *Soir's* precious two pages on September 8 was given to a photograph of Montgomery over the caption: "Delirious Welcome to Conqueror of Normandy".

In Brussels, as in Paris, most of the leading articles have dealt with the sober duties of the people. They are urged to take every step to stop the black-market, to give up their produce and to prevent national hunger. On the basis of these first free newspapers, it may be said that the people of France and Belgium are facing the armies of liberation with far fewer problems than the leaders of those armies had dared to hope.

“MAN WHO HAD FORGOTTEN HOW TO LAUGH.”

DIARY OF A GERMAN SOLDIER.

(From the Daily Mail).

This is the diary of a German soldier in Italy, one of the men who—in his own phrase—“have forgotten how to laugh”. He was Staff Sergeant in the 44th (Hoch(?) Deutsch Meister) Infantry Division. Now he is a prisoner of the Eighth Army.

His report begins in June and ends in August, 1944. After that, our diarist was fighting too desperately to write. But the final entry should read: “When the British captured the whole garrison of Monte Foresto, the shattered specimen of a warrior was among them”.

Extracts from the diary include:

June 13.—Heavy packs and no transport. Can hardly stand.

June 14.—Attacked by fighter-bombers. Air swarms with enemy planes. Ambushed.

June 15.—Nothing to eat and no money.

June 26.—Pretty dismal in company. Many losses.

July 8.—Plagued with mosquitoes. No sleep. Air-attack again.

July 10.—Rain and lice.

July 25.—Cannot travel in daylight. Two of our men killed. We took 30 hostages. Wailing of women. They are to be shot on the spot. Horrible. I can't face the sight.

July 29.—Rations get short. No cigarettes.

July 30.—Letter from wife. Things pretty dismal at home.

August 6.—Tommies shooting with heavy mortars. Affects morale. Our job is to bring in prisoners but no success.

August 8.—Sergeant Fischer lost right foot. Great pain, but his chaps don't bother about him.

August 10.—Rations arrive, but mortar demolished our house. Saw 20 Tommies. Didn't shoot, too weak.

August 20.—Rations becoming thin. Company withdraws in midst of artillery fire. Shot-up in a ravine.

August 21.—Built new positions. Then orders to take other positions. Everyone curses. Have become indifferent. Am wet through, and no bread left. Swearing and curses continue. One man collapses and I stay with him. Horrible thirst: I drink from a puddle. Then Tommy attacks and we wait for what is coming.

August 22.—Intense artillery fire right on our positions. Fox-holes half finished. Screaming on my right. I lie flat and pray. I think of wife and child. Corporal loses nerve. We quarrel. I order section into chapel. Shells pound chapel. Corporal falls wounded. We would like those gentlemen who rule our destiny to see the way we live here, looking death in the eye every minute. We are men who have forgotten how to laugh. Even the wrist-watch from my dear wife has stopped.

HITLER'S MOST EVIL "SECRET WEAPON" CONQUERED ATTEMPT TO SPREAD MALARIA.

(From the Daily Mail).

The most evil "secret weapon" that the Germans yet conceived has been put into operation in Italy and it has been conquered.

Berlin scientists enlisted the aid of an insect and sought to exterminate our armies. If they had succeeded, hundreds of thousands of Italian civilians—men, women and children alike—would also have been wiped out.

Hitler's plan, which depended on the fact that his ally Japan holds the world's supply of quinine, was deliberately to propagate the malaria mosquito. The retreating Germans always flooded the vast reclaimed marshes which form so great a part of Italy. But the authorities noticed that the enemy were also removing mosquito screens, smashing pumps and diverting water from canals, not merely to run them dry but to produce the widest possible areas of bogs which are ideal malaria breeding-grounds.

Confirmation of our suspicions came when the malaria rate among the Italians over wide areas rose to three and four times the normal rate. Then we got definite information that moving back with the German armies were Nazi entomologists. In one of the most potentially dangerous areas two of Germany's best-known scientists were at work.

Colonel Paul Russel of the Rockefeller Foundation was at once made Chief-Malariologist to the Allies. As Supreme Commander of this particular campaign, he has definitely won his war. He has just made a complete report on this great battle. He says that at one time it threatened complete paralysis of civilian activity.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

(8) FOUNDATIONS OF FREEDOM.

AGRICULTURE.

Speakers:—Mr. Wickham Steed (Chairman).

Sir John Russell.

Sir Malcolm Darling.

(Broadcast in the B. B. C.'s Eastern Service at 9.45 p. m. on Monday,
September, 18, 1944).

Steed: We have been told by President Roosevelt that one of the great objects after the war is to have **freedom from want** in the world. Well, for hundreds of millions of people, freedom from want means being able to get enough to eat.

Russell: That's what they thought at Hot Springs.

Steed: Yes, Russell, and they discovered that they couldn't discuss freedom from want without **freedom from hunger**. Hunger was the first thing.

Darling : The Bengal famine showed that with brutal clearness. Now we're told that after the war the whole world will be faced with a general shortage of food, and in that case food is an important problem for us all.

Steed : Yes, Darling, I think that's obvious.

Russell : Yes, I think you can take it so. But the more important problem is that the peasants of all countries should have a decent standard of life.

Darling : They've had a pretty raw deal in the past.

Russell : Yes, and the greater part of the population of most countries are peasants, who are still living very much below a decent standard. I think they have seen and realised that there are better standards than they have got, and I think they're firmly resolved that they shall get it for themselves, or at least see that their children get it. Unless the world is determined to have a better standard of life for its peasant populations after the war, I can't see any prospect for peace in the future.

Steed : And if there is no prosperity in the world anywhere, you won't have the large markets for industrial products.

Russell : More serious, there may well be the prospect of revolution in every peasant country.

Steed : You think the peasant no longer accepts his low standard of living as inevitable?

Russell : Most decidedly I do: he has seen that there is another kind of life.

Steed : Take an instance I happen to know of. In 1917, in order to forestall Bolshevism, Rumania brought in a great agrarian reform, as a result of which the landlords were left with estates of not more than 1,200 acres, quite enough to walk round, but still nothing like the old estates; those were broken up among the peasants. The peasants now being better off began to eat wheat instead of maize. One result was that the valuable export of wheat from Rumania dropped considerably. On the other hand, the Rumanian peasant got a better standard of living.

Russell : Before the last war there had been two systems of land tenure in large parts of Europe. There were the large estates, and there were the peasants with their little holdings. The peasants naturally multiplied more rapidly than the big land-owners, and so there arose a considerable pressure of population on the land; and the result was, their little holdings were split up as their families grew, and they absolutely had to get more land somehow. It was not only a necessity, but they felt they had right on their side, they had the idea that the land belongs to the man who tills it.

Darling : In India too, the peasant just hungers for land, and no wonder considering how little he had to cultivate—in six provinces the average is less than six acres, and nowhere is it much more.

Steed :—And the rapidly increasing population must make matters worse.

Darling : It does. And the result is, where the big landlord exists, some would take away his land and give it to the peasant. There is a good deal to be said for this where the landlord is not doing his job, but where he helps his tenants and develops his land, he can be of the greatest use. When I was in Germany in 1920, I asked Germany's leading agricultural authority, Max Sering, which system he thought

best—the landlord system or the peasant proprietor. He said: 'A judicious mixture of the two, for you can't expect the peasant proprietor with his small resources to undertake risky experiments. The best person to do that is the landlord'.

Russell : Provided he takes an interest in the land, and is not a mere collector of rents.

Darling : Certainly, and where he doesn't take an interest, I think he should make way for the peasant, if the maximum amount of food is to be got out of the land. On the other hand, if he does take an interest—and I have come across as good landlords as you could wish—he can do a lot to increase food supply, and add to its variety by growing fruit and keeping good livestock. What do you think, Russell?

Russell : I wouldn't say it was absolutely essential to have the landlord, after all; the Danes have succeeded pretty well without him—but they did it by developing a strong co-operative movement among the small men.

Darling : Ah, that's a different matter. If India could develop a strong co-operative movement, things might be very different, and are indeed surprisingly different where this has been done; but at present these areas are far too few, though they are, I think, gradually increasing.

Steed : Well, our first conclusion seems to be: the landlord must either do his job or make way for the peasant, who needs more land.

Russell : Yes, that was the chief purpose of the agrarian reforms in Eastern Europe; but though that has meant more land for the peasant and more small farms, it hasn't meant a higher standard of living for the peasant. You see, the small farm isn't really suitable for grain production, and you can only get a high standard of living out of grain production on a large farm, where you have a few workers and thorough mechanisation.

Steed : Are you making out a case for the collective farms as in Russia?

Russell : No, I am not; that sort of thing can only be done where you have large farms with a low density of population. Over most of Europe you can't do it, because generally you have got a big peasant population and an immense lot of small farms; and where you have that sort of thing you can't have thorough mechanisation; if you concentrate on grain, there is no chance of a good standard of living for the peasant. This he can have only if he goes in for mixed farming with livestock or market-gardening.

Darling . I entirely agree with you, Russell, that for a prosperous peasantry you must have some kind of mixed farming. The point was stressed by Calvert, 22 years ago, in his book: "The Wealth and Welfare of the Punjab". But these ideas take a long time to percolate, and there is still too little variety of crops, and even less variety of livestock. But what's been the effect of splitting up the large properties in Eastern Europe? Has it encouraged mixed farming?

Russell : Where there was a possibility of developing mixed farming, it has; but it isn't always easy. For one thing the peasant has to be taught how to run a mixed farm, and a good deal of education—technical education—is necessary, and also sufficient moral education to enable them to work together, to co-operate, because with mixed

farming it isn't possible for one peasant to make his own little holding perfectly self-contained. He can't, for instance, keep a bull when he has only got two or three cows—it has got to be a collective or communal animal, and there are many other things that are beyond them individually, but which can be done far better by a co-operative society. Moreover, with mixed farming the peasant can't market his produce any more easily than with the older kind of farming; his wife may go to the market with a few eggs and some fruit and vegetables, but he is very apt to get into the hands of the middleman who is also the money-lender, and as you know the money-lender is the curse of the peasant's life.

Steed: That, of course, applies particularly to India.

Darling: Yes, and there too the co-operative society is badly needed to deal with him, the only good way in fact. But there is another great obstacle to mixed farming, the fragmentation of holdings, and not only in India. When I was in Bulgaria in 1938, I went to visit a village not very far from Sofia, and was told with great pride by the headman of the village that their holdings had just been consolidated, and that his was the first village in Bulgaria to have this done. I was able to tell him, I confess with some satisfaction, that in the Punjab we had already consolidated over a million acres. I might also have mentioned the Central Provinces where too a large area had been consolidated. I fancy what's true of Bulgaria is true of a large part of Eastern Europe.

Russell: Oh yes, one meets problems very like those one meets in many parts of India. The land is fragmented; the peasant is poor, and very much in the hands of the money-lender; also the peasant is tied by social custom to do all sorts of things really beyond his means, and there is no way of getting out of them. Then, too, there is heavy concentration on grain; in India 70 per cent of the cultivated land is under grain, and in eastern Galicia it's something like 75 per cent.

Darling: Fragmentation is the worst possible hindrance to agricultural progress and where it exists an increase of food on a large scale is out of the question. Italy and France have both found this. Fragmentation, says an Italian report, makes a better future impossible for nine out of ten small holders.

Russell: I would agree: the trouble of course is that the Peasant doesn't like the idea of consolidation at first—he likes to stick to his little strips.

Darling: And it's the devil of a business to persuade him to give them up.

Russell: There is, after all, some element of social justice in those little strips. Each man was supposed to have his share of the good land and the bad land. The fundamental trouble is that you can't introduce any modern improvements into those strips, and so the peasant has either to be persuaded or cajoled into consolidating them.

Darling: In the Punjab and the Central Provinces it has nearly all been done by persuasion.

Russell: In Poland they found that mere persuasion was not quite sufficient; but fortunately, the Polish peasant saw that when the holding was in one piece he could introduce better methods and use better implements, and could not only get more out of an acre of the land but also could get more out of a day's work.

Darling : The benefits are so great that in the Punjab consolidation adds from 15 to 25 per cent to the peasant's income. In fact there is no quicker way of adding to his income.

Steed : Well, it looks as if our second conclusion should be that where holdings are badly fragmented they should be consolidated. It occurs to me too that consolidation might be the first step towards a collective farm. Now Russell, you've been in Russia. What's your opinion about their collective farms? Could India adopt them with advantage?

Russell : The conditions are so different that I don't think India could directly adopt them, though indirectly, of course, Indian experts can learn a great deal from a study of the results, just as the English experts have done. Collectivism succeeded in Russia because there were still large tracts of undeveloped land and no population pressure on the land. In India you have a very heavy population pressure, but there aren't corresponding areas of land suitable for cultivation not yet taken up.

Darling : That may be, but as I expect you know, a very large area—nearly 100 million acres in British India—is officially described as culturable though not actually cultivated. Dr. Gorrie of the Indian Forest Service suggests that a large part of this area could be made to grow more food if broken up with the help of such novel means as bulldozers, road-graders, and explosives, all of which should be to spare after the war. It sounds a bit optimistic, but if this could be done, it would add considerably to the food supply, and might even provide a field for experiments with the collective farm.

Russell : A great deal could no doubt be done if water could be found to irrigate it; and of course, as dry farming is improved so you can push out the limits of cultivation. In Russia, since 1920, the sown areas have increased *pari passu*, with the population—the population has gained round about 30 per cent, and the sown area about 27 per cent.

Steed : In India too, population has increased enormously. Has cultivation kept pace with it as in Russia?

Russell : The latest statistics show that the production of food crops has increased rather more rapidly than population. These were published in 1939, and since then there has been a striking increase in the area under food crops. So I think we may say that at present India is holding her own in the matter of food in spite of the enormous increase in population.

Darling : I hope indeed it may be so, but even if it is, it is being done at a terribly low level of subsistence; and you, Russell, suggested earlier, the peasant is not likely to accept this indefinitely, certainly not those who have fought in the war. It is, therefore, a case of more food, and still more food; and it was in this connection that I was wondering whether the collective farm would be of any use. You said just now, it has succeeded in Russia, but a remark in Sir John Maynard's book: "The Russian Peasant" puzzles me. He says that the collective farms have not increased the produce per acre. If this is so, in what sense have they succeeded?

Russell : I think he probably got that figure from me.

Darling : Well, that makes it all the more authoritative, and all the more puzzling.

Russell : I prefer to put it this way ; it isn't clear that there has been any increase in yield per acre of grain. The figures just zigzag up and down, as they always have done. What has happened has been that fewer men are now required to produce the same amount of food, and so men have been released for work in the factories.

Steed : When were you last in Russia, Sir John ?

Russell : Just before the war, but I was there first in 1930.

Steed : After the period of complete tractorisation ?

Russell : No, in 1930 when it was beginning.

Steed : In 1936 the Economic Attaché of the German Embassy in Moscow—a very important man—wrote a report to Dr. Schacht in which he said : “ Don't imagine when you invade Russia that you can get any welcome from the peasants in the Ukraine ; you might have got it years ago when there was famine and so on, but now, thanks to tractorisation, the land can be ploughed sometimes 18 inches deep in the very few days left between the harvest and the frosts, with the result that the winter seed goes in, and when the snow comes and covers it throughout the winter the seed is germinating slowly. So the spring thaw doesn't carry it away, as it used to when they could only scratch the surface with horse and handploughs. Hence you will never get the famine that you got before. You have a much greater productivity and the peasants are contented and healthy.”

Darling : I still feel a bit in the dark as to what effect the collective forms have had on Russia's food supply, but one thing seems clear enough : the peasant can no longer own most of his land or, if he is a tenant, have his own farm, and with the tractor everywhere in use, there must be less for him to do. Neither point would suit India ; the peasant is much too attached to his land to give it up, and he already has too little to do. The problem is to give him more to do, and to find not only food but also work for his increasing numbers.

Steed : Isn't the remedy, as in Russia, industrial development ?

Darling : To some extent, yes ; but the population is, I think, too large and is increasing too fast for it to be a complete remedy. Agricultural development is even more necessary, and that's where Dr. Gorrie's idea, if feasible, might be of great assistance. What do you think, Russell ?

Russell : The impression I got in India was that water was the limiting factor in any great extension of cultivation.

Darling : Yes, that's certainly true of the driest tracts, and even where the rainfall is sufficient for cultivation it is often too uncertain for any variety of crop. Clearly, therefore, everything possible should be done to increase the water supply by wells, tanks and canals. An enormous amount has already been done with canals, but a great deal of water still runs to waste down India's rivers, and even down her canals. According to one expert, only 50 per cent of the water entering a large canal reaches the fields.

Steed: We may well agree on the importance of increasing the supply of water, but here is another aspect of the question. I know some parts of France where, though the peasants have considerable holdings of land, the working of this land isn't enough to keep them occupied all the year round. They installed electrical power into their houses and put little lathes into them and started to make pipes—and they also do a certain amount of diamond work as well; and this keeps them occupied **during their slack periods. They combine craftsmanship and agriculture to such an extent that they have built up an extremely prosperous community.**

Now I imagine in India you will get a much wider distribution of electrical power, and you will then get the possibility of using small machines, and if the road problem can be solved, you will have better communications; and so by developing village craftsmanship, you will tend to increase the standard of living, even though the agricultural side is not so satisfactorily developed.

Darling: This would give the peasant more to do—a great advantage, no doubt, but it would not necessarily give him more food, which is our special subject to-day.

Steed: It would increase his purchasing power if the food could be got from outside.

Darling: Yes; but how much better to produce one's own food. India has one enormous advantage over small countries—a very large internal market, so large in fact that with a well-planned economy any food the peasant can produce he should be able to market.

Russell: It all depends, of course, what you mean by food. Food, broadly speaking, can be divided up into two groups: the calorie foods and the vitamin or protective foods. Now, it is possible that sufficient calories are produced in India; when one talks about the food supplies being adequate, it is really the calorie groups one thinks of.

Steed: By calorie foods you mean wheat and so on?

Russell: Well, not only wheat, all grain; rice and millets as well. But as regards protective foods I think there's not been a sufficiency.

Steed: And protective foods, what are they? Vegetables?

Russell: Mainly eggs, milk, fruit, vegetables. It is vitally important that they should be increased in India, because there is evidence of deficiency diseases due to lack of these things; and unless they're increased the standard of living for the average Indian can hardly be expected to rise.

Darling: I agree entirely. What is deficient in Indian diet is quality rather than quantity. Many have enough to eat—but very few have a sufficiently varied or balanced diet.

“HEADACHES FOR THE HUN”

(From the Madras War Review).

[Your generous subscriptions to the War Fund which have placed Madras at the very top of the list in India soon find their way to the hundred and one deserving causes. A

particularly special place in allotment is given to amenities for South Indian troops, whether at the front or on leave.]

It was Arthur Roberts, wasn't it, who, when his music-hall turn was interrupted by a cat walking across the stage, fixed the venturesome animal with a disapproving eye and said "go away, this is a monologue, not a catalogue"? Catalogues are useful things, though dull, but if you can think of a way in which to give an account of the financial side of the Madras Governor's War Fund without exercising the functions of a catalogue, I should like to know it. So here is a catalogue of what has been done with the money which the people of this Presidency have subscribed, and continue to subscribe with undiminished generosity, to the Governor's War Fund.

The Grand total (and I make no excuse for the adjective) at the time of writing is Rs. 3,17,03,525—7—11. With the assumption that the primary object of subscribers is to provide headaches for the Hun, it is legitimate to conjecture as to the magnitude of a headache costing Rs. 1,18,00,000, which is the sum remitted to GREAT BRITAIN FOR THE PROVISION OF AIRCRAFT. The 30 bombers and 60 fighters provided by the people of this Presidency have done us proud, and the districts of Madras which are their God-parents have followed their doings with pride, in the knowledge that if certain of Germany's cities are "missing" our planes have assisted their disappearance. It is good to be connected with brave men and to feel that we have some small share in their achievements.

40 LAKHS FOR AMENITIES.

As the war drew nearer to India, subscribers showed their realization of this unpleasant fact by earmarking their donations for other purposes. Thus 11 lakhs were utilized for the purchase of ARMoured CARRIERS, and no doubt as a result there are a number of Japanese who will slap no more faces—at any rate in this world. But there are other purposes than the destruction of the enemy for which war funds may be utilized, and the comfort of our fighting men is as important as the discomfiture of their foes. And so, much has been done for the serving soldier, sailor and airman. The sum of 40 lakhs has been earmarked by subscribers for AMENITIES TO TROOPS, and this large sum, of which approximately one-third is still unspent, has helped to render the lot of our fighting men less monotonous and more comfortable. You remember Mr. Noel Coward's wounded soldier who gave it as his opinion that "the Germans was all right and the 'eye-ties' was all right but the mosquitoes was bloody awful." The lesson we learn from that very human little story is that it is not physical danger which irks the soldier, but monotony and discomfort. And here I believe we have helped rather more than some what.

It is natural that amongst so large a body of subscribers views must sometimes differ as to what constitutes a legitimate "amenity", and how far existing civilian organizations should be subsidized in extending their activities to cater for the serving soldier. Why, it is sometimes said, should we pay money now, in order that the Y. M. C. A. or the Salvation Army, or other similar organisations should benefit after the war? To my mind there is only one question to be answered—Is there a need for extensions or what not in order to benefit the troops NOW? If there is, go ahead, and what does it matter who benefits after the war?

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE INDIAN SOLDIER.

It has been whispered, and it is as well that so wicked a lie should remain a whisper, that the War Fund caters primarily for British Troops and does nothing for Indian Troops. Let any one who is foolish enough to believe such a travesty of the truth visit the Joint War Charities Depôt and he, or may be she, will be provided with chapter and verse as to what has been done for that grand person, the Indian soldier. It is the aim of the War Fund to provide COMFORT FOR ALL TROOPS IN THE PRESIDENCY and for ALL MADRASSI TROOPS OUTSIDE IT. Sanction has been accorded to the payment of Rs. 60,000 for the entertainment of troops of the magnificent 14TH ARMY on leave in the Presidency. A recommendation now awaits the Executive Committee that Rs. 1,50,000 should be allotted to provide NEWSPAPERS IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE FOR THE TROOPS FROM THIS PRESIDENCY for the next twelve months. I have not with me at the moment a note of the cost of gramophones and vernacular records or of books in Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam supplied to Madrassi troops, but the Joint War Charities will tell you, and you will be surprised.

There can be no more suitable outlet for subscriptions to the War Fund than the improvement of the lot of PRISONERS OF WAR. For some little time we were chary of remitting money to THE CENTRAL RED CROSS, and were regarded in high places as parochial, but we wanted to be sure that goods which we paid for would reach those unfortunate soldiers who were in enemy hands. Once we were free of all doubt on the subject we helped to the fullest possible extent, and roughly 17½ lakhs of Rupees have been remitted from the War Fund.

NO DESERVING CAUSE FORGOTTEN.

Other deserving causes have not been forgotten. KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR SAILORS has had 4 lakhs, and MRS. AMERY'S FUND FOR INDIAN SEAMEN has had 3 lakhs. ST. DUNSTANS' where blinded soldiers are taught to overcome their disabilities, has received rupees 70,000 and we have received heartening letters from Sir CLUTHA MACKENZIE telling us what is being achieved at St. Dunstan's Hostel at Dehra Dun. CHRISTMAS time is not forgotten and this year, as last year, 20,000 PARCELS will be provided for Indian Troops outside the Presidency, and Christmas Dinners for all Troops in the country—This last huge undertaking being shared with the other Provinces through the administrative medium of the Adjutant-General's Fund.

Although I know of no written criticism of the way in which subscriptions to the War Fund are spent, it would be too much to hope that every single subscriber would agree that 3 crores of rupees have been spent in exactly the way that he himself would have chosen. But it is open to every subscriber to ensure that his own subscription is spent in precisely the way he desires. All he has to do is to earmark it for his own pet charity, and it will get there.

Hundreds of letters of appreciation have been received from officers commanding units, and from individual soldiers, sailors and airmen. They surely demonstrate, as nothing else could, that the work of the Governor's War Fund is worth doing. In the meantime take it from me that it is so.

'V' DIARY, 1945.

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**THE SECRETARY,
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU,
PUDUKKOTTAI. (South India).**

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

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

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CCXVIII (Batch 4).

7-10-44 Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.	10-10-44 Narttamalai	... 7.00 p. m.
8-10-44 Nirpalani	... 7.00 "	" Uppiliakkudi	... 7.30 "
" Avur	... 7.30 "	11-10-44 Vadavalam	... 7.00 "
9-10-44 Puttambur	... 7.00 "	" Sammattividuthi	... 7.30 "
" Vaittikkovil	... 7.30 "	12-10-44 Andakkulam	... 7.00 "
		" Killanur	... 7.30 "

LECTURE CCXIX (Batch 5).

17-10-44 Vellanur	... 7.00 p.m.	19-10-44 Malaikkudippatti	... 7.00 p. m.
" Sembattur	... 7.30 "	" Tulaiyanur	... 7.30 "
18-10-44 Piliyur	... 7.00 "	20-10-44 Pallivasal	... 7.00 "
" Kannangudi	... 7.30 "	" Pillamangalam	... 7.30 "

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

7-10-44 Tirumayyam.	17-10-44 Kudumiyamalai.
8-10-44 Tittanviduthi,	19-10-44 Alangudi.
10-10-44 Vadakadu.	20-10-44 Pudukkottai.
12-10-44 Kilanilai.	
13-10-44 Pudukkottai.	