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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 17.

LECTURE CCXXIV.

ALLIES NOW MASTERS OF EVERY SEA. CRIPPLING BLOWS AT GERMAN SHIPPING.

(By *Brian Taunstell*, naval correspondent of the *B. B. C.*)

Outstanding among recent naval events has been "the overwhelming victory" gained by two major sections of the United States Pacific fleet in the Philippine waters over practically the whole Japanese fleet. Tactically, the victory is stupendous enough: two Japanese battleships, four aircraft-carriers, six heavy cruisers and 12 other ships sunk, as well as 24 more in varying degrees damaged. Strategically, the victory is equally striking, since it means not only that General MacArthur's liberation of the Philippines goes on uninterrupted, but that the Japanese main fleet will never recover its strength and must, in any case, be out of action for some time to come.

Thus the Japanese fleet failed in its strategic object, namely, interference with MacArthur's liberation of the Philippines, and got badly beaten into the bargain. Its intervention, moreover was delayed till several days after the initial landings had been made good. Nevertheless, the Japanese three-fold plan of attack was boldly conceived and exceedingly menacing to MacArthur's position, and its defeat in such a decisive manner by forces operating so far from home is a great tribute to the American naval organisation.

The ships of another navy are also fighting far from home in the Philippines. Cruiser squadrons of the Royal Australian Navy were reported as having taken part in this battle. The Royal Australian Navy has hitherto provided the main striking force for all MacArthur's landing operations along the North coast of New Guinea. It has also been responsible for escorting all his supply convoys from Australian bases.

"TIRPITZ" IN TROUBLE AGAIN.

In European waters, the Royal Air Force again bombed the German battleship *Tirpitz* in an anchorage near Tromsøe, where she was sheltering on her way down the

Norwegian coast from the far north to escape capture by the Russian forces entering Norway from Finland. As the *Tirpitz* cannot use her engines she is being towed, a very difficult business with a ship of this bulk. It is also difficult to sink her, since she was built like the *Bismarck* with a beam too broad to pass through the locks of the Panama Canal before they were enlarged. [*Tirpitz* was sunk by the R. A. F. Lancasters on 12—11—44 off Tromsøe Fjord. *Editor*]. The width of the locks, 110 feet, has till recently been the governing factor in all British and American battleship design. The Germans, who knew they would never have a chance of using the Canal in wartime, were thus able to incorporate an unusual amount of side armour and under-water protection in the *Tirpitz* by giving her what according to British and American standards was an out-size beam.

Further south of Bergen, the R. A. F. has made successful attacks on new German U-boat pens now under construction. Ever since the Germans lost control of the French Atlantic coast, they have been restricted to the North Sea, as the only means of getting their U-boats out into the Atlantic and the Arctic oceans. In fact, from the U-boat basing point of view, they are now back at the positions they were in the spring of 1940, immediately after the occupation of Norway and before the fall of France. In all other respects, their U-boat position is far worse than it has been at any other time, owing to the enormous growth in numbers variety and efficiency of the various types of warships and aircraft now engaged in hunting them down.

MANY HITS BY BRITAIN'S HOME FLEET.

Add to this the unceasing vigilance of Britain's Home Fleet, which comes into the news again with an attack on German shipping off the Norwegian coast.

Carrier-aircraft working under cover of warships sank eight German vessels—three supply ships, a tanker, an aircraft tender, two naval auxiliary vessels and one escort of the frigate type. A large U-boat was driven ashore in a damaged condition; a further 19 ships were damaged by cannon fire, and an armed coaster and trawler were also driven ashore.

Meanwhile, a great but unobtrusive work, now being performed by Britain's Royal Navy, is the clearance of the French Channel ports and the ports on the Belgian coast. The use of these is essential, in order to supply the vast Allied land and air forces, which have now advanced far beyond the immediate radius of the improvised British ports on the Normandy beaches. In this work, previous experience on rehabilitating the ports in North Africa and Sicily has been of great value; but the French and Belgian ports, besides in most cases having very narrow entrances, easily blocked by block-ships, as well as quays supported on wooden piers, are subject to strong tidal movements. In order to grapple with block-ships and other dead obstructions, divers had to be used. These men, all under 21, working mostly in mud and as much as 30 feet below the surface in order to disentangle obstacles, are performing one of the most difficult and most dangerous tasks of the whole naval war.

Finally, the Royal Navy is playing an important part in the liberation of Greece and Yugoslavia, and in the extended operations up the Adriatic Sea in support of the British land forces in Northern Italy. Command of the Mediterranean Sea was gained by Britain's Royal Navy much earlier in the war, and it is now mainly a question of exercising that command to the best advantage, and dealing with the specially difficult sea areas off the main routes, such as the Adriatic and the Aegean.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

(A)—LEADING EVENTS.

- 7—11—44 (Tuesday). U. S. 3rd Army launches new attack in Eastern *FRANCE*.
Allies take *MONTE CASALUDA* in Italy.
- 8—11—44 (Wednesday). Allies enter the outskirts of *FORLI* in Italy.
Americans free 9 more towns in the *METZ* area in France.
Allies capture *FORT WHITE* in N. Burma.
- 9—11—44 (Thursday). U. S. 3rd Army reaches the German Border.
Yugoslavs and Russians cross the *DANUBE* at 3 places.
- 10—11—44 (Friday). Mr. Churchill visits France.
- 11—11—44 (Saturday). Allies advance to within 5 miles of *METZ* in France.
The 8th Army crosses *CANALE NUOVO* in Italy.
- 12—11—44 (Sunday). R. A. F. Lancasters sink Hitler's last Battleship "*TIRPITZ*".
- 13—11—44 (Monday). Americans capture three Metz Forts in Eastern *FRANCE*.

(B) NEWS IN BRIEF.

THE WESTERN FRONT:—

(1) **Eastern France.**—Troops of the U. S. 3rd Army launched a new attack on Nov. 8 between *METZ* and *NANCY*, along a 25 mile front, with the great fortress of *METZ* as the main objective. After crossing the Seille, the Moselle and the Nied Rivers and the Forest of Chateau Salins, and cutting the railway connecting *METZ* with *SAARBRUCKEN* and *SAARREBOURG*, they have now reached the German frontier and have taken three forts, south of *METZ*.

Several places in this area have been captured, since the offensive began—13 towns on the 8th, 9 more towns on the 9th, *HABOUDANCE*, N. E. of Chateau Salins, *ROON*, *FONTENOY*, *POUILLY*, *YSER FORT*, *FORT ORNY* and *MONIGNY*.

(2) **Holland.**—In a new thrust west of the River Maas, British troops have won bridgeheads across Canal du Nord and Wessen Canal, and seized the lock-gates of the river at *PANHEIL*. *MEIJEL* has been occupied.

(3) **Near Walcheren.**—Allies have freed *VROUWENPOLDER*.

(4) **Dunkirk.** the only French port still remaining in enemy hands was bombed.

THE EASTERN FRONT.—

Russian forces are now within striking distance of *BUDAPEST*, the Hungarian capital. Enemy resistance is crumbling. The following places in *HUNGARY* have been captured:—*MEZENYARD*, *KLEMENTYNI*, *JASZLADANY*, *UJSZASZ*, *MEZOCKOEVAZED*, *MONOR*, *TAPIOSZALA*, *SZGYORGY*, *TASZAPATI*, and *NAGSKATA*.

Italy.—FORLI has been liberated. Thrusting from FORLI, British troops have crossed the River Montone and taken SANTOPE. To their left, Polish troops have taken BAGNOLO. In the coastal sector, the 8th Army has crossed the Ghiaia Canal, south of RAVENNA.

The Philippines.—American Forces have penetrated deep into the mountain areas of LEYTE island, and fighting is going on, south of CARIGARA. The advance toward ORMOC continues. MANILA the capital of the PHILIPPINES has been bombed.

A Japanese convoy of 4 transports and 6 destroyers attempting to enter Ormoc Bay was destroyed. It carried 8,000 Japanese reinforcements.

U. S. Super-Fortresses attacked NANKING in CHINA and KYUSHU in JAPAN.

Burma.—The Chinese have crossed the Irrawaddy and occupied the town of SHWEGU, midway between BHAMO and KATHA. They have also crossed the Taping River in the Myshit area, and have reached BHAMO on the Burma Road. BHAMO has been encircled.

British, Indian and African forces are shelling KALEMYO, in the Kabaw valley. It is the gateway to the Chin Hills, controlling the main route to TAMU, TIDDIM and KALEWA.

China.—Chinese troops have evacuated LUCHOW, an air-base in the Province of KWANGESI.

ALLIED AIR-RAIDS.

5—11—44. (Sunday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

German positions at DUNKIRK.

German troops at SCHMIDT.

ELDER Dam across the Elder River.

Targets at FRANKFURT, KARLSRUHE and LUDWIGSHAFEN.

Oil-refinery in AUSTRIA.

Troop concentrations and rail-yards in YUGOSLAVIA.

Bridges and rail-targets on the BRENNER PASS.

Land forces in the Po Valley.

Shipping in FIUME harbour on the DALMATIAN coast.

Communications in the RIVIERA and ALBANIA.

Air-combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian front.

FAR EAST.

The dock-yards at SINGAPORE.

The airfields in the NEGROS and CEBU.

Oil-fields at LAHUP.

The airfields at SIDACE (MANADO).

BURMA.

The bridge at HPAUNGZEIK.

Camps and enemy positions in Central BURMA.

Barges and sampans at AKYAB and KALADAN.

River-craft between BASSEIN and HEZADA.

6—11—44. (Monday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

Rail lines, bridges, marshalling-yards and trains behind the battle areas in FRANCE, HOLLAND and GERMANY.

Bridges near COLOGNE.

Oil-refineries at GELSENKIRCHEN and HAMBURG.

Industrial targets in the RUHR.

Airfields near HALLE, CRAILSHEIM and SACHSENHAUSEN.

A dam near FRITZFAR.

Rail-yards near DUSSELDORF.

Targets in AUSTRIA, YUGOSLAVIA and ITALY.

Bridges and transformers on the BRENNER

PASS Railway.

Close support to ground-troops in the battle areas.

Shipping in the ADRIATIC.

Air-combats all along the Eastern Front.

NIGHT:—

Targets at COBLENZ.

FAR EAST.

Airfields and storage facilities in the BOELI BAY area.

Jap positions in the ORMOC Valley area in LEYTE (Philippines).

BURMA.

Jap positions at PALETWA.

River-craft along the Lower CHINDWIN.

7—11—44 (Tuesday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

The Dortmund-EMS Canal in the RUHR.

Gun-positions in the SCHMIDT area.

Targets at GELSENKIRCHEN.

Marshalling-yards at MECHEMNICH.

A bridge near COLOGNE.

Military buildings at DUNKIRK.

An oil-storage tank at EMMERICH.

Railway lines along the DUTCH—GERMAN

Frontier.

Buildings, railway lines and bridges in the RUHR.

The rail-yards at SARADEYO (Yugoslavia).

Supply points in the BALKANS.

Oil-refineries near VIENNA (Austria).

Communications in the battle areas in ITALY.

Bridges in N. ITALY.

Air-combats all along the Russian Front (6 enemy planes shot down).

FAR EAST.

An airfield in VISAYAS Group (Philippines).

Jap airfields in CELEBES, BOROE and NEW GUINEA.

BURMA.

Jap positions around **KATHA** and **BHAMO**.
Shipping and installations at **JAVOY**.

8—11—44 (Wednesday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

The synthetic oil-plants at **MERSEBURG**.
Railway-yards at **RHEINE**.
A synthetic oil-plant in the **RUHR**.
Rail-lines and bridges along the German Frontier.
Enemy communications in the **Po Valley** area.
Railways and bridges in the battle areas.
Communications and other targets in
YUGOSLAVIA and **ALBANIA**.
Air-combats all along the Eastern Front (18
enemy planes shot down).

NIGHT:—

Objectives at **HANOVER** and other places in
W. **GERMANY**.

FAR EAST.

Artillery and other targets in **ORMOC**.
Shipping off **MINDANAO**.
The airfields on **ALCANTE**, **CEBU**, **NEGROS**
and **PANAY**.

BURMA.

The rail-road bridge at **BOWGYO** on the **LASHIO**
MANDALAY road.

9—11—44 (Thursday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

Gun-positions at **DUNKIRK**.
Transportation targets in **HOLLAND**.
The railway station at **WEEZE**.
The communications centre of **GELSENKIRCHEN**.
Bridges near **DUSSELDORF**.
Locomotives and freight cars in **RHINELAND**.
An airfield at **WIESBADEN** and
SACHSENHEIM.

Targets in the **METZ** area.
Marshalling-yards at **SAARBRUCKEN**.
Ground targets between **STUTTGARD** and
GIESSEN.

Communication targets in the **Po Valley**,
YUGOSLAVIA and **ALBANIA**.

Shipping in the **ADRIATIC**.
Air-combats all along the Eastern Front.

FAR EAST.

Barges off **PARAMUSHIRO** (Kuriles).
A sugar mill on **ROTA** Island.
Targets on **BONIN** Island.

BURMA.

Bridges at **HPAUNGZEIK** and **KALEWA**.
Gun positions near **KALEMYO**.
A supply storage depot at **KAWLIN**.
Targets at **SHWEBO**.

10—11—44. (Friday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

Enemy troops, strong points, artillery transport
and communications in the battle areas in
France.

Gun-positions and strong points at **DUNKIRK**.
Communications and bridges in the **RUHR** and
the **Po Valley** and **N. ITALY**.

Objectives in **YUGOSLAVIA**.
Air-combats all along the Russian Front.

NIGHT:—

Objectives in Western **GERMANY** including
HANOVER.

FAR EAST.

A Jap convoy off **ORMOC BAY** (4 transports and
6 warships sunk).
Enemy positions in **LEYTE** (Philippines).

BURMA.

Rolling-stock, river steamers and road transport
in Central **BURMA** and **N. SIAM**.
Enemy positions and bridges in the **CHINDWIN**
region.
Enemy aircraft off the **ABAKAN** coast.

11—11—44. (Saturday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

The communications centre of **GELSENKIRCHEN**.
The synthetic oil-plant at **CASTROP-RAUXEL**
(Ruhr).

Ammunition trains carrying supplies to **GERMAN**
troops in **HOLLAND**.

Rail targets and airfields in **GERMANY**, **AUSTRIA**
and **N. ITALY**.

Gun-positions, troop concentrations and strong
points in the battle zones in the battle areas.
Air-combats all along the Eastern Front.

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy waters.
Oil-targets near **HAMBURG** and in the **RUHR**.
Transport targets in **N. W.** and **W. GERMANY**.

FAR EAST.

Jap targets at **NANKING** (China) and **KYUSHU**
(Jap main land).

Jap targets on **VOLCANO** Islands.
Jap positions on **ORMOC BAY** (Leyte).

BURMA.

Rolling-stock, buildings and river steamers along
the **IRRAWADDY** River and Central **BURMA**.
Enemy positions and motor vehicles in the
CHINDWIN region.
Jap strong points in **KATHA** and **BHAMO**.

ENEMY AIR-RAIDS.

6—11—44 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

A few places in Southern **ENGLAND**.

RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

Allied positions in the **IMPHAL** valley (4 enemy
planes destroyed).

7—11—44. (Tuesday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

8—11—44. (Wednesday).

BRITAIN and RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

Allied positions in the **ORMOC BAY** area
in **LEYTE** (Philippines).

9—11—44. (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No information.

RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over **LEYTE** (Philippines).

10—11—44. (Friday).

BRITAIN.

A few places in **S.E. ENGLAND** including the
LONDON area.

RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

No information.

11—11—44. (Saturday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No information.

12—11—44. (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No information.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

SIDE LIGHTS.

'THE WANDERING MINSTREL' is in PARIS now, not to visit battle scenes but on an errand of mercy—to rebuild FRANCE. With him is his trusted Lieutenant, Mr. Eden, who has worked his passage from four capitals—MOSCOW, CAIRO, ATHENS and ROME on to a fifth—PARIS.

Events have shown that Churchill is a true friend of FRANCE. The test of true friendship is constancy in fidelity. A warm admirer of FRANCE in her prosperity, he offered her, in her dire hour, the hand of union with BRITAIN. When that proposal was rejected and FRANCE fell, his, for a long time, was the only voice that spoke words of cheer and comfort. No wonder, therefore, that his visit to the French capital on Armistice Day proved an occasion for a demonstration of gratitude as nation-wide as it was heart-felt. Said de Gaulle :—

"We should not have seen Nov. 11 like to-day if our old and brave Ally, Britain had not, under the inspiring leadership of him whom we are greeting here to-day, displayed extraordinary determination to gain victory, and magnificent courage which saved the liberty of the world.

"There is not a French man or a French woman who is not deeply convinced of this.

"Hitler once said he was building for 1,000 years to come. I do not know what will be remembered of his doings in 1,000 years, but I do know that in 1,000 years, France will not have forgotten what has been achieved in this war by the fighting, labouring and the suffering of the noble race which the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill is leading to heights of glory."

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THE TASK AHEAD.

The Paradise of FRANCE that was lost in 1940 has only been rediscovered now, but the task of regaining it remains.

FRANCE has found her soul but not her body yet. FRANCE is no more bleeding now, but she is war-worn and war-torn. Starvation and disorder stack the land. Of her rail-roads and roadways hardly any are left fit. No fewer than 20,000 bridges, and nearly all her 11,800 railway locomotives have been destroyed either by the Germans, or the R. A. F. or the U. S. A. A. F. or the Maquis. Her telegraph and telephone systems have become disorganised. Profiteers are abroad. The black-market flourishes; food must be found and the industries restored.

At the present juncture FRANCE has other duties, one of which is to put her armies in the field. FRANCE is short of arms.

The Allies have taken the initial step of recognising de Gaulle's Government, though it is only a provisional administration, and giving it a place on the European Advisory Commission.

Though the Allies have recognised the administration, de Gaulle has a heavy task before him. With broken communications he must extend his authority throughout

the country. The collaborationists who are still at large must be eliminated, and the irregular forces, apart from the Maquis who have been incorporated with the regular forces, must be disbanded, and the discordant political elements should be harmonised into a single stable Government. De Gaulle, it is true, has already done something in this direction, by calling into existence a Coalition Government, with members of the Resistance Movement in and outside FRANCE, old Deputies, Communists and Women as members, and by summoning the French Parliament which had not sat for four years. He has, no doubt, done much in these ways to make his Government popular, but it has yet to become representative to reflect the national will, and to carry out far-reaching measures of rehabilitation. His Government is self-constituted, not constitutional.

THE EUROPEAN ADVISORY COMMISSION. What has been said of FRANCE above, is true of other States as well. There are at least a dozen other States in EUROPE to-day on the brink of anarchy and civil war. EUROPE is in ruins. As the Nazi free-booters retreat they leave desolation behind. If the calamity is to be averted, the Allies must step in, and not wait till the war is over. This is the supreme task of the European Advisory Commission. It is not enough to defeat GERMANY and to write peace. The engulfed nations should be saved, and their Governments helped to rebuild their shattered countries.

THE NAZI APOLOGY. A Nazi proclamation has been issued to the German people giving the reasons for the postponement of the annual celebration this year of the Nazi Beer Cellar Putsch of 1923 at MUNICH. It is the Nazi's annual day, celebrating the Nazi's rise to power. Never was the occasion missed hitherto by Hitler for making his flamboyant speeches. Yet strange to say, the oracle is silent now. Some say that he is dead; some that he is Himmler's prisoner now; however it be, though alive, it is apparent, he has ceased to be the inspiring element that he was in public life. It may be that after the July 20th incident—the attempt on his life—he dare not appear in public; his voice has probably with the defeats that have accumulated lost its power and he knows it.

The reasons given for the postponement are like a school boy's excuse for truancy,—'the demands of total war', 'work at H. Q.', 'the time is not for speeches but action,'

If so why is the celebration held at all—why should it come off on 'a free Sunday' with its spate of speeches. We remember Hitler making speeches much longer than this Proclamation, when war was as total as now, but then he was a conquering hero, threatening to stamp out BRITAIN and conquer the world.

The contents of the Proclamation are stale, filled with the usual denunciation of Bolshevism and the Jew, and with the rant of saving EUROPE for other nations. We say, 'Physician heal thyself. Nazism is rotten. Save yourself first. Europe will take care of herself. She does not require Nazi doctoring',

GERMANY now has no allies left except JAPAN, but the Proclamation in defiance of grammar calls her 'the most important ally'; there are no other allies so far as we know. All her satellites are now fighting against her, and HUNGARY has been overrun.

The Proclamation asserts that anti-Nazi elements have been destroyed, and yet it threatens punishment—'complete extermination'—for those 'who lift a sword or throw a bomb against Germany'

NO HOPE.

Gen. Franco's protestations of neutrality, to which we briefly referred last week are not going to be of any help to him. His present *volte face* does not arise so much from honest neutrality as from his anxiety to retain his position. Reports show that if he does not retire he may be forced to resign. His overtures to BRITAIN in the name of neutrality are in vain. It is too soon for BRITAIN to forget his anti-Comintern Pact with the Axis, the good wishes for success he expressed two years ago, in public to Hitler and Mussolini, the attacks on the British Consulate at TANGIER by a Fascist mob, the Wolfram incident, the despatch of the Blue Division to the Russian Front, the bombs concealed in the cargoes of Spanish oranges and his refusal to release Italian vessels in Spanish ports, after ITALY had joined the Allies. His neutrality is only treachery.

Apart from his conduct, which is altogether incriminating, is the important fact that he stands for Fascism, which the Allies are out to destroy, root and branch, wherever found and of whatever brand—German, or Italian, or Spanish. To tolerate Franco is to make nonsense of the principles of democracy for which the Allies have declared they have gone to fight. In the words of the *Daily Herald* Franco has no hope: It says:—

"We should not like to deceive General Franco. We would like him to know exactly where he gets off, or rather precisely, how he does not get on. We, therefore tell him: The vast majority of the British people regard him as a Fascist usurper, an enemy of Democracy and an enemy of BRITAIN. The only way he could get to the Peace Conference would be if he outdid the daughter of Herodias, and appeared with his own head on a charger. The removal of his régime is the price of Spain's re-entry into the Assembly of Free Nations. And if General Franco really had any chivalry he would abdicate, before he finds more Spanish blood on his hands."

ARCHDUKE OTTO.

Pretender to the Austrian throne is now ready in the wings, as it were, to appear on the Austrian scene as soon as circumstances favour him, that is as soon as Russian armies clear the Budapest hurdle and liberate VIENNA. It may be remembered that in a joint declaration BRITAIN and RUSSIA have already agreed to set AUSTRIA free and make it a sovereign State, and there are popular elements in AUSTRIA itself favouring a return to monarchy. Archduke Otto has also recently met Churchill and Roosevelt in the intervals of the Second Quebec Conference, and it is the U. S. State Department that has now expedited his journey to EUROPE in a Clipper. He is in LISBON now, apparently waiting to return to AUSTRIA with the turn of events.

WESTERN FRONT.

Speaking at the Mansion House on Thursday, last week, Mr. Churchill mentioned the NETHERLANDS and ITALY, as the European theatres in which BRITAIN was now chiefly engaged. In the NETHERLANDS, in spite of the weather, much has been accomplished. The Scheldt, on the mainland, the island of WALCHEREN and the great port of ANTWERP have been freed, and as soon as the port of ANTWERP has become usable large reinforcements will arrive for a march directly on GERMANY.

Meanwhile, on Nov. 8, the U. S. 3rd Army launched a new attack in Eastern FRANCE between METZ and NANCY, in the course of which the Moselle has been crossed and the strong forts of METZ and DARANT are near investment.

THE BALTIC.

Sensational developments are taking place in the Baltic.

This is reported simultaneously by BERLIN, STOCKHOLM and MOSCOW. The German declaration that the Eastern Baltic is an operational zone has not been accepted by SWEDEN. SWEDEN has warned her shipping to return to territorial waters, and her shipping companies have asked her to provide convoys. It will be no surprise therefore if SWEDEN is forced into the war. For the present, the German held ports of DANZIG and GYDNIA have been frozen by the German declaration. What GERMANY fears most is a Russian sea-borne descent on her Baltic coast like the Anglo-American descent on NORMANDY.

THE TIRPITZ.

Misfortunes never come singly. Following the Swedish defiance, which means one more enemy added to Hitler's

long list, comes the news of the loss of *Tirpitz*, off Tromso Fjord, sunk by R. A. F. Lancasters dropping 12,000 lbs (Earthquake,) bombs. *Tirpitz* was a 40,000 ton vessel, the best of the battle-ships that Hitler ever owned. British men-of-war in the area are now free to go on their new mission to the Far Eastern waters.

IN ITALY,

which Mr. Churchill described as a greater operational zone than ANTWERP, dour battles have been fought

and won. Here the barriers of the Apennines and the Gothic Line have been surmounted, and the valley of the Po lies open to the liberating armies, which after taking FORLI, are now on their way to RAVANNA. Kesselring has withdrawn to a new defence line on the Adige River, now being strengthened hastily by the Todt organisation employing 40,000 Italians.

THE U-BOAT.

Gone are the days when the U-boat menace used to figure largely in the war-reports. Month by month

its activities decreased, and according to the latest official statement the activities of the U-boats in Oct. were materially below those of any other month of the war, and in consequence, the number of merchant vessels lost by U-boat action was also the lowest in any month of the war.

V-2.

Following the failure of the flying bombs to intimidate

British civilian morale, the Hun is now trying his next secret weapon—the long range rocket which he calls V-2, and as usual is sending out exaggerated reports of its success. But the damage and the casualties are slight. The rocket is said to travel through the stratosphere faster than sound. But their aiming is inaccurate, as is shown by the fact that they fell in uninhabited areas. Of the two places, WALCHEREN and the Hague, from which they are flown, the Allies have captured the first.

The Allies answer to the new German barbarity is two-fold. In the classic attack now nearing METZ, 1,300 heavy bombers and 500 fighter were employed to clear their way, and BRITAIN has provided better and brighter lighting for the LONDON area.

ON THE EASTERN FRONT,

the great offensive against the Hungarian capital is proceeding. In one month, from Oct. 6 to Nov. 6,

according to a Soviet Communiqué, over 100,000 Germans and Hungarians were killed, and over 100 localities between the Tisa and the Danube were liberated.

THE PHILIPPINES.

The American advance on LEYTE is continuing. At great risk the enemy is reinforcing with troops brought from the neighbouring islands, his original forces having been eliminated. His losses up to date in the LEYTE battle, are estimated at 35,000.

N. BURMA.

With the monsoon coming to an end, Allied forces are on the move again, along four lines, more or less parallel, and running from north to south. The most important of them is at the northern end, where the Chinese are pushing from MYITKYINA to BHAMO, the farthest point reached by steamers on the Irrawaddy. BHAMO is also connected by roads with the Salween River and the Burma Road at LASHIO.

More to the south, British troops are on the move from MOGAUNG to KATHA, also on the Irrawaddy. The occupation of BHAMO and KATHA will close the upper-reaches of the Irrawaddy to the enemy.

Farther south, the 5th Indian Division advancing from Kennedy Peak, the highest point in the Chin Hills, has entered the Chindwin Valley.

Still more south, African troops are fighting the Japanese troops in the Kaladan River valley, to prevent their infiltration northwards.

CHINA.

In the midst of these uninterrupted successes comes the unwelcome news of Chinese set backs in CHINA. In less than 6 months, we are told, the Chinese have suffered several reverses. Driving down the HUNAN—KWANGSI railway the Japanese have surrounded KWEILIN, the capital of the Province of KWANGSI. There is internal weakness in China, though much has been done to overcome it. A part of the energy of CHUNGKING, which should be directed against JAPAN, is diverted to keep the Chinese Communists in order. Gen. Stilwell's recall under pressure from CHUNGKING is a side light on Chinese psychology. CHUNGKING is reported to have demanded that the allocation of Lend-Lease supplies sent to her should belong to the Chinese. This was in reply to the American request that there should be a thorough reorganisation of the Chinese armies in the field. In the determined will however, of Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, to carry the war to a victorious end there is every hope that these temporary difficulties will vanish.

WHERE IS HITLER? GERMAN DOUBTS.

(Daily Express).

The greatest talk topic of the day in Germany is: Where is Hitler?

Reports that Hitler died several weeks ago have reached Stockholm. The Germans have since said that the "double who acted as his stand-in" when the bomb went off was blown to pieces.

If Hitler is alive and well, it is amazing that he left it to Himmler to go on the air to call all German manhood into the Volkssturm. The Germans, worried by this, are pointing out:

Himmler's voice, delivery and mannerisms in his Volkssturm broadcast were schooled in close resemblance to Hitler's.

Himmler and Goebbels have run everything since the bomb plot. Their names are boosted in public, Hitler's is not.

Hitler was not at Rommel's funeral—the first Marshal's funeral he has not attended.

Hitler sent a telegram of congratulation to the Hungarian Quisling Szalasi, instead of receiving him at his H. Q.—although Hungarian newspapers announced that Szalasi was going to see the Fuehrer.

During the last two weeks, hardly any reference to Hitler has been made in the German Press—except to give one short explanation of his silence.

The Spanish Ambassador, I am told, met Hitler at the beginning of October in the Reich Chancellery in Berlin. The Ambassador told my informant that Hitler "looked tired and nervous" and added that he had no doubt about his identity. The fact that the Ambassador stressed this shows that doubts about Hitler have reached the level of those who are usually best informed about events in Germany.

THE GERMAN FACTORY OF DEATH.

(From The Madras War Review).

It is hard to believe that human beings can commit atrocities such as that of the extermination camp described below, yet the evidence is overwhelming. The idea of race, of superior blood, in the Nazi bestial mind, makes it possible to take pleasure in the most horrible forms of sadism. Shooting was the least of the crimes carried out by the Germans in Russia and Poland. Is there any wonder that the Russians fight so fiercely and unrelentingly?

The German concentration camp near Kholm on the highway to Lublin was originally called Dachau Number Two, as it was the exact copy of the German camp in Dachau. Later it began to be called Vernichtungslager—extermination camp, a very apt designation. In exhaustive articles published in the Soviet papers, Konstantin Simonov, Boris Gorbatov and Evgeni Kriger, give a detailed description of this gruesome camp.

The death camp occupied an area of twenty-five square kilometres. "Prisoner camp-grounds" were enclosed by barbed electrified wire. Barracks for prisoners had been built in the fields, Gas cells, where people were asphyxiated with cyclone gas; crematorium, where bodies were burned; pits, where people were shot; gallows on which people were hanged, were all located on these grounds. There were also nice cottages for German officials, with flowerbeds and armchairs in the front gardens, where the hangmen might find relaxation in the contemplation of nature's beauties.

VICTIMS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE.

Hundreds and thousands of people from all over Europe were shipped here for planned mass-extermination—the Poles, Russians, Jews, Ukrainians, Belo-Russians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Italians, Frenchmen, Albanians, Croates, Serbes, Czechs, Norwegians, Greeks, Dutch, Belgians, even Turks and Chinese. They were political prisoners and war prisoners. There were also children in the camp. Those who were under eight remained with their parents, and those over eight were kept in the barracks together with adults.

It is still too early to determine how many hundreds and thousands of men, women and children were exterminated. In the camp grounds, however, there is a tremendous warehouse filled to top with hundreds and thousands of pairs of shoes. These are the shoes of those who were killed in the factory of death.

A German, Munfeld, was the head of the crematorium where tens of thousands of victims were burned. He lived there, and is known to have said that he liked the smell of roasted bodies. In general he was something of a humorist. When he met one of the prisoners he used to say very sweetly: "Well friend, will you be coming soon to my furnace?" Then he patted the man on the shoulder and promised: "Do not worry, I will have a good fire going for you".

SADISTIC HUMOUR.

Incidentally, all S. S. men in the camp were humorists of the same calibre. Here is an example of the "good-natured" German joke.

A S. S. man went over to a prisoner and said: "I am going to shoot you".

The prisoner turned pale and submissively stood to attention. The storm-trooper took a long time in aiming his gun first and pointing the weapon at the man's temple and then at his heart. Then he shouted, "Fire!" The man involuntarily closed his eyes. There was a shot. Something heavy struck the man on the head and he lost consciousness. When he came to his sense he saw two Germans, one who had shot him and one who had come up from behind and struck him over the head with a club. Both the German jokers laughed till tears came.

"You are dead", they shouted to their victim. "You have died and you are now in the next world." And even in that world there are Germans, there are storm-troops.

"Jesters" were sadists of the worst type. They did everything to make persons aware of the fate that was awaiting them. They forced the people who were sentenced to death to dig their own graves. They forced the prisoners to burn the bodies of their comrades in the crematorium and in enormous fires. Then those who did the burning were burnt in their turn. "Embarrassing witnesses" was what the Germans officially called them. Five furnaces in the crematorium were kept going day and night burning fourteen hundred bodies a day.

MECHANIZED DESTRUCTION.

There were an unusual variety of methods used to exterminate the people. The machine of destruction went into operation as soon as the man who was sent to the camp was placed in the quarantine, which was situated in the barrack for patients suffering from tuberculosis in its last stage. After twenty days this 'quarantine' man inevitably died. According to official German documents 1,654 people in the camp died of this disease.

Tuberculosis was not the only way of murdering people. Prisoners were also murdered by starvation.

It is not surprising that the camp books record the following facts about the weight of a person, thirty-two kilograms. This explains why so many people died of exhaustion.

There were other ways of murdering people. Every storm-trooper, every Gestapo soldier had his own methods of torture and murder: iron bars, tommy-guns and brutal kicks on the stomach with hobnailed boots. The woman storm-trooper in the women's camp used a whip. She lashed the woman across their breasts and sex organs. The sadist would flog her victims to death.

Wladislaw Skavronck, a driver relates, "I saw a German female storm-trooper bringing six children into the crematorium. They were tots of four to eight years old.

Munfeld, the head of the crematorium personally removed their clothing and shot them, and had their bodies put into the oven. I was then bringing in supply boards."

REIGN OF TERROR NOW OVER.

Peter Denisov, an engineer from the city of Lublin who had been mobilized to install the sewage, states that once two prisoners went up to the storm-trooper and said "Hang us". The storm-trooper grinned with pleasure.

He made a loop and put it round the neck of one of the men and pushed him into the pit. The loop jerked and the man was dead. The other prisoner immediately walked over to the gallows and put the loop around his neck himself and jumped into the pit. People preferred quick death to lingering on.

"NO PRAISE TOO HIGH FOR ALLIED TROOPS" GEN. ALEXANDER'S SURVEY OF ITALIAN CAMPAIGN.

(From The Daily Telegraph).

In his survey of the Italian campaign, General Alexander has for the first time made public facts and figures which give us something like a full measure of the achievement of Allied armies under his command.

The Italian front has been an important factor in compelling Hitler's call-up of the maimed, the halt, the deaf, and the sick and the mass levy of boys and sexagenarians. Hitler, or professional strategists, ordered that the main defence positions in Italy should be held at all costs, and supplied Kesselring with forces little inferior in number to the Allied armies.

Kesselring proved himself a highly capable commander; "always much better when he is in trouble", says Alexander. The Italian peninsula does not permit of swiftly penetrating offensives. Allied supremacy in the air, superiority in tanks and command of sea transport, though well used, could not move mountains. One fiercely contested battle after another, comparable with the sternest on any front of any war, had to be fought for Naples, Rome, Florence and the gates of the Lombardy plain.

Eleven nationalities were united in the Allied armies. No praise, Alexander tells us, is too high for the troops which broke Kesselring's lines. Some also is due to the Commander-in-Chief and the Army Commanders.

Their victories were won despite the withdrawal of veteran and battle-hardened divisions. Several were removed in the spring for the Normandy front. Then the plans to break the Gothic Line were changed, on account of all French and some American divisions being sent to invade southern France. The liberation of Rome and 51,000 square miles of Italy did great damage to German prestige throughout Europe, and exposed the inadequacy of German war power for holding the occupied countries. Cracks opened wide in the German Balkan front. With Allied air strength based on Italian fields, the encircling assault on the Reich was intensified.

These results of a hard campaign, valuable though they are, were not the main objective. That was to attract the largest possible number of German divisions, prevent their removal west or east, and wear them out. Some 500,000 German troops have been caught and held in the Italian fire. They cannot be used to defend the Siegfried Line, to keep the Anglo-Americans from the north German plain, nor the Russians from the Danube entry into the Reich.

THE "DIVINE WINDS" OF JAPAN.

There is little extraordinary in the fact that the earliest Japanese were primitive animists, for so were many other early peoples round the globe. It is the conscious fostering, and official manipulation, of this primitive animism to this very day by Japan's leaders that makes Japan indeed "unique"—a term the Japanese are fond of using to describe themselves and their land.

Thus it is that the very winds that blow about the Japanese Islands to-day are no ordinary meteorological phenomena, but are "kami kaze"—winds of God.

Insistent, as Japan's Ministry of Education is, upon the credibility of the mythology that the Japanese are a divine race, it is a simple extension of the people's naive faith to accept the officially-propagated notion of a divine destiny, to which even Nature itself—including the "winds of God"—must cater. Thus it is the popular belief that the storms which turned back the Mongol hordes of Kublai Khan, and thereby prevented the invasion of Japan in 1281 were proof of a divine dispensation—exercised of course exclusively in favour of Japan—which directed even the elements themselves against Japan's enemies.

The accidents of Japan's history permit the Japanese nation to claim that it has never suffered a military invasion of its "sacred soil." Thus has the fantastic—yet sinister and dangerous—idea of Japanese infallibility been so far upheld by the course of history. The Gods have never deserted their favoured people—so far! Thus is Japan's fanatic nationalism animated by the concept of "kami kaze."

But a glance at Japanese history will quickly show that Japan's leaders themselves, who assiduously cultivate the concept of a divine wind among their docile and credulous people, repose little faith that this wind can be trusted at all times and upon all occasions to operate benignly in Japan's exclusive interest. At such times and on such occasions this same Japanese history reveals that the course of the divine wind has been subjected, quite unashamedly, to the dextrous and cunning manipulation of human Japanese hands.

When the hour arrives for the divine wind to blow, Japan's leaders have always been able to find a pistol, a dagger, or some other very unsanctified weapon of treachery and brutality to abet the wind's course. By such foul means has the divine wind been caused to blow Japan on from conquest to conquest—until to-day!

For there have always been winds in Japan's life that she has been wholly impotent to manipulate or prevent. There are, for instance, the ocean hurricanes—named by the Chinese "typhoons" or "big winds"—that have always had the capacity to wreak fearful havoc and desolation along Japan's shores.

"THE SANDS ARE RUNNING OUT". JAPAN'S NEW ANXIETY.

(By Wickham Steed).

No naval victory in this war has equalled in size, and few have been of greater significance, than the great triumph of the United States Pacific fleet and the Australian ships fighting with them over the Japanese navy in the Philippines.

To have sunk or damaged 58 out of 60 Japanese vessels engaged is an achievement hard to parallel in any sea battle. Upon their navy depend all Japanese hopes of saving

Japan herself from attack. Nor can their conquests in the Pacific and on the Asiatic mainland be held, if sea communications between Japan, Korea, Manchuria and China are severed.

The defeat in the Philippine waters brings nearer a prospect which, in circumstances infinitely more favourable, caused Japanese commanders acute anxiety nearly 40 years ago. The story is worth telling even to-day for the light it throws on Japanese fears.

Japan was then at war with Tsarist Russia, whose forces had been progressively defeated on land and sea in the Far East. In October 1904, a squadron of Russian warships numerically inferior sailed from the Baltic on a voyage round the world to Vladivostock. Not until May 1905, could it approach the Japanese waters, where a powerful Japanese fleet guarded the Strait of Tsushima through which Russian warships must pass.

While waiting for them, the Japanese Admiral Togo was, nevertheless, so anxious that his dark hair turned white. In the battle of Tsushima, the Russian squadron was easily destroyed by the overwhelming naval superiority of the Japanese. Yet this superiority failed to dispel Japanese fears while any Russian warship was afloat in the Far East.

Communications between Japan and her victorious armies in Manchuria were then at stake. Incomparably greater conquests are at stake to-day. The initiative has passed to the Allies. The United States, now overwhelming sea-power will, according to Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty Mr. A. V. Alexander, shortly be supplemented by a strong British fleet, which will be capable in itself of fighting a general action with the Japanese Navy. This prospect may have persuaded the Japanese Admirals to give battle in the Philippine waters, before these elements of the British fleet could reinforce the United States Pacific Navy. The result for them has been a disaster.

Reports of dismay at Tokyo are, therefore, credible. Japan cannot hope to challenge Allied air-supremacy. Her land-based aircraft in the Philippines also suffered heavy losses. Thoughts of blockade by sea and of irresistible air attack may well haunt the Japanese minds, and revive more acutely with better reason the apprehensions Togo felt in 1905.

Similar apprehensions haunt the German minds. Winston Churchill's emphatic statement upon his Moscow visit with its pungent phrase. "Let all hope die in German breasts, that there will be the slightest division or weakening among the forces which are closing in upon them, and will crush the life out of their resistance" sounds the death knell of German expectations that the Allies will quarrel or fall apart.

From the Arctic Norway to Yugoslavia, with East Prussia and Hungary in between, the vast Russian offensive compresses Germany on the north and east, while the British and United States armies compress her relentlessly on the south and west. The grim struggle to open the port of Antwerp for Allied supplies has turned definitely in Allied favour. Offensive strength is being steadily built up along the whole Western front. The day and night process of paralysing communications within Germany by air attack goes on so methodically as to mask its decisive significance. Nowhere have the German forces retained the strategic initiative.

On the west and east, their strategy is defensive, and is conducted with diminishing resources in men and material.

The only question is now:—How long Nazi Germany can postpone the inevitable doom? The mass enrolment of boys and old men may avail to protract the struggle

without hope of averting a final catastrophe. The aim of Allied strategy is to shorten the struggle and to liberate Central Europe, including the German people, from Nazi cruelty and oppression. Great developments may occur within the remaining two months of 1944.

Thus in Europe, as in the Far East, the sands are running out. To Japan, the naval defeat comes as a crushing blow. Her resistance may last longer than that of Germany. But in neither case can the downfall be averted. Never have the Allies been more determined to cleanse the world once and for all of predatory aggression.

JAP ATROCITIES ON GUAM. PLIGHT OF POPULATION.

(Morning Herald).

Many women were violated and other civilians murdered during the Japanese occupation.

Stories of Japanese bestiality, especially in the first weeks of occupation, were told by liberated Chamorrans, who said that most atrocities were committed before proper order was established, but cruelty continued until the end.

Thirty girls were taken from the town of Sumay, and set up in a house for the use of troops. Individual drunken Japs roamed the streets, often breaking into Chamorrán homes.

Rosalie Doman, wife of Peter Doman, seaman in the United States Navy, was discovered taking food to her husband in the hills. Both were executed. Chamorrans were ordered to watch these and other executions, which always took place in the cemetery where the victims were forced to dig their own graves, but the Chamorrans always stayed at home and prayed. This execution was confirmed by Vincente Duemas who saw both the husband and wife beheaded.

A Jesus Barninus school teacher described Japanese treatment of civilians who displeased them. He said that Rosa Baza was seen sticking out her tongue—a recognised Chamorran gesture of friendship—when passing the Japanese Civil Affairs Office. The Japanese took her inside and made her stand at attention while they made cuts on her forehead and behind the ears with a sword.

The most recent atrocity was the execution of three Chamorrans. The reason given for their execution was to prevent them communicating with the outside world.

CHINA'S RESISTANCE TO JAPANESE. SERVICE TO UNITED NATIONS.

(From the Times).

In the institution and maintenance of a future world order, it will fall to China to play a part at least as important as that which she has taken in the struggle for world freedom.

For seven years, at the cost of incredible suffering, she has resisted alike the attacks and overtures of Japan. This resistance, fortunately for her Western allies, has not been confined to the material sphere. Indeed, she has found herself poorly equipped from the political as well as from the military point of view to conduct a successful defensive war against an adversary as powerful, as unscrupulous and as adept at subordinating all national life to aggressive action as the Japanese of to-day.

Japan struck at China during a period when the Republic was still passing from ancient "provincialism" to modern nationhood; and in the political and in the military spheres alike, the traditional cultural unity of China provided no substitute for the highly organised institutions required by a State called on to endure "total warfare". The continued existence of Free China is due at least as much to the unflinching determination of President Chiang Kai-shek to resist the Japanese even when resistance appeared hopeless, as to his skill in utilizing such material resources, domestic and Allied, as have from time to time been at his disposal.

The service thus rendered to the cause of the United Nations is inestimable. China's will to resist the designs of Japan has prevented the slogan "Asia for the Asiatics" from sweeping unchecked across the Eastern world. To China it has been given in the last seven critical years to stand for co-operation between the East and West in a world threatened by racial antagonisms.

Recent months have been marked by a tendency on the part of some Western observers to pass rapidly from uncritical admiration of China's protracted resistance to an equally uncritical condemnation of her military reverses. The Generalissimo President, at one moment hailed as the living embodiment of Chinese heroism, has been pilloried for his failure to function as the head of a democracy.

Such easy and over-simplified judgments can proceed only from indifference to the elementary consideration that if China resembled the Western Powers in all respects her leadership could never command the sympathies of the Far East. It is the inherent difference between their approach to political questions and her own that makes her alignment with them in the present struggle a factor of immense significance for the future of the world.

China, by her long struggle against Japan, has won for herself a position which, if utilised to the full, will cause the Far East to follow her faithfully. The Republic has shown that it can sustain to the limits of human endurance the fight for national independence. In happier days to come, it may well be shown that it can champion with equal success both freedom of the individual citizen and unity of the nation on the basis of common consent.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

(14) EDUCATION.

(1) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Speakers:—Mr. Wickham Steed (Chairman).
 „ John Sargent.
 „ S. H. Wood.

(Broadcast in the B. B. C.'s Eastern Service, on October 23, 1944).

Steed: Broadly speaking, education is divided into primary and secondary. But the basis is, of course, primary education, and it's the basis we have to deal with to-day.

Most of us in this country know little about what's been done in India in the way of primary education. Now, Wood, you were in India as a representative of the British Board of Education. What did you find when you went to India?

Wood: When I went to India I found an educational system not very different, in structure, from the system in this country. It is true that there is comparatively little compulsory education, and in some areas the provision of schools is not very widespread. But the thing that depressed me was that primary education did not seem, over a long period of years, to have made any real impact on illiteracy.

Steed: Is that, do you think, because the system in use isn't suited to the country?

Wood: I think the main reason why education in India doesn't result in maintaining literacy after children leaving school is that it's too much concerned with sitting down and learning, and not enough with providing practical activities for the children.

Steed: Well, haven't we in Britain found people who went to school, learned to read and write, but have practically forgotten in later life all they learned?

Now, Sargent, you've been working on education in India, what are your views?

Sargent: There are approximately 60,000,000 children in India between the ages of 5 and 14, which in England before the war we regarded as the compulsory period of elementary education. Of those, about two in nine, of whom the great majority are boys, enter a school of some kind. And of those who enter, half have gone at the end of the first year, and only one in four is still there at the end of the fourth year. This is the earliest stage at which anything like permanent literacy can be attained by the average child.

Steed: What about the parents? Do they recognise that there's value in education for their children?

Sargent: Yes. But I think there are several reasons why education hasn't flourished in India. Perhaps the strongest of these is the economic one.

Steed: You mean that parents have to pay for the education of their children?

Sargent: Well, while very few fees are charged in primary schools, parents are required in almost all areas to provide the materials used by the children: books, pencils, slates or whatever it may be. And that's quite a serious charge on people whose incomes are often microscopic.

Steed: I've heard it said that the budget of a village family may not exceed Rs. 150 a year. To knock even Rs. 10 off that for children's schooling would be a serious matter?

Sargent: A number of parents find it absolutely prohibitive. I've seen children in schools unable to do their work because they haven't got the necessary materials.

Steed: Now, wait a minute. Tell me, Wood, who provides for the establishment and upkeep of schools? Who pays the salaries of the teachers?

Wood: The various religious communities provide some of the cost, district committees provide some, and there is a grant from the central authority. That is only a rough picture.

Sargent: The Government policy in India hitherto has been to encourage voluntary associations to found schools and then to subsidise them, rather than to found schools themselves.

Steed: Is the language difficulty a problem in education?

Sargent: Obviously; in many areas you have to split classes in the same school for this reason.

Steed: In this country the object of the primary education is supposed to be the teaching of the three R's, reading, writing and arithmetic. What would be the Indian equivalent of this primary objective?

Wood: I don't agree at all that the main purpose of primary schools in this country is to teach reading, writing and arithmetic. Of course, it is a necessary part, but the chief purpose of the primary school in this country is to ensure that the child gets the kind of study and the kind of activity which is suited to his age. That embraces much more than reading, writing and arithmetic; it covers handwork, music, dancing, and a great many other things. In India they concentrate too much on

reading, writing and arithmetic, to the exclusion of the kind of activities which make a child happy.

Sargent : I should entirely agree. The idea of a school as a place in which children learn to live and play and generally be happy hasn't been sufficiently grasped in India. I think on the whole Indian children in school look rather more solemn than happy. Don't you think too, Wood?

Wood : Yes, and in my own report I said that literacy is like happiness: you don't achieve it by pursuing it as an objective, it arises as a by-product of satisfied activities.

Steed : That is a good Aristotelian doctrine. But tell me, in India do they learn about the Norman Conquest in 1066 and Magna Carta and that kind of thing? Or are they taught facts mainly of interest to Indians?

Wood : In the primary schools there's practically no instruction in English; in any case, there's no instruction through the medium of English, and the education given is mainly about India.

Sargent : I should agree, generally speaking. So far as geography is concerned it's mainly local. It usually begins with maps of the area, probably extending up to the district and probably ending with the Province. It's the right way to begin, but the difficulty in the Primary school is to get beyond that. Such history as is taught, and it's not very much, is Indian history.

Steed : You both agreed just now that the children in Indian schools look rather solemn. Why is this?

Wood : I should say the solemnity, or I might even say the sadness, is mainly due to two things: first malnutrition, and secondly, because the conception of the purpose of a school is, on the whole, not quite the right one. The right purpose of a school is to ensure that the children get the kind of activity of body and mind suited to their age. There's a tendency in Indian schools, I found, to give them the kind of activity which may be suited to their mind and to neglect their body. I mean that play, games and activities, particularly those which call for the use of children's hands, are not sufficiently in evidence. But the High schools are by no means deficient in games. The Indian hockey teams and cricket teams would probably give a very good account of themselves against our High schools. But I'm bound to admit that in the Primary schools the children don't get nearly enough play in the playground.

Sargent : Like everything in India the schools vary enormously. It wouldn't be fair to give the impression that there are no good schools where the teachers take the same view about their duties outside the classroom as they do inside. But the chief obstacle is lack of space. Very few schools in towns, and only a few in villages, possess a place where they can play.

Steed : Again, I suppose, due to poverty. But, poverty or no poverty, primary education must be provided if India is to attain a higher standard of living. But to do that we need teachers. Now who trains the teachers? Who appoints them?

Sargent : That varies so enormously that it would take a long time to give an accurate picture. In most Provinces, primary education is in the hands of local bodies. In some cases, they have powers of appointment, in other cases they haven't. In those cases where they have such powers it's usually a bad thing, and it's significant that some of the popular governments who were keen on education felt that if they were to make progress they must resume complete control over the appointment, transfer,

and dismissal of teachers. With regard to the question of training, just over 40 per cent of the teachers are at present untrained.

Steed: Are there teachers' training-colleges? And if so, are they presided over by graduates of a University College?

Sargent: We must be careful to draw a clear distinction between a training or Normal school and a training-college in India. A training college is a place where the graduates receive a year's training and then teach in High schools, while the teacher in the Primary or Middle school will have been trained, if trained at all, in Normal school, which is definitely regarded as a lower type of institution.

Steed: Now, Wood, can you suggest what should be done to improve primary education in India?

Wood: Yes I think I can. I was very impressed with the need for teachers to get better treatment. I think they should be given refresher-courses because so many of the Primary schools in which they teach are in remote places with very little social life. With the best will in the world, even the very highly qualified teacher gets low and depressed unless now and then he gets some revival of interest by returning to a training-college for a short course. I should like to ask Sargent whether widespread refresher-course is part of the new plan for better education in India?

Sargent: I don't want to sound materialistic, but before you talk about refresher-courses I think you've got to secure the right kind of teacher. And I don't think we shall ever do that with the salaries current in most parts of India to-day. The average salary in Government Primary schools is Rs. 27 a month—in the private schools it's usually much lower—and in one of the biggest provinces of India the average salary is only Rs. 8—8—0 a month. Those salaries are unlikely to attract the right teachers. But I agree with you, Wood, that once you've secured the teachers, it's most important to arrange refresher-courses for them.

Wood: At present the teacher in India has very little prestige either.

Sargent: Very little, oddly enough, in view of the high standing the teachers in India used to enjoy.

Steed: It seems to me that the problem of education in India certainly centres round the provision of teachers.

Sargent: Yes. The teacher is the problem all the time, and the woman teacher is a still greater problem than the man teacher.

Steed: Well, then, we come down to this: we want good training-colleges and it's desirable, it seems to me, that teachers in these training-colleges should have received a certain degree at least of secondary as well as of primary education.

Sargent: Three years ago the General Advisory Board of Education set up a Committee which endeavoured to do in a few days what the Burnham Committees have been doing in this country for over 20 years. This Committee laid down certain conditions about the training, recruitment and remuneration of teachers in Primary, Middle and High schools; and although these conditions are very modest, they could do a great deal towards raising the status of the teachers in the eyes of the Indian. Unfortunately, they haven't yet been adopted by any Government in India.

Steed: If the Central Government, or even the Provincial Governments, were to make a point of honouring the teachers, wouldn't that raise their social standing?

Sargent: Very considerably. The Board laid it down in their report that the village teacher ought, among other things, to be provided with a house. If he had about the best house in the village, that would add very much to his standing.

Steed : If your teachers were better paid and given a certain social standing, then there's the question of their general outlook on life. I'm not speaking of any political outlook, but, for instance, of whether they conceive the possibility of progress as we conceive it in the West. Would they be convinced that a greater degree of knowledge will open the door to wider spheres of learning and be of benefit to the community? Do you see any possibility of that?

Sargent : That's what we're all looking forward to, and it's fair to say that this was one of the fundamental factors in the famous Wardha scheme of education put forward under Mr. Gandhi's auspices seven or eight years ago. As Wood says, all education-
alists would agree that it's essential, especially in the early stages, for education to be related to the environment in which the children live. It's also necessary that a teacher should be master of whatever crafts are suited to the locality and should, therefore, be taught in his particular school.

Steed : The Wardha scheme, then, doesn't stop at the spinning wheels?

Sargent : No. I think it's an unfair interpretation of the Wardha scheme to say that it regards spinning as the only primary activity. I don't think the protagonists intended it to be limited merely to spinning, although perhaps some enthusiastic disciples of the Mahatma have tended to emphasise spinning to the exclusion of the other crafts. In what the Central Advisory Board has called "basic education" the utmost emphasis has been laid on the importance of training teachers to understand the educational aspects of craft-work.

Steed : Now, Wood, you've thought a good deal about these matters. If you were the educator of India with a sufficient budget, how would you set to work?

Wood : I should aim first at securing a sufficient body of women teachers to teach young children. And the second thing I should do would be to insist that in all Primary schools a rigid limit was put on the amount of education which boys and girls obtain sitting down. I want to see them spending part of their day at work with their hands, because all children are creative. And thirdly, I should insist that they should spend a considerable part of their day in "play-activity" unorganised play for the very young, steadily becoming more organised with some purpose in it as they get older. My main criticism of the Indian schools is that the lively, growing children are not getting the kind of school life which corresponds to their needs.

Sargent : A very good beginning. I entirely agree with Wood about the urgent need for women teachers. This is absolutely fundamental, but the difficulty, of course, is to get your girls educated before training them as teachers. All except a very small proportion of the girls in the High schools are the daughters of the middle or upper classes, and are most unlikely to be attracted into the ordinary teaching profession. Until you bring in universal education and get coming up to the High schools girls from poorer families who will be attracted by the salaries offered as well as by the prospect of teaching, you can't expect to get sufficient women teachers.

Steed : By the way, Sargent, what would be the attitude of the average Indian mother in a Moslem or a Hindu family, towards "book learning" education of any kind? Would she think it desirable?

Sargent : She would often feel it was desirable for the boys but perhaps unnecessary for the girls. But there are most encouraging signs of a growing interest in girls' education.

Steed : So, on the whole, the feeling is that education may be all right for boys, but isn't desirable for girls?

Sargent: If you are speaking about the uneducated parent, I should say that isn't far from the truth. But it's always had to generalise. The last time I was in Baluchistan, which is a very remote part of India, predominantly Moslem, I was stopped on several occasions in rather remote villages by a deputation with a request that a school should be provided for the girls, but when I said: "You haven't one for the boys yet," they said: "Oh, there's one in the next village, four or five miles away, which they can go to, but the girls can't." What they wanted was a school for the girls first, which I thought was very interesting.

Steed: Now we agree that in India you must have a sufficient output of fairly efficient teachers if you are going to provide your primary education. Well, that again comes back to funds, and buildings, and proper instructors or trainers for your teachers—and at the moment there is a great shortage.

Sargent: A shortage of what—of responsible authorities to see to it?

Steed: No, a shortage of teachers to train teachers. Now, who's responsible for such training?

Sargent: In many cases the training-schools and colleges are under the control of the Provincial Government. In certain areas like large cities, they may be under the Municipality. In other areas they may be under the control of a District Board; some are provided by independent or semi-independent bodies, but, generally speaking, the Provincial Government is ultimately responsible.

Steed: What's the number of trainees in the colleges?

Sargent: The output is about 20,000 a year in British India as a whole; and that, of course, is barely sufficient to cover the wastage from the existing teachers. We estimate that, for a national system of education, we need about 2,250,000 teachers.

Steed: And how many are you getting now?

Sargent: At the moment I think it's just over 500,000, of whom about 40 per cent are untrained. What we have to face is building up an enormous machinery to provide the necessary training, and that of course can only happen when fresh recruits come out of the new High schools. But even if we had the necessary facilities for training teachers, many pupils leaving High schools wouldn't be attracted by the salaries which are open to them.

Steed: And it is this shortage of teachers which prevents you from applying universal education throughout India?

Sargent: We estimate that given all the funds and all the good will and every possible assistance we could not introduce compulsory, primary and middle education for the whole of British India in less than 35 to 40 years, simply owing to the difficulty of recruiting teachers.

Steed: What's to be done in the meantime?

Sargent: It is proposed to begin by taking certain areas in each province—not necessarily all in the same part of it, but areas of a minimum size, say, of 200,000 people—and give them a complete system in one five-year programme. Then in the next five years to take another group of areas, and so on until the whole province has been covered. That is really the only practical way in which to tackle this problem, and to secure among other things the necessary supply of teachers.

Steed: Now, Wood, suppose you sum up your impressions of our discussion.

Wood: To begin at the beginning, I should say we all agree that health and food are fundamental, not only to the happiness and welfare of the children generally, but fundamental to education, because you can't educate hungry children. Secondly, I think we all agree that an increase of prosperity in India depends on better educated Indians. We also feel that, to some extent, India has based her system of education on ours, and in doing so has acquired some of our educational drawbacks—which we ourselves are now trying to do away with—such as undue domination by examinations.

To get over this, you must substitute for the present rather narrow negative kind of education, something more active, more rich, and if I may put it this way, you must regard education itself less as a preparation for life, but more as life here and now.

FALL IN BOMBAY BULLION PRICES.

(By *Oscar R. Hobson, City Editor of the "News Chronicle"*).

The steady flow of money to the Gilt-edged market is one of the many indications of investors' acceptance of an extension of the war well beyond the date that had been hoped for when the liberation of the continent was proceeding so rapidly. That mood was not shaken by the Prime Minister's recent "last lap" statement.

It is interesting to contrast this financial expression of the expectation of a long war with the contrary exhibition which has recently been put up by the Bombay Bullion market. For some time past, the price of both gold and silver in Bombay has been falling steadily. Last April, gold touched the figure of Rs. 77 per tola, which is equivalent to just on £ 15.10s. an ounce. On October 27, it stood at no higher than Rs. 63 and the day before it had been down to just over Rs. 61.

The fall in silver has been even greater, namely, from Rs. 143 per hundred tolas last April to Rs. 116—8 as. on October 27.

In each case, the decline has, to some extent, been helped by official sales of gold and silver, designed at one and the same time to cover the expenditure of the British and American Governments to India, and to induce Indian peasants to dishoard their food—which they are prepared to do against precious metals, but not against payment in paper.

The main factor in the decline, however, has been the expectation of a comparatively early end of the war. Even at their present rupee prices, both gold and silver are quoted in Bombay very considerably above the world level, as measured by official dollar and sterling prices for the two metals.

It should not take long after the end of the war for movements of gold and silver to become comparatively free again as between one country and another. As soon as that takes place, it will be impossible to perpetuate the abnormal disparity between bullion prices in India and in other countries. This incidentally goes for many other commodities which, in the present insulated condition of most of the world markets, command highly differential prices in different countries. The process of readjustment is already taking place, and will presumably make further progress as the end of the war approaches.

'V' DIARY, 1945.

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PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CCXXIV (Batch 4).

18-11-44	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.	22-11-44	C. S. M. High School...	10.00 a.m.
19-11-44	Nirpalani	... 7.00 "	"	Rani's High School	... 10.45 "
"	Avur	... 7.30 "	"	Vadavalam	... 7.00 p.m.
20-11-44	Puttambur	... 7.00 "	"	Sammattividuthi	... 7.30 "
"	Vaittikkovil	... 7.30 "	23-11-44	Nallur	... 7.00 "
21-11-44	Narttamalai	... 7.00 "	"	Mattur	... 7.30 "
"	Uppiliakkudi	... 7.30 "	24-11-44	Nachchandupatti	... 7.00 "
22-11-44	College A English	... 11.00 a.m.	"	Virachchilai	... 7.30 "
"	College B Tamil	... 11.00 "			

LECTURE CCXXV (Batch 5).

25-11-44	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.	29-11-44	Piliyur	... 7.00 p.m.
26-11-44	Alangudi	... 7.00 "	"	Kannangudi	... 7.30 "
"	Rasiyamangalam	... 7.30 "	30-11-44	Annayasa	... 7.00 "
27-11-44	Tirumayyam	... 7.00 "	"	Kilakkurichai	... 7.30 "
"	Melur	... 7.30 "	1-12-44	Kilanilai-Puduppatti.	7.00 "
28-11-44	Pallivasal	... 7.00 "	"	Kilanilaikkottai	... 7.30 "
"	Pillamangalam	... 7.30 "			

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

18-11-44	Tirumayyam.	25-11-44	Ponnamaravathi.
19-11-44	Marudankonviduthi.	26-11-44	Embal.
21-11-44	Ramachandrapuram.	28-11-44	Virachchilai.
23-11-44	Kilanilai.	30-11-44	Kilanilai.
24-11-44	Pudukkottai.	1-12-44	Pudukkottai.