

DAVID LOW

EUROPE AT WAR

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by
LOW



W. Theimer

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A PENGUIN SPECIAL

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EUROPE AT WAR

A History in Sixty Cartoons
with a Narrative Text

by

LOW



ALLEN LANE
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The cartoons follow their date order of publication (or, in the two cases mentioned, of execution), except where clarity dictates otherwise.

FOREWORD

"War in 1940," said Hitler. History, no doubt, will put the date earlier.

Since the beginning of this century the competitive "system" of industrial nations had been verifying its logical sequence according to the prophet Marx and passing with gathering speed and decreasing dignity to chaos; and, since the association between the lofty sentiment of patriotism and the condition of trade is inescapable, taking about 1,000,000,000 people with it. In 1914 the competition had reached the stage of dog-eat-dog. The German Kaiser sought an arbitrary solution of Germany's problem by war. The war, after an interval of twenty years for a change of moustache, is now resumed.

That comparatively peaceful interval gave an opportunity for considering how to remove the causes of war and how to prevent it in future. After the chastening of 1914-18 there was wide enthusiasm for the idea of reconstructing national and international institutions to this end. But the conception of a justly-apportioned and peaceful world was only to be realised by a measure of self-discipline, and even self-denial, among the participating peoples. Economic co-operation involved some control of the incidence of industry and finance; the "peaceful and just settlement of differences between nations" called for some curtailment of sovereign rights. It was the hard fate of the world that in these critical years the dominant countries produced no leadership equal

to the opportunity. The goodwill of the intentions of the statesmen of the democracies was evident ; but while they were willing to pull together, each was determined not to be the one to be pulled. When the Great Powers reserved their " rights " to the point of financial and economic absurdity—when at the " just settlement of differences " each insisted upon being its own judge and jury in accordance with its God-given sovereignty—the small fry marked the tone and, when they could, followed the example.

In time conflicts of opinion arose among the peoples, especially in countries that felt secure again, as to whether far-reaching co-operation was necessary or wise. Some, styling themselves " realists," held still that in the matters of finance and industry it was safest that each country should mind its own business (" vital interests "), and leave foreigners to stew in their own juice. Others, called " idealists " by the " realists," held that the world was in one piece, and now so complicated that the vital interests of one country affected the vital interests of all, and that therefore failure to co-operate would bring disaster.

Opinions differed also about methods of preventing war itself. The so-called realists objected to drastic disarmament as dangerous. They believed in ordinary national armaments, to be combined with those of other countries as circumstances demanded, for the protection of vital interests. In this they were opposed by the so-called idealists, who, while they agreed that peace might require to be defended from

wanton aggressors, wished order to be enforced, first by united economic pressure, and in the last resort by an international force to which all countries would contribute. On the flank, so to speak, were the "pacifists," who were against all armaments, national or international, for defence as well as for offence, and who placed their trust in economic pressure, which they would impose but not enforce.

Faced by the need for resolute leadership, statesmen of the democracies quailed and themselves divided. They inclined to take the short-term view and postponed the issues. The slow deliberate approach of economic anarchy reached and found them unready. When, during the first post-war decade the policy of collective disarmament was not only possible but opportune, they were unready. When, during the second decade, a failure of persuasion and a fiasco of unenforced Sanctions demonstrated the urgent need for collective armaments against the open preparation under their very noses of World War, Part II, they were unready. Supported by their trusting and foolish peoples, they hoped for the best and let nature take its course. It did.

Reparations, loans, tariff walls, slumps flow in a natural order ; Corfu, Manchukuo, Abyssinia form clearly a cumulative sequence. Add up each, multiply one by the other, and you get a Hitler. Add Austria, Rhineland, Spain, Czecho-Slovakia and Poland, and the total is war.

Though war was formally declared in 1939 and though, to accord with Hitler's

pre-announced schedule, the physical fighting was postponed until 1940, hostilities actually began in 1933 when Hitler acceded to power.

To the conception of a world planned by free peoples co-operating for the mutual benefit of all, to the increase of the general well-being, liberty, justice and dignity, Hitler almost at once opposed the alternative of a world planned by a master race for its own exploitation of subject peoples. The details of Hitler's full world programme are still speculative, for Nazi Germany's domestic economics since he seized power have been directed specifically to the making of war, and they offer no clue to a possible constructive peace programme. The new Nazi economics, as they relate to the outside world, pre-war, consisted briefly in forcing smaller nations to barter their products for German products under terms dictated at the business end of a gun ; and, post-war, in changing the names of their market-places to Hitler-Platz, closing the markets and sending the merchandise to Germany. Politically, his work so far has been destructive rather than constructive, if one excepts the construction of new problems, such as the Jewish problem, for which he disdains to offer any solution but death.

It is evident that the New Order is the oldest order in the world—the order of master and slave ; and, if it may be judged upon the disclosures of its management so far, the domination of good sense by stupidity. Dictatorship has ruled the world before, and it has yet to be proved that world mastery by a magnetic giddy-head in these days is not a feasible proposition. The wise resist this threatened future of repression,

rebellion and endless strife. If victorious, they (if not, a future generation) will return perhaps with more understanding and resolution to the making of peace. Not the false peace of weaklings who wish merely to avoid present trouble at any costs to the future ; nor the ignoble peace of those who over-estimate the importance of human life, holding that to stop living is worse than to become debased and unworthy of life ; but the true peace of sound construction, built throughout the world upon practical considerations of well-ordered strength and well-protected weakness, of justly distributed rights and willingly accepted duties.

Force has already abolished many of the petty sovereignties which democracy was unable to abolish by consent. This second bitter retribution on human selfishness promises to weaken the interests vested in an obsolete order which has for so long frustrated efforts to mould a world better fitted to this age. The problem of the future will be to reconcile and synthesise socialism and democracy—to found collective principles to secure the material well-being of all, while at the same time preserving to individuals that measure of freedom which distinguishes civilized men and women from slaves, and to peoples that cultural identity which redeems human versatility from dull monotony. The journey towards the light must still be stepped out by the hopeful traveller, tripping over his own feet now and then and falling into an occasional ditch, as is his wont.

November, 1940.

LOW

NOVEMBER 4, 1939

Poland defeated and partitioned, the question was whether Hitler had been more cunning than Stalin, or Stalin than Hitler. No one believed that the Nazi-Soviet bargain stopped at Poland. There was speculation as to how far the new partnership could keep in step.



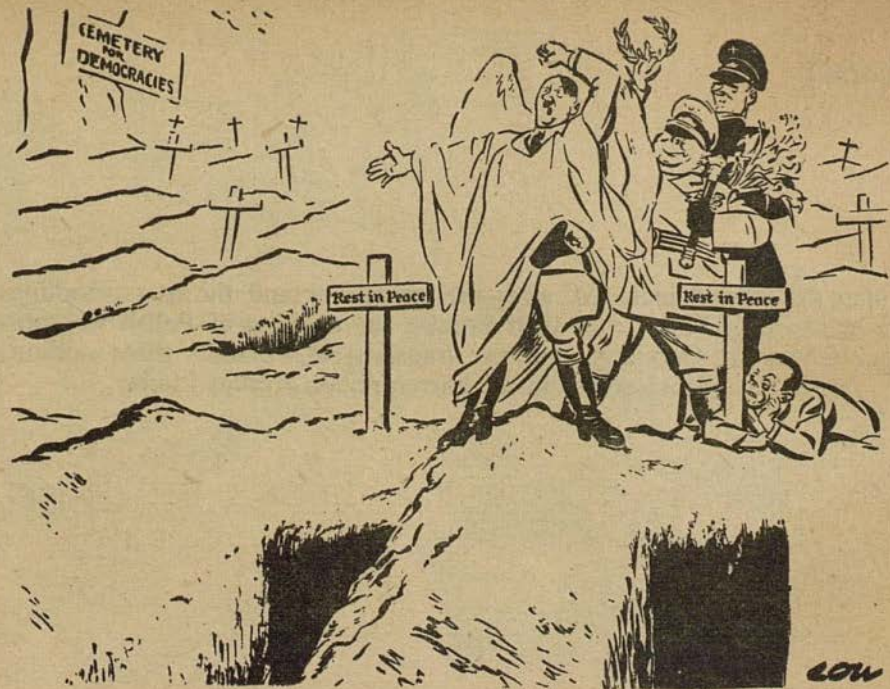
Stalin

Hitler

SOMEONE IS TAKING SOMEONE FOR A WALK

NOVEMBER 11, 1939

Hitler, having laid Poland flat, said he could not understand why Britain and France wanted to make war. "What bottomless villainy!" For himself, he was a man of peace. He invited the democracies to accept a peace which he promised would be permanent.



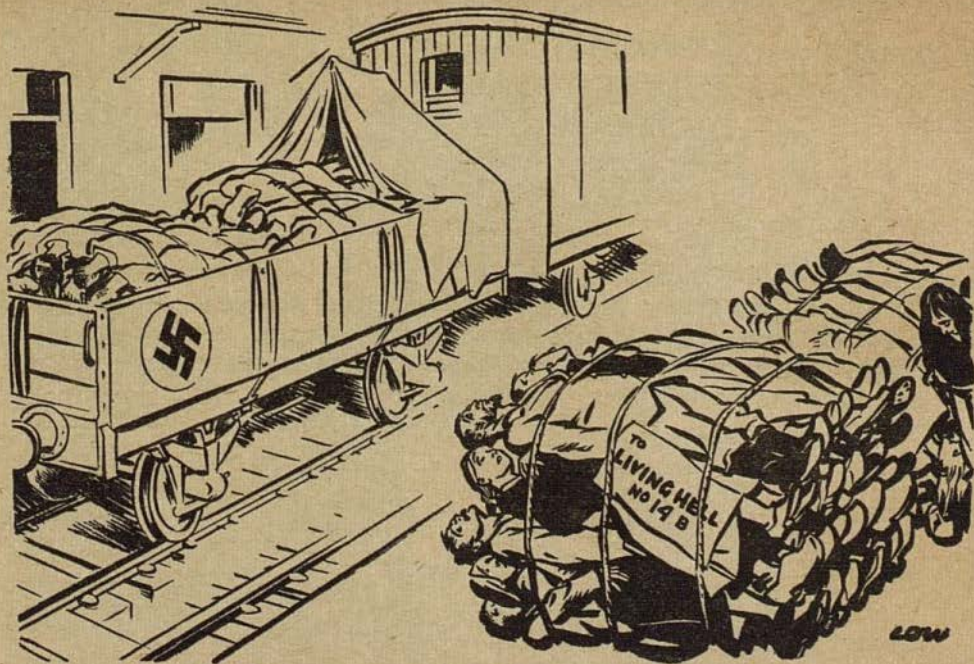
Hitler

Göring Hess Goebbels

DIDN'T I OFFER THEM PEACE ?

JANUARY 20, 1940

Hitler's plan for Poland included, after the executions and the mass-shootings, the systematic eviction of Poles from their homes, the drafting of Polish war prisoners into labour gangs for Germany, and the transport of Poland's three million Jews to a "Jewish reserve" in the barren region around Lublin.



LEBENSRAUM FOR THE CONQUERED

OCTOBER 2, 1939

First gains of the Nazi-Soviet deal were with Stalin. In return for the material help expected, Hitler had put away "Mein Kampf" and piped down anti-red propaganda. The Anti-Comintern Pact had been dislocated, and the Soviet back door in the Far East was safe, leaving Moscow with openings in the future for opportunist policy elsewhere.

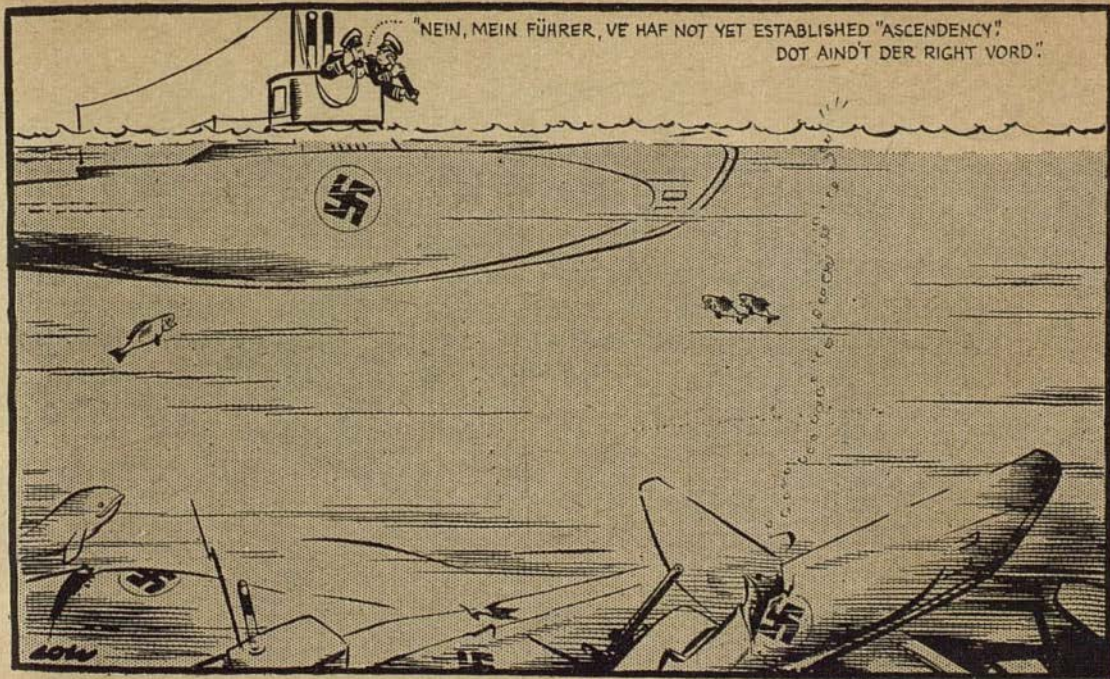


Hitler Ribbentrop Stalin
HOW MUCH CAN YOU GIVE US ON THIS ?

OCTOBER 20, 1939

According to Göbbels, Nazi Germany's U-boats ruled the waves, and had put out of action 44 per cent. of the British Home Fleet. Mr. Churchill offered to fight the entire German navy, using only the ships Göbbels declared to have been destroyed.

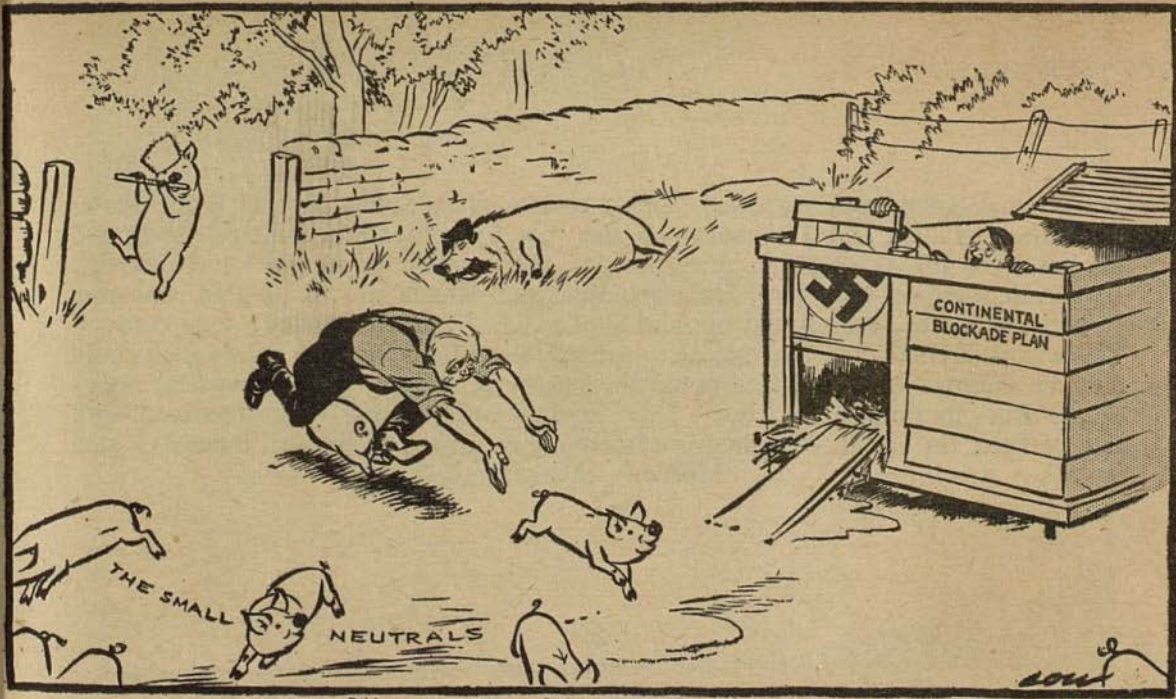
He reported the sinking of two to four U-boats weekly.



THE U-BOAT ACCOUNT

OCTOBER 24, 1939

As a reply to the Allied blockade against Germany, Ribbentrop announced a continental blockade against Britain and other overseas countries. The idea was to employ all the European countries exclusively to build up a German continental system.



Ribbentrop

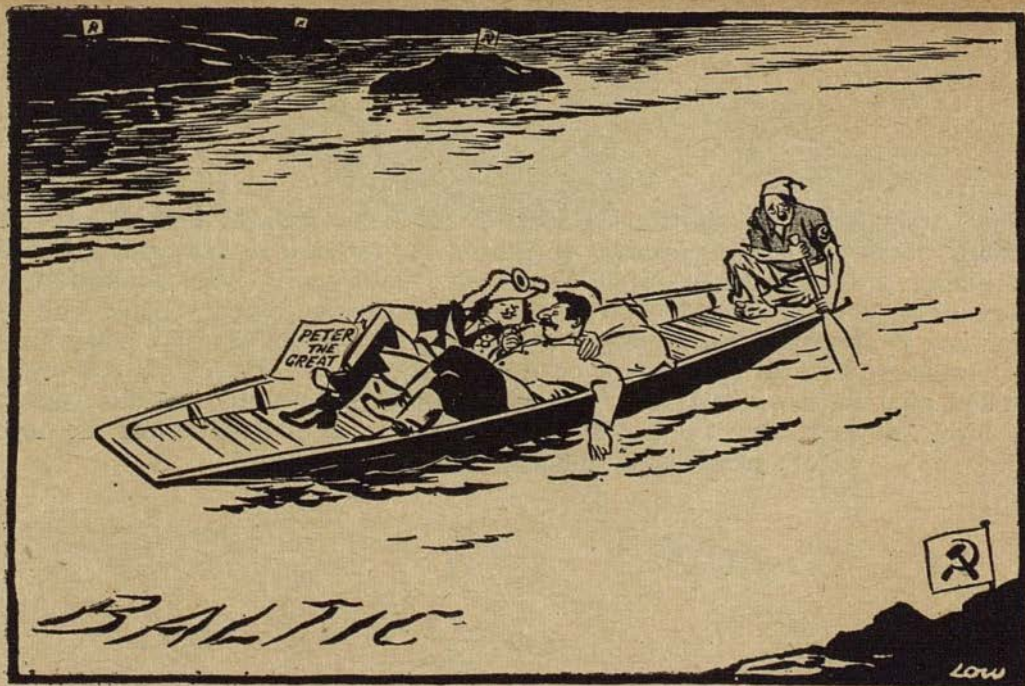
Stalin

Hitler

NAZI FARMYARD

OCTOBER 26, 1939

Nazi-Soviet collaboration showed further results when Stalin put the Baltic States—Esthonia, Latvia and Lithuania—on the spot by demanding military, naval and air bases for the U.S.S.R. in their ports. These small neighbours of the Soviet, independent since they had broken loose from Russia at the Tsarist collapse, reluctantly agreed, were licked up, and swallowed. With Germany's tacit consent, Stalin thus strengthened his strategic position in the Baltic against risks which could only be German risks. Critics noted the return of Moscow to the classical policy of the Russian Empire . . . but . . . "Stalin's policy is not to be confused with that of Peter the Great, who was concerned only with selfish Russian interests," said Moscow. Sez you!



Stalin
Hitler
RUSSIAN LAKE

FEBRUARY 27, 1940

The completion of Stalin's strategic plan in the Baltic brought Finland into the picture. Stalin thought the frontier of Finland was too near to Leningrad and that the Finnish island of Hango should be a Soviet naval base. After unsatisfactory negotiations, Soviet Russia, borrowing the Nazi technique, picked trouble with its neighbour by asserting that its reluctance to hand over meant that it was governed by "reactionaries who dreamed of conquering the Soviet Union." Russia made war and, after an unequal and bloody struggle, took what it wanted. At this violence and cynicism faith that the U.S.S.R. represented political idealism and the hope of a juster world slumped throughout the world.



Voroshilov

Stalin

FIRST CASUALTY

NOVEMBER 28, 1939

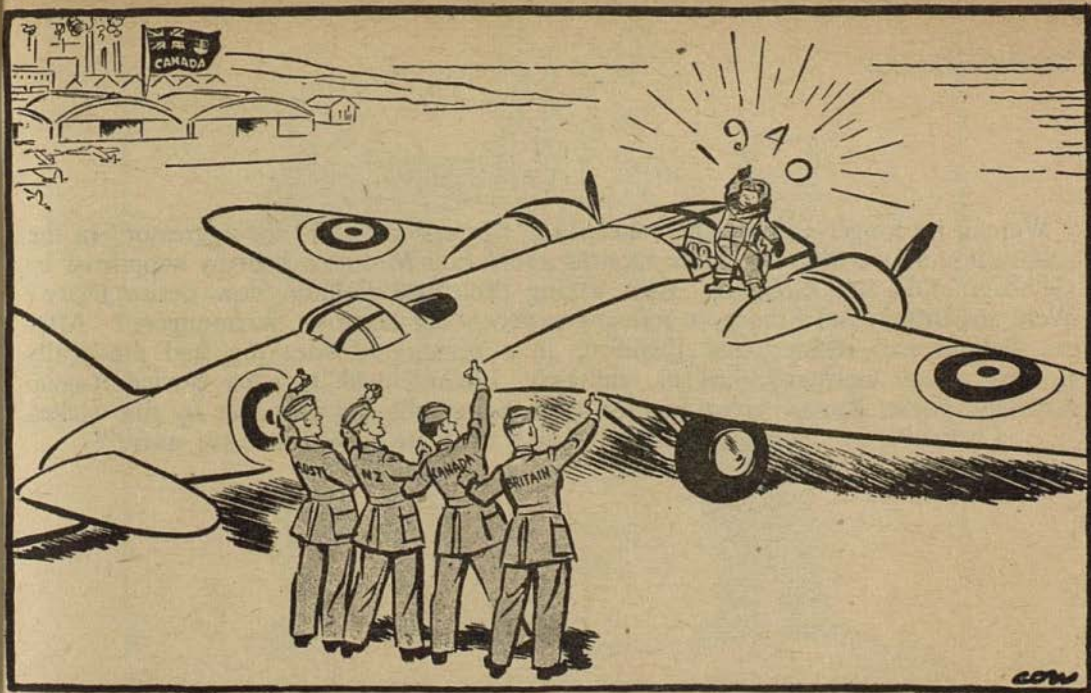
Hitler had advertised a "secret weapon." It materialised as the magnetic mine, dropped indiscriminately in large numbers by parachute from seaplanes. He hoped to discourage neutral shipping from trade with Britain and thereby to further his continental blockade. Britain soon invented a means to counter it.



MINE KAMPF

DECEMBER 28, 1939

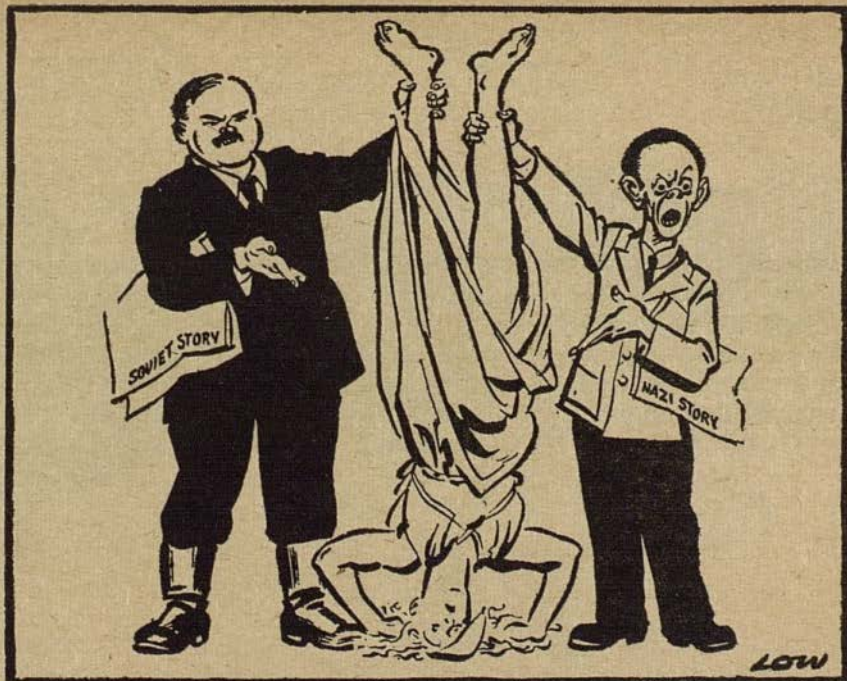
Plans were laid to make Canada a centre of intensified air training for a progressively increasing number of pilots from the British Dominions, with corresponding expansion of the production of aircraft.



NOW FOR A NEW TRANSATLANTIC RECORD

DECEMBER 23, 1939

“ We can no longer employ the concept of ‘ aggression ’ and ‘ the aggressor ’ in the same sense as we did, say, three months ago,” said Molotov, heartily supported by Göbbels. Did not Germany, after having destroyed Poland, now desire Peace? Were not Britain and France, in refusing to accept the situation, warmongers? After all, Poland had resisted, and therefore, in a manner of speaking, had practically invaded Nazi Germany, just as, similarly, Finland had invaded Soviet Russia. Actually, Soviet Russia saved Finland from being plunged into war by the wicked Churchill. . . . Logic to which the only adequate answer is “ Aw, nuts ! ”



Molotov

Goebbels

WELL, IT'S TRUTH, ISN'T IT ?

JANUARY 13, 1940

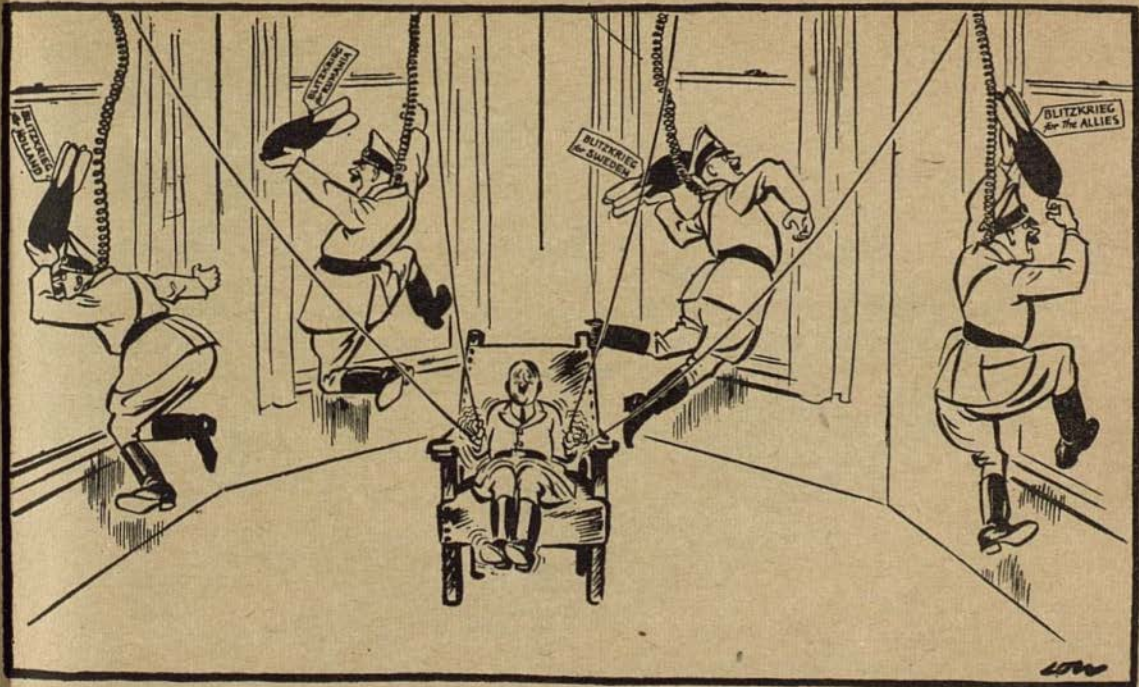
After Finland, the position of the small neutrals had become increasingly perilous. They feared to collaborate for mutual safety because of compromising each its strict neutrality. Belgium, particularly, had rigidly avoided giving any excuse for trouble-making. Nevertheless, disquieting reports of German activity came from the Dutch and Belgian frontiers. Hitler thought their neutrality was not sufficiently pro-Nazi. As good neutrals they should fight the British blockade. He suspected a plot by Chamberlain.



"OOO! SEE WHAT THAT WICKED CHAMBERLAIN MAKES ME DO!"

JANUARY 17, 1940

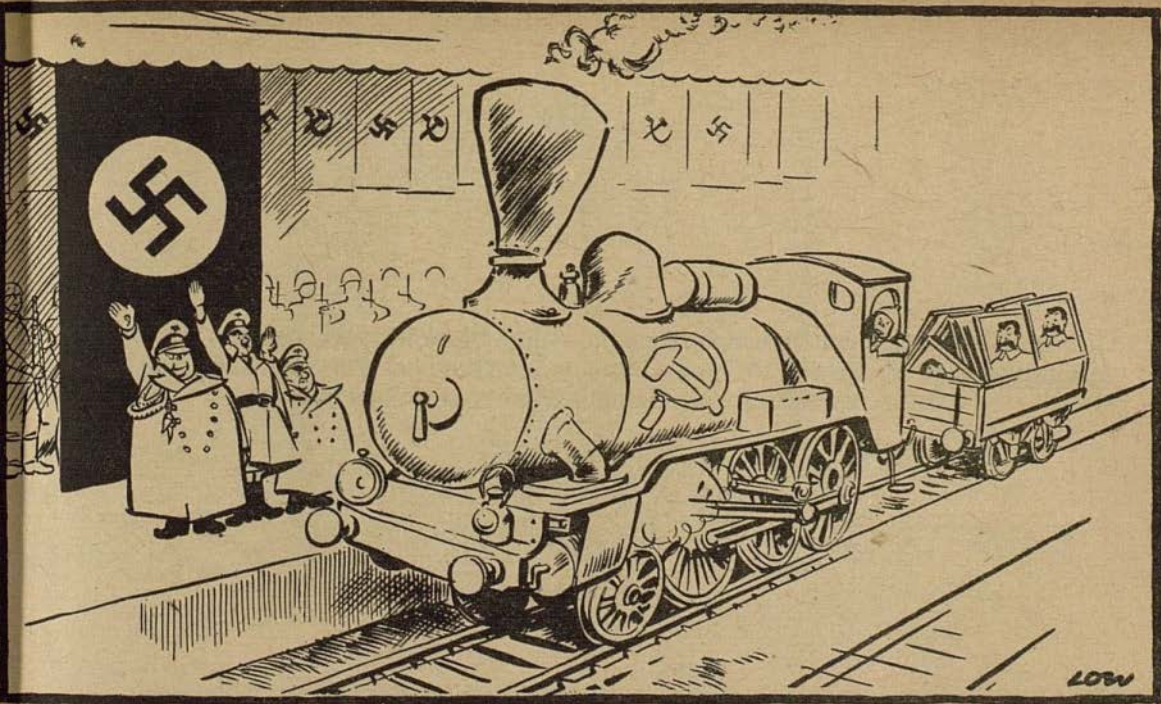
The direction of Nazi menaces and massings of troops changed from day to day as Hitler served the double purpose of keeping the Allies guessing and scaring the small neutrals first of the North, then of the South-East, into his continental blockade.



WAR OF NERVES

JANUARY 26, 1940

It was calculated that Soviet rolling-stock would be unequal to the delivery of the announced quantities of raw materials to Nazi Germany, even if Soviet resources could produce them, which they couldn't.

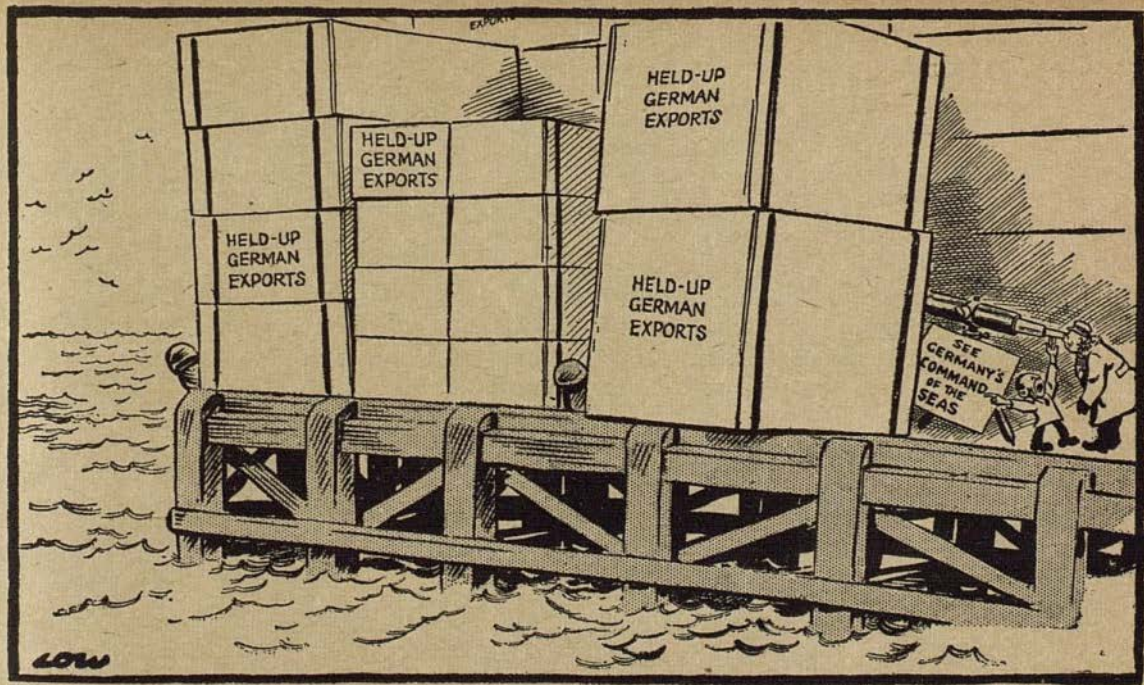


Göring Hitler Funk

"SIEG HEIL! HERE COME THE SUPPLIES FROM RUSSIA!"

JANUARY 31, 1940

Göbbels's claim that Hitler had broken the Allied blockade was spoilt by the British declaration that, in answer to Nazi Germany's methods at sea, the Allied navies in future would seize all German exports as well as imports.



SEE THE PRETTY VIEW

Göbbels

MARCH 16, 1940

British public opinion became dissatisfied with the organisation devised to mobilise the nation's economic strength. Economics were the direct concern of five different government departments which kept tripping over one another. An economic High Command was advocated.

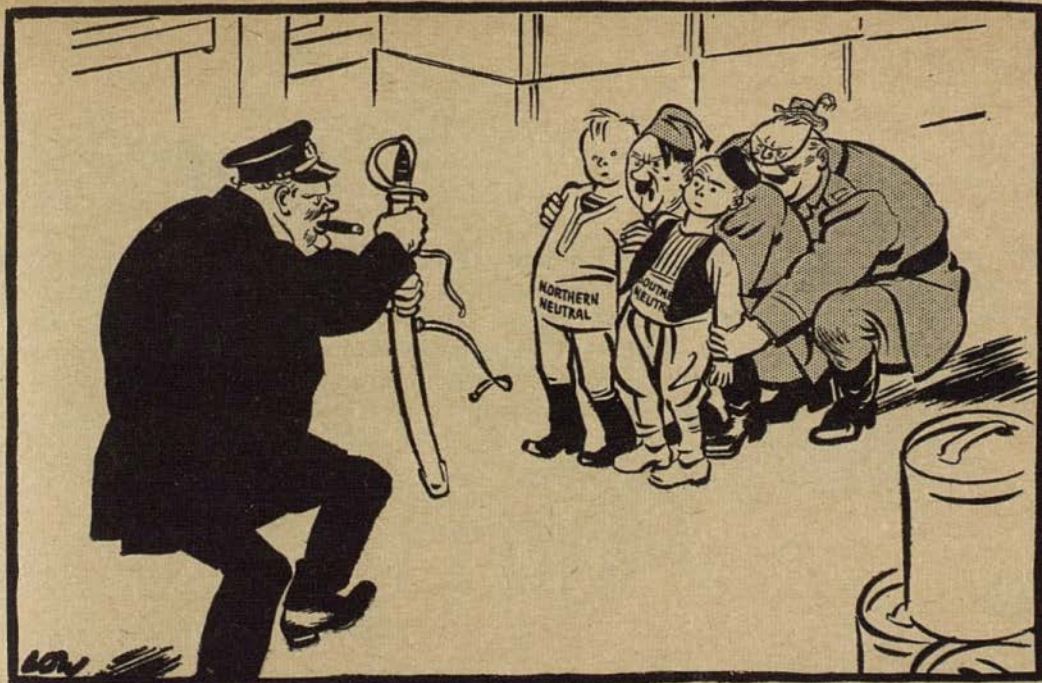


Chamberlain

"NO, THE MINISTER CAN'T SEE YOU—AND YOU CAN'T SEE HIM, EITHER!"

APRIL 10, 1940

Under threats, the small neutrals were inclined to stretch points to oblige their powerful and unscrupulous neighbours. To Churchill's spirited admonitions to them to stick together for their rights came a familiar voice passionately defending their right to do as they were blooming well told.



Churchill

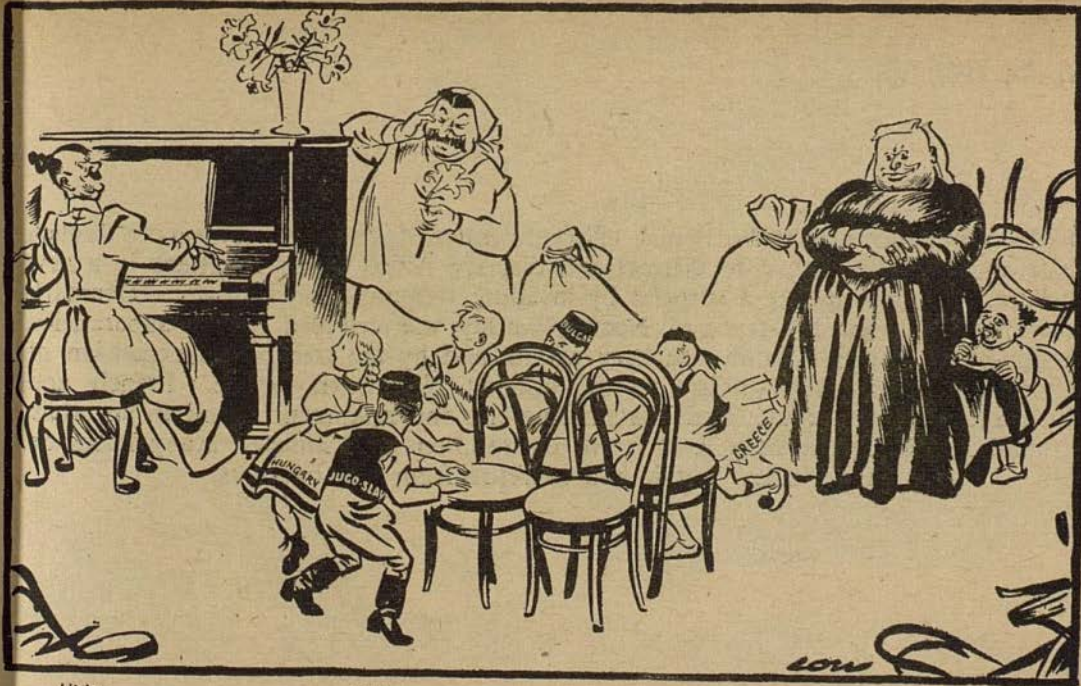
Hitler

Göring

"BIG BULLY! RATTLING THE SABRE AT US INNOCENT LITTLE ONES!"

APRIL 22, 1940

Meanwhile the small Balkan and Danubian neutrals in the South-East had been running around in circles. Every time one was threatened the others would hold a conference about solidarity which would be torpedoed before it began. Each one attempted to improve its position at the expense of the others, trying pathetically to play off one dictator against another. In their turn the dictators returned the compliment.



Hitler

Stalin

Mussolini

Franco

MUSICAL CHAIRS IN THE BALKANS

APRIL 25, 1940

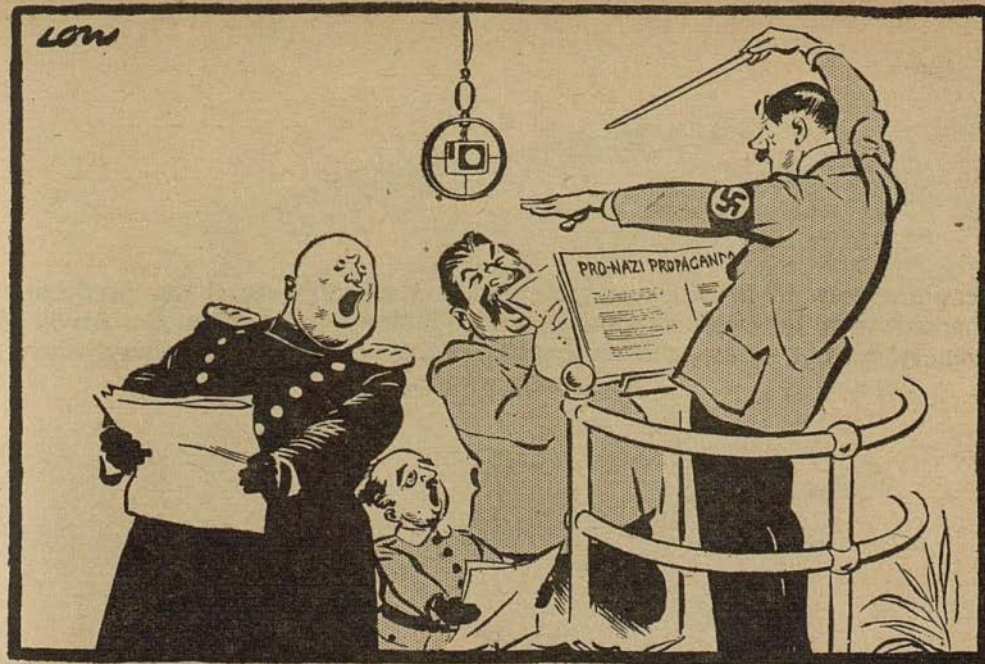
Hitler was concerned at the British efforts to cut off his supplies of iron ore through Norway ; also he wished to distract and disperse Allied forces by attack in a new theatre. He now sprung a surprise by invading Denmark and Norway. Denmark submitted, and the resistance of Norway's army was crippled by an unparalleled organisation of fifth column treachery within, and by the unexpected expansion of high-speed mechanised warfare to the difficult Norwegian terrain. French and British forces, arriving late, inadequate in numbers and equipment, found an uncertain foothold. The British navy lived up to its traditions and inflicted heavy losses on the Nazis ; but it had to retire from the bombers.



THE IRON COMES BACK

MAY 2, 1940

War news in "neutral" Italy, Russia and Spain was restricted to the distorted Nazi version, and comment in general was unfriendly to the Allies. Accounts from Allied countries were suppressed.



Mussolini

Franco

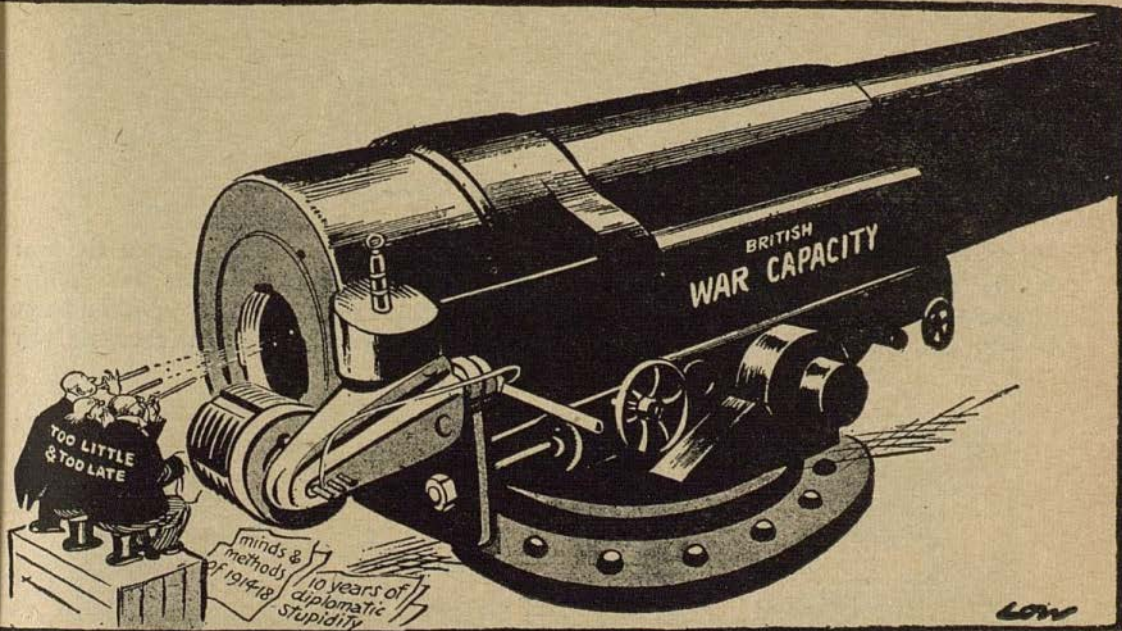
Stalin

Hitler

THE HARMONY BOYS

MAY 6, 1940

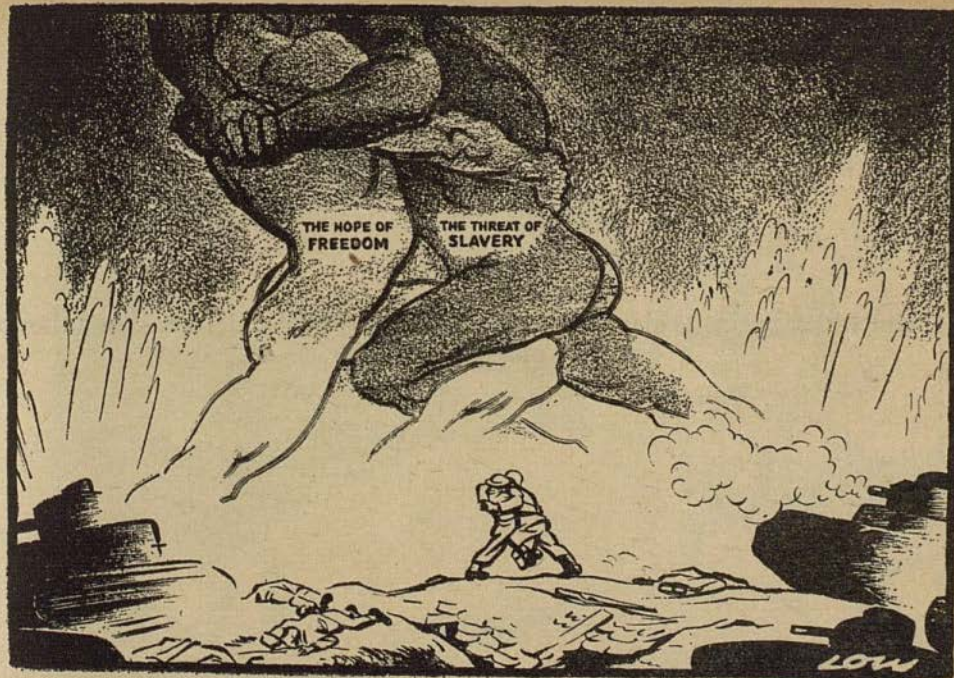
Uneasiness grew in Britain over the speed and scope of actual war production as compared with the nation's potentialities. Smarmy talk about the inevitability of victory did not square with the fumbling of the campaign in Norway, where the Allies were withdrawing.



PEASHOOTERS

MAY 17, 1940

While the British and French Governments were in crisis, Hitler opened the war in the West by invading Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. After having disorganised the Dutch rear by heavy bombings, deep raids by parachutists, and sabotage by resident fifth columnists, the way was opened for entry of the mechanised war machine.



BATTLE

MAY 13, 1940

“ The fight which begins to-day will decide the destiny of the Germans for a thousand years,” proclaimed Hitler.

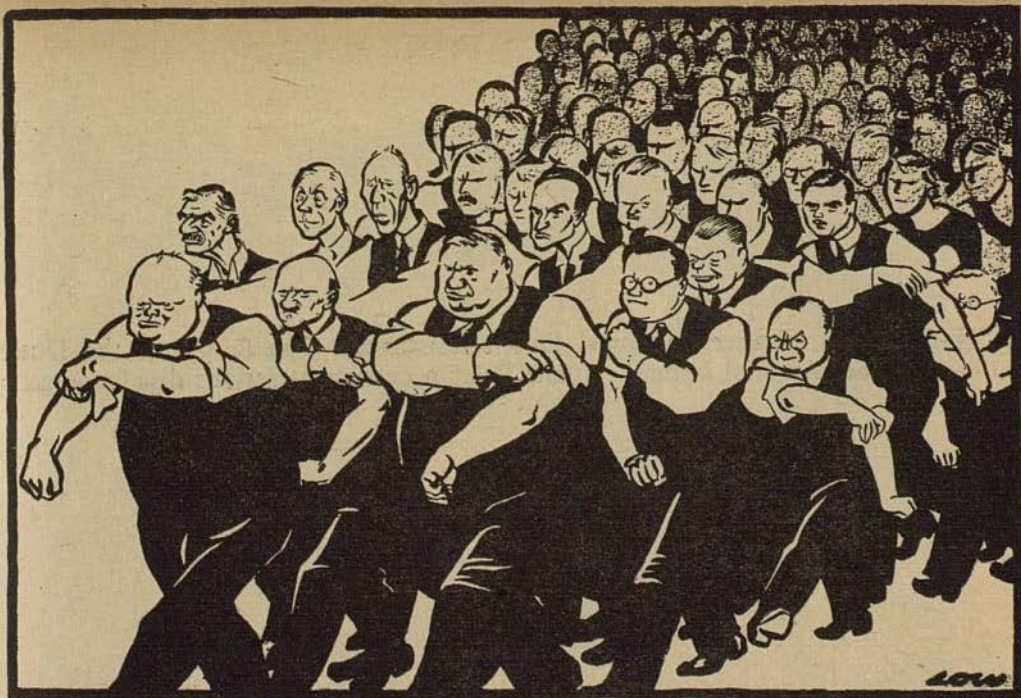


Hitler

"I DID IT TO ASSURE YOUR DESTINY"

MAY 14, 1940

Criticism of the British Government's shortcomings reached a climax. Winston Churchill formed a National Government including Labour and Liberal leaders, which inspired the country with new enthusiasm and energy.



Chamberlain
Churchill

Greenwood
Attlee

Halifax
Bevin

Sinclair
Morrison

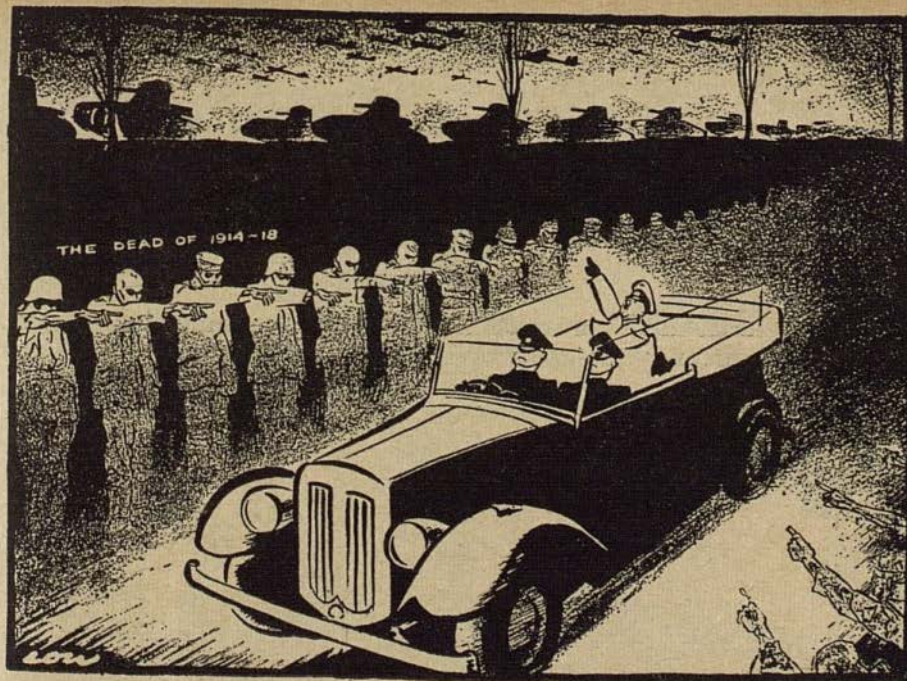
Duff Cooper
Alexander
Eden
Amery

K. Wood

"ALL BEHIND YOU, WINSTON"

MAY 16, 1940

The Nazis' quick advance destroyed Dutch resistance. The failure of the Dutch to blow up certain vital bridges put the Belgian defence at serious disadvantage.

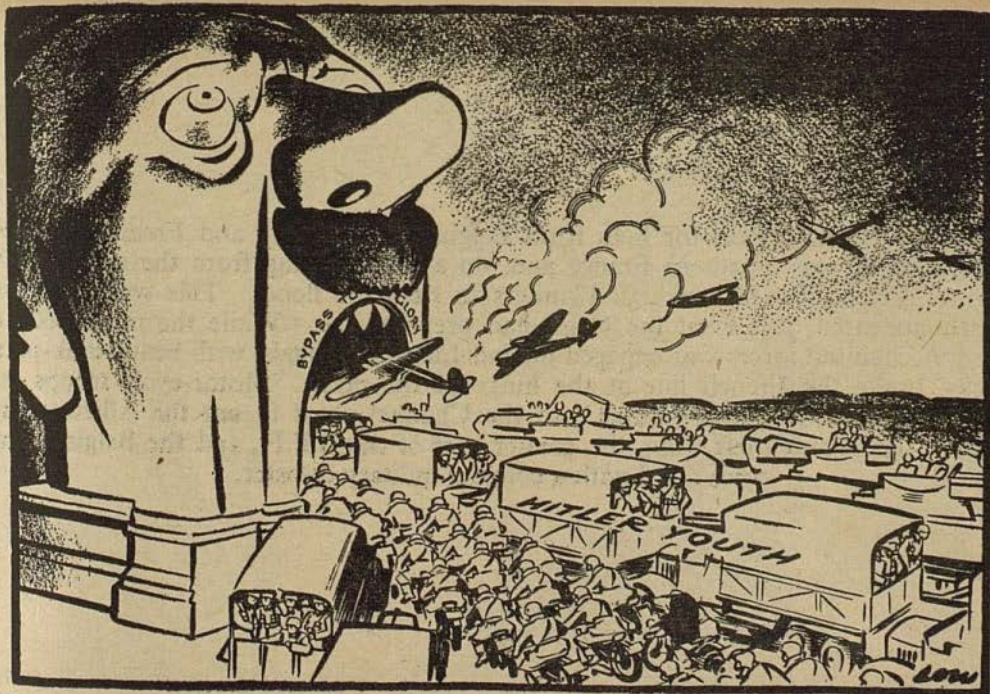


BELGIUM REVISITED

Hitler

JUNE 7, 1940

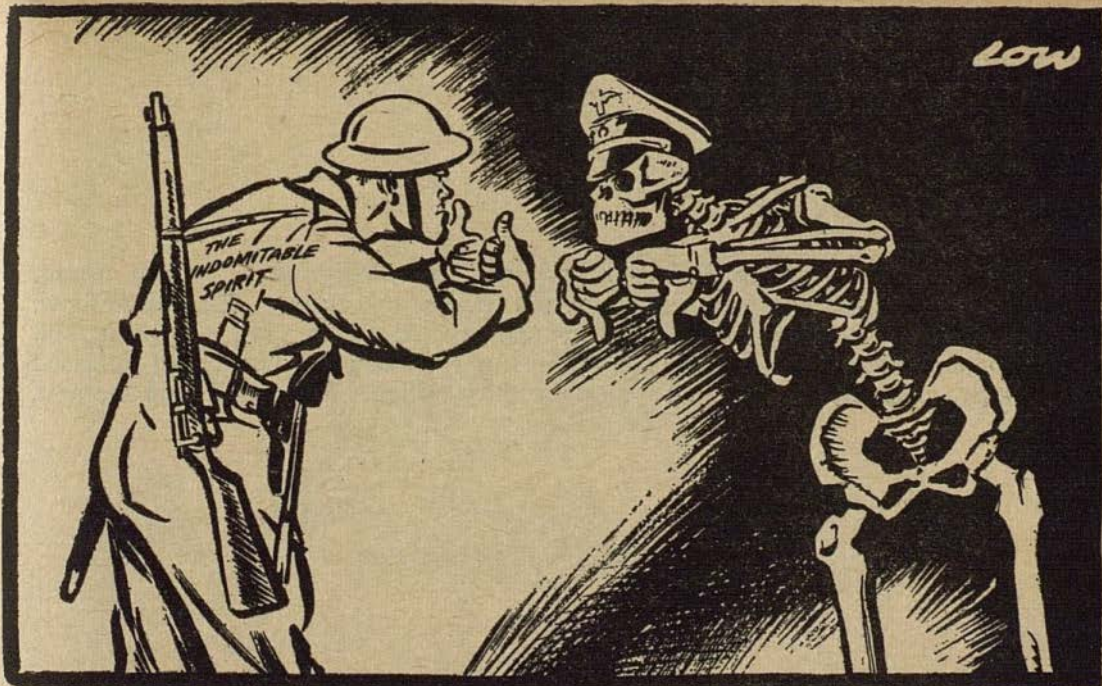
The new Nazi mechanised war machine—the deadly co-ordination of tank, plane and motor-cycle—swept over Belgium. Losses were heavy.



MECHANISED MOLOCH

MAY 23, 1940

In response to an appeal for help from Belgium, the British and French left their fortifications across Northern France and, on a line pivoting from the north of the Maginot Line, advanced through Flanders to stem the flood. This was, as subsequently appeared, just what the Nazis had prepared for. While the main body of Allied mechanised forces was engaged behind Liège, the Nazis, with heavy tank-plane attacks, broke the French line at the hinge of the pivot. Motor-cycle troops and tanks poured through the "bulge" to the Channel coast to cut the Allied armies in two. The French left wing, the greater part of the B.E.F., and the Belgian army were faced with a colossal military disaster.



LOOKING IT IN THE EYE

MAY 21, 1940

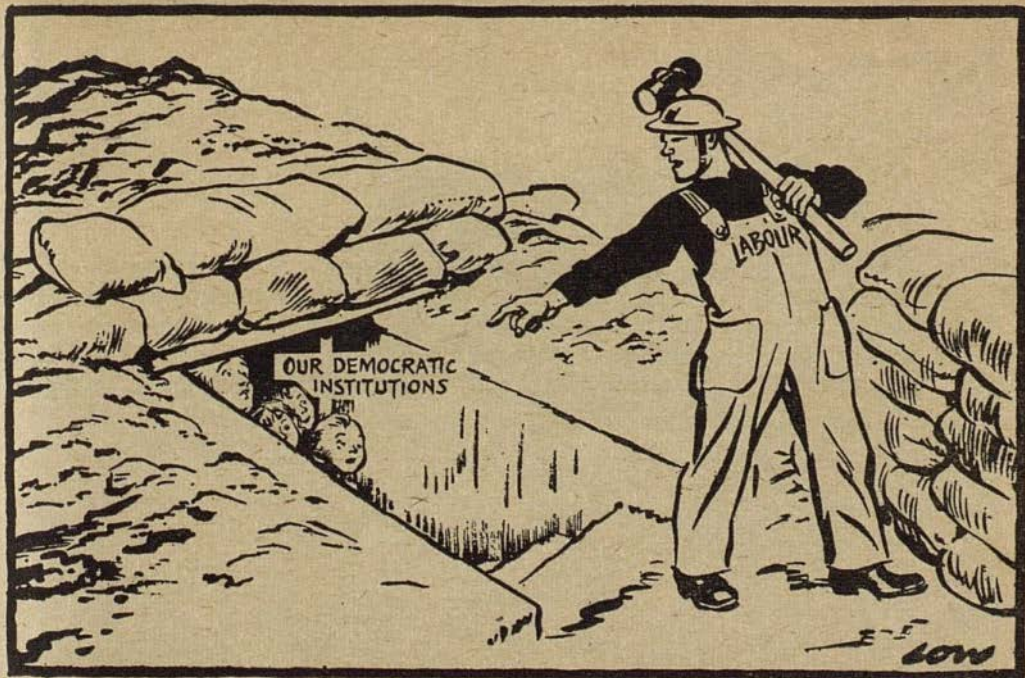
Mussolini described Fascist Italy's attitude as "non-belligerency," which meant, apparently, "not fighting except from behind the victim's back." Though an open partner of Hitler from the beginning of the war, he had ridden a rail with great skill, blackmailing the Allies for favours in return for his inaction. Now, well informed of French weaknesses, he awaited the opportunity to finish France off from the rear.



HYENAS

MAY 24, 1940

The British Parliament gave the Government the right to conscript every person, every piece of property, and all the financial resources of the realm. Labour in the new Government shelved its democratic institutions in order to make a concentrated effort to increase the production of armaments.

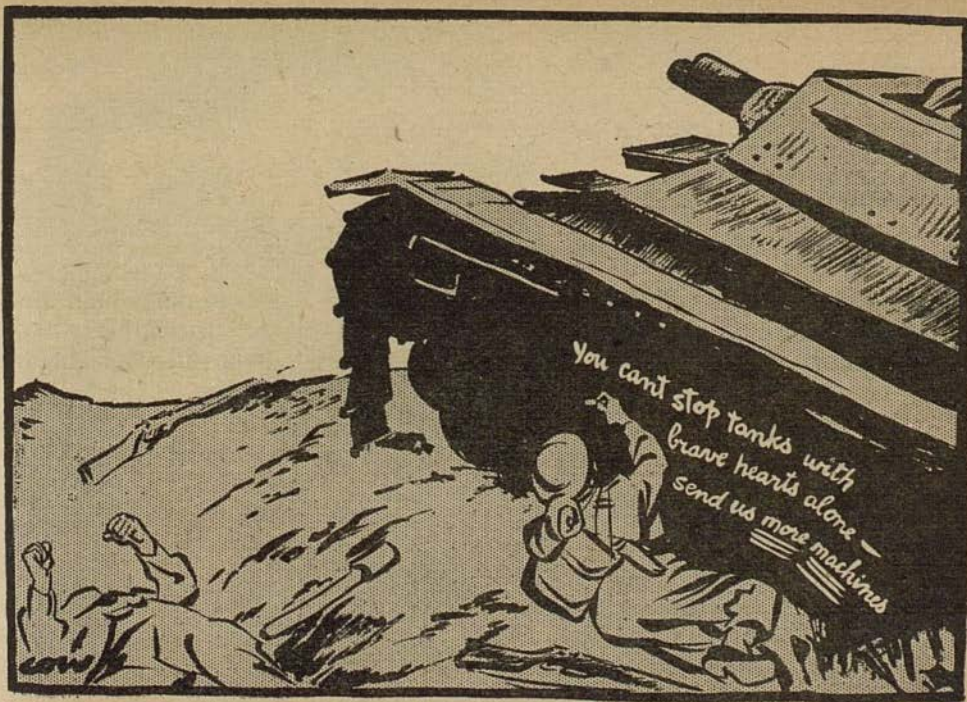


"STAY THERE! I'LL BE BACK"

E

MAY 28, 1940

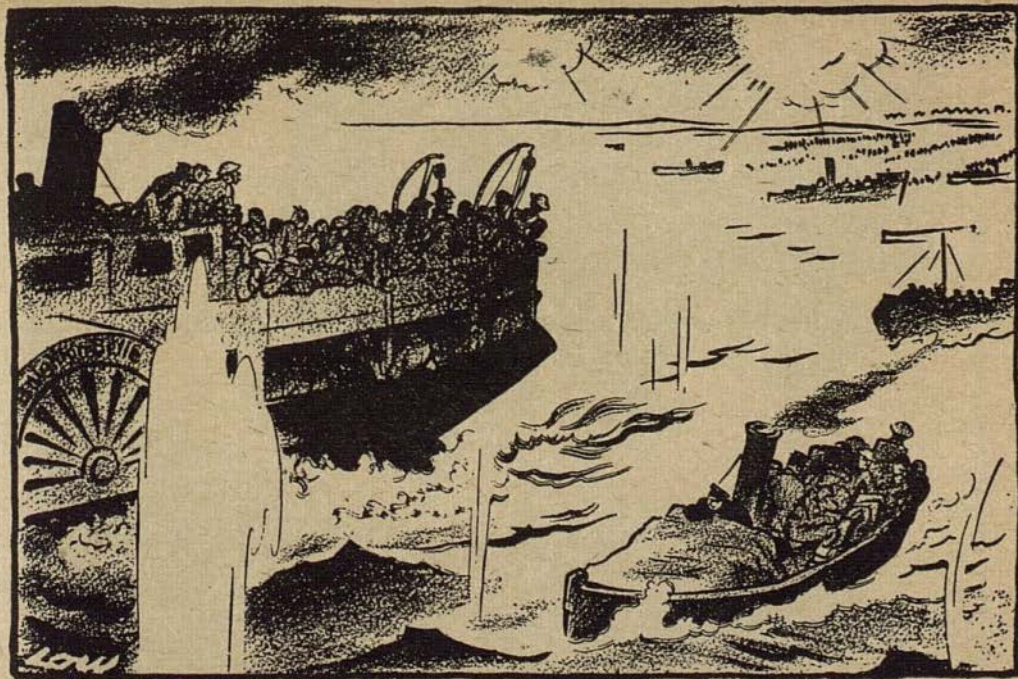
Belgium had been bearing the brunt of the fighting. King Leopold, without consulting his Allies, surrendered, leaving the flank of their retreating armies exposed to the closing-in enemy. In the fierce fighting that ensued it was evident that against the new Nazi tank-plane technique of war the Allies were heavily handicapped by lack of sufficient tanks and planes. But there was no deficiency in courage.



MESSAGE FROM FLANDERS

JUNE 8, 1940

By a prodigious effort of bravery and resource, a rag-tag-and-bobtail fleet of any and every kind of craft that could float, assisted by the British Navy and Air Force, withdrew the surrounded B.E.F. from Dunkirk. Four-fifths of the troops were snatched from the trap. Hitler's first slip.



TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

JUNE 10, 1940

Himmler, chief of the Nazi Gestapo, having "done" the Netherlands, now proceeded to start work on Belgium.



Himmler

THE ANGELS OF PEACE DESCEND ON BELGIUM

JUNE 21, 1940

“ This is the hour of irrevocable decision,” declaimed Mussolini, spurning the oft-repeated offer of France to negotiate a satisfactory appeasement. Italy declared war on France and Britain on the cynical twist that they “had hindered the advance of the Italian people.” The Duce’s dream was that with France near defeat, Britain would then have to surrender, ending what would be for Italy a cheap and profitable war—no risk and plenty of loot.

ORDER OF THE DAY

DON'T STAB
UNTIL THE
VICTIM'S BACK
IS TURNED



Mussolini

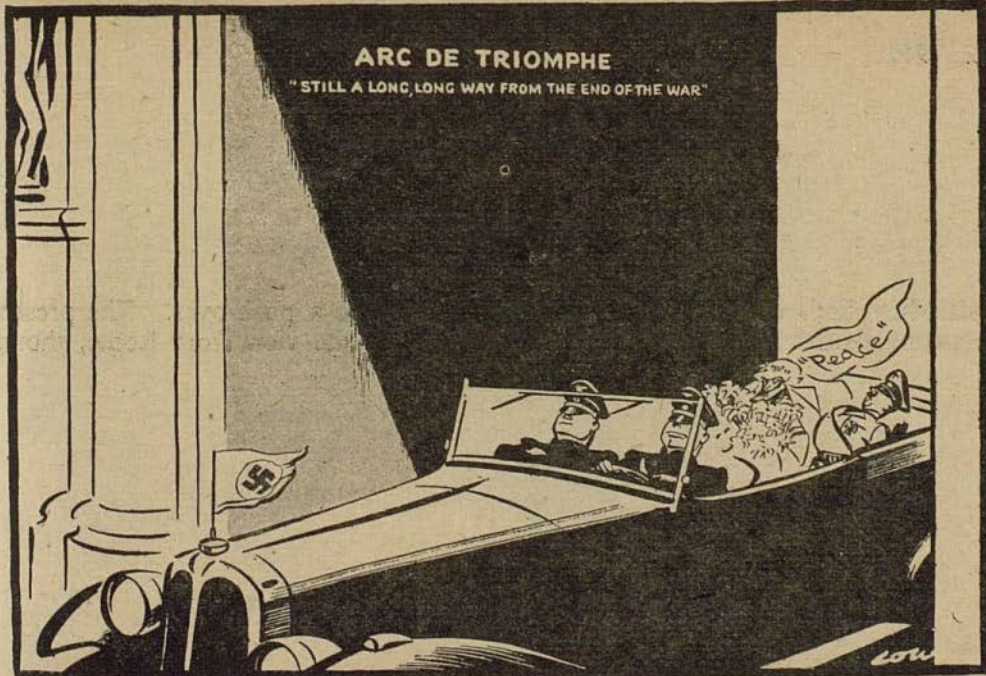
ON TO GLORY—AND WHATEVER WE CAN GRAB

JUNE 17, 1940

The French Government had left Paris, and to save the capital from bombardment it was not defended. Nazi troops entered. The Government of Reynaud resigned and Marshal Pétain, who took over, applied for peace "as between soldiers after the fight and in honour." . . . Hitler came to Paris to see the sights.

ARC DE TRIOMPHE

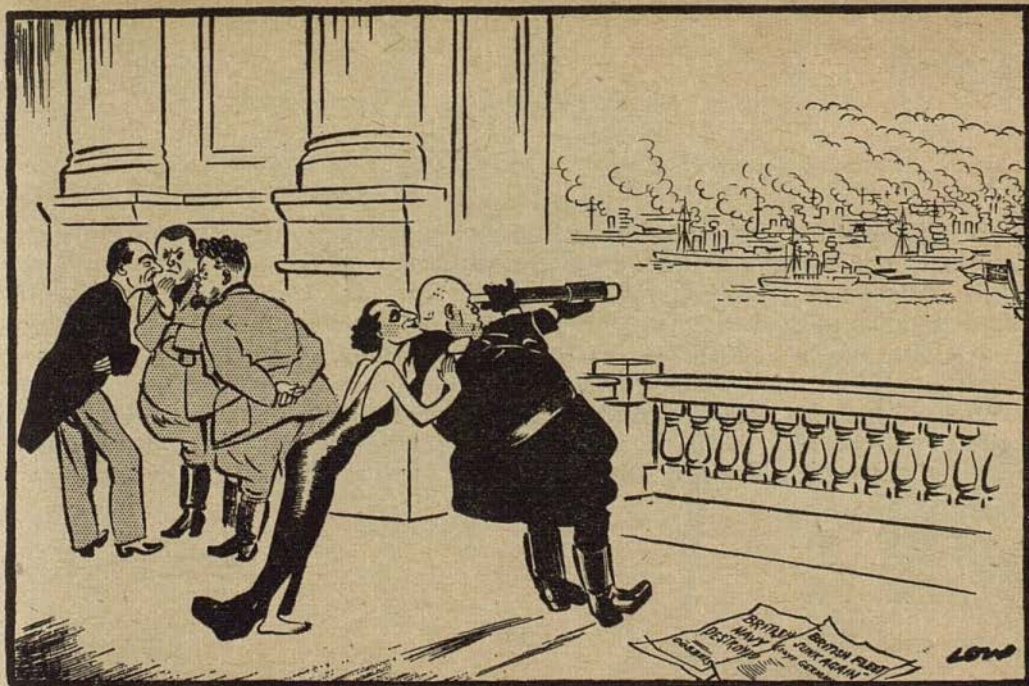
"STILL A LONG, LONG WAY FROM THE END OF THE WAR"



HERE COMES THE BRIDE

JUNE 19, 1940

By all Mussolini's calculations, Britain should now be a push-over. The presence of a strong British fleet in the Mediterranean spoilt the view from Rome, though.



Grandi Ciano Balbo

Edda Ciano Mussolini

THE ITALIAN OUTLOOK

JUNE 26, 1940

For the signing of the armistice with the French, Hitler took to the forest of Compiègne, the scene of the armistice of 1918, the identical railway coach in which the latter was signed. Afterwards the coach was taken to Berlin. The causes of defeat had been many : timidity and treachery in high places ; sabotage left and right ; but mainly it was a military defeat, occasioned by the miscalculations of the out-of-date military hierarchy that had not been up to the new plane-tank tactics of Hitler. It was this reactionary hierarchy, represented by the aged Marshal Pétain and General Weygand, inspired by the sinister Laval, the apostle of " appeasement," and saboteur of collective security, that now surrendered and handed France to Hitler.



GHOST TRAIN

Weygand Pétain Laval

JUNE 18, 1940

Preparations were under way in Britain to resist invasion. Assured of increasing support in supplies and munitions from the United States, and especially of planes and pilots from the Dominions, Britain determined to fight on alone.



"VERY WELL, ALONE"

JUNE 20, 1940

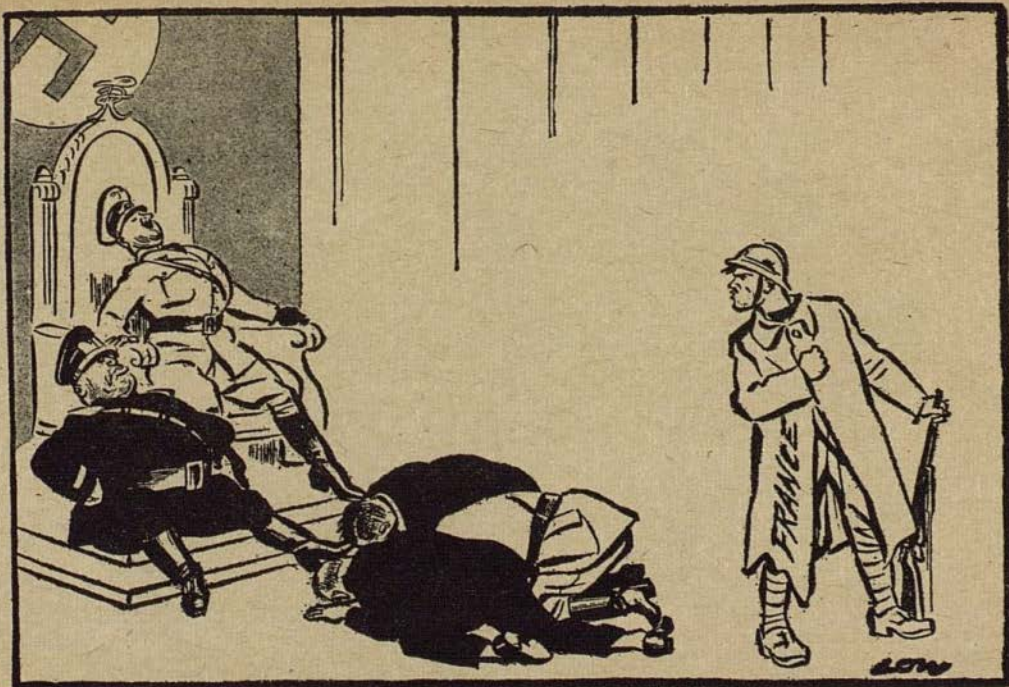
In the preliminaries to the air war on Britain the R.A.F., despite inferiority in numbers, found an undoubted man-for-man superiority in its pilots.



SUPERIOR QUALITY OF THE R.A.F.

JUNE 25, 1940

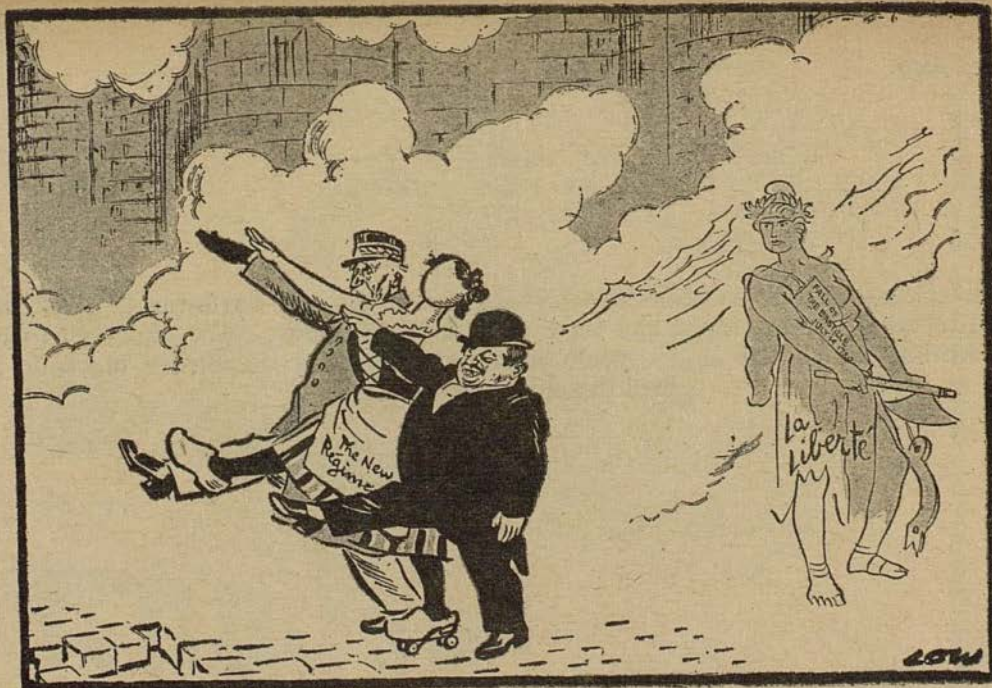
France's new rulers worked hard to conciliate their conquerors. A totalitarian régime was announced. "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité" were abolished.



TRIBUTE

JULY 15, 1940

The commemoration of the Fall of the Bastille and the birth of the French Republic
passed over in a France in which the Republic was no more.



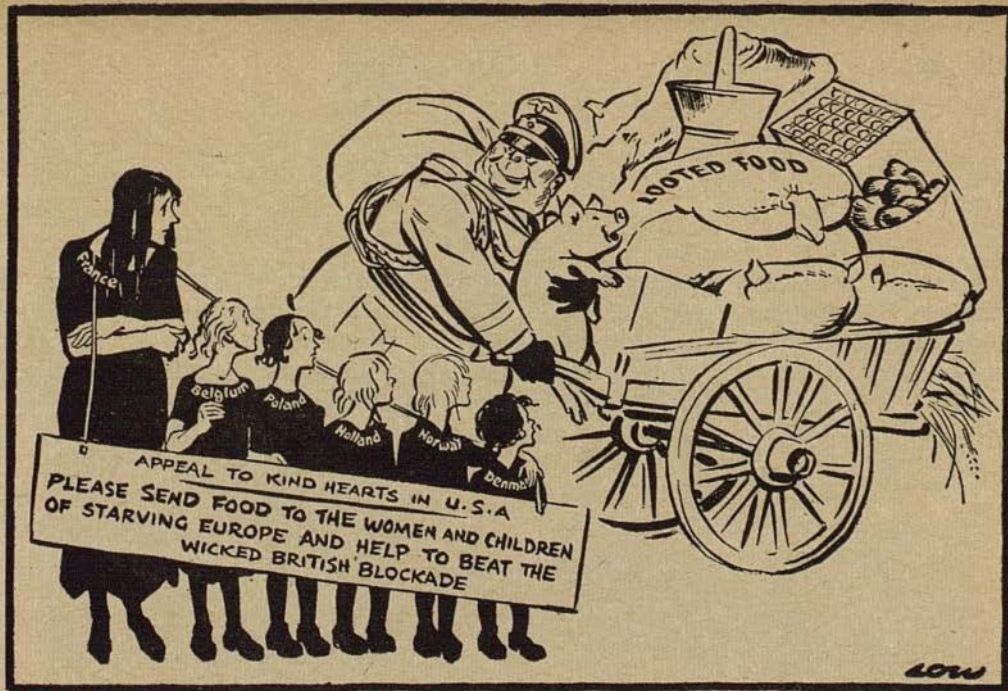
Pétain

Laval

"THAT'S NOT FRANCE!"

JUNE 28, 1940

Nazis celebrated their victories by stripping the subjugated territories of livestock, foodstuffs and raw materials, and sending these to Germany. They calculated that the sentimental United States would insist upon relaxing the British blockade to feed the plundered peoples.

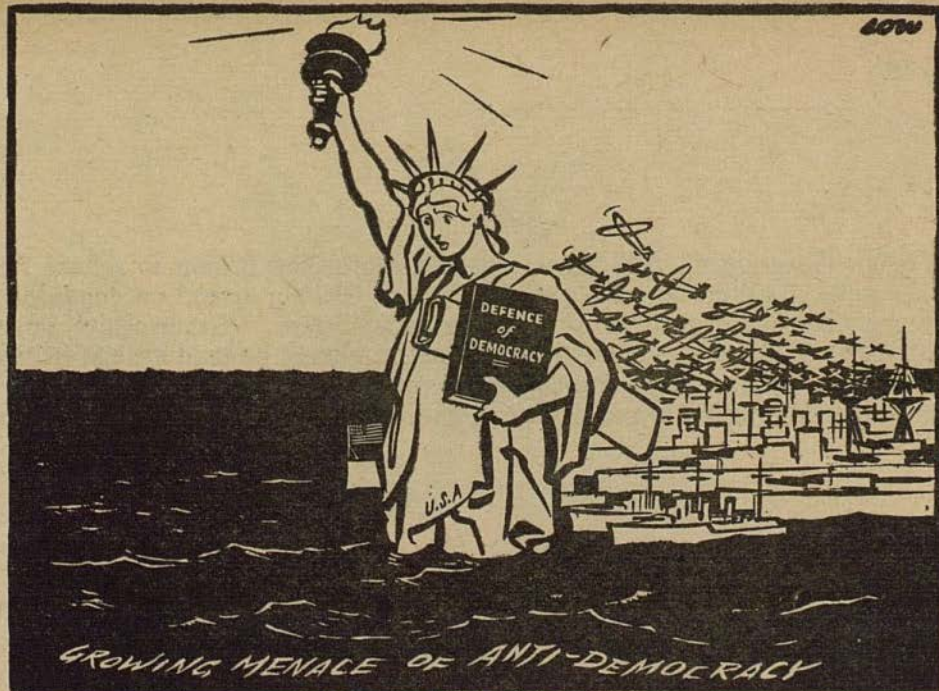


Göring

"I GAVE YOU A NICE PLACARD IN EXCHANGE, DIDN'T I?"

JULY 4, 1940

Opinion in the United States showed a growing perception that in a world that contained Hitler there was no such thing as isolation. Americans were apprehensive of the ambitions of Japan in the Pacific and of Hitler in the Atlantic. President Roosevelt put under way a huge national defence programme, including conscription and heavy additions to the Navy.



"SO THIS IS ISOLATION"

JULY 5, 1940

The French Government, before surrendering, had asked Britain to release France from her undertaking not to make a separate peace. Britain agreed on condition that the French fleet was placed out of Nazi Germany's power. The armistice, however, left only Hitler's promise as surety that the fleet would not be used against Britain by Nazi Germany. A British squadron, after presenting an ultimatum to the French fleet at Oran, engaged it in battle and destroyed part of it. The Dictators were disgusted.

"Hear anything yet?"

"Only someone singing
'the Marseillaise' with
a strong English
accent, Duce."



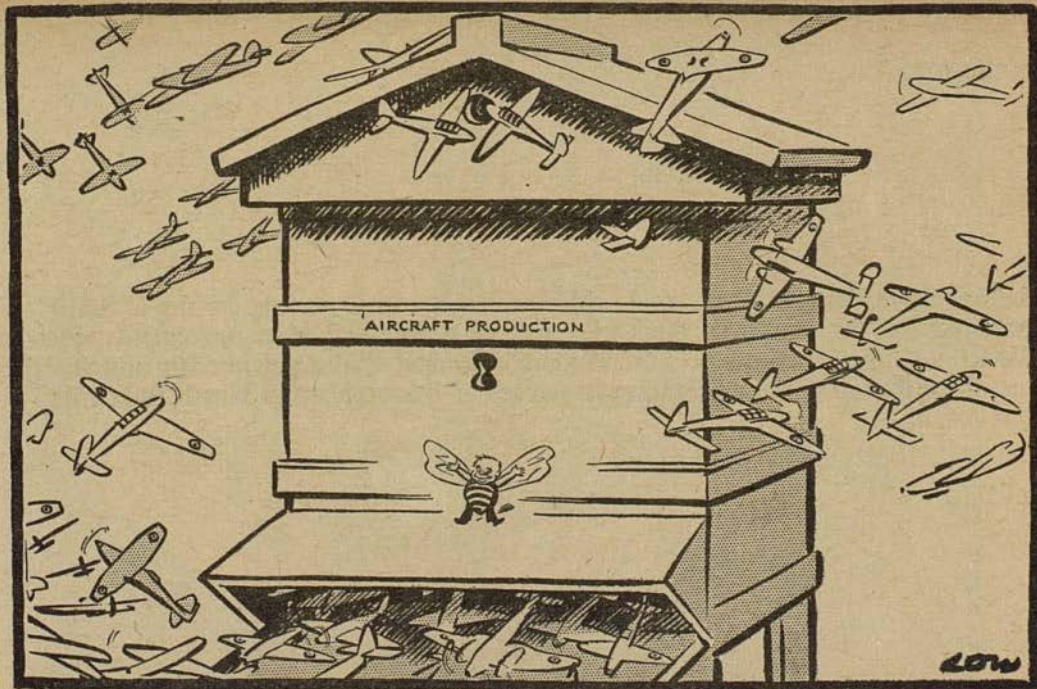
Mussolini

Hitler

THE MISSING FRENCH FLEET

JULY 9, 1940

British airplane production, under the energetic Lord Beaverbrook, began to show phenomenal results.

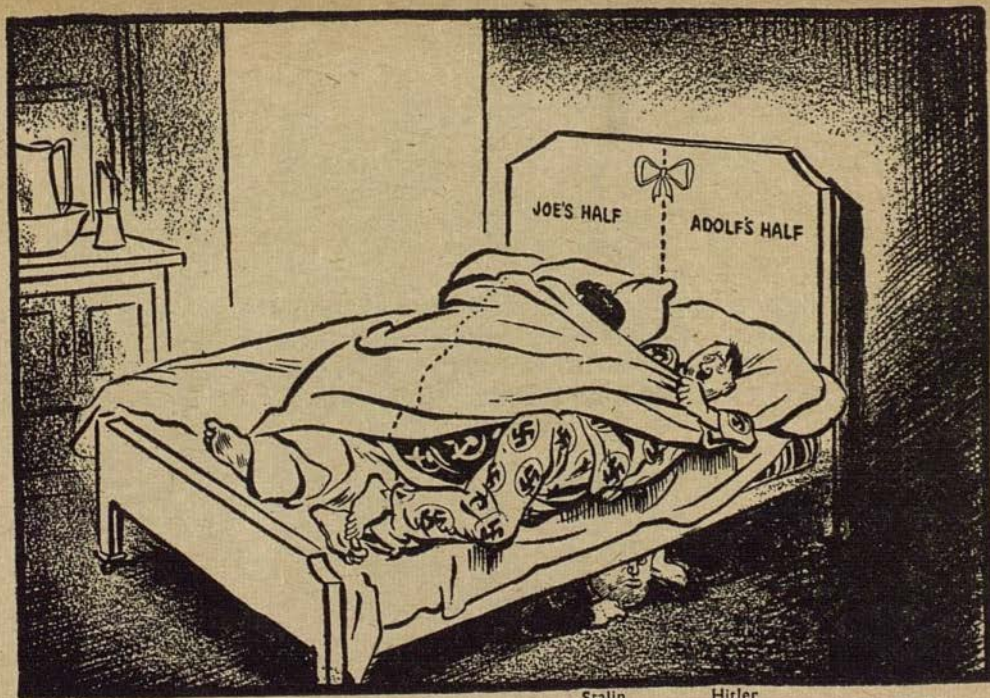


Beaverbrook

HOW DO TH THE BUSY LITTLE B

JULY 23, 1940

Stalin was restless about the rapid drift to Nazism in Rumania, for the U.S.S.R. was vulnerable in her southern territories and he didn't like Nazi movements near his Black Sea. Just to show he was no mere onlooker, Stalin got in early and snatched from Rumania the ex-Russian provinces of Bessarabia and North Bukovina.



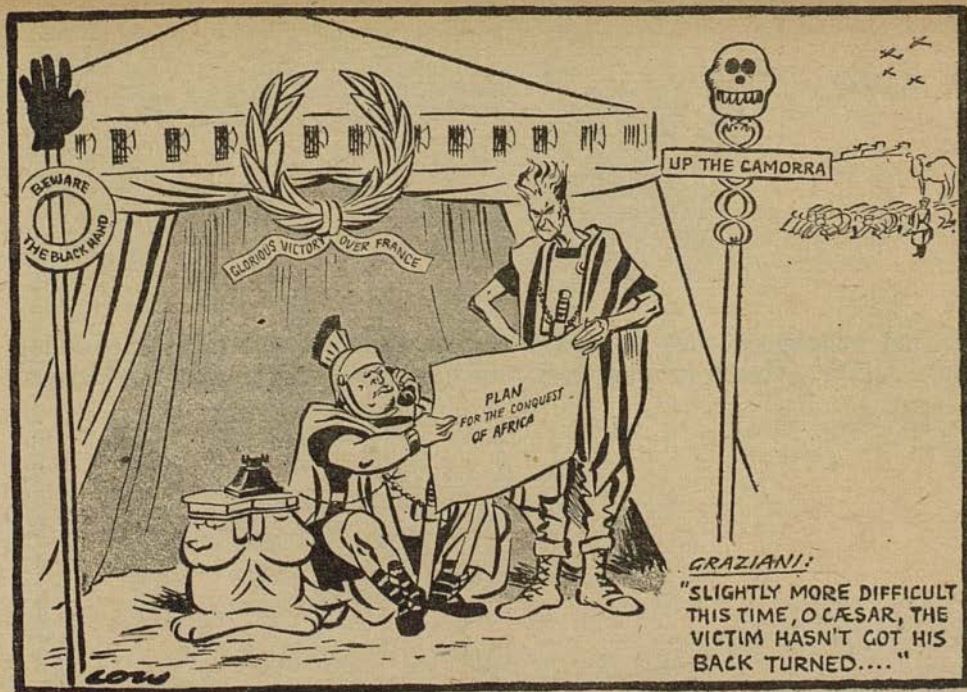
Stalin Hitler
Mussolini

UNEASY NIGHTS IN THE BALKANS

G

AUGUST 8, 1940

After little and inglorious fighting, Fascist Italy had been able to impose armistice terms on beaten France, demilitarising French possessions in Africa. Mussolini's forces were left free to deal with Britain in the Mediterranean and Africa. While Germany was "invading and occupying Britain," Italy was to "cut the British Empire to pieces."



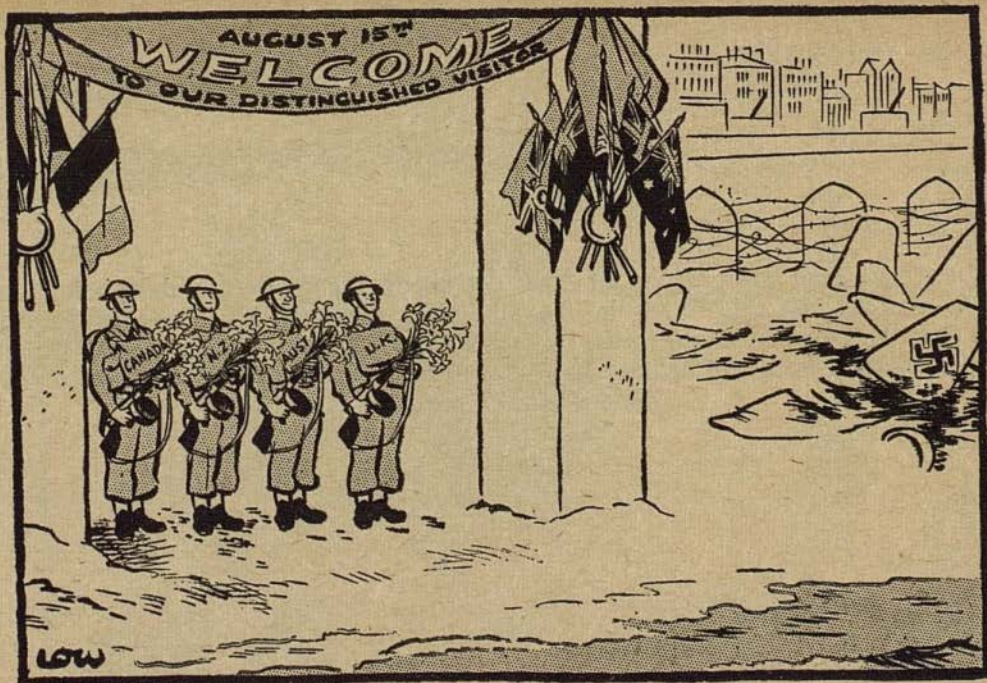
Mussolini

Graziani

AFRICAN CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 15, 1940

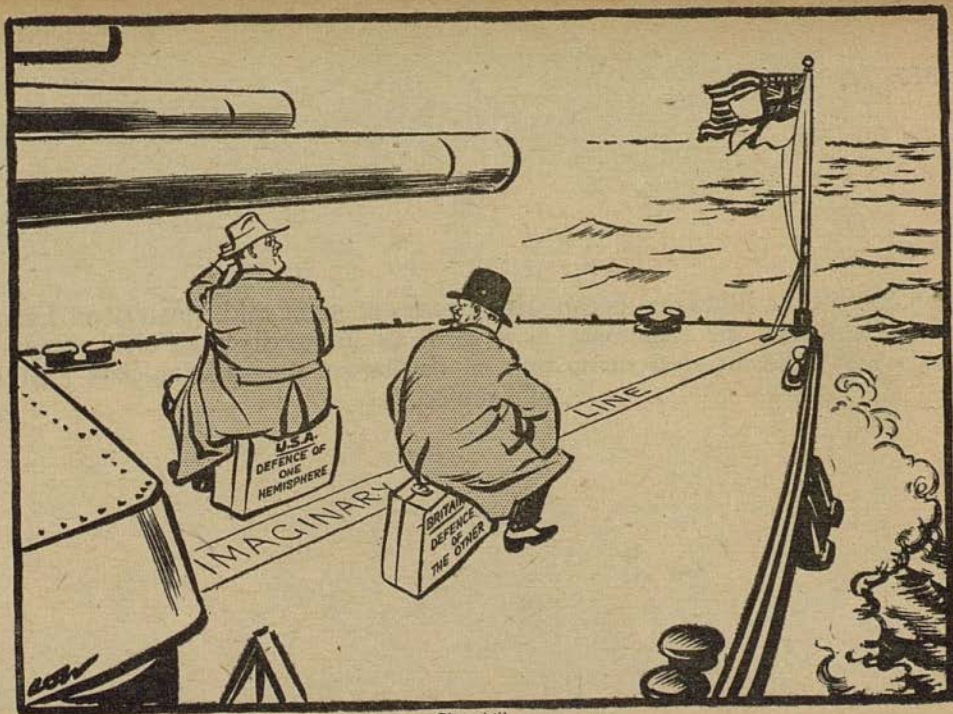
Hitler had announced that he would receive Britain's surrender in London on August 15th. Owing to unforeseen circumstances the ceremony was delayed.



RECEPTION COMMITTEE

AUGUST 26, 1940

President Roosevelt was anxious for "the defence of the Western Hemisphere," and U.S.A. realised that this rested in the first place upon British victory in Europe. Help to Britain was increased to the maximum, short of war. "The British Empire and the United States will have to be somewhat mixed up together in some of their affairs," said Churchill.



Roosevelt

Churchill

"HULLO! GOING MY WAY?"

SEPTEMBER 11, 1940

At long last the air Blitzkrieg began with a series of night raids, mainly on London. In efforts to follow the customary Nazi tactic of stampeding the civil population, Göring's Luftwaffe dropped many tons of bombs on the working-class East End of London.

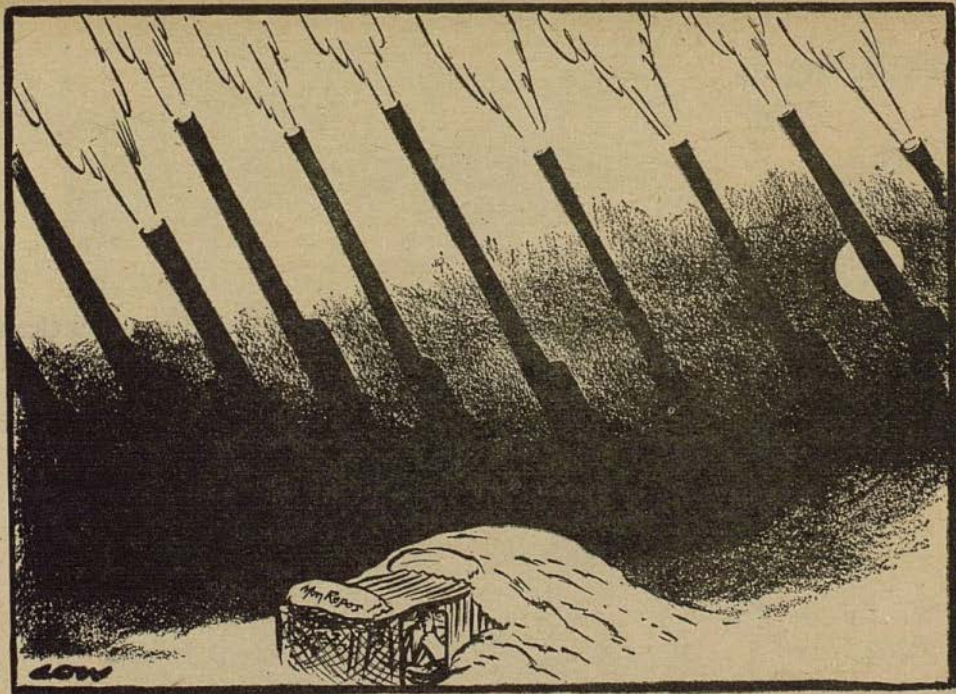


Göring

IMPREGNABLE TARGET

SEPTEMBER 16, 1940

With spirit and unity that aroused the admiration of the whole world, London began to adapt itself to underground night-life.



NINE O'CLOCK SYMPHONY

SEPTEMBER 17, 1940

Housing Londoners who had been bombed from their homes, and assuring sleeping shelter for the working population, became pressing problems.

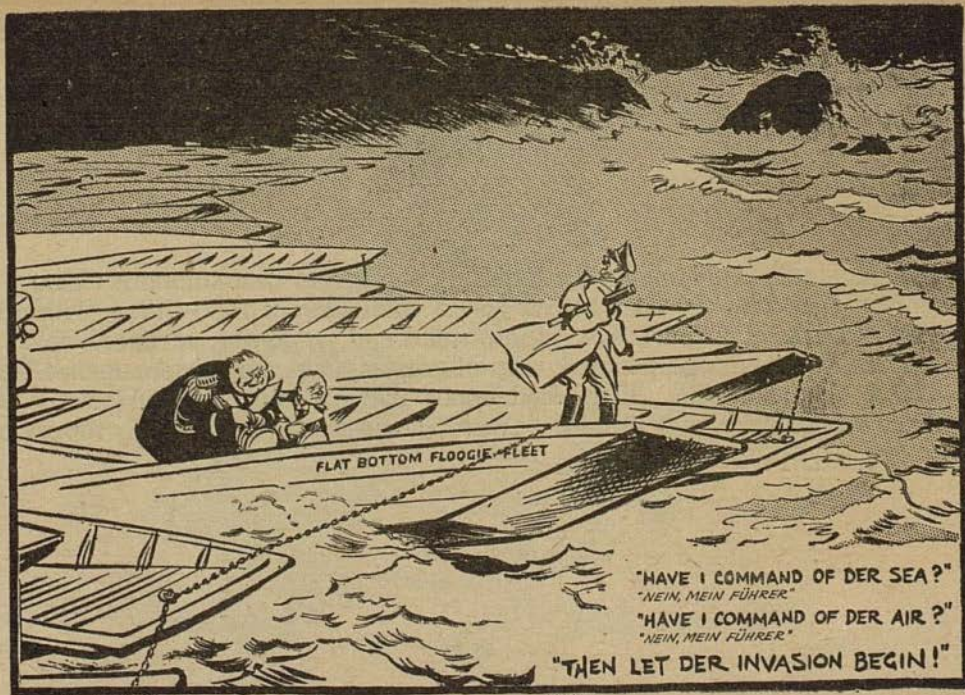


Col. Blimp Low Anderson

LONDON SLEEPS

SEPTEMBER 19, 1940

Hitler's much-advertised invasion of Britain was held up by the R.A.F.'s nightly bombing of his concentrations of material and fleets of flat-bottomed boats in occupied Channel ports.



"HAVE I COMMAND OF DER SEA?"

"NEIN, MEIN FÜHRER."

"HAVE I COMMAND OF DER AIR?"

"NEIN, MEIN FÜHRER."

"THEN LET DER INVASION BEGIN!"

Göring

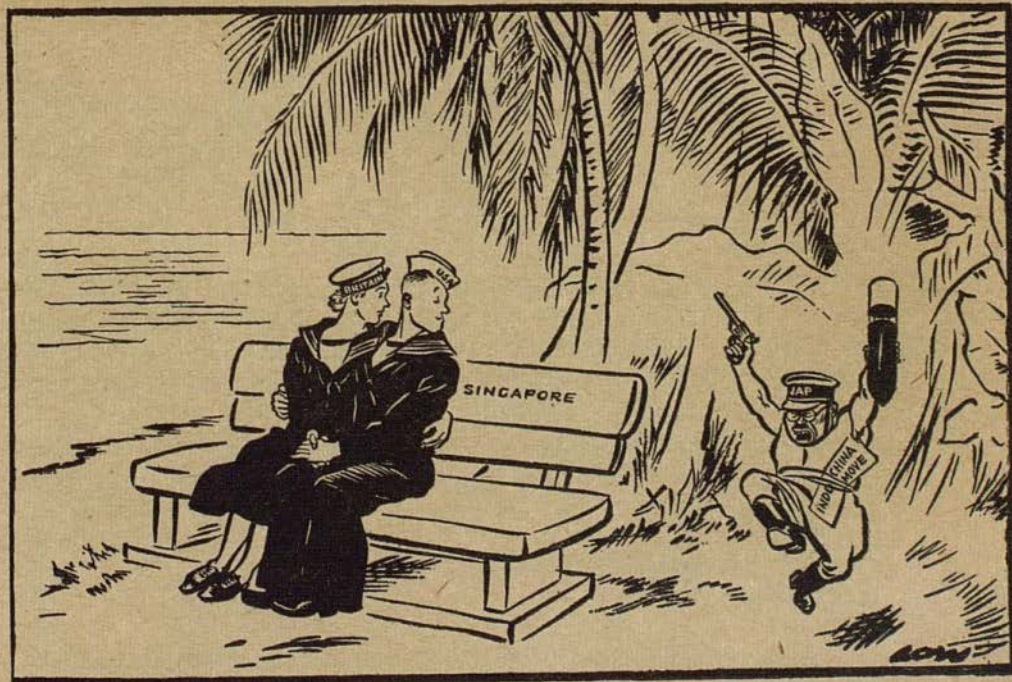
Raeder

Hitler

PREPARATIONS FOR CONQUEST

SEPTEMBER 26, 1940

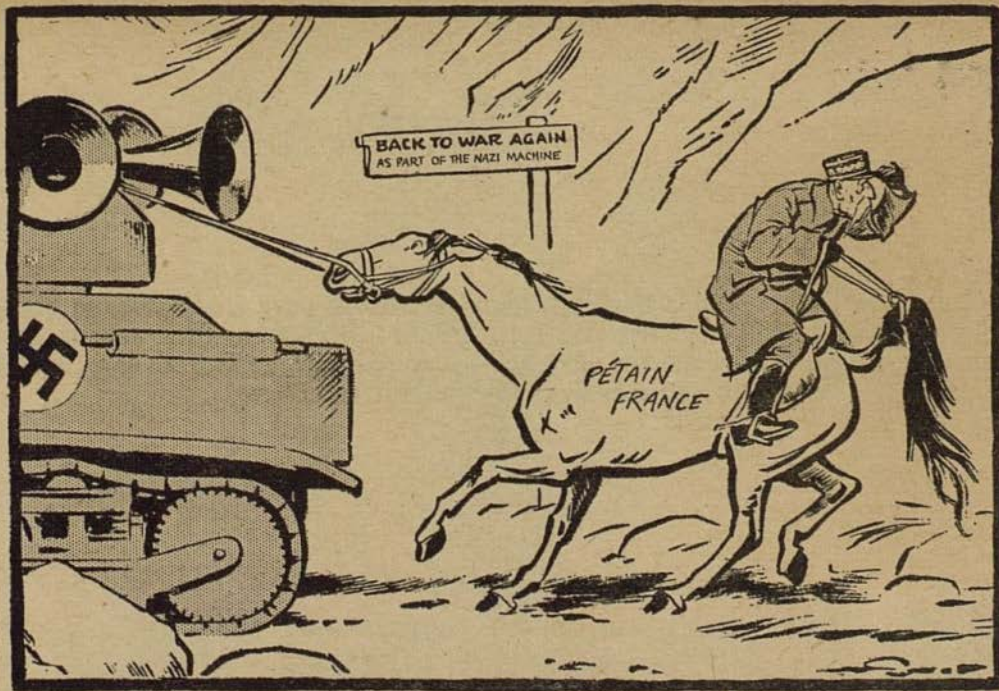
Before Japan could hope to rule the Far East, she had to beat stubborn China. The signing of a Pact with the Axis helped her to enter French Indo-China, within easy bombing distance of China's best supply route and possessing advanced naval and air bases which, it was loudly hinted, were of great strategic importance against Britain and U.S.A. in the Pacific. Hitler had hoped that his Pact would frighten U.S.A. away from co-operation with Britain. The American reaction was exactly the opposite.



"BOY, YOU DON'T MEAN TO, BUT YOU MAKE A SWELL CUPID" H

AUGUST 27, 1940

Efforts of the Pétain Government to please the Dictators revealed the futility of its peace hopes. The scheming of Laval for a Latin bloc, through which he hoped to play off Mussolini against Hitler, received no encouragement. On the other hand, Nazi pressure increased to drag France into collaboration with the war against her late ally.

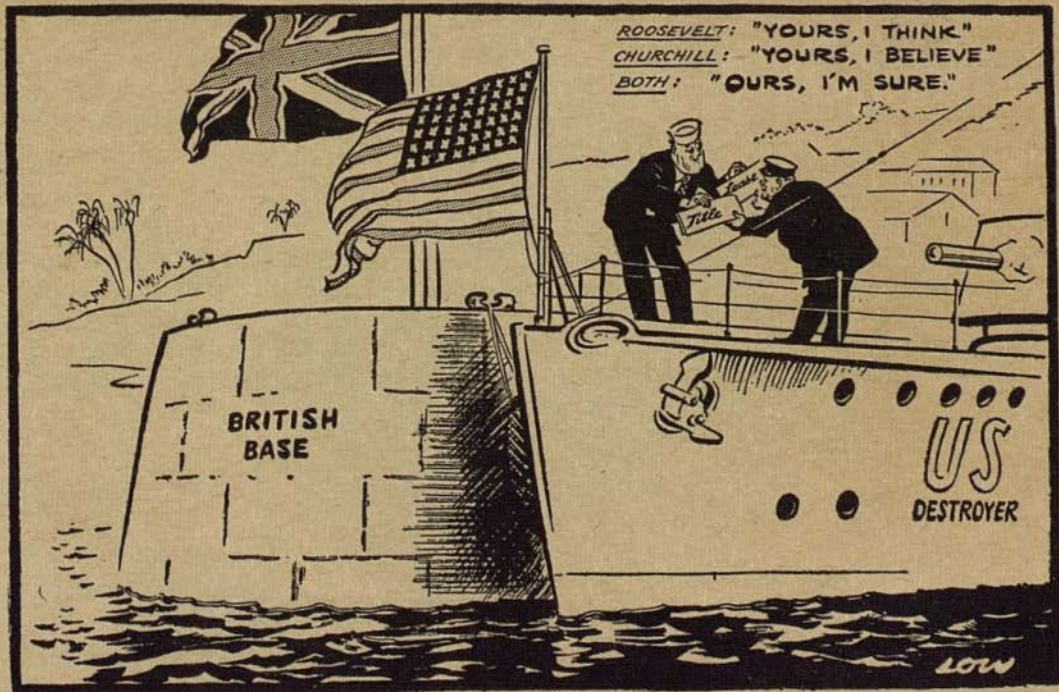


Pétain

THE PEACE-SEEKER'S PROGRESS

SEPTEMBER 5, 1940

U.S.A. came to the conclusion that in helping the British navy it was helping itself, so it gave fifty reconditioned destroyers to Britain. Britain, in turn, feeling that the security of British dominions in the Pacific required a strong U.S.A. navy, leased bases in the West Indies and elsewhere to U.S.A.



ROOSEVELT: "YOURS, I THINK"
CHURCHILL: "YOURS, I BELIEVE"
BOTH: "OURS, I'M SURE."

MUTUAL BENEFIT

OCTOBER 4, 1940

The Pact between Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Japan declared a "New Order," whereby the world, whether it liked it or not, was carved up into spheres of influence: Europe for Germany, Africa for Italy, and the Far East for Japan. Hitler had taken charge of the remains of Rumania and he now looked out on the Black Sea. The signs showed the balance of power in the Nazi-Soviet partnership to be altered to the disadvantage of Moscow.

"What, nothing for dear old Joe?
Never fear, Adolf will have a
New Order for you Too —
pretty soon now."



Stalin

Ribbentrop

Mussolini

Hitler

ORDERS AND DECORATIONS

OCTOBER 30, 1940

Mussolini had nothing to show from his "victories" yet but Hitler promises; he was getting left in the Balkans game; and his African army was stuck in the desert with its supplies cut off by the British fleet. The Duce therefore needed some sort of triumph and better naval and air bases against Britain. He demanded the surrender of Greece, considerably postponing serious operations for a day "to give the Greeks time to capitulate." To his astonishment the Greeks, with epic spirit recalling Thermopylæ, rose and soundly walloped the Roman legions.



Mussolini

HELP ! HERE'S ONE SHOWING FIGHT !

OCTOBER 31, 1940

The invasion of Britain being held up, Hitler decided on a diplomatic blitzkrieg to show U.S.A. how useless it was to oppose him. After feverish comings and goings of statesmen and stooges an alleged "formidable array of nations" was rounded up to demonstrate the complete identity of views and powers in Europe behind the Axis.

It was a flop.



Pétain

Mussolini

Franco

Stalin

Konoye

Hitler

THE ARMY TOES THE LINE

DECEMBER 19, 1940

The end of 1940 found Mussolini's fortunes sinking under double defeat: by the Greeks, who had thrown back their Fascist invaders into Albania; and by the British, who had routed and driven Graziani's army from Egypt.



Mussolini
HAUNTED

DECEMBER 30, 1940

Hitler, likewise, faced a difficult New Year. The destruction of Britain was essential to end this, his first group of wars. Yet, despite intensive bombing and submarine blockade, British strength—land, sea and air—was visibly growing, and behind were rising the immense resources of the U.S.A. The risks of invasion had correspondingly increased. Yet . . . ?



Hitler

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by

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DAVID LOW

is a New Zealander of Scottish-Irish parentage. He began drawing political cartoons for the Press as a small boy, and thereafter was associated with various newspapers and periodicals in New Zealand and Australia. In 1919 he started work in London, and without intermission since then has followed the trail of events with at least four cartoons weekly, contributed latterly to the **EVENING STANDARD**. He has produced sixteen books of caricatures, cartoons and drawings.

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