

















## TANKS & ARTILLERY BROKE DAMASCUS DEFENCES

### DE GAULLE BELIEVES END NOW IN SIGHT

From ARTHUR MERTON,  
Daily Telegraph Special Correspondent  
WITH THE ALLIED FORCES IN SYRIA, Sunday.  
Free French troops yesterday marched into Damascus, capital of Syria, following a series of brilliantly executed operations against the defences south and west of the city which finally compelled the Vichy High Command to order its evacuation on Friday.

On the south side of the city the enemy held the Kuneitra road with a force of tanks and had prepared a strong position on Hill 748 from which field-guns swept the Kiswe road.

While an Indian company moved round from the Gebel Hertzout hill towards Sahbiya with the object of taking the defenders of Hill 748 in the rear, Free French tanks with a company of infantry attacked frontally.

The manoeuvre was entirely successful and the position captured.

About the same time a force of Free French tanks and two batteries, one Indian, the other British, attacked and drove off the French tanks which barred the Damascus end of the Kuneitra road.

While the Indians, whose work throughout the campaign has won the highest praise, had been delegated to deal with the position at Mezze aerodrome, to the west of the capital.

They quickly occupied the aerodrome, but were subjected to considerable shelling from the Damascus forts, mainly Fort Gouraud, on the north side of the Damascus-Beirut road.

Explosions and bursts could be seen from our advanced headquarters outside Damascus, while a number of French tanks circled round the suburb.

Indian artillery, however, contrived to secure a footing on one of three hills adjacent to Fort Gouraud. This enabled them to give the fort a plastering which materially affected its shelling power.

Finally they exploded an im-

## NAVY PLANES SANK DESTROYER

### FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OFF THE SYRIAN COAST

The sinking of a Vichy destroyer off the Syrian coast in the early hours of last Monday morning shows the extent to which Admiral Darlan is collaborating with the Italo-German naval authorities.

It is thought that this destroyer slipped from London and, using Italian territorial waters, shaped her course for Beirut.

The Vichy announcement that she has been sunk enables us to break some of the silence which has shrouded the vital work of our cruisers and destroyers in these waters.

The French destroyer was to have reinforced the two destroyers Guépard and Valmy, which, working from Beirut, have tried to harass the progress of our coastal columns by surprise bombardments. They have relied on their unusual speed to elude our naval forces.

## WAR SAVINGS CAMPAIGN

### She's not playing the game

Vera: She's always talking about her boy friend in the R.A.F.—I'd like to know what he thinks, though.

Jane: What about?

Vera: Well—she spends too much on herself. That's just not playing the game by her boy friend and his Air Force pals.

Jane: Why not?

Vera: Well—for one thing we want more planes, and she ought to be the first to help. We've got to cut down what we spend on ourselves. If we all do that, there'll be more people to make planes and all the other things the boys must have to win the war.

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## Mr. EDEN TALKS WITH M. MAISKY

### BRITAIN OFFERED AID BEFORE

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent  
I understand that the offer of help to Russia, referred to by Mr. Churchill last night, was made when Mr. Eden, the Foreign Secretary, saw M. Maisky, the Soviet Ambassador, yesterday morning.

Similar offers have been made to the Soviet on more than one occasion in the recent past, probably as a result of the warnings which Mr. Churchill also disclosed that he had addressed to Stalin.

The Government's decision to support Russia was taken, I understand, with the full support of Mr. Eden, Mr. Fraser, the New Zealand Prime Minister.

Mr. Eden's conversation with M. Maisky lasted for an hour. I understand that Mr. Maisky repeated statements that Russia would resist the German attack with her maximum strength and with confidence.

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Northern Ireland has great military and naval traditions. We face the future with confidence and resolution."

Obituary. PREB. L. J. PERCIVAL. Prebendary, Laureate, Jefferson Percival, Domestic Chaplain and Sub-Almoner to the King and Precentor of the Chapel Royal, died yesterday, aged 72.

A priest-in-ordinary to Queen Victoria, he served at the Court of the succeeding Monarch. He played Rugby for Oxford and also for England, 1890-1892.

Senator Pat (Byron Patton) Harrison, aged 69, temporary president of the United States Senate and chairman of the Senate Finance Commission, died yesterday.

Sir William Dalrymple, At J. H. Dalrymple, aged 76. A member of the Legislative Council from 1907 to 1910, chairman of the Council of Education of the Witwatersrand, and four times vice-president of the Chamber of Mines.

Eleonora Anna, Dowager Countess of Ypres, widow of the first Earl of Ypres, and mother of the second Earl, died yesterday.

Mr. Paul Block, the American newspaper publisher, aged 63. He was the publisher of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Toledo Blade and Toledo Times.

FLANDERS B.E.F. An inaccuracy occurred in the map illustrating the Belgian army's dis- position on May 26-27, 1940, published with Sir Roger Keyes's article in THE DAILY TELEGRAPH last Friday. The part of the front between the Belgian army's right and the sector marked "B.E.F." should have been shown as held not by the French but by the British.

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