

TRIUMPH IN DISASTER

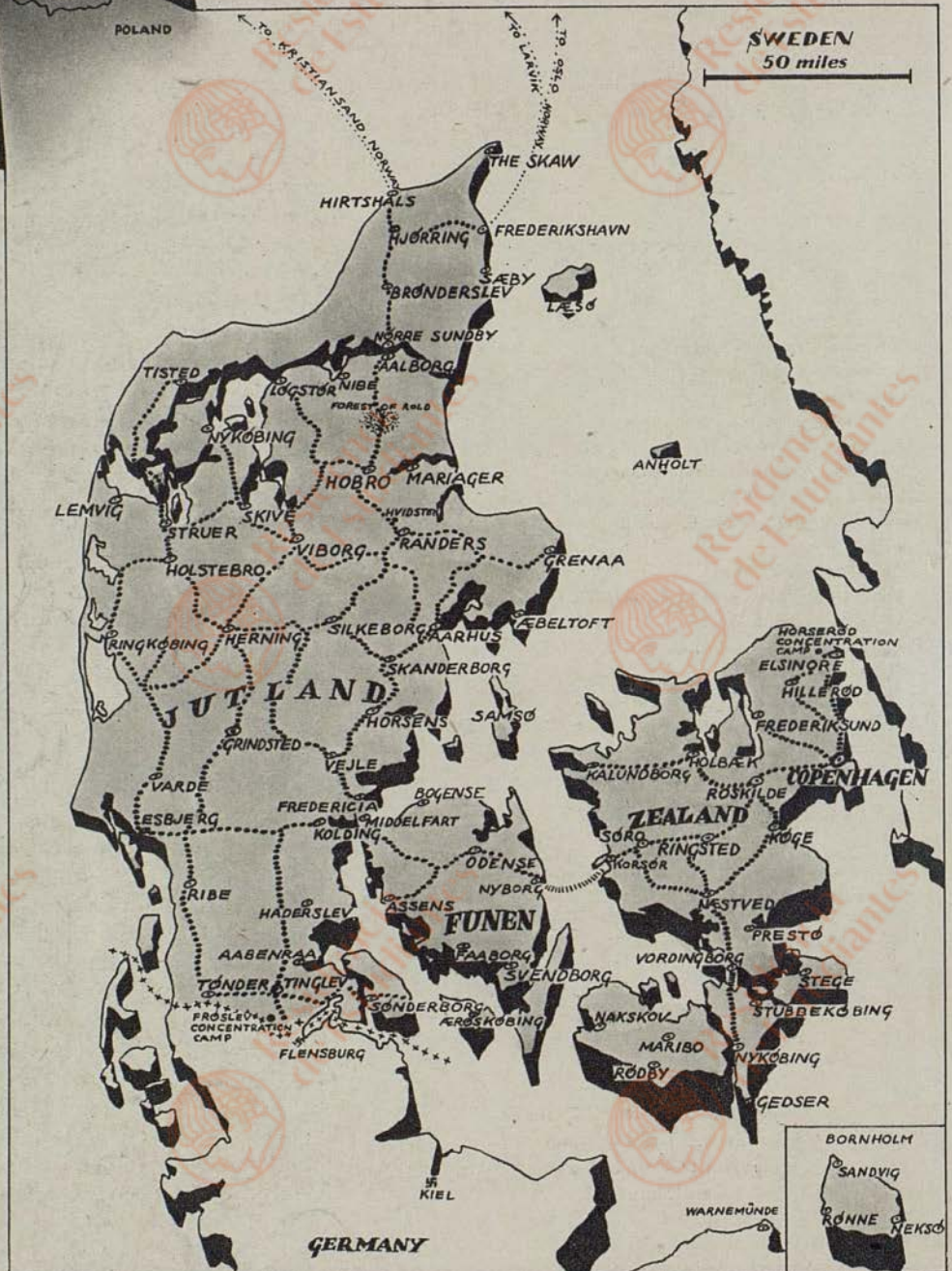


DENMARK'S FIGHT AGAINST GERMANY

KINGDOM OF DENMARK

Population, 4 millions

Capital, COPENHAGEN (popn. 1 million)



Triumph in Disaster

by

HOLGER HØRSHOLT HANSEN

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The author acknowledges his gratitude to all Danish patriots who under great difficulties, often at the risk of their lives, have obtained and smuggled out of Denmark the information and photographs without which this book could not have been written.

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STATIONERY OFFICE ON BEHALF
OF THE DANISH COUNCIL
IN LONDON.

BRITAIN'S TRIBUTE

On July 19, 1944, the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, expressed to the Danish people the gratitude and congratulations of the House of Commons on the occasion of the Danish triumph over the Germans during the general strike in Copenhagen.

Mr. Eden said :

"There can be no doubt that the strikes were an overwhelming success. We have seen the heartening spectacle of the civilian population of an enemy-occupied city enforcing their demands on the German military authorities. The recent strike in Denmark might well be called a national strike."

Mr. Sorensen asked the Foreign Secretary whether there was any means by which the House could convey to the Danish people its congratulations and express its gratitude for the successful strike. Mr. Eden replied :

"I have made this statement because I thought the House would like to have an opportunity of doing so."

And the House applauded.

What did the Danish people accomplish that they should earn this unique tribute from the British House of Commons? How was Denmark able to testify that the war may be perceptibly shortened through the efforts of the occupied countries? How were the unarmed Copenhageneers—despite terror, murder, emergency decrees and attempts to starve them out—able to win such an overwhelming victory over such apparently superior forces? Why were "die Wehrmacht," the Gestapo and the traitorous Danish "Schalburg Corps" forced to capitulate to the will of the Danish people?

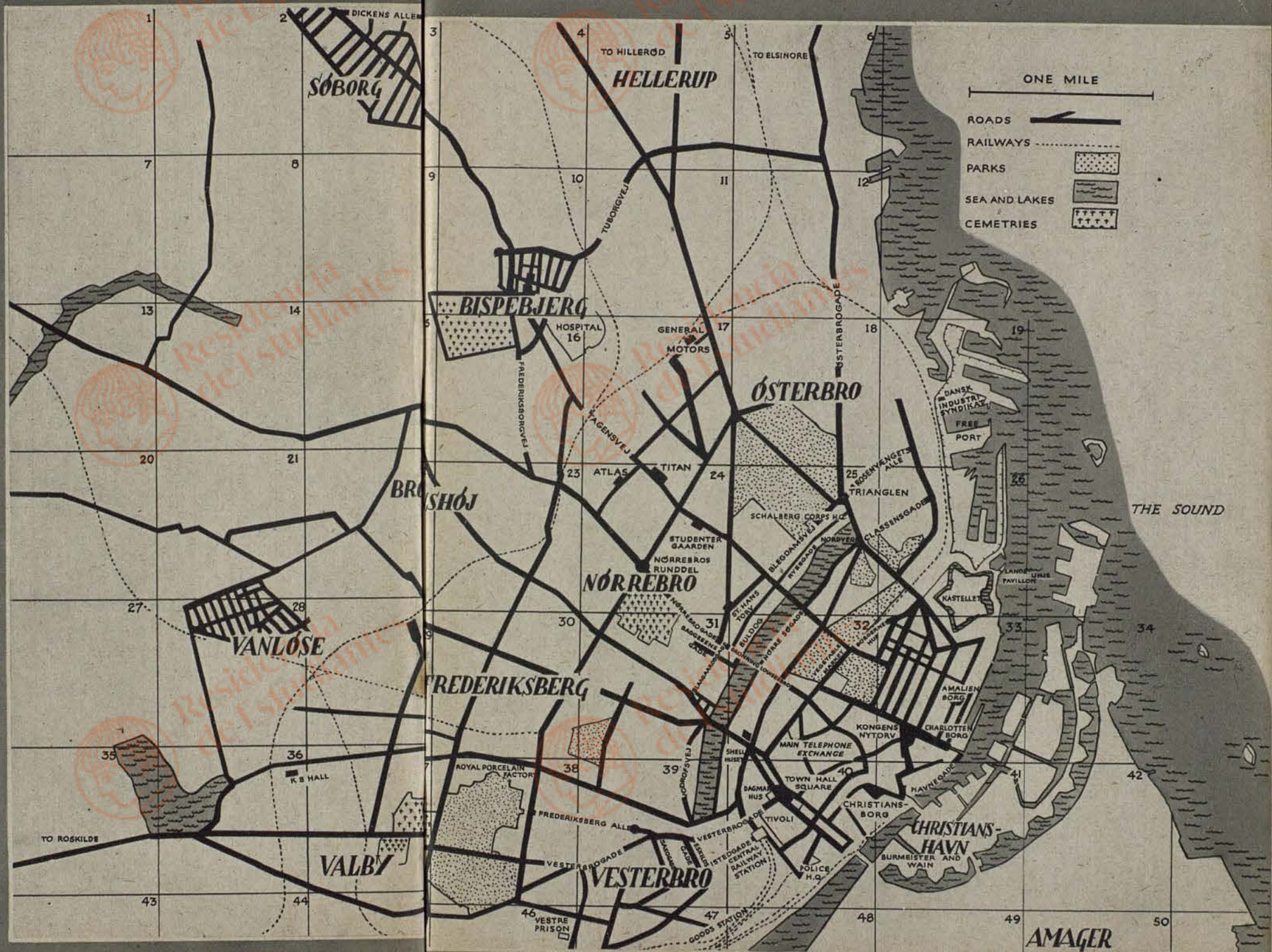
Well, this is the story.

COPENHAGEN

First Capital to Rise

Principal places connected with the people's
fight against the German occupation.

Amager	50	Kongens Nytorv	33
Amalienborg	33	Langeliniepavillon	26
Atlas	24	Main Telephone Exchange	32
Raggesensgade	31	Nordwerk	25
Bispebjerg	10	Nørrebro	24
Bispebjerg Hospital	10	Nørrebrogade	24
Blaagaardsgade	31	Nørrebros Runddel	24
Blegdamsvej	25	Nørre Sogade	32
Borgernes Hus	32	Police H.Q.	40
Brønshøj	22	Rosenvængets Alle	25
Buldog	32	Royal Porcelain Factory	38
Burmeister and Wain	41	Ryesgade	25
Central Railway Station	40	Saxogade	39
Charlottenborg	33	Schalburg Corps H.Q.	25
Christiansborg	40	Shell Huset	32
Christianshavn	41	St. Hans Torv	25
Classensgade	25	Studentergaarden	24
Dagmarhus	40	Søborg	3
Dansk Industrisyn- dikat	19	Tagensvej	17
Dickens Allé	3	Titan	24
Dronning Louises Bro	32	Tivoli	40
Eskildsgade	39	Town Hall Square	40
Frederiksberg	30	Trianglen	25
Frederiksberg Allé	38	Valby	37
Free Port	19	Vanløse	28
General Motors	17	Vegetable Market	32
Goods Station	47	Vesterbro	39
Havnegade	41	Vesterbrogade	38
Hellerup	5	Vestre Prison	46
Istedgade	39	Vodroffsvej	39
Kastellet	26	Østerbro	18
K. B. Hall	36	Østerbrogade	18





Above:—

A Danish passer-by struck down with a German gun butt in Vesterbrogade, Copenhagen.

Two German soldiers beat up a Danish workman in Copenhagen. Bayoneted in the stomach by a German soldier, a Danish patriot, wearing R.A.F. emblems, is carried away by a Copenhagen tram conductor and a Danish wartime police constable.



Centre:—

"The German Wehrmacht always behaves correctly," said a German Commander in Copenhagen. The Wehrmacht had just left this restaurant.

Below:—

A German sailor (in circle) running amok in the Town Hall Square, Copenhagen.

Members of the small Danish Nazi organisation, "the Schalburg Corps," driving through the streets, assist in the terrorisation of the people.



Triumph in Disaster

Shadow over Denmark

AT THE END OF MAY 1939, at the request of the Germans, the Danish Government signed a non-aggression pact with Germany, to be valid for ten years. Ten months later, Nazi Germany broke this pact and, in the dead of night, crossed the Danish frontier and occupied strategic points in Copenhagen and elsewhere by means of troops secretly smuggled into the country and with the aid of fifth-columnists. A swarm of enemy aircraft hovered over Copenhagen to underline the German threat to reduce the Danish capital to ruins if Danish resistance was not immediately called off.

Under protest the Danish Government capitulated. All resistance ceased, and the Germans gave an official undertaking to respect Denmark's territorial integrity and political independence. The Germans promised not to interfere in any way whatsoever in internal Danish affairs.

Events soon proved that these German promises—like all promises made by the Nazis—were to be broken as soon as it was to their advantage. The following pages will provide incontrovertible proof that the

Germans not only “interfered” in internal Danish affairs but that they inflicted on the people of Denmark a reign of terror and violence fully in keeping with the inhuman treatment meted out to the population of all the other occupied countries of Europe.

Only slowly did the people of Denmark recover from the shock which the events of April 9, 1940, had inflicted on them. Little by little the entire population united to resist the Germans, and gradually the active resistance movement was built up. And the German attempt to plunder the country unhindered and with the passive agreement of the Danish authorities failed completely. The Germans had both an economic and a military interest in preserving the fullest possible measure of tranquility and they therefore endeavoured always to have some Danish authority to assume the responsibility for meeting the ever increasing demands for supplies and new political measures. At the same time they adopted the method of always demanding two or three times as much as they really wanted in order to preserve the illusion of formal Danish independence when subsequently only half or a third of the original demands were realised. In this way arose the myth of Denmark as “Hitler's Model Protectorate.”

During the first three years of the Occupation the Germans did their best to represent Denmark as a real “Model Protectorate,” and whilst shamelessly using the idea in their propaganda they quietly exploited the country's industrial capacity and plundered it of its food production. And scarcely three months had passed after the first brutal assault before the German authorities were directly interfering in the composition of the



Danish patriots arrested after a Gestapo raid in Copenhagen. Among the civilians prisoners a Danish officer is seen on the extreme right of the picture.

Danish Government. On July 8, 1940, the Government was reconstructed, Erik Scavenius becoming Foreign Minister at the German behest. It was he who initiated the policy of collaboration which was to meet with such a violent end three years later. At the same time, Gunnar Larsen, a leading industrialist, became Minister of Transport, a circumstance which was to prove a great misfortune to the future policy of the Government.

But if this was the first time the Germans interfered in Danish internal affairs it was by no means the last. In the same month Denmark was forced to resign from the League of Nations, while the Germans put forward a proposal for a tariff and currency union which was only with difficulty rejected, being strongly supported by the above-mentioned two Ministers, Scavenius and Gunnar Larsen. A few months later the



A Danish patriot faces a German firing squad.



The body of the famous Danish writer and clergyman, Kaj Munk, murdered by the Germans, found in a wood near Silkeborg (Jutland), January 5, 1944.

Danish Minister of Trade, Mr. Christmas Møller, was forced by German pressure to resign while several other politicians were compelled to give up their seats in Parliament or their Party posts. Mr. Christmas Møller later escaped to London, where he became Chairman of the Danish Council, the governing body of the Association of Free Danes in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Numerous other events must be viewed against the background of German threats. On February 5, 1941, the Danes were forced to surrender eight torpedo-boats. The Danish Minister to Washington, Henrik Kauffmann, who had concluded an agreement with the United States providing for American bases in Greenland, was dismissed. Mr. Kauffmann thereupon declared himself independent of the authorities in Denmark, and Count E. Reventlow, the Danish Minister in London, later took the same step.

On August 20, 1941, the Danish Communist Party, in violation of the Danish Constitution, was banned, a few hundred Communists having been arrested a month earlier. Scavenius travelled to Berlin to sign the Anti-Comintern Pact after having broken off Denmark's diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

Several times during the first three years of the Occupation serious ministerial crises arose because the German authorities—in other words the German Minister, Renthe-Fink, relieved in November, 1942, by the new Plenipotentiary, Dr. Werner Best, and the German Commander-in-Chief, General Lüdke, relieved in October, 1942, by General von Hanneken—were not satisfied with the manner in which the Government exercised its authority. These crises ended in Denmark having to yield to German pressure to appoint Scavenius as Prime Minister of a Government which included the leading collaborators, Gunnar Larsen and Thune Jacobsen.

At the same time there were increasing arrests of Danish patriots, and the introduction of emergency laws in direct contravention of the democratic Danish Constitution. Censorship was introduced, the right of assembly was suppressed, the judicial system was disregarded and the workers were deprived of the right to strike.

Apart from a handful of Nazis, fewer perhaps than in any other country in Europe, the entire Danish nation was united even before April 9, 1940, in its opposition to Hitlerism. This unity was subsequently confirmed at the General Election held on March 23, 1943, in which the Communist Party was forbidden to participate but which resulted in so clear a demonstration against Hitlerism that the Germans no doubt bitterly regretted that they had permitted the election. The two Nazi parties obtained about 60,000 votes as against the two million votes polled by the democratic Danish parties.

It was *passive* resistance which first found a hearing with the Danish people. Nobody must have any dealings with the German

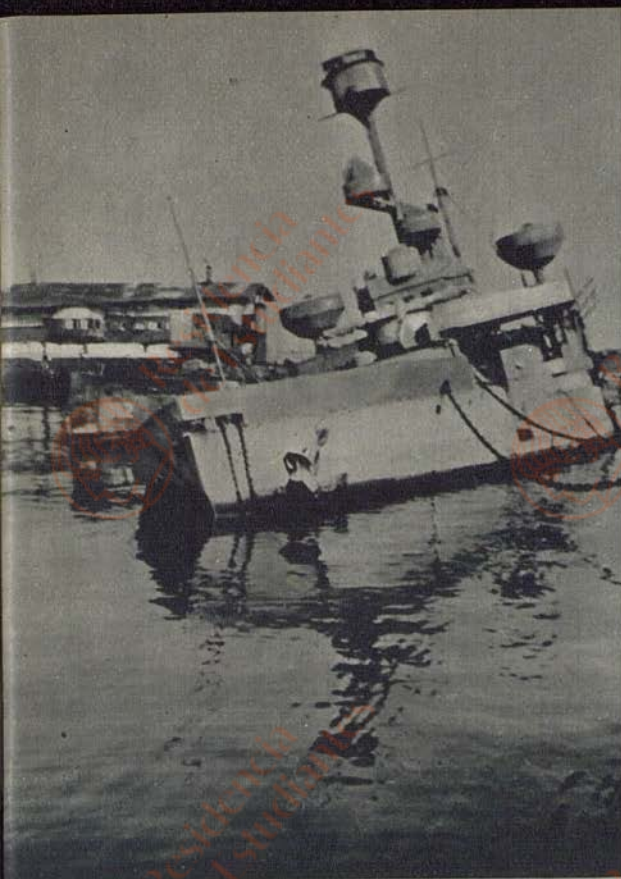
troops. The "Cold Shoulder" policy, as it was called, became immensely popular and soon got on the Germans' nerves. The anti-Nazi feeling also found expression in rallying the nation round the King, in popular gatherings for the singing of national songs and a vigorous growth in patriotic feeling, in the holding-up of German deliveries, in bad workmanship and in a general policy of *ca'canny* where all German orders were concerned.

But the idea that the Germans would mind their own business if they were treated coldly though correctly soon proved mistaken, and slowly the organised resistance movement developed. Factories working for the Germans were blown up to prevent them being used for war purposes, and sabotage gradually assumed such dimensions that the Germans began in earnest to grow nervous.

Lawless Conditions

SUCH WAS THE SITUATION up to August 29, 1943, when the Germans decided to break with the "Model Protectorate" policy and when the Danish people, after a slow and gradual development, had arrived at a firmly anchored and conscious conviction that it was necessary to offer active resistance to Nazism if Denmark was, with honour, to regain her lost liberty and independence.

On August 28, 1943, Denmark said "No" to the Germans with a forcefulness and a resolution which echoed through the world. The Nazis responded with the only means at their disposal: terror! The German military proceeded to attack all Danish



The Danish cruiser, *Peter Skram*, in Copenhagen harbour, August 29, 1943, having obeyed the order to "Escape or Scuttle."

military establishments. The ships of the Danish Navy were sunk by their own crews so as to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. The officers and men of the Army and the Navy were interned. The King was treated as a German prisoner. The Germans declared a state of siege throughout the country and introduced summary military courts and the death penalty. Large numbers of politicians, journalists and scientists were arrested.

The next day the Danish Government ceased to function, and despite German pressure no Government, constitutional or unconstitutional, has since been formed.

It was primarily the organised Danish

resistance movement which was behind the demonstrations against the Germans on August 29. And in the course of the summer of 1943 this resistance movement had obtained a centralised leadership in the "Danish Council of Freedom," which was formed on June 5, 1943.

The "Schalburg Corps" Period.

The period between August 29, 1943, and the general strike in Copenhagen which began on June 30, 1944, was characterised by growing lawlessness. On September 8, 1943, the Gestapo executed the first Danish subject, a saboteur from Aalborg, and this execution was followed in the succeeding months by many more. On October 1 the Germans initiated the persecution of the Danish Jews, thousands of whom, with the aid of Danish patriots, fled to Sweden, while the rest were carried off to ghettos in Germany or to concentration camps already occupied by over 200 Danish Communists.

Meanwhile the economic plundering of Denmark by the Germans was continued and intensified. In the course of the summer the total German debt to Denmark passed the £300 million mark and continued to grow at the rate of about £450,000 a day.

But the period between August, 1943, and July, 1944, may perhaps best be described as the "Schalburg Corps Period." Paid and protected by the Germans and in obedience to German orders, the members of this traitorous corps, consisting of about 500—600 Danish Nazis trained in military methods and recruited from the dregs of Denmark, initiated a reign of terror against the Danish population which is without parallel. Paid informers were employed by the Gestapo to penetrate the resistance movement. Members of the Schalburg Corps murdered prominent Danish personalities and assaulted defenceless women and children.

Yet all this could not stem the tide of growing resistance, which primarily manifested itself in sabotage against factories



This factory worked for the Germans. Sabotage of the "Nordwerk" munitions concern.

working for the Germans and vital German communications.

Inspired by the German Plenipotentiary in Denmark, Dr. Werner Best, the Schalburg Corps therefore commenced a systematic campaign of attacks against Danish enterprises, cultural institutions and administrative buildings with the object of compelling the Danish saboteurs to give up the fight.

These organised crimes committed by the Schalburg Corps, which can only be classed as vandalism, are probably without parallel even in other German-occupied countries. They must originally have been inspired by Dr. Best himself, in whose view they were a method peculiarly adapted to influence what it pleased him to regard as the "materialistic Danes."

But apart from the destruction of irreplaceable values, they achieved only one thing. The hatred of the Danish people for the

Schalburg Corps and their German masters and protectors increased in intensity until it burst into flame with the people's strike in Copenhagen.

Against this background the general strike assumes the character of a political and economic action against the Germans. The object was to compel them to abandon their support of the Schalburg Corps and at the same time to deliver an economic blow which would deprive them of as many man-hours as possible.

From the moment the Danish Council of Freedom—which had by no means inspired the strike—had assumed the leadership and formulated the strikers' demands, the political character clearly emerged.

The people's strike in Copenhagen was by nature political ; in its vigour and execution unlimited ; and in its objectives wisely limited and defined with due regard to the possibilities which lay within reach.


Saboteurs at Work

ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 28, 1944, a bare-headed woman ran along Istedgade, in the heart of the Copenhagen working-class district of Vesterbro. Her piercing screams and her anguished cry: "They have shot my husband! They have shot my husband!"

He hasn't done anything!", hung long in the heavy summer atmosphere.

Outside the front door further along the street lay a Copenhagen worker, shot down from behind by a member of the "Schalburg Corps" of Danish Nazis, who, at the instigation of the Gestapo, had terrorised the civilian population of Denmark ever since August 29, 1943, the day the Danish people definitively refused to make further concessions to the Nazis and rose in revolt against a greatly superior enemy.

The fury in Istedgade—the Old Kent Road of Copenhagen—was intense. In a flash the whole street was full of angered Danes, busily occupied in erecting barricades to prevent the Schalburg Nazis and the Germans from again showing their faces at this spot. From Istedgade the disturbances spread to



The Siemens factory in Copenhagen, which produced electrical equipment, set on fire by patriots.

other streets in the Vesterbro district and gradually throughout Copenhagen.

This episode gives a glimpse into the purely psychological background for the people's strike in Copenhagen: anger and fury at the blind, inhuman terrorisation of men, women and children; Nazi lawlessness; the ruthless and meaningless coercive measures; arrests and persecutions; assassinations and executions.

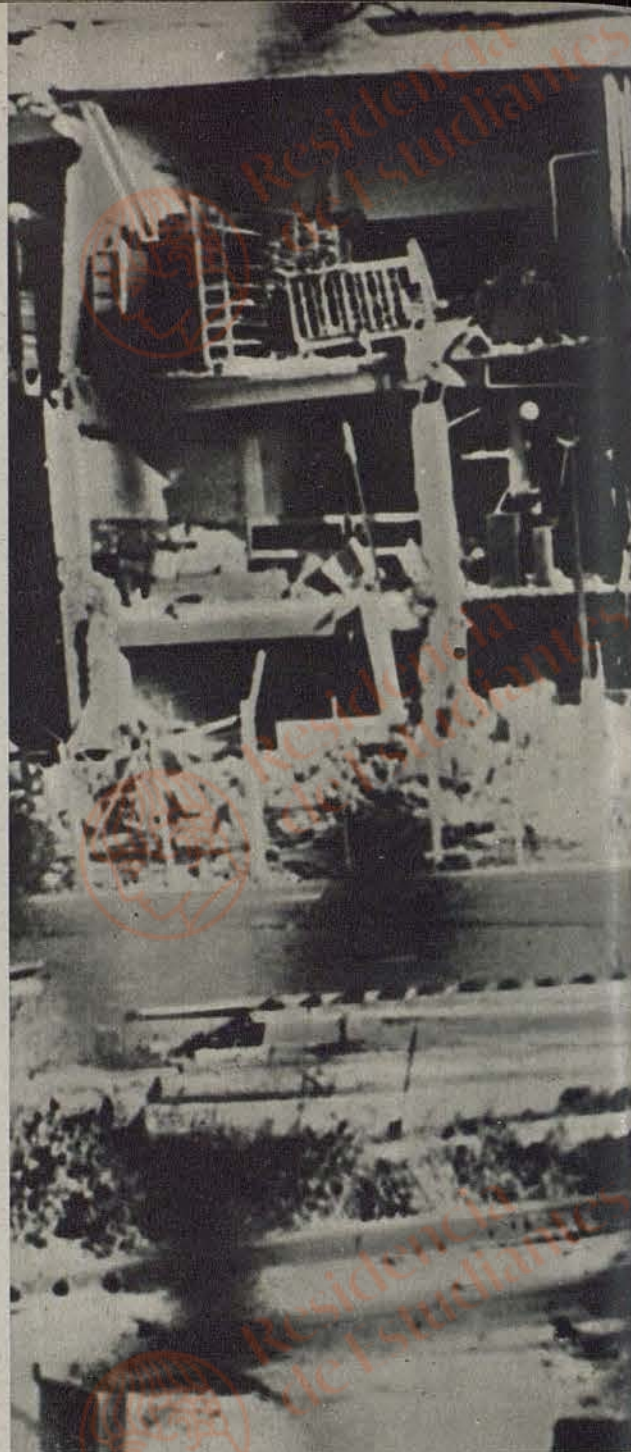
It is an established fact with regard to well executed sabotage against the Germans that Denmark takes first place among the occupied countries, with France as number two. At certain times during the past year over 100 acts of anti-German sabotage have been carried out per month in Denmark.

It was these acts, which often assumed the character of regular partisan attacks on factories working for the Germans, which the week before the strike so enraged them that they quite lost control of themselves and ordered the terrorising of the civilian population.

In the period immediately prior to the strike the following large undertakings, all of which were fully engaged on German work, were either completely or partly destroyed by explosives placed by Danish saboteurs: "Neutrofon" Radio Factory, Svendborg Shipyard, "Globus" Machine Factory, Bohnstedt-Petersen Motor Works, "Dansk Rekyllriffelsyndikat" (Arms Works), "Superphone" Radio Factory, "Nordwerk" Engineering Works, "Amdi" Machine Factory, and "Skandinavisk" Machine Factory.

Several of these attacks are so remarkable that they call for special mention.

The attack on the "Globus" works (formerly a bicycle factory and owned by a well-known track cyclist) provided ample proof that even a strongly defended factory could not stand up to the saboteurs. This was recognised by the Allied Supreme Command, who on the receipt of detailed information forwarded a telegram of congratulations to the Danish saboteurs, which was reproduced in the clandestine press.



The largest munition factory in Denmark, "Riffelsyndikatet," specialising in automatic weapons for the Germans, was destroyed by Danish saboteurs in a series of devastating explosions.

The "Superphone" Radio Factory and the Bohnstedt - Petersen Motor Works were sabotaged on the evening of June 21. The action against "Superphone" went according to plan. About 50 saboteurs forced their way into the factory and placed their bombs, principally in the special workshops where they knew that the Germans were manufacturing their new rocket bombs.

At the motor works, situated in the Free Port, a dozen armed men forced their way in at about 6 o'clock in the evening (that is to say, in broad daylight) past the sabotage guards and deposited ten bombs. Scarcely 50 yards from the factory grounds was a German gunboat, fully manned. The crew observed nothing till the moment the saboteurs were leaving the factory, when they opened fire. Their fire was answered by the saboteurs, who succeeded in making good their escape.

During the night of Sunday, June 25, a group of Danish partisans broke into one of the largest German arms factories in Denmark: the "Nordwerk" factory at Ryesgade in Copenhagen. The factory was guarded by policemen; the saboteurs had previously liquidated no fewer than six sabotage guards from this factory, since when it had been impossible to procure adequate protection except by calling on the police. The saboteurs obtained entry into the factory by blowing a hole through a wall in the street, and after a brief exchange of shots with the police the patriots were masters of the situation and were able to place their bombs, which quickly demolished the factory. At the same time the adjacent "Amdi" Factory was blown up. This factory turned out semi-manufactured articles without which the main factory in the former "General Motors" building in Røvsingsgade was prevented from manufacturing aero engines for the *Luftwaffe*.

Their work accomplished and taking with them the police rifles, the saboteurs withdrew whilst fighting off a German patrol trying to stop them.

The Scandinavian "Krupps" blown up.

But the largest and most decisive act of sabotage was carried out on June 22, at 6.30 in the evening, when the arms works "Dansk Industrisyndikat," popularly known as "Riffelsyndikatet," was destroyed by a series of violent explosions followed by fires. This exploit was accomplished by over 100 saboteurs and has not been excelled by saboteurs in any other country.

A Danish underground newspaper, writing almost in report style, describes the event in the following manner:

"On June 22 the 'Dansk Riffelsyndikat' was attacked by our partisan forces shortly before 6.30 p.m. A convoy consisting of an A.R.P. lorry, an A.R.P. ambulance and an ordinary lorry drove up to the factory. The sabotage guards were held up by some of the partisans and from 60 to 100 men poured out of the vehicles.

"The telephone lines were cut, and the sabotage guards and the 300 factory workers were held covered. Some of the saboteurs proceeded to place their bombs, whilst others loaded the lorries with arms and ammunition, including several 20 mm. guns and 72 machine guns.

"The bombs exploded and the whole factory was converted into a heap of smoking ruins. The saboteurs then drove off. There was not one casualty."

Next to Krupp and the Skoda Works, "Dansk Riffelsyndikat" is one of the largest factories in Europe specialising in the manufacture of automatic weapons. Ever since the German occupation of Denmark in April, 1940, the "Riffelsyndikat" had manufactured arms for the German war machine to a value of £100,000 per month. The "Riffelsyndikat" specialised in the production of the "Suomi" tank and a very effective anti-tank gun.

The explosions at the factory were followed by violent fires. The Germans in their helplessness called in Danish fire-fighting crews, but when the Danes realised what had

happened they refused to take part in extinguishing the fires. With a pistol at their backs they were forced by the Germans to operate their engines, but the refusal of the firemen and their bad manipulation of the hoses were contributing factors to the complete destruction which ensued.

When a suburban electric train passed the factory the Danish passengers rushed to the windows and cheered as they saw the largest German arms factory in Scandinavia a mass of flames. German soldiers, in their fury, fired several salvoes at the train and wounded two passengers.

In a telegram to the saboteurs the Supreme Allied Command paid the following tribute :

"Have received detailed report regarding 'Riffelsyndikat.' Congratulations to all for brilliantly planned and well executed operation."

The Danish people accepted this telegram of congratulations with a clear conscience as a tribute to themselves.

At this stage the three most important representatives of the German authorities in Denmark still seemed to be in agreement that it would be possible to suppress the resistance, or at any rate limit it, so long as timely use was made of the powers available.


The Commander-in-Chief, General Hermann von Hanneken, caused his subordinate,

Lieutenant General Richter, in command of the German troops in the island of Zealand, to issue a proclamation that summary military courts would be set up throughout Zealand, including Copenhagen, with effect from June 23. At the same time, in view of their extensive use by Danish saboteurs, the use of lorries was forbidden between the hours of 4 p.m. and 5 a.m. The latter provision, however, applied only to Copenhagen.

The head of the Gestapo in Denmark, General Pancke, was not to be left behind. His weapon was executions. As a punishment for the sabotaging of the "Riffelsyndikat" in Copenhagen, he executed eight Danish patriots in Jutland. For propaganda reasons and from fear that they might later be included in the category of war crimes, for which the perpetrators might be called to account, the executions were not described as reprisals. But the eight executions were regarded by the population as a provocation, which had to be answered in a way the Germans would remember.

And the third member of the Triumvirate, the Plenipotentiary, Dr. Best, had a trump card which he considered—wrongly as it proved—would altogether paralyse all Danish resistance.

In earnest he let the Schalburg Corps loose on Copenhagen.



The "Globus" factory, though defended by pillboxes, was reduced to a heap of ruins.

"Go Home Early"

AS REVENGE for the destruction of the "Riffelsyndikat," the largest student residence in Copenhagen, "Studentergaarden," was blown up the following night by the Schalburg Corps. The bombs were detonated without warning with the result that the building collapsed over the heads of the sleeping students. Two of them were badly injured while several others received minor injuries.

But the university was not the only objective the traitorous Nazis had on their programme. During the days immediately prior to the strike the following buildings were either completely or partially destroyed by the Schalburg Corps: the Langelinie restaurant just opposite the famous statue of the Little Mermaid; the golf club at Klampenborg; the hall of a Copenhagen sports club; the A.R.P. building in Rosen-vænget; "Domus Medica," the headquarters of the Danish doctors; the Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Works and many other buildings of cultural value.

The anger of the Copenhagen population grew to bursting point. Then came the news that the Schalburg Corps, on the orders of Dr. Best, between the night of June 24 and 25, had destroyed large sections of the popular entertainment park, the internationally famous Tivoli. Among the parts destroyed were the concert hall and the "Arena" dance hall. It was not merely an entertainment park that was destroyed; it was part of the life and history of the city.

The music archives, which went up in flames with the concert hall, represented a value of thousands of pounds and included the original hand-written manuscripts of the well-known composer, H. C. Lumbye.

Proof that the Schalburg Corps was behind this incendiarism—and who else would commit such vandalism?—was provided by one of the waiters, who witnessed the whole affair. Armed and masked men burst into the dance hall and one of them remarked to a bystander: "Now we'll show you how *we* do sabotage." When the waiter asked who "We" were, they replied: "We from the Eastern Front!"

The action against the Tivoli was one of the most stupid acts so far committed by the Schalburg Corps and it served still further to infuriate all patriotic Danes against these traitors and against the Germans in whose pay they stood.

The news of the military courts and the executions, as well as the campaign of "Schalburgtage" in general, had contributed their share, but with the destruction of Tivoli, the Copenhageners' favourite, with its gaiety and charm and happy memories, the cup was ready to overflow. Among the crowds who assembled outside the roped-off Tivoli that Sunday evening, there was a mood of repressed fury and smouldering revolt.

The "Schalburgtage" had had an opposite effect from the one intended. Not fear, but indignation and anger were aroused. It was so plain to see that even Dr. Best realised that he had committed a stupid blunder. On the Tuesday the Schalburg Corps was obliged to issue a false denial that it had anything at all to do with "Schalburgtage." The denial represented a retreat, but it only succeeded in still further arousing the people's anger that the Corps should be so insolent as to deny their handiwork. After four years of occupation the independent lie has no chance in Denmark.

On one of the evenings before the eventful week a violent duel of arms took place out-



On midsummer eve, normally celebrated throughout Denmark with bonfires, 200 rockets were released from several places near the Town Hall Square, Copenhagen. In the pale light of the summer night they sparkled and crackled over "Dagmarhus," the Gestapo headquarters. The rockets contained handbills from the Danish underground.

side the headquarters of the Schalburg Corps in Copenhagen, the confiscated Freemason Lodge in Blegdamsvej. Fifty patriots attacked the building and were fired on from the roof by the Corps. The patriots had constructed regular machine-gun nests opposite the building and held their positions for some little time until they finally withdrew in good order. There were many casualties on both sides.

The Curfew Decides.

The people's revolt began in earnest when Dr. Best responded to the sabotage of the "Riffelsyndikat" and "Nordwerk" by in-

roducing a curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., a much sterner regulation than was ordered in the invasion districts of France, where the inhabitants were only required to remain indoors between sunset and sunrise.

The underground paper, *Land og Folk*, referred to this measure in the following terms :

"The curfew is a collective sanction for the work of the patriots. No one takes seriously the German motivation for the introduction of the curfew. This method of combating sabotage was tried for several months during the autumn, with negative result. Several of the most daring acts of sabotage

carried out recently have been during the day, whereas the Schalburg people consistently seek the protection of the darkness for their destructive work. The decision of the Germans to resort once again to this ineffective method, collective irritation of the general population, is therefore an indication of their impotence against the patriots and their inability to protect their war industry in this country."

The German emergency decree providing for the curfew, which became operative from Monday, June 26, contained the following clauses :

1. It is forbidden to be out of doors in streets or open spaces between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. No exceptions may be granted except by special permission, for which application must be made to the local Danish police authorities.

2. Meetings and assemblies of more than four persons are prohibited in public streets, roads and open spaces.

3. Meetings of all kinds, either indoors or out of doors, are prohibited. No exceptions may be granted except by special permission, for which application must be made to the local Danish police authorities.

4. Orders issued by German patrols must be instantly obeyed.



Copenhagen's famous Tivoli Gardens were senselessly destroyed by Nazi traitors of the Schalburg Corps. By such counter-measures they hoped to make unpopular the patriots' sabotage of factories working for the Germans. Amongst the buildings destroyed in the Tivoli Gardens was the Concert Hall, seen blazing above.



But at 8 p.m. that Monday evening people quite simply refused to go home. Demonstratively they lit bonfires in the streets and were not to be driven off by the wild shooting of the German patrols. The symbolic bon-

fires of freedom, which at the same time had the practical object of preventing the German patrols and the Schalburg Corps from advancing along the streets, blazed up in Istedgade, in Saxogade and in many other



The Pavilion of the Royal Yacht Club near Langelinie, Copenhagen, known to all tourists, blown up by the Germans as revenge for patriotic sabotage.

places that Monday evening, and were kept burning throughout the night by the people of the district. At several places the Germans launched attacks on the population and fired indiscriminately on them. Seven Danes were killed and many wounded.

Caring for the Allotments.

It was the workers in the large Copenhagen factories who first began the "go-home-early" strikes, which quickly became so popular and soon assumed widespread proportions. They were small isolated half-day strikes, which, in the case of the workers at the engineering firm of Burmeister and Wain, were supported by the plea that, since they were prevented by the German curfew from utilising their

leisure to tend their allotment gardens, they would be compelled to take half-days off.

Burmeister and Wain, the only Danish factory to be bombed by the R.A.F. (the others have been attended to by the Danish saboteurs), is the largest shipyard in Scandinavia and employs several thousand workers. The day these workers began to stop work at lunch time they addressed an open letter to Dr. Best, which ran as follows :

"This must not be regarded as a strike in the ordinary sense, but it is a simple necessity that the workers, who, so long as Germany is at war, are not guaranteed a sufficient amount of food, should be able to look after their allotments. Potatoes, tomatoes, etc., are of greater importance to the Danish

workers than the advantage which Burmeister and Wain possesses for the German war industry.

"We therefore intend to go home early as long as the curfew is in force."

The Burmeister and Wain strike was the largest stoppage to occur, and this already had a clearly defined day-to-day political objective. In addition it succeeded in robbing the German war industry of many valuable man-hours which it could ill afford to lose.

The "go-home-early" strikes spread like wildfire throughout the city, and the largest factories took the lead. Thus, by Tuesday, June 27, the workers and administrative personnel of such undertakings as "General Motors," "Atlas," "Titan," "F. L. Smidth," the Copenhagen bakeries, the dairies and many large stores had agreed to stop work at lunchtime, and gradually the movement spread to commercial offices and shops. It had now become a general and widespread "go-home-early" strike with the demand: "Abolish the curfew!"

But German provocations continued and the Schalburg Corps still terrorised the streets of the city. A tram driver was shot in the head by a bullet from the roof of the Schalburg headquarters. And time and time again they opened fire on innocent passers-by.

German troops were posted outside Burmeister and Wain and other factories to prevent the workers from going home early, but it was all of no avail.

On Wednesday evening, June 28, nearly 1,000 freedom bonfires were lighted in the streets of Copenhagen. The protest movement had spread throughout the city and in several districts the inhabitants were preparing to erect barricades.

The Germans Yield.

The "go-home-early" strikes were decidedly unpleasant for Dr. Best. His provocative policy had already aroused considerable opposition in certain influential circles in Berlin, who feared that it would

Tram conductors joining the "go-home-early" strikes.



lead to unrest which would reduce Danish production for Germany. Above all they feared that it would have an effect on Danish agriculture and so cause the food production to decline. This might easily have a perceptible effect on Germany. These circles, therefore, intervened, perhaps after the report presented by the German Foreign Minister, von Ribbentrop, who it may be regarded as certain passed through Copenhagen on Wednesday June 28 on his way home from Finland.

In addition the old dispute between Dr. Best and General von Hanneken as to which was to be master in Denmark began to flare up again. General von Hanneken feared serious disturbances for the suppression of which he lacked sufficient manpower, and for this reason too he was opposed to the provocative curfew. The same was true of the head of the Gestapo, General Pancke, who desired to see Dr. Best humiliated. Even Dr. Best's principal subordinate, known in Copenhagen as "Dr. Next-Best," was against the curfew.

On the evening of Wednesday 28 it was announced through loudspeakers in the streets that the curfew would now be relaxed and would commence at 11 p.m. and cease as early as 5 a.m. But the Germans had misunderstood the situation. The Copenhageners had not asked for a relaxation of the curfew; they had demanded its abolition. The demonstrations, therefore, continued. The masses in the capital had begun to stir, and they were not to be bought off with half measures.

German Reinforcements.

The situation was now as tense as it could possibly be under a surface which appeared so tranquil. In many places it seemed incredible that Copenhagen was a city on the verge of revolt. But such it was, and as the sun shone and the young women smiled the revolvers spat somewhere in the streets and people scattered.

In collaboration with the Schalburg Corps the Germans had already killed many people and wounded many more, but it was characteristic that the German military as late as Wednesday had not yet been brought in to any great extent. This was no doubt due to the fact that the German forces in Copenhagen—and in Zealand generally—were only weak. It is therefore not surprising that it was completely impossible for the German troops to patrol the streets at all satisfactorily.

Preparations were made, however, to resort to military measures, even at the risk of a loss of prestige. Reserves were called in from the provinces, and the ordinary German soldiers who were visiting Copenhagen for the first time and had not been told how things stood were paralysed by what they saw. A large detachment of marines who arrived in the capital on the Wednesday and were to be quartered in the barracks at Baadsmundsstræde looked as if they might have been dropped in the middle of Cherbourg, which was at that time being besieged by the Allies. They were terrified at the strange sight they saw.

The German police and the Schalburg Corps opened fire whenever the crowd approached, and people fled. But it soon became a sport to be the last to seek shelter. In the working-class districts of Vesterbro and Nørrebro bonfires were lit between the tram lines, and old newspapers, mattresses and other rubbish went up in flames. In Vesterbro full dustbins were thrown down from the fifth floor onto the heads of the German police troops. The Germans responded with shots through the windows. "Close all windows!" screamed a German. And closed they were. But no sooner had the Germans passed than a Danish voice sounded: "Open all windows!" And opened they were!

The German relaxation of the curfew came too late. The avalanche was on the move and was carrying the Germans with it. The people's strike was about to begin.

A City Paralysed

IN THE MORNING papers of Thursday, June 29, the people of Copenhagen read of the execution of eight more Danish patriots. This brought the number of executions during the week to sixteen.

Hardest hit was the little village of Hvidsten near Randers in Jutland, eight of whose 100

inhabitants fell to the Gestapo bullets. A mother in this village lost at one blow her husband, her son and her son-in-law, whilst her two daughters were given prison sentences, one of them for life.

A report like this naturally weighed more heavily than the German attempt to stop the strike movement by relaxing the curfew by a few hours.

The Copenhagen tramway officials struck work on the Thursday evening after several conductors had been shot at by Germans. New demonstrations followed and the Germans brutally intervened, inflicting heavy casualties on the population.

The number of barricades increased during the night between Thursday and Friday, the few Germans being unable to prevent their erection and contenting themselves with



Barricades were built all over the capital. This one is being erected in a side street of the working class district of Vesterbro.

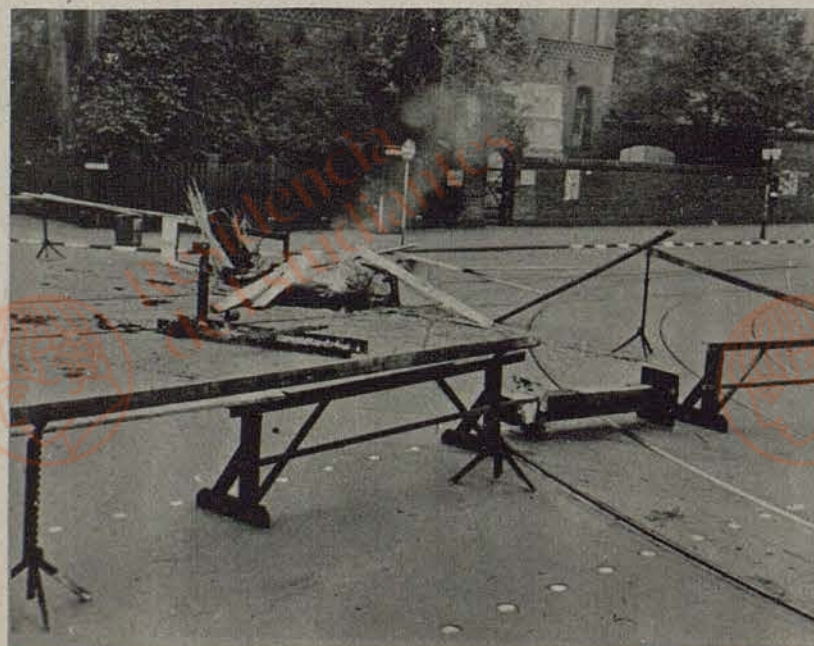


Top:—

Shops belonging to Nazi collaborators were stormed by the indignant citizens and their contents were burnt in the streets.

Left —

Special barricades were set up to stop the passage of German motorised columns.



Right:—

Crowded barricades in the Nørrebrogade, the main traffic street in one of Copenhagen's most thickly populated working class districts.



firing along the streets through which they happened to pass.

Up to now the attacks on German soldiers had been few and scattered, only odd shots being fired at them after the Germans had shot first. But each time members of the Schalburg Corps, or other Danes in German service, attempted to intervene the crowd went to the attack.

It was not merely the youth of Copenhagen who were erecting the barricades. Grown, level-headed men could be seen, coolly and carefully, breaking up the pavements and flagstones and piling them up around overturned carts, hand-barrows filled with stones, old doors and cycle stands. Everything could be used. Over the barricades waved the red and white colours of the Danish flag, the "Dannebrog," side by side with the Union Jack, the Red Flag and the "Stars and Stripes." In some streets they had even brought out the Tricolor and the Norwegian flag as a demonstration of sympathy for the French resistance movement and the Scandinavian sister-country. The R.A.F. emblem was tremendously popular, and occasionally the top of a barricade was decorated with the Hammer and Sickle. On the hoardings and asphalt were painted caricatures of Hitler and slogans like "Down with Best" or "Long Live England." Wax and cardboard mannequins from the display windows of Nazi shops were dressed up to resemble Hitler and Goering and hung from lamp-posts or stood up on the barricades with umbrellas for rifles.

In one case the Danish police succeeded at the last moment in preventing a civilian informer from being the first victim of lynch justice in Denmark. He had suddenly commenced firing at passers-by and had hit a municipal official on the way home from duty. People threw themselves at the criminal, whose papers showed him to be an employee of the Gestapo.

At the corner of two of the principal thoroughfares (Vesterbrogade and Frederiksberg Allé) the crowd stormed an office

belonging to the Danish Nazis. The office equipment was thrown out of the window and burned in the street. A card-index was confiscated with the names of over 15,000 members of the Nazi Party, the Schalburg Corps and the Nazi auxiliary corps, "Frikorps Danmark," consisting of Danish volunteers for the Eastern front, most of whom have already been wiped out by the Russians.

On the evening of June 28 a German ammunition train was derailed at Holte, a small station outside Copenhagen. It was alleged by the Germans that the train had been the object of a regular armed attack and that this was beaten off by German troops. According to the Germans two of the attackers had been killed. The concrete information possessed by the Danes is that the German soldiers fired wildly and, among others, hit the driver and the guard. Both were seriously wounded.

The following day 40 Nazi shops were destroyed by fire. Despite the large number of fires great care was exercised so as not to damage the property of good Danish patriots. Examples were seen of Nazi shops totally destroyed which were sandwiched between others bearing the inscription; "Danes! Do not touch!"

Among the premises destroyed were a number of shops belonging to the Nazi firm of photographers, "Stella Nova," while the "Bulldog" store in Nørrebrogade, likewise owned by a well-known Nazi, was set on fire by the crowd and razed to the ground. During this incident many Danes were shot down by members of the Schalburg Corps, who, either in plain clothes or in false police uniforms, mingled with the crowd and by means of shots delivered at short range "put the demonstrators out of the game."

It is conclusive proof of the iron discipline and general sense of responsibility of the people that during all these fires not one single case of looting occurred. Only once was there any indication of a desire to take advantage of the general confusion for the

sake of personal profit. This was when a half-grown boy tried to sneak off with a roll of cloth under his arm. He was immediately stopped and soundly boxed over the ears, whereupon the roll of cloth was again consigned to the flames.

The saboteurs and the organised Danish resistance front had been ordered by the Council of Freedom not to participate in the street disturbances and not under any circumstances to be provoked to take part in any fighting. The German intention was obvious. They wished to seize this favourable opportunity to tempt the armed resistance movement to come into the open so as to be able to suppress it and thus prevent it from taking any part in the final fight for liberation. The resistance movement refused to fall for the temptation to wipe out the relatively few German troops in Copenhagen. It understood the necessity of waiting, patiently and disciplined, for the right moment. The saboteurs therefore confined themselves to their own work, and on the Friday morning they blew up another important arms factory, the "Dansk Aluminiumsfabrik" in Englandsvej.

"The Copenhagen Rabble Shall Taste the Whip."

From Friday, June 30, the people's strike in Copenhagen was total. Not a single wheel operated in any factory, not one office was at work and not a single shop was open. Even the municipal offices were closed, as were also the post and telegraph offices, the railway stations, the radio, the newspapers,



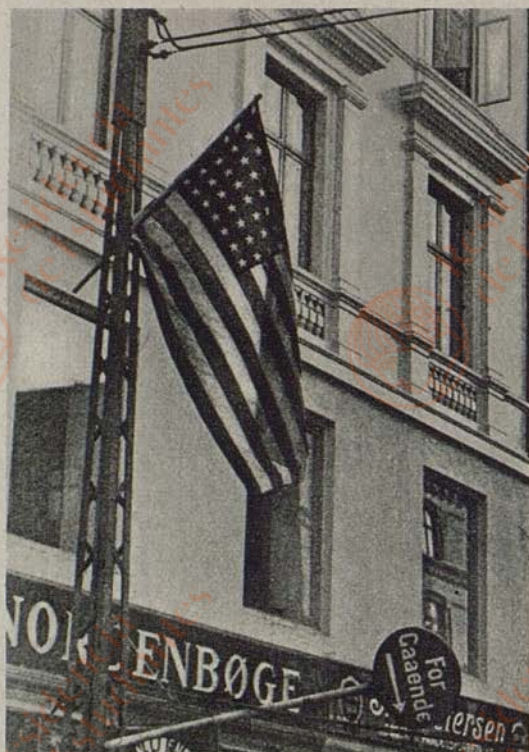
The Danish flag, "Dannebrog," being hoisted over a barricade. The youngsters below prepare to set the R.A.F. colours alongside it.

the banks, the cinemas and the restaurants. When the Germans threatened to occupy the central telephone exchange in Nørregade, the telephone operators also went home. The people's strike was complete. All classes of the community without exception, were taking part in it. People of all shades of political opinion and from all sections of the population were employing the weapon of the political strike against the Germans and the Nazi terror.

Dr. Best in his rage completely lost control of himself. His prestige in Berlin, and indeed, his very career, were at stake if he failed to crush these "dummen Dänen," this rabble that dared to set itself against his orders. He would show them who was master in Copenhagen.

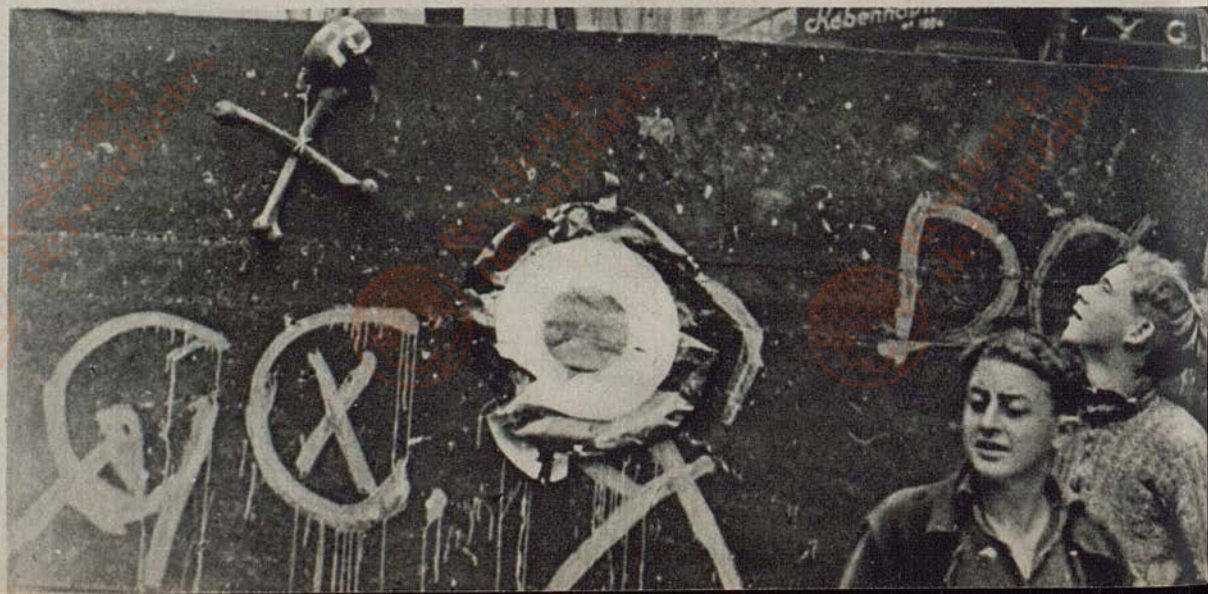
To colleagues in "Dagmarhus," the Gestapo headquarters, and later to Danish negotiators, he delivered himself of the following poetic sentiments:

"Every Dane is responsible for this, from



Allied colours were prominently displayed on buildings and barricades. Above are the Stars and Stripes.

Markings on a barricade. Between the Hammer & Sickle and the R.A.F. colours is the signature of King Christian X.



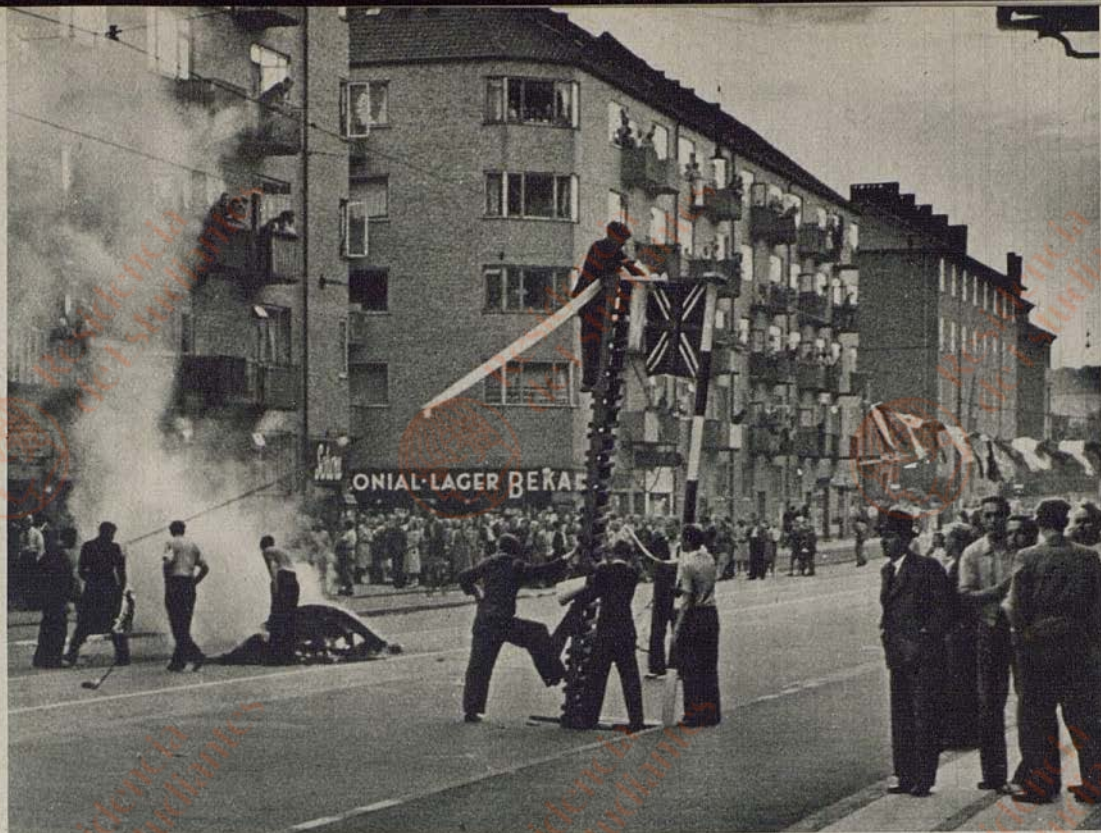
the King down. German honour has been trodden underfoot. The Copenhagen rabble shall taste the whip. We have before shown how to handle places like Copenhagen and we shall do it again. Meetings and negotiations are out of the question. From now on there is only blind obedience and subjection

Best was still the strongest of the German leaders and he succeeded in inducing both General Pancke and Lieutenant General Richter, as the Commander-in-Chief von Hanneken's representative, to adopt measures of a hitherto unheard-of severity, despite the fact that they lacked the manpower to stifle a general revolt and moreover must have been concerned to keep Danish production going.

Possibly they still cherished the erroneous idea that they would be able to crush the people's strike before it had become firmly organised.

At any rate the Germans now began to bring in troops from the various garrisons in Zealand. On the Friday evening streets like Nørresøgade and Tuborgvej had been rendered impassable by means of barricades, consisting mainly of overturned carts, but the Germans forced their way through these barricades, as also at the Dronning Louise Bridge, to fire upon the demonstrators.

Time after time the people were attacked and machine guns swept the streets. Between the night of Friday and Saturday no fewer than 16 Danes were killed and 221



A "home-made" Union Jack being hoisted.

wounded. There were also a number of casualties among the Germans and the Danish Nazis.

By the bridges leading to the island of Amager with its large working-class districts of Christianshavn and Sundby, all pedestrians were stopped and searched, and in many of the streets the Germans erected road blocks, barbed wire and other impediments. On the Friday afternoon they occupied the main railway station and the goods station, the Town Hall and the central post office and many other important buildings. And finally all important crossings throughout the city were covered with machine guns and protected by means of road blocks. At four of the main crossings (the Town Hall Square, Kongens Nytorv, Nørrebro Runddel and Trianglen) the Germans took up positions in trenches that had already been dug for bunkers and set up 75 mm. guns, which were

subsequently used. All the roads leading from the city were barred, and all persons entering or leaving were carefully controlled. Everywhere the Germans confiscated lorries and private cars as they lacked sufficient vehicles of their own. Among those confiscated was a bus which was on the way to "Ebberødgaard," which is a home for mental defectives. Great was the delight of the Danes when the German soldiers, armed to the teeth, drove through the centre of the city in a bus inscribed "Ebberødgaard!"

The measure which excited the greatest resentment was the cutting off by Dr. Best of all water, gas and electricity supplies throughout the city. The workers in these services were, beside the hospital workers, the only ones who did not participate in the strike—out of a quite natural regard for the needs of the civil population. But Dr. Best was not influenced by such petty considera-

tions as women and children. Without scruple he caused the German military, on the Friday afternoon, to occupy the water, gas and electricity works for the purpose of shutting off supplies. This measure was entirely without precedent in any occupied city. The German authorities in Copenhagen thus enjoy the dubious honour of having been the first in this war to resort to such incredible brutality. At 11 o'clock the electric current ceased to flow, while the water and gas gradually ebbed out an hour later.

Dr. Best had played his last trump card and now only waited for his opponents to give up the game.

But he was mistaken.

The Freedom Council Takes the Lead.

On the Friday evening it was decided by the legal Danish authorities—it will be recalled that there was no longer a Government, but day-to-day administrative matters were being conducted by the permanent heads of the Government departments and the other administrative authorities—that the Danish Trades Union Council and the various economic organisations should issue an appeal to the workers to resume work. This appeal was supported by all the organisations concerned and by representatives of the five collaborating Danish political parties, but when the Germans cut off the water, gas and electricity supplies on the Friday afternoon it was agreed to demand of Best that the supplies should be resumed before the appeal was sent out.

Best superciliously declared, however, that the appeal was of little interest. He could easily "manage this little affair" himself! If, notwithstanding, the appeal did go out, it was not to contain any reference likely to be interpreted as criticism of any action taken by the Germans. The negotiations were then interrupted.

Nor did the direct negotiations between the Chairman of the Trades Union Council, Ejler Jensen, and the Germans lead to any

result. At one stage the Germans demanded that Ejler Jensen should issue an appeal to the workers to resume work, whereupon he should resign his position as Chairman. He agreed to the former step, but refused to resign, giving as his reason that, were he to do so, his appeal would be of no avail. The Germans thereupon interrupted these negotiations also, declaring that they had other and more drastic means.

But already on the Thursday the illegal "Council of Freedom" had met and discussed the situation. It was agreed to give all possible support to the strike as a passive strike if it continued to develop; and it was agreed not to resort to arms. The organised resistance movement must at all costs resist being enticed into the open only to be crushed. All members of the armed resistance front were given strict orders in no circumstances to use weapons, although a temporary victory could easily have been won over the approximately 3,000 Germans then present in Copenhagen.

Whilst it was the policy of the older politicians, as conditioned by their point of view, to issue an appeal to the population to resume work—which they did on the Sunday—the Council of Freedom took the view that the people's strike should be supported by the Council itself assuming the leadership and formulating such popular demands as lay within the bounds of possibility to obtain. At the Council's meeting on the Friday it was therefore decided to issue proclamation No. 1. The proclamation was printed in great haste and distributed in the streets the following morning, being also posted up on all hoardings, walls and street doors in the city. The contents were as follows:—

"During the morning of June 30, 1944, a people's strike broke out in Copenhagen. All factories, shops, private and public offices, trams, suburban trains, telephones and newspapers were stopped. This is the greatest national demonstration which has ever taken place in Denmark. The incessant attacks of the Schalburg Corps on

life and property and the systematic destruction of law and order in our country by the German occupation power have caused the people's patience to break.

The partial stoppage of work in the days prior to the people's strike brought the first victory: the relaxing of the curfew. But this German retreat is not sufficient to meet the legitimate demands of the people. Denmark's Council of Freedom appeals for a continuance of the strike until:

1. The Schalburg Corps has been removed;
2. The actual state of emergency (curfew, etc.) has been abolished;

Until these demands have been met the strike should be pursued with the same resolution and solidarity as heretofore. Out of regard for the population, however, everything possible should be done to maintain the supplies of electricity, gas, water, bread and milk.

The Council of Freedom urges strict discipline and the avoidance of excesses in any form whatsoever.

The fight at present being waged in Copenhagen is proof that the people of Denmark are ready, when required, to make whatever sacrifices are needed for the final liberation of our country.

DENMARK'S COUNCIL OF FREEDOM."

The clandestine Press.



"The Bloodhound of Copenhagen"

AT NOON ON SATURDAY the Commander-in-Chief of the German troops in the island of Zealand (Lieutenant General Richter) caused red placards to be put up throughout Copenhagen with the announcement that he had cut the city off from the outside world. For strategical reasons he refrained from including the whole of the greater Copenhagen area but the barrier embraced all the central part and all the important outer districts together with the whole of the small island of Amager. This investment of the city was carried through with great thoroughness and only persons furnished with special passes bearing the signature of Dr. Best were allowed to pass.

According to the investment decree, police powers in the city had simultaneously been taken over by the Germans, but this did not exclude the Danish police from all activity. They continued to function by rendering aid to the population, and were of immense help in innumerable cases. It was feared that the Germans might have stormed the Danish police stations and their failure to do so was probably due to the simple reason that they lacked the manpower.

Copenhagen was to be starved out. The Germans directed their efforts in the first instance to an attempt to spread panic, regardless of the fact that the disorganisation of the city hourly increased whilst the possibility of their liquidating the conflict continued to decline.

Dr. Best left nothing undone. In the

A first line barricade of turned over vehicles at the entrance to Nørrebrogade, the main street of north Copenhagen. In the background smoke rises from the burning Bulldog stores, belonging to a Nazi collaborator.



presence of witnesses he declared that he "would break Copenhagen so that it would never rise again." Dr. Werner Best has the notorious reputation of being the "inventor of the German concentration camps," and the man who, during the early days of the occupation of Paris, issued orders for the savage terrorisation of the French capital. He now added a new disgrace to this name and is known throughout Denmark as the "Bloodhound of Copenhagen."

It is only fair to add that he was given excellent support in his terror campaign by General von Heimbürg, the head of the "Ordnungspolizei" in Denmark, who, beside the Schalburg Corps, were Dr. Best's tools in terrorising the streets. It is significant that after the conclusion of the strike von Heimbürg was transferred to Berlin and that, following the attempted assassination of Hitler and the appointment of Himmler as Commander-in-Chief of all the German forces on the home front, he was given the post of police chief in Berlin.

Dr. Best let it be known to the Danish negotiators that he intended to introduce a 24-hour curfew, prohibiting all traffic in the streets whatsoever. He added that all who refused to obey the order would be shot. He aimed at the total starvation of the city, and there is no doubt that he would have carried out his purpose had he not been stopped by stronger forces in Berlin, who saw the insanity of such a measure.

But all approaches were closed and a state of siege was declared throughout the city. Gas, water and electricity were already shut off. It was impossible to obtain supplies of milk and a dairy which began to distribute from its stock was compelled to stop. The Danish authorities were unable to adopt any measures in order to restore normal conditions. Dr. Best was not interested in an immediate cessation of the strike. It was his intention to make an example by allowing Copenhagen to starve until it was submissive—and a little longer—while at the same time, by savage terror, the inhabitants were taught

what happened when they opposed the Nazis.

German troop reinforcements poured into Copenhagen, and by Saturday there were probably about 6,000 active German troops and police troops in the city. In addition there were the 500—600 members of the Schalburg Corps.

Panzers and tanks, especially Mark 1's and Mark 2's, were brought in, while numerous motorised patrols scoured the city firing at random. No attempt was made by the Germans to maintain order. Murder was let loose on all sides regardless of whether there were demonstrations or not.

Defensive points were set up throughout the city. From the south came panzer formations, and field artillery was displaced at all important strategic points, such as the Town Hall Square, Vesterbros Torv, Nørrebro Runddel, Trianglen, and Kongens Nytorv. Big guns were employed in Svendsgade, Istedgade, Eskildsgade and at many other places.

On Saturday evening a detachment of horse-drawn howitzers arrived from Roskilde, and in Vesterbrogade mounted officers issued orders in front of the Freedom Column, the national monument erected in memory of the emancipation of the Danish peasants. No greater insult could possibly have been shown to the Danish people.

At the same time numerous "Heinkel 88's" flew over the rooftops, at many points—such as Vodroffsvej—firing on the people with their machine guns.

The German patrols rode in anything they could lay their hands on when motor cars were not procurable. They were seen, for example, to use confiscated Carlsberg beer drays, from which they fired wildly around them. Accordingly during Saturday and Sunday the situation grew steadily more tense and the firing in the livelier districts, not least Vesterbro, Nørrebro, Bispebjerg and Søborg, continued to increase. The barricades grew in size and number. The Germans began storming them and taking prisoners. On the part of the population it

was a case of regular partisan warfare. Only the active resistance movement, that is the armed underground forces, remained, obeying orders, in the background, though the Germans did what they could to tempt them to come out. Thus, three rumours were put out with the object of provoking the underground movement. These false reports were as follows :

"Finland has capitulated" ; "Sweden has declared war on Germany" ; "British troops have landed at Esbjerg (in Jutland)."

To "prove" their authenticity they were even sent out on the police tape machines.

German Looting.

It gradually appeared as if the Germans were about to commence taking hostages. During the Sunday, for instance, they raided all the student buildings. Very few students were, however, at home. At the largest of the colleges they succeeded in arresting 17 of them who, together with the few they managed to pick up elsewhere, were carried off—and subsequently released. Apparently they refrained from executing them from fear of a general revolt. In addition the Germans made a search for certain prominent persons such as newspaper editors, but in no case did they find the wanted persons at home.

Meanwhile the Germans demonstrated how low their morale had sunk in consequence of the recent disastrous events on all the fronts : they looted wherever they could. Not only did they confiscate the stocks of beer and mineral water from the Carlsberg breweries ; members of the German security police broke into the American Tobacco Company and carried off a lorry-load of tobacco. There was a similar incident at Augustinus Hansen's Cigar Factory, which was raided by German troops.

Above all they raided garages and depots, where they confiscated lorries, generator fuel, oil and petrol. Practically the whole of the Danish authorities' stock of petrol was stolen, so that it has not been possible since the strike to procure petrol even for ambulances.

"Down with Best!"

Examples of the terrorism of the German troops and the Schalburg Corps during the strike in Copenhagen are so numerous that it is not possible to report them all. The following selection represents only a fraction of all those which occurred, but they are typical of the way in which Dr. Best's order to wage terror was carried out.

The Schalburg Corps fired not only on groups of people reading Danish and German notices but also on food queues, and the German police even broke into the school at Vanløse, where the municipality, with German permission, were handing out tinned food to the specially needy. The queue was shot at and the distributing stopped. At several places members of the Schalburg Corps took milk away from mothers who had just received it for their babies.

The most serious incident took place at Holmbladsgade in Amager, where, at the sight of some barricades and destroyed Nazi shops, a German patrol ran amok. The Germans began to fire at open windows and doors with the result that 25 persons were hit, 15 of whom subsequently died. A little later a German fighter aircraft flew low over Amagerbrogade and machine-gunned demonstrators and passers-by. In the course of an hour 67 casualties were admitted to Sundby Hospital.

Without warning machine guns opened fire on a house in Classensgade. The building was surrounded by German police and the occupants forced to flee, in night attire, over the fence to the neighbours. Some bullets flew through the entrance to a building in Ostbanegade near Langelinie and the German guard, under the impression that they were enemy bullets, replied to the fire. It is stated that in this encounter the Germans killed or wounded several of their own personnel.

In Blegdamsvej a German soldier fired at a Danish police sergeant, whom he accused of having distributed illegal pamphlets.

On Sunday evening an electric spark set fire to a shed in Havnegade, in the harbour district. As a result the German guard at Knippelsbro directed their guns on the street and fired wildly. German patrols then cordoned off the whole area and stormed a Danish boat in which a score of people had sought refuge. When the guard at Langebro heard the firing they also commenced to fire on pedestrians who happened to approach the bridge. Very many people were killed or wounded in these incidents.

In Baggensgade the inhabitants had raised Danish and Allied flags on clothes lines stretched across the street. The Germans were frantic with rage when they saw the flags and chased people into their houses, firing blindly. Shots were fired through one of the doors and the wife of a working man and her child were killed.

At the corner of Frederiksborgvej and Tuborgvej a man and his wife on bicycles

were hit by an exploding shell from a German gun and mutilated beyond all recognition. The inhabitants of the districts continued to lay wreaths on the spot for several days afterwards.

In Osterbrogade two young persons lay on the stairs of their house looking down into the street. They were observed by a German patrol and the soldiers stole up the stairs and shot them from behind.

In Blaagaardsgade the Germans fired a shot from a tank gun, hitting a house and killing a woman.

On Sunday afternoon a police loudspeaker van was delivering an appeal from the Danish authorities to resume work the next morning. Quite naturally the passers-by stopped to listen but in the middle of the appeal a motor lorry drove up manned by Schalburg men. They opened fire on the crowd at a range of 200 yards.

In Nørrebrogade throughout the strike the following words were to be seen painted in large red letters in the middle of the road : "Down with Best !" The inhabitants of Copenhagen, who had both seen and felt the terror which Dr. Best had let loose in the capital, were without exception in favour of it.

Solidarity

DURING FRIDAY, THE LAST DAY IN JUNE, and before Copenhagen had yet been cut off from the outside world, thousands of people hurried out from the stricken city. Many had decided to go for a picnic on this extra holiday, others were going into the country

Water had to be carried from lakes and brooks.





Thousands of Copenhageners fled before the Germans completely cut off the starving city from the outside world,

to get food, while others again went to escape from the city and stay away until the trouble was all over.

During the Saturday morning Glostrup, a little place outside the capital, was converted into the main station for Copenhagen. Trains left only at irregular intervals, and finally not at all, but along the railway lines and in the ditches sat thousands of people, while along the road cyclists were steaming westwards in such numbers that eye-witnesses felt there could be no more bicycles left in Copenhagen. Many had passengers on the handlebars. Old people were transported on tricycles; parents tramped along pushing perambulators; invalids came in bath chairs; all were possessed by the idea of getting outside the city before the German barriers encircled it at 5 o'clock that evening. Behind

the barriers at that time there were probably 700,000 people left out of a total population of about a million.

Inside the barriers every effort was made to keep up the spirits of the people, and there are innumerable examples of help and self-sacrifice. All were ready to bring their small contributions to keep the bonfires going: books, newspapers, old furniture and mattresses were thrown out of windows to be accepted with cheers and applause by the crowd. Whenever the Germans did succeed in penetrating the streets, everyone disappeared as if by magic, and in many cases the German motor-cyclists succeeded only in colliding with dustbins and rubbish heaps.

The most difficult thing was to procure food and water. As the strike had begun on Friday, the last day of June, neither the

weekly wage earners nor the monthly salary earners had been paid, and as, moreover, the banks were closed, cheques could not be cashed.

The Municipal Hospital was obliged to pump water out of the lakes, whilst the other hospitals managed as best they could with water carts. The municipal authorities organised the distribution of children's milk from the hospitals against production of birth certificates, but this was reserved for infants under three and the ration was far from adequate as the Germans stopped the arrival of further supplies. In the course of two days 45,000 tins of food were handed out at 22 schools in the city, while at other places there were free meals and many food shops opened the back doors to their customers and extended credit.

Through the medium of the illegal press the Council of Freedom issued an appeal to all citizens, instead of spilling blood in useless street demonstrations, to find ways through the German barriers in order to fetch food both for themselves and for their streets and districts. "Every hour lost is an hour lost for Hitler," wrote one of the underground papers; "we must hold out and help each other as much as possible!" The occupants of large blocks of flats were urged to help each other by sharing the available food.

Whoever had food shared it with his neighbour, and to replace gas many fires were lit in the courtyards, at which the inhabitants were able to cook their food. People helped each other by carrying water home from the lakes, and the tradesmen conducted an extensive patriotic black-market from their back doors. The proprietor of a well-known restaurant in the Town Hall Square on his own initiative distributed 1,500 packets of food to needy persons, and somewhere in the Nørrebro district a large communal Sunday dinner was held. A butcher distributed what he had of carcasses and these were roasted on a bonfire in his yard. The meat was either eaten on the spot or carried off home.

These are only single examples of the solidarity of the inhabitants of Copenhagen during the general strike.

And the saboteurs helped where they could. A large bakery owned by a Nazi was raided on the Sunday morning by armed men, who carried off the whole stock of flour and distributed it amongst the bakers in the district, who then baked bread for the people.

A clandestine ecclesiastical paper, "Kirkens Front," wrote after the strike: "Despite everything, the people held out; and the chief honour goes to the Copenhagen worker, who did not get his wages and whose food was soon eaten and who yet stuck it out."

When the vegetable market reopened after the strike the solidarity and discipline were continued. It might have been expected that the hungry citizens would have stormed the market and soon carried off the small supplies which were available, but this was not the case. The products were sold at normal prices and many were even handed out by the market gardeners free of charge with the words: "Take what you need, but remember that we are all in the same boat!" This happened in the case of rhubarb, tomatoes, parsley and other products, whilst the rest were sold at the lowest possible prices.

Only in one or two cases were attempts made to profit from the short supplies and increased demand. But popular justice was strict and profiteers were punished on the spot with blows and free distribution of their produce.

It was the same iron discipline which carried the people of Copenhagen to victory. In a special edition of the illegal newspaper, "Frit Danmark," which appeared during the strike, we find:

"Avoid looting and other provocative actions. Remember this is a people's strike. Do not demonstrate against the Danish police, who themselves are the object of German aggression.

"Hold out; continue the strike; be cool, united and disciplined."

Similar appeals were to be read in the other illegal papers, which kept the people informed of what was happening and issued the directives that were to be followed. The following four papers, in particular, were the ones which maintained this special service : *De Frie Danske, Land og Folk, Frit Danmark* and *Studenternes Efterretningstjeneste*. In many localities the placards belonging to these papers were allowed to remain untouched all day, the Germans being afraid to appear on foot there. Handbills were given out, often in the most perilous situations when those distributing them were exposed to enemy fire. But no difficulties were experienced in finding people for this work or for the vitally important courier services through the German lines.

In general, however, Copenhagen was cut off from all outside news, the radio sets having ceased to function with the shutting off of electric current. Old-fashioned battery sets became immensely popular and were freely employed but their number was limited. They were often left by their owners to boom at full power so that not only the neighbours but also the German guards in the streets could have the pleasure of listening to the transmission of the B.B.C. or the illegal Danish transmitter, "Hjemmefrontens Radio."

The Provinces Follow Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN is the centre of Denmark to a perhaps still greater extent than London is the centre of Great Britain. Almost a fourth of the total population of Denmark live

within the area of greater Copenhagen, and for this reason alone it is understandable that a popular strike of such unique solidarity as that in Copenhagen should have an immediate and powerful reaction in the rest of the country.

There is scarcely a person in the Danish provinces, even in the most remote districts of western Jutland, who has not at least some connection in Copenhagen in the form of relatives, friends or acquaintances. This personal bond between Copenhagen and the rest of the country could not help but play an important part, not least in a situation where the individual Copenhagener—man, woman and child—was being exposed to personal risk by the terror of the Schalburg Corps, the Gestapo and the German troops.

The people of Denmark still look to Copenhagen as the natural administrative centre of the country even though the King is regarded as a prisoner and the Government ceased to function on August 29, 1943. Copenhagen is the centre of the country's administration. It is likewise the principal industrial, commercial and cultural centre. The workers have their trade union headquarters in Copenhagen, and even the leading farmer organisations are centred there.

When, therefore, on Saturday, July 1, the Copenhagen resistance front sent out an appeal to the provinces for help, the answer was not long in coming. The appeal, which was sent illegally through the German lines, called for a stoppage of the production of everything which in any way might be of interest or value to the Germans. In particular, the workers at all arms factories in the provinces and all airfields and defence works were called upon to stop work, as well as persons engaged on communications.

Agricultural Export to Germany Threatened.

Above all the great importance was pointed out of ceasing production at all dairies and bacon factories from which the principal agricultural products were sent to Germany.

It was only necessary to stop production for a few days in order to cause serious alarm to the economic heads in Berlin, who would then bring pressure to bear to have this dangerous Dr. Best removed, and his power and responsibility transferred to other men who would be less interested in party and personal prestige than in maintaining and expanding production.

The exploitation by the resistance movement of this disunity within the German camp was an exceedingly clever move, and when several dairies and bacon factories in Zealand, Lolland and Falster responded to the appeal and one by one began to close, it had the desired effect. This latest development may explain why Dr. Walter, the economic expert in Berlin, flew by express courier on Sunday, July 2, to Copenhagen, where he disavowed Dr. Best and made important concessions to the strikers.

Many workers in the provincial towns had already gone out on strike in sympathy with the Copenhageners, but after the receipt of the appeal the movement quickened until three days later (Monday, July 3) more or less complete strikes were in force in 22 Danish provincial towns.

The Breeding-ground at Ringsted.

By Saturday morning the people's strike was total at Køge and in the whole of North Zealand, including Helsingør (Elsinore), Hillerød and the seaside places along the Sound. Hundreds of strikers had also come out at Holbæk and Kalundborg.

Ringsted occupied a special position. The military barracks in this town had long since been taken over by the Schalburg Corps, who used it for the military training of their Nazi traitors. On the orders of Dr. Best the members of the Schalburg Corps had at a very early stage of the strike begun to terrorise the civil population of Ringsted, and there were disturbances and street fights in several parts of the town. When, however, during Sunday the strike threatened to

become total, the Germans reversed their orders and had the whole Quisling Corps confined to barracks. This was a local victory for the inhabitants of Ringsted, and it had an encouraging effect on the people of Copenhagen when the news began to spread.

Zealand Cut Off.

Gradually the strikers succeeded in stopping all traffic in the islands of Zealand, Lolland and Falster. This had a double purpose. In the first place the strikers prevented the arrival of further reinforcements; secondly, they prevented the transport of agricultural produce to Germany. Only in one instance did the Germans, by means of imported German railway personnel, succeed in getting a train through; and on Sunday morning the Danish State Railways announced that all traffic had ceased in Zealand, Lolland and Falster.

At Næstved, Vordingborg, Nykøbing (Falster) and several other places there were disturbances on the railways; at the ferry terminals of Nyborg and Korsør there was a strike of all seamen and harbour workers which cut Zealand off from the island of Funen. At Nyborg the Germans thereupon occupied the two ferries which were in the port and tried to force the crew to sail at the point of the revolver. This attempt failed, but later in the day one of the ferries made a single crossing with a German crew and under the German flag.

At Gedser, a key-point on the main railway line to Germany, the same thing happened. The ferry crews struck work, the buoys in the harbour were removed, and the fires were put out in all the locomotives in the depot, this last being the signal for railway personnel to cease work.

News Spreaders.

Stranded travellers and the thousands of refugees from Copenhagen who had reached the neighbouring towns such as Roskilde, Næstved and Køge were quartered in schools

The printing house of a daily paper in Odense blown up by the Germans in revenge for Danish resistance.



and other public buildings under the care of the municipalities. These refugees—mainly women, children and old people—were quick to spread the news of the inhuman terror which was being waged in the capital. This helped to evoke the spirit of revolt in the provincial towns and in Roskilde, for instance, was one of the chief causes of the strike spreading there.

“Committee of Workers and Citizens.”

Little by little Fyn and Jutland were drawn in. More or less extensive strikes were carried out in Odense, Nyborg, Svendborg, Kolding, Grindsted, Ribe, Vejle, Randers and Varde, while the larger towns of Aarhus and Aalborg prepared, at a moment's notice, to cease all German production.

But, as often before, it was Esbjerg, the main port for England, which led the way in Jutland. As soon as the appeal for help arrived from Copenhagen a “Committee of Workers and Citizens” was formed, which, though by its very nature forced to work illegally, nevertheless worked very effectively.

This committee called for a general strike in Esbjerg and in 48 hours the strike was total. On the Tuesday afternoon leaflets were distributed containing the following :

“On Wednesday morning the 48 hours will have passed. In perfect order and with firm solidarity the people of Esbjerg have carried out their sympathy strike with the heroic inhabitants of Copenhagen. We and our enemies have seen the will and the power of the people. Maintain law and order to the end. On Wednesday morning work will be resumed in full. Keep up your solidarity for the sake of Denmark's freedom.

Committee of Workers and Citizens.”

The Atlantic Wall Weakened.

Ever since the invasion in Normandy the German Commander-in-Chief in Denmark (General von Hanneken) has been seized by an ever-growing nervousness. If the Atlantic Wall could not hold in Normandy, how could he, with relatively poor troops and inadequate defences, hope to offer resistance should the Allies decide to go ashore in Jutland?

General von Hanneken has never forgotten the rebuke which he received from Field-Marshal Rommel during an inspection in Jutland when, owing to the poor condition of the defences from the Skaw in the north to Ribe in the south, Rommel ironically asked if he thought he would have to fight tin soldiers.

Above all, von Hanneken desired peace and quiet on the Danish home front so as not to be exposed to attack from the rear as well as from the front. It therefore made a great impression on him when all work ceased on the coastal fortifications in Jutland because the workers in the towns stayed at home.

There were also reports that the Germans in Jutland were constructing bases for the rocket guns which, according to German propaganda, were intended for use in their terror bombing of the civilian population of Great Britain. The work on these bases was naturally not entrusted to the anti-Nazi Danish workers, but as the materials failed to arrive during the strike this work also partly came to a stop. Thus, the people's strike in Denmark helped to delay the employment of this much talked-of new terror weapon.

Victory

IN THE COURSE OF SATURDAY, JULY 1, Dr. Werner Best twice suffered a serious loss of prestige, in both cases at the hands of his own countrymen who had other interests to watch. Lieutenant General Richter, as the representative of the military, assumed con-

trol in Copenhagen, while Dr. Walter, the economic expert who usually conducted the trade negotiations between Denmark and Germany, suddenly arrived by air on Sunday morning and presented himself before the permanent head of the Danish Foreign Office, Mr. Niels Svenningsen. Mr. Svenningsen had already on several occasions acted as the intermediary between the legal Danish authorities and Dr. Best.

Dr. Walter expressed disgust at Dr. Best's demands to the Danish negotiators and disavowed him completely. The day before, Dr. Best had demanded the removal from their posts of two leading Danish police officials and the Chairman of the Trades Union Council and also that the workers should make up for lost time in production by overtime.

Dr. Best found every man's hand against him throughout the strike. The military, with General von Hanneken at the head, were against him; the Gestapo with General Pancke were against him; and now he learned that Dr. Walter, the representative of Reichsministers Funk, Schwerin-Krosigk and Backe, was also against him. Hanneken opposed him because there was not sufficient military personnel in Denmark to deal with a general revolt; Pancke from personal jealousy and because the forces of disintegration threatened to disrupt the work of the Gestapo. When the inhabitants of the whole country are illegal there is no pleasure in arresting just a few of the chosen ones amongst them. And the economic group opposed him from fear that agricultural and industrial exports to Germany might stop.

Dr. Walter promised the legal Danish authorities that he would arrange for the resumption of water, gas and electricity supplies if they for their part would issue a general appeal for the resumption of work without any regretful references to the German emergency measures; would undertake that the Danish police should intervene in any further disturbances; and would negotiate for more rapid action by mixed

Danish-German flying squads. The German offer to resume supplies of gas, water and electricity was due in very large measure to the fact that German requirements were also seriously affected by the lack of them.

The legal Danish authorities agreed to these steps and redrafted the appeal which they had drawn up the previous Friday morning. This was broadcast on the Sunday evening, when radio transmissions were resumed, and was circulated in the streets in the form of handbills. Police loudspeaker vans also spread the appeal. The following is the text of the statement :

"In agreement with the heads of the central administration and representatives of the collaborating political parties, we, the undersigned representatives of the municipal councils of greater Copenhagen, address the following appeal to the people in connection with the situation which has arisen as a result of recent events. The strike in Copenhagen has placed the inhabitants of Copenhagen in a fateful situation. The consequences of a continuance of the strike are immeasurable. The supplies of food and other necessities to the city are already beginning to fail and will in a very short time cease completely. The danger of intervention of an irreparable character is imminent. The restitution of the normal life of the city is a necessary condition if the disasters which threaten are to be averted.

Every man and woman is therefore earnestly urged to resume his or her work without delay."

The appeal was signed by the Mayor of Copenhagen (Mr. Viggo Christensen), the mayors of the other municipalities in greater Copenhagen and prominent representatives of trades and labour organisations.

But the Germans and the Schalburg Corps opened fire on the groups of people gathered in the streets to hear the appeal, apart from which it was badly received by the population. Simultaneously with the appearance of the proclamation the illegal press published

appeals for a continuance of the strike. The appeal to resume work was therefore without result and it was of no avail that agreement had been reached on the Sunday morning between General Pancke and the Danish police which in effect constituted a German retreat and demonstrated that General Pancke did not intend to follow Dr. Best to the bitter end.

The Policy of the Freedom Council.

The failure of the official appeal was principally due to the fact that, through the intervention of the Council of Freedom, the strikers had formulated clearly defined objectives for which to fight and that these objectives had not at that stage been achieved.

The demands of the people of Copenhagen were formulated in a proclamation from the Council of Freedom which appeared in the afternoon of Saturday, July 1, and read :

"During the past 24 hours the brutality of the Germans has increased. They have introduced a state of siege and have closed all approaches to the city, stopped all supplies and cut off water, gas and electricity. In the streets the people are ruthlessly fired upon by motorised patrols and from the air. The will of the people to continue the strike is unbroken. The time for active resistance has not yet arrived, but no more powerful expression of passive resistance is possible than that which has already occurred.

Once more the Council of Freedom emphasises that the strike must continue, with undiminished strength and unity, until the Germans have given adequate guarantees for the fulfilment of the following demands :

1. The Schalburg Corps must be removed from the country.
2. The state of siege (curfew, etc.) must be lifted.
3. The approaches to the city must be reopened and supplies of gas, water and electricity resumed.
4. There must be no reprisals."

Simultaneously with this proclamation the Council of Freedom sent an open appeal to Sweden to support the Danish people by means of diplomatic pressure on Germany with the object of having the hated and despised Schalburg Corps removed.

Handbills containing a proclamation to the Danish people from the Council of Freedom appealing to them to continue the strike were still circulating at noon on Monday. This appeal contained the following: "The time for active resistance has not yet arrived. But the strike will continue with undiminished energy on the part of all Danish patriots until the Germans have given adequate guarantees that the Schalburg Corps of quislings will be removed from Denmark and that no reprisals will be exacted."

The Provinces join in.

At the same time the strikes in the provinces began to develop, and general strikes were soon in operation in 22 provincial towns.

An attempt to resume tramway traffic on Monday, July 3, was a complete failure. Mr. H. P. Sørensen of the Copenhagen City Council and Mr. Otto Wolf, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, were in the first tram to leave the depot and only just escaped injury when the windows were broken. The Germans, who had themselves demanded a resumption of the tram service, fired on several trams which succeeded in getting through. The tramway officials, who had been forced out under threat, thus found themselves under double fire—from the Germans and from the demonstrators. The Germans had threatened to take hostages and shoot all those who refused to come out and a few hours later the Copenhagen tramway service was again working. However, at 7 o'clock that evening the conductors went home and made it a condition for the resumption of work that they should cease work every evening at 7 o'clock.

The Germans now began to relent.

The first official appeal not having had the slightest effect, the politicians opened negotiations with Dr. Best, who was now slightly more amenable. It would appear as if, during these last hours of Monday, the policy of the Council of Freedom and that of the legal Danish authorities began to run parallel; or rather, the Germans now agreed to some of the demands, whereupon five prominent politicians and economic leaders, on Monday evening, went to the microphone and earnestly appealed to everyone to resume work the next morning.

German Concessions.

The same afternoon the Council of Freedom held a meeting at which, according to the illegal paper, *Frit Danmark*, which may be regarded as the special organ of the Freedom Council, the following took place:

"In view of information indicating retreat by the Germans, the Council considered the objectives of the strike to be so far achieved that it could be called off. The deciding factor in the attitude of the Council was that the time for the final struggle against the Germans had not yet arrived. The calling-off of the strike at this stage will be both right and necessary inasmuch as a people's strike of this nature must sooner or later develop into open war—the transport of food alone requires an armed guard—and such a development must be prevented. The moment has not arrived for the employment of all reserves."

The concessions referred to in this report came in two stages. On Sunday the Germans agreed to reopen the supplies of water, gas and electricity as soon as this could be done and to refrain from taking reprisals. These concessions not being enough for work to be resumed, they proceeded to make the following further concessions:

1. The Schalburg Corps was to be removed from the streets;
2. The German military were to cease firing on innocent persons;

3. The German military posts were to be removed as soon as life in the city became normal ;
4. Negotiations were to be entered into concerning the future of the Schalburg Corps and the prevention of further provocations ;
5. There was to be complete and early abolition of the curfew.

On the basis of these concessions the Council of Freedom had no hesitation in advising all to resume work. All the objectives had been achieved. On Tuesday morning, therefore, the Council issued the following appeal for a resumption of work on Wednesday, July 5, this appeal being duly observed :

Since Monday, June 28, the occupying forces and the Schalburg Corps have terrorised the population of Copenhagen. Up to Sunday evening 87 innocent citizens of Copenhagen have been killed and 664 wounded. Many others have been taken, dead or wounded, to German hospitals.

On Friday evening the Germans occupied the gas, water and electricity works and cut off the supplies ; this despite the fact that the workers, in accordance with the appeal made to them by the Council of Freedom, had resolved to continue these essential supplies. The following day the Germans invested the city and stopped all supplies of food.

The siege of Copenhagen thereby became complete. Copenhagen was to be starved out.

But neither terror nor attempts at starvation succeeded in breaking the people's will to resist. On the contrary, it was only strengthened thereby, and a large number of provincial towns united to support the courageous struggle of the people of Copenhagen. The unarmed demonstration of these thousands of citizens against the machine guns, cannon, tanks and aeroplanes of the Germans is a unique event in the European struggle for liberty against the Nazis.

By Sunday the Germans were compelled to make a retreat. They reopened the supplies of gas, water and electricity and removed the barriers to the approaches to Copenhagen.

At the same time the municipal authorities in the capital, the trade union leaders and the leaders of trade and economic organisations, supported by the central administration and the collaborating political parties, issued an appeal for the resumption of work on Monday morning. But as this appeal contained no promise from the Germans that the demands made by the strikers and the Freedom Council would be fulfilled, the strikers continued their determined struggle. Their unbreakable resistance has today (Monday) forced the Germans to agree to the following further concessions :

1. The Schalburg Corps has been removed from the streets ;
2. An undertaking has been given that German military personnel will cease firing on defenceless citizens ;
3. The demand of the tramway officials for an earlier cessation of traffic has been agreed to ;
4. The Germans have agreed to abandon a number of earlier demands for reprisals ;
5. Negotiations about the future of the Schalburg Corps are already in progress ;
6. The curfew in Copenhagen is expected to be abolished shortly.

These German concessions are so important that the Council of Freedom does not hesitate to advise the inhabitants of Copenhagen to resume work on Wednesday morning. This people's strike has demonstrated to the Germans that the Danish people are not to be cowed by threats and terror. It has emphasised the people's unshakeable unity and reaffirmed our strength and our solidarity. The people's strike was only a prelude to the final, decisive struggle which lies ahead.

To make every preparation for this, to hold their powers in reserve in order to be

able to strike in force as soon as the signal is given for the final rising in the fight for peace, freedom and independence—this is today the vital and all-important task of the Danish Freedom Movement.

Monday, July 3, 1944, at 5 p.m.

Denmark's Council of Freedom.

The German Defeat

DENMARK's victory over the Germans was so complete and so shattering that the German authorities and the Danish Nazis suffered pangs of torture in their efforts to gloss it over. Obviously the Danish victory could never have been won had Germany not been weakened by the gigantic and co-ordinated attacks of the Allies. Without Stalingrad and Kiev; without Tunisia, the Anzio beach-head and Normandy; without the steadily growing air offensive on Germany, the people's strike in Copenhagen would have met with failure.

But this does not detract from the Danish contribution in the struggle against Germany. The action was launched at the most propitious moment and is the greatest instance of passive resistance any city in Europe has ever put up against the Nazis. In every possible way the German authorities attempted to split the ranks of the strikers, but it was the latter who succeeded in splitting the Germans and carrying off the victory. And when everything failed for the Germans, Dr. Walter's view predominated, namely that there was no alternative but to give way to the strikers' demands in order to obtain a

resumption, as quickly as possible, of Danish supplies to the German war industry.

The circumstance that the Germans need to be able to exploit Denmark in peace and quiet is one of the secrets of the powerful position of the Danish people today in the face of an apparently vastly superior enemy. The strikers, under the leadership of the Council of Freedom, took advantage of this position, and did it so cleverly and ably that the victory was won—not merely partially, but completely and decisively. The Council of Freedom has increased its influence and prestige, and the Danish people have demonstrated to the world that it *does* pay to offer resistance.

The people's strike in Copenhagen was a bitter pill for the Nazis to swallow. Every dodge was tried to get around the unpleasant facts. *National-Socialisten*, a scurrilous Nazi paper published by the Danish Nazis with German money, wrote in its first issue after the strike: "It is beyond all doubt that 95 per cent. of the inhabitants of Copenhagen disapprove of what happened at the end of last week: the general strike!" In its helplessness the propaganda of the Danish Nazis now follows the principle of the Danish politician who once exclaimed at a public meeting: "If they are facts, I deny facts!"

But the official German propaganda about the people's strike in Copenhagen yields nothing to that of the Danish Nazis in its stupidity. At the daily press conference in the Wilhelmstrasse on July 4, Paul Schmidt gave the following typical information to the foreign press:

"Certain phenomena in connection with the resistance movements in some of the territories occupied by Germany throw an interesting light on the relations between the German authorities and the Governments there. In this respect the question of the strike in Denmark may be regarded as symptomatic. Certain strike movements, evidently sponsored by Communists, which never assumed the importance of a general strike, have been effectively combated and

suppressed by the Danish authorities together with the German Plenipotentiary. It has thus been politically established that the Danish Government authorities and the German Plenipotentiary closely collaborated in combating the strike and that this collaboration led to the adoption and execution of effective counter-measures which have brought the tense situation to a rapid close. There is therefore no truth in certain reports, particularly those which have appeared in the British and American press, that there has been any lining-up of the native population against the occupying power. It was, on the contrary, a case of excesses on the part of a few excited elements in which the people as such have taken no part and which have by no means been encouraged by the local administrative authorities."

It is hardly possible to go further in parodying the situation. But the statement shows how difficult it is for the Germans to conceal their defeat and loss of prestige. When the first official Danish appeal to the population to resume work was an established fact the Germans celebrated the occasion with a presumed victory and drew a sigh of relief. Cartloads of beer were requisitioned from the breweries and vast quantities of Carlsberg and Tuborg lager were consumed in the barracks. Drunken German soldiers hung, bottle in hand, out of the windows, shouting and screaming.

The next day, when they discovered that the appeal had had no effect, the enthusiasm cooled. But the incident gives some of the background for the violent terror which took place the following night.

After the close of the general strike Dr. Werner Best was summoned to Berlin. It was a crestfallen and humiliated Dr. Best who now had to answer for his actions to his superiors and explain why his policy in Denmark had so completely failed. He was called to Hitler's headquarters, then in East Prussia, but was not given the opportunity to say very many words. In front of von Ribbentrop, Dr. Best stood to attention for



The German defeat in Copenhagen was symbolized by the burning of Nazi flags.

three-quarters of an hour in the presence of an hysterically raving Hitler who, in characteristic language, took from him the last vestiges of honour and common sense still residing in the recesses of Dr. Best's unprincipled self-consciousness.

The Free World Pays Tribute to Denmark

THE PEOPLE'S STRIKE in Denmark attracted immense attention and aroused undisguised enthusiasm in all neutral and Allied countries. Over the B.B.C., Moscow radio, the American stations and many others listeners were day by day informed of developments in the Danish people's heroic struggle to the final victory. In neutral Sweden also the press and radio and the entire Swedish people followed the Copenhageners' fight with sympathy and support. The British, American and Russian newspapers wrote leading articles on "the Danish triumph" and the brilliant work of the Danish Council of Freedom. And congratulations poured in from all sides to the Danish people, who had so conclusively demonstrated that even for a small, unarmed country it can pay to resist.

The press comments and messages reprinted below are only a small selection from the many which appeared, but they are typical of the admiration which Denmark by her fight has won for herself from the Allied and neutral world.

The Times, July 11, 1944 :

"The history of the European underground movement, so rich in examples of the triumph of an organised popular action against apparently invincible power, contains no instance of so complete and impressive a victory as that which the Danes have now won."

Izvestia writes :

"What do these happenings in Copenhagen mean? They mean that the

German fascists have not succeeded in enlisting Denmark for their new order, nor have they compelled them to recognise German rule ; and, furthermore, that the will of the Danish people to regain their freedom and independence is stronger than ever before."

Sydsvenska Dagbladet writes as follows of the German terror in the streets of Copenhagen :

"This is madness and barbarism to the nth degree. One thing is certain : It is of no use to try to win sympathy for the destruction which is overwhelming the cities of Germany when the same people let loose such meaningless destruction as that which a gang of criminals like the Schalburg Corps is now perpetrating in Denmark."

Aftonbladet (Stockholm) :

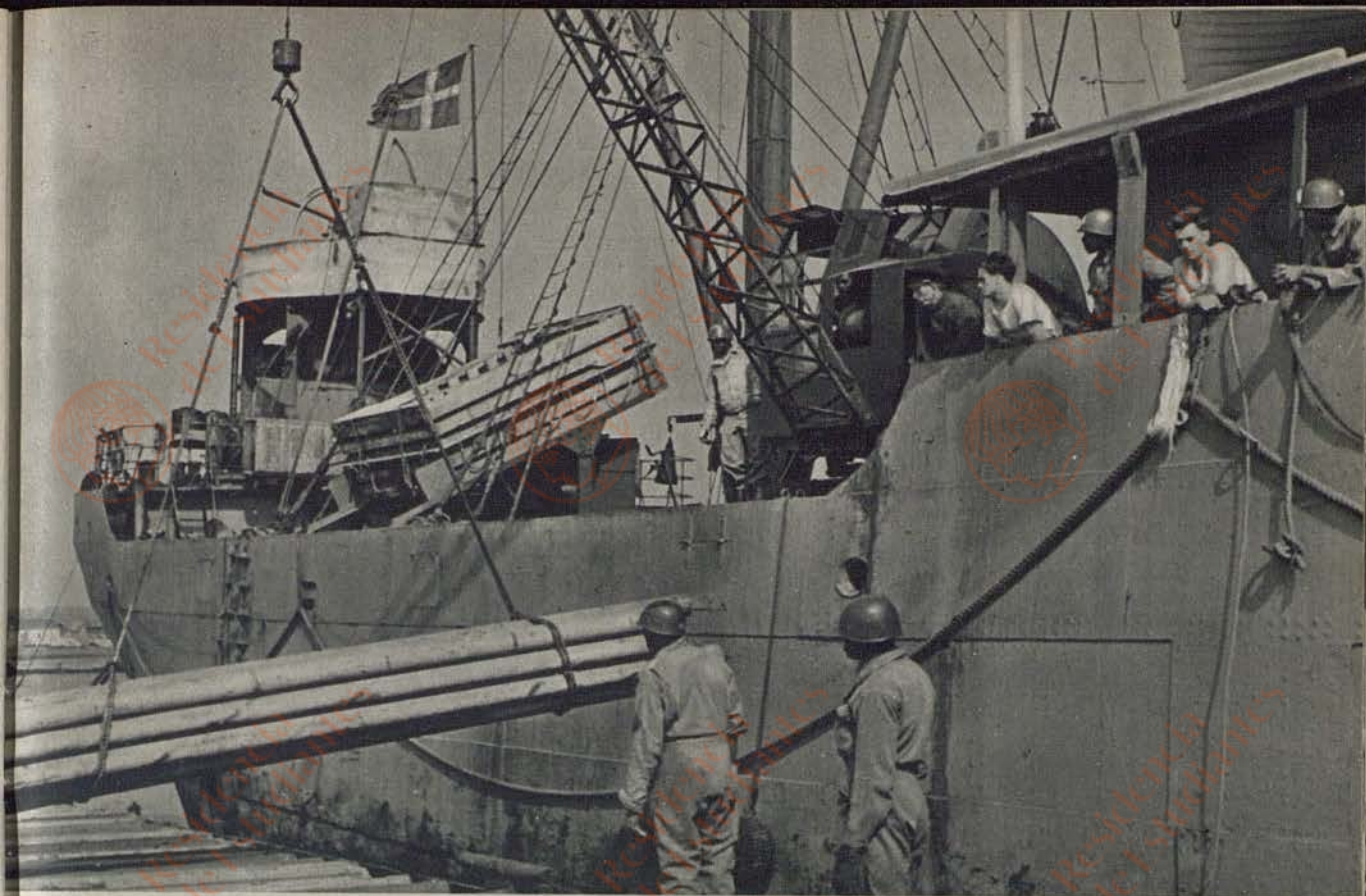
"The defenceless, anti-defence and capitulating Denmark will after this war emerge as the bravest and in resistance most closely united nation in Scandinavia."

The Norwegian Home Front sent the following message to the Danish Council of Freedom :

"The leadership of the Norwegian Home Front sends Denmark's Council of Freedom its warmest congratulations on the occasion of the victory, which the Danish people have won in the fight against the common foe. Like the Danish people we in occupied Norway wait, impatiently and resolved, for the day when the signal is given and we can go forward in full strength to drive the Nazi oppressors out of the country and regain our freedom and our democracy."

The American Secretary of State, Mr. *Cordell Hull*, at a press conference on July 12, said :

"The stand against their German oppressors sets an example to peoples of other lands whose craven leaders have succumbed to the false promises of the Nazis. Recent events in Denmark have again proved that the spirit of freedom cannot be crushed in a people determined to uphold their



The main contribution of the free Danes abroad towards the Allied war effort is the merchant fleet—5,000 Danish seamen sailing with 800,000 tons of Danish shipping. Danish ships, under the "Dannebrog," took part in the invasion operations off the Normandy coast.

liberties. The Danes have steadfastly opposed attempts by the Germans to establish a 'model protectorate' in what once was and will be again a free and tolerant country."

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. *Anthony Eden*, in the House of Commons, on July 12, said :

"Last autumn representatives of the various resistance bodies in Denmark formed a committee with the name of the Council of Freedom, which pending the restoration of liberty and constitutional government in Denmark, plays a conspicuous part in the life of occupied Denmark as a focus of resistance to the

Germans. The valuable contribution to resistance in Denmark is, like that of the free Danes, warmly acknowledged by the British Government."

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. *Anthony Eden*, stated in the House of Commons on July 19 :

"There can be no doubt that the strikes were an overwhelming success. We have seen the heartening spectacle of the civilian population of an enemy-occupied city enforcing their demands on the German military authorities."

The Chairman of the Danish Council in London, Mr. *J. Christmas Møller*, speaking on July 5, expressed the following thanks

and tribute of the Free Danes to their countrymen at home :

"In the midst of all these events world history has also been written in Denmark.

To the victories on the battlefronts the Danish home front has added its victory, which clearly demonstrates that nothing can overcome a people acting in unison and solidarity. . . .

The entire free world understands and admires what those at home have achieved. We send our thanks and admiring greetings to the active Danish Home Front for well-performed achievement in the service of the nation and of other nations. We pay tribute to Denmark's Council of Freedom for its contribution, and we give expression to our thanks and feelings in the wish that the years to come may give Denmark and the Danish people a future worthy of these historic days in June and July."

In his speech on November 6, 1944, on the anniversary of the Russian Revolution, Marshal *Stalin* said :

"It is no coincidence that not only have the oppressed people of France, Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Belgium, Denmark, Norway and Holland risen against the German imperialists but also Hitler Germany's former vassals."

The Right Honourable *C. R. Attlee*, Deputy Prime Minister, said at the opening of the Danish Council Exhibition in London on November 16, 1944 :

"We in this country all know well what we owe to the Mercantile Marine of Denmark, the valour of the sailors. From time to time the veil is lifted that hangs over Denmark and we hear of that wonderful general strike, and we hear of particular cases of sabotage carried out. One wants an exhibition like this to realise the extent, the depth and the courage of the Resistance Movement. It is just another demonstration of the failure of the Nazis to realise that a love of peace is not incompatible with bravery and vigorous action when the call comes.

"As you know from what I have said as long ago as October, 1941, in a foreword to 'Denmark, Fight Follows Surrender,' I have always had confidence in the Danish people and have always held that the Danish people were on our side and from time to time I and other representatives of the United Nations have shown our attitude. In the last few days the great leader of Soviet Russia, Marshal *Stalin*, has placed Denmark among the smaller countries which are to be liberated. I also feel I am entitled to say that when Free Denmark, the Free King, the Free Government and the Free Parliament express Denmark's desire to join the United Nations and to have the same position as that of all of them, great and small, then I am certain that we shall all welcome Denmark, whose people have fought so bravely against the enemy."

The Danish home front emerged strengthened from the struggle. In the jubilation at the victory which was achieved and the grief over the fallen, it is not forgotten in Denmark that the people's strike in Copenhagen and 22 other towns was only a dress rehearsal for what will happen when the Allied Supreme Command asks for the help of the active Danish resistance movement and the Danish people generally.

Typical of the mood in Denmark is the anger at the inhuman terror and the resolve to strike with still greater force when the day of the final settlement arrives. One of the Danish underground papers, *De Frie Danske*, interprets the anger against the Germans in the following words on the terror exercised during the strike:

"It is to the eternal shame and dishonour of the Germans :

that they did not shrink from using their hundred-fold superior power against a disarmed civilian population ;

that they tried to starve and thirst the people of Copenhagen into submission ;

that they stopped supplies of milk from reaching babies while stealing the country's produce themselves ;

and that they murdered defenceless women and children and, cynically and in cold blood, directed their cannon and machine-gun fire on the living wall of people who dared to defy the will of the barbarians. . . .”

After the Victory

DURING THE DAYS that followed the victorious end of the general strike the people of Copenhagen buried their dead. One of the best proofs that the Germans and the Danish Nazis were actuated by blind, brutal and ruthless terror is the fact that 99 per cent. of the total number of casualties were completely unoffending, chance Danes. An almost complete list of casualties is available, excluding the losses of the Germans and the Schalburg Corps, and it contains nearly 800 names, 100 of them being killed. Among the latter are women and children.

Days and weeks passed before the people of Copenhagen settled down after the violent events of the strike. A few days after the resumption of work on Wednesday, July 5, isolated incidents were still occurring in various localities in the city, though nothing which might be compared with the blood-bath earlier. An irritating feature was the fact that several days after their defeat the Germans still maintained posts at a number of strategically important points in the city, including two of the main squares : the Town Hall Square and Trianglen. These strong-points consisted, in the main, of a cannon

Honouring the dead . . .



and some machine guns with barbed wire and road blocks enabling the Germans to open fire on the passers by whilst under cover. German soldiers armed to the teeth stood on constant guard at these strongpoints.

But the mood of the city was so angry that not even the slightest provocation could be tolerated. The existence of the German strongpoints caused the bakery workers on July 6 once again to stop work, declaring that they would not go back until these provocative strongpoints were removed. And the workers at Burmeister and Wain who, if any section of the Copenhagen population is to be singled out, have a great deal of the honour for the popular revolt, immediately struck work in sympathy with the bakers.

The situation threatened to become grave, and when Dr. Best returned from a second visit to Berlin on July 7, after having been reprimanded by his lord and master, Heinrich Himmler, he had an order in his pocket for the instant removal of all military constructions from the streets of Copenhagen and the lifting of the curfew, with effect from the following day.

This was another bitter pill for Dr. Best to swallow, but it clearly showed how anxious the Germans were to maintain peace and quiet and how weak Germany had grown in this last phase of the war. The complete abolition of the curfew put the seal on the decisive defeat of the Germans at the hands of the unarmed Danes.

The number of German soldiers was gradually reduced after the strike, and the last cannon and the last sentry disappeared from the streets. Copenhagen thus became the first of the great European cities occupied by the Germans to rise without arms in revolt.

A Million Lost Man-Hours.

No inhabitant allowed himself during the general strike to believe that this was the last fight against the German oppressors.

On the contrary, it was clear to all that it was rather a dress rehearsal for what the Germans may expect when the Allies ask for help and the final battle is fought.

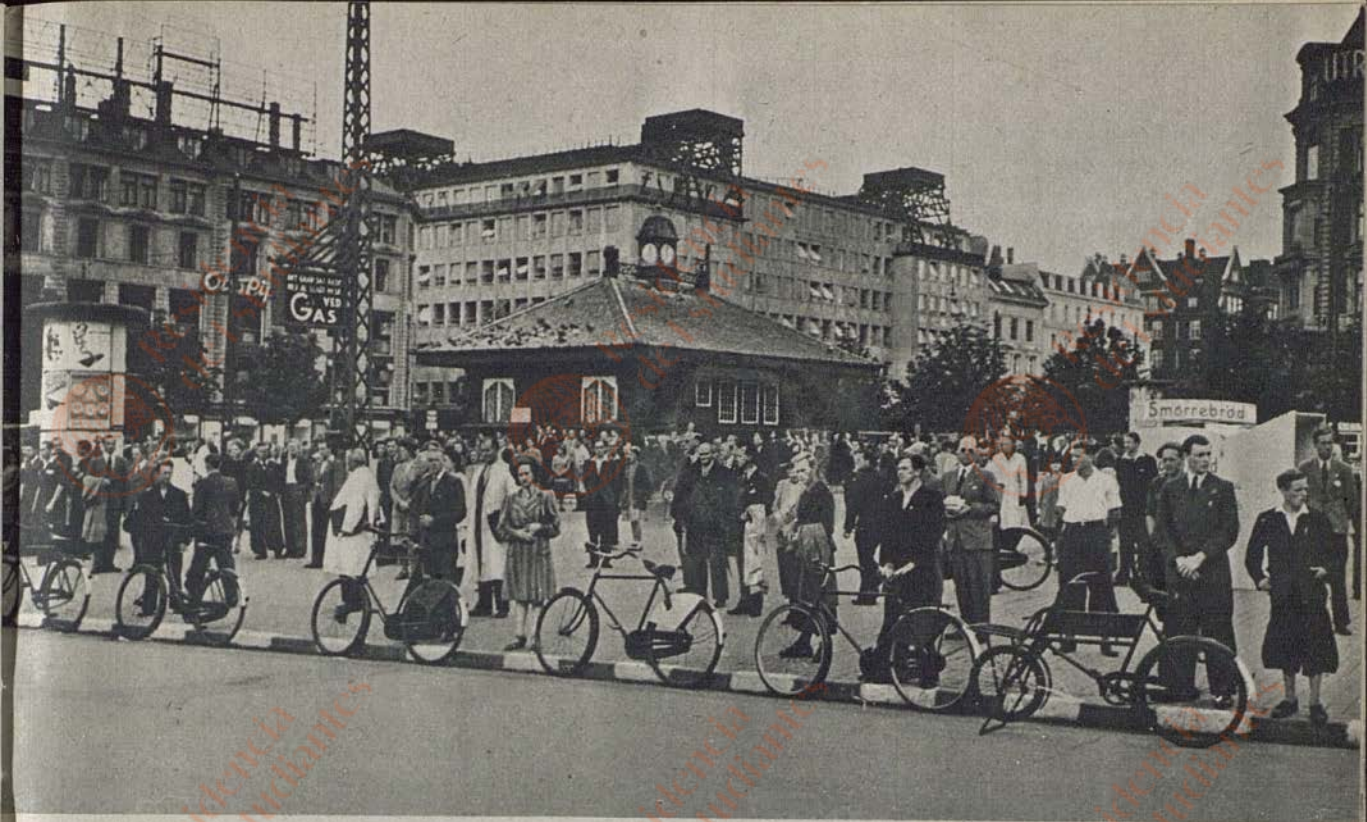
From certain quarters the question was raised as to whether the right moment had arrived for a popular strike in Denmark. One of the Danish underground papers which supported the strike with extra editions and handbills writes :

"The fact that the strike ended as it did is proof that the right moment *had* arrived. True, there was no request from the Allied Command for any strike. But the Allies are fighting our enemies and we are fighting on their side. The view has been suggested that the strike ought to have been reserved for the moment the Allies wanted it in direct support of their offensive. Or as one person put it : 'We mustn't move till Eisenhower sends word.' The answer to this is that irritation at German interferences recently had become so general and deep that all Danes in the capital regardless of class or group eagerly seized the opportunity of demonstrating their will to resist. And what a demonstration in passive resistance it was !

Moreover, when the Allies call on us we shall be there again."

And even the most sober evaluation of what happened must lead to the conclusion that the victory was worth the price paid. All the strikers' demands were achieved, in addition to which the Germans had lost over a million man-hours. This is language which is understood by the German arms industry and which will not encourage the German authorities to provoke another general strike in Denmark.

Denmark has delivered the proof that the occupied countries can materially affect the length of the war. As one of the underground papers writes : "If the idea of 'sensible' capitulation to overwhelming might has ever been deeply rooted in the Danish people they have at any rate learnt something during the hard years of the occupation. And this has been demonstrated to the full in the unarmed



Two minutes' silence, in honour of the dead, observed in the Town Hall Square.

fight of the Copenhagen people in the days between June 26 and July 5.

"As a symbol of the fight for freedom the people of Copenhagen will for a long time to come remember the thousands of freedom fires which burned in the streets of the city and were kept burning with ever fresh supplies of fuel even though to put them on was to risk one's life."

Two Minutes' Silence.

On Wednesday, July 12, the Council of Freedom called upon the entire population of Copenhagen to pay homage to the 102 fellow-citizens who had fallen in the strike. The appeal was circulated by means of handbills and broadcast over the illegal "Hjemmefrontens Radio," while the representative of the Council of Freedom in

Moscow, Mr. Thomas Døssing, who just then happened to be in London on his way to the Soviet Union, made a further appeal on behalf of the Council of Freedom over the B.B.C.

And the people of Copenhagen obeyed the appeal of the Freedom Council to a man, which again is an indication of the authority and prestige which the Council has attained as the leadership of the Danish freedom movement. In many provincial towns also the dead were honoured, in the same way as in Copenhagen, by the observance of a two minute silence.

When the clock in the Town Hall tower, Copenhagen's "Big Ben," had struck 12 noon the whole city of Copenhagen literally came to a standstill. The trams stopped in the middle of the road, lorries halted, cyclists dismounted, the workers in the factories

stopped their machines and all pedestrians stood still and bared their heads. Even some of the German soldiers stood in silence, afraid of walking in the streets. Only here and there an odd German soldier was seen to sneak cautiously off between groups of silent Danes. The two minute silence was complete ; the only sound heard was that of the motors in the gas-generator cars.

When the two minutes had elapsed the traffic came to life again as if by magic. The people of Copenhagen had once again demonstrated their complete unity to the Germans.

The Struggle is Intensified

ON AUGUST 15, 1944, the economic life of Copenhagen again came to a standstill. Led by the workers of the big ship-yard of Burmeister and Wain, the citizens of Copenhagen declared a 24-hour protest strike against the Germans. The object of the strike, as expressed in a leaflet, was "to demonstrate to the oppressors our bitterness and contempt." The appeal to strike was supported by the Freedom Council in a proclamation which was distributed in thousands of copies.

This was the reply of the people of Copenhagen to the brutal butchering by the German authorities of 11 Danish patriots in the cellars of the Shell building, which is occupied by the Gestapo. The 11 Danes had been held as hostages in the "Vestre" Prison until they became the victims of this Nazi atrocity on the night of August 9. The Germans themselves stated that the executions were to be regarded as a revenge for

the liquidating of one of their "Danish" informers, who had been shot in a tramcar a few days before. But in reality they were the culmination—or at least the provisional culmination—of that wave of terror and violence which Dr. Best, in collaboration with Pancke, the Gestapo chief, had let loose over Denmark. There were frequent clashes, and an incident which took place in Istedgade (the thoroughfare which played such a prominent part during the general strike) is typical of the mood of the people and of the German methods. A German shot at an innocent workman walking along the street and wounded him in the shoulder. Instead of running away the workman turned on the German and cried :

"Shoot, then, you devils, and let's have an end to it !"

The German fired again and the worker fell dead, while another casual passer-by was dragged aside and shot down before the eyes of his wife.

It was events of this kind, of which the above are only typical examples, which brought feelings to boiling point in Copenhagen. And when the news came that the 11 patriots had been murdered with a bullet through the back of the neck in the Gestapo cellar, breaking point was reached. The demonstration was a success ; the stoppage of production practically complete. With the exception of the public utility services no large undertakings were at work. Offices and shops were closed, and even the Ministries—with the exception of the Foreign Ministry—went on strike. Cinemas and theatres cancelled their performances, the restaurants were empty, and the well-known entertainment park, "Tivoli," closed down at 7 o'clock. The Danish police, however, had no difficulty in maintaining public order. The Freedom Council had issued an order that the Germans were not to be provoked and that the strike was to be limited to 24 hours.

The strike of August 15 is the best possible proof of the way the entire productive



Top—German repair shop is blown up.

Bottom—German vehicles brought to a standstill.

machinery can be brought to a standstill when the order is given. To limit a strike to 24 hours in a city with a population of a million is a more difficult task than to start a strike. That it was done, was witness to the outstanding self-discipline of the Danish home front under the leadership of the Freedom Council and not least to the clever and subtle way in which the Danes have understood how to apply the strike weapon against their German oppressors.

When the Germans discovered that the strike was a fact they actually did nothing to prevent the distributing of the proclamation from the Freedom Council, presumably because they were well aware that the only way to limit the duration of the strike was to let people know when to resume work. In other respects also the Germans, generally speaking, were inclined to exercise restraint out of fear for the consequences. In Istedgade and Vesterbrogade people were irritated that the tramcars were still running and tried to stop them. The tramway traffic was therefore diverted from these two districts, and the Germans did not intervene. Their patrol cars were kept in the garages; they themselves, apparently on higher orders, stayed indoors.

During the same week as this new strike in Copenhagen there was a regular wave of similar strikes throughout the country, for instance, at Odense, Hobro, Hjørring and Aalborg. The situation was at certain stages very like that which a short while before had led to the total people's strike.

The new wave of strikes caused great excitement in Berlin, though the Germans found it prudent to allow the more limited strikes to pass without provocation. Nevertheless they quietly prepared for a new blow at the Danish Resistance Movement by dissolving the Danish police organisations. Instructions came to the Gestapo in Denmark from Heinrich Himmler himself, and slowly the German police forces were reinforced. A special "Protection Corps" was set up at Dagmarhus, the Copenhagen H.Q. of the

Gestapo, and the alarm was sounded for this Corps whenever Germans or informers were attacked.

The dissolution of the Danish police force was one of the hardest blows which could have been directed at the Resistance Movement. It meant organised lawlessness on the part of the Gestapo from now on. The Danish people's reply was once again to be a strike.

Systematic Brutality

THE PICTURE OF DENMARK during the last few months of 1944 is the description of a series of violent incidents which occurred up and down the country and which caused the situation to deteriorate almost daily. Link after link was added to the chain of brutal and sadistic acts of which the Germans have been guilty since the great people's strike. They flurry before one's eyes like a film that is turned too rapidly. Eleven Danish patriots were murdered in the cellar of the Shell building with a bullet through their necks. House raids and arrests became an everyday occurrence. Peaceful passers-by were massacred in the Copenhagen Town Hall Square. Nearly 200 Danish patriots were deported from an internment camp in the South of Jutland to prisons and concentration camps in Germany, where they were held as hostages. The Danish police was disarmed with great brutality. The guard at the royal palace of Amalienborg was attacked. The Danish Government buildings were occupied. 2,500 Danish police officers were deported to Germany. Defenceless women

and children were assaulted and ill-treated in the streets.

But the picture has another and brighter side. The Danish people are united as never before in active and passive resistance to the Nazis. The Freedom Council, by its masterly leadership of this resistance, inflicts heavy blows on the Germans, and, together with the Allied Supreme Command, begins to prepare for the open revolt which in due course will lead the Danes to victory. Passive resistance is carried to its utmost extent in a way that has become a Danish speciality: total strikes throughout the country.

Pancke, the Gestapo general, who, after Dr. Best, is the individual in Denmark who bears the greatest share of responsibility for the Nazi terrorism, uttered the following

hysterical words to his subordinates: "Those eleven in the Shell building are evidently not enough!" He ordered the notorious and insane commandant of the camp in South Jutland to deport 190 prisoners to Germany to be held as hostages there. And this order was immediately carried out. The German police, he said, must at all costs prevent Copenhagen from becoming another Paris. If necessary casual passers-by were to be arrested in groups and executed, and if need be whole districts of Copenhagen and other towns burned down.

The final threat was that Copenhagen would be bombed as no other city had ever been bombed before.

As soon as the news of the deported Danes became generally known, the strikes began.

On German orders the Head Office of Denmark's leading shipping and commercial firm, the East Asiatic Company, in Copenhagen, was destroyed by fire on December 19, 1944.



On September 15 work ceased in numerous South Jutland towns, including Haderslev, Aabenraa and Tinglev. The strike quickly spread to the port of Esbjerg, and in Copenhagen the workers of Burmeister and Wain led the way with a strike which began during the Saturday afternoon. Many shops and offices closed at the same time.

In the south of Jutland there were many disturbances, which the Germans ruthlessly suppressed. It is against this background that we must view the closing of the frontier between Denmark and Germany that took place at this time. At the same time the German garrisons at Tønder and other places, as well as the semi-military German "Heimwehr," were kept in a state of extreme alarm.

The Danish saboteurs replied with a wave of communications sabotage, and at one time all the railway lines connecting North and South Jutland were cut.

The Danish Council of Freedom met on the evening of September 15 to discuss the situation and decide on the action to be taken in protest against the deportations. After a brief discussion it was decided to issue the following proclamation:

"During Friday, September 15, the Germans have deported 190 Danes to Germany. This is a flagrant breach of faith. The Frøslev Camp was instituted in accordance with a German promise that all Danish prisoners in Germany would be transferred there. Not only was this promise broken, but the opposite is now taking place. In righteous indignation the people of South Jutland have met this Nazi brutality with an immediate stoppage of work. In the course of a few hours the strike has spread northwards through Jutland. The Freedom Council calls on all the people of Denmark to protest against this violation. Stop work everywhere until Monday at noon. All work in town and country, in factories, workshops, offices and shops must cease; tram and motor traffic must stop. Out of regard for the requirements of the civil population,

however, the railways and the telephones must be maintained, as well as supplies of gas, milk and bread. Avoid all demonstrations and disturbances. Ignore all provocations. Once again the Danish people must demonstrate to the Nazi oppressors that we rally round those who have been fighting for the liberation of our country. *Danish Council of Freedom."*

During the meeting of the Freedom Council news arrived of German provocation in the Copenhagen Town Hall Square. In the early hours of Saturday, September 16, a German military car, manned by fifteen soldiers, had suddenly driven up to the Town Hall Square. Without previous warning they began, with machine guns, to shoot up peaceful groups of people waiting for the first editions of the morning papers. Twenty-three Danes were wounded, and several of them subsequently died of their wounds. In a moment the Town Hall Square resembled a battlefield. Screams and moans from the wounded lying on the ground mingled with the German cheers and the barking of their guns, the clanging of the ambulances, and the protests of the Danes.

Together with the deportations from the south of Jutland, this massacre in the Town Hall Square caused the appeal from the Freedom Council for a General Strike to be obeyed instantly by every man and woman throughout the country. Apart from one or two isolated instances, where the Germans provoked street clashes, this strike was observed for 48 hours with the utmost order and discipline. At noon on Monday, September 18, 1944, as intended, it came to a close in Copenhagen, but at certain places, such as Odense and Aarhus, where the instructions from the Freedom Council had not been received in time, so that the strike could not begin until Saturday noon, it continued all day on Monday. In this way a 48-hour strike in protest against the deportations and the massacre was observed equally throughout the country.

The Police are Disarmed

ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, life in Denmark was as normal as it could be under German occupation. When, therefore, acting on General Pancke's orders, the Gestapo commenced disarming the entire Danish police, it was not a reply to the people's strike but an entirely independent German provocation. In all probability the two events, which followed each other so quickly, had no connection. What happened can be clearly seen from the proclamation issued by the Freedom Council calling for a renewal of the strike. The proclamation included the following words :

"The Germans have today, September 19, 1944, under cover of a false air raid alarm, disarmed the Danish police. Simultaneously a number of public buildings have been occupied by the German military, including the royal residence of Amalienborg, which was defended by the police and the civil population together for several hours. Several police stations offered prolonged resistance. What further action has been taken by the Germans is as yet unknown to us. The reply of the people of Copenhagen has been an instantaneous cessation of all work. So far there is no information from the provinces, but we are firmly convinced that the rest of the country will unite in this protest. We fully understand the reaction to this monstrous interference in our social life, but the Council of Freedom stresses that the time for open revolt has not yet arrived. It would suit the Germans if the Danish Resistance



Gestapo and German troops enter Danish Police Headquarters in Copenhagen after the dissolution of the police force.

Movement, embittered by what has happened, were to allow itself to be drawn into the open at this stage, but we refuse to play the German game. Therefore we urge all our forces to observe complete restraint. At the same time we call on the population to continue the general strike until Tuesday morning. Avoid demonstrations. Keep off the streets as much as possible. When work is resumed, it must be the duty of every Danish citizen, more than ever before, to resist all German measures and place the greatest possible obstacles in the way of the exploitation of our country for German war purposes."



Civilians joining the Danish police in defence of Amalienborg, the Royal Palace.

The police did not allow themselves to be disarmed without a fight. At several points there were serious clashes with the Gestapo and German troops. The guard at Amalienborg, aided by the civilian population, held their ground for several hours in an effort to prevent the Germans from occupying the royal palace.

Large numbers of the Danish police were interned, provisionally, in the military prison, and police officers from the provinces were also taken there. At Elsinore and other places the police resisted the disarming and fought heroically for several hours against greatly superior forces. The Germans had resorted to the trick of sounding the air raid alarm because they knew that this would

have the immediate effect of sending all policemen to their individual posts, thus splitting them up into small groups. This, together with a few cases of treachery, as in the Police Headquarters in Copenhagen, explains the relative ease with which the Germans succeeded in carrying out their intention.

In the official notification of the disarming, the Gestapo put forward the pretext that the police had sabotaged the work of combating the underground movement in Denmark, and that in very many cases it had itself been actively engaged in underground work. This was certainly a tribute to the national loyalty of the Danish police force, and it would not be possible to offer a better one.

Danish police, crouching behind sandbag barricade, fire on advancing German troops.



Lawlessness Reigns

SINCE APRIL 9, 1940, and particularly since August 29, 1943, there have been lawless conditions in Denmark. From then onwards lawlessness was systematised by the Gestapo by the issue of the following order :

"The Chief of the S.S. and Police has issued the following proclamation with regard to the police state of emergency :

1. A police state of emergency in Denmark is introduced with immediate effect.
2. The Danish police and the auxiliary police are dissolved with immediate effect.
3. Pending a reorganisation of the Danish police the maintenance of public order and security will be assumed by the German occupation authorities.
4. The unlawful possession of arms will be punished with immediate execution by shooting.
5. Acts aimed at preventing the execution of measures for the maintenance of public order and security are punishable with severe penalties, including death.

6. The actions which it has been necessary to take in connection with the Danish police will be annulled as soon as normal conditions have been restored in Copenhagen and the provinces."

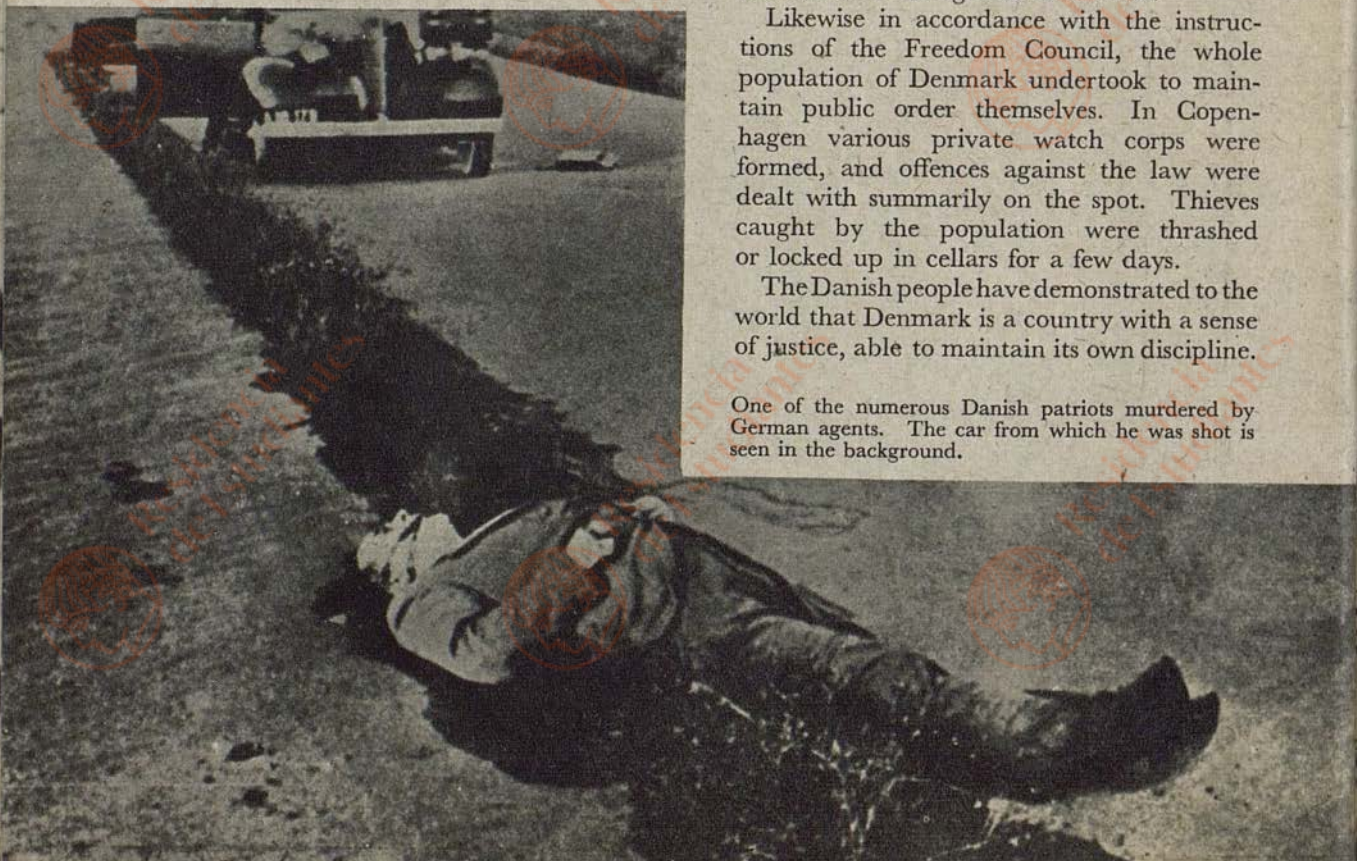
As was to be expected, the new police order was to consist of a mixture of the Gestapo, the S.S. and the remnants of the Schalburg Corps. This new "police," whose prime object was, of course, to combat the resistance movement, soon proved that it lacked both the will and the ability to attend to ordinary criminal elements, which, quite apart from general Nazi lawlessness—now enjoyed free play. One of the first actions of the new "police" was to release Danish Nazi criminals.

No fewer than 2,500 Danish police officials were deported to Germany during the coming weeks. With the exception of a few pro-German elements who agreed to co-operate with the Gestapo under the new order, the rest preferred to follow the injunctions of the Freedom Council and go underground so as to be able to continue to assist the resistance movement in its fight for liberation.

Likewise in accordance with the instructions of the Freedom Council, the whole population of Denmark undertook to maintain public order themselves. In Copenhagen various private watch corps were formed, and offences against the law were dealt with summarily on the spot. Thieves caught by the population were thrashed or locked up in cellars for a few days.

The Danish people have demonstrated to the world that Denmark is a country with a sense of justice, able to maintain its own discipline.

One of the numerous Danish patriots murdered by German agents. The car from which he was shot is seen in the background.





The Northern Front

This is a typical example of Danish railway sabotage. In this way the communication lines between Norway and Germany, through Jutland, are attacked, thus delaying or hindering German troop movements. Sabotage is Denmark's main contribution to the Allied war effort at the fronts.

Allied Tribute to Denmark

ON OCTOBER 31, 1944, the R.A.F. laid in ruins the Gestapo H.Q. at Aarhus (Denmark's second city) and killed about two hundred Gestapo agents. This was a helping hand to the Danish resistance movement and the Danish people as a whole at a time when it was most needed.

And in numerous other ways during 1944 warm tribute was paid to Denmark by the Allies, while it was also indicated that she would be recognised as an Ally herself as soon as she was able freely to express the desire to become one. Time after time it has been made clear that this represents a victory for the home front in Denmark, whose untiring work and brilliant contributions have made it possible for the Danes abroad to achieve this result. Mr. J. Christmas Møller, the Chairman of the Danish Council in London, rightly said on August 29, 1944, in regard to Denmark's status: "We have achieved our political aim!"

Several facts indicate very distinctly the position which Denmark now occupies in the Allied ranks. On January 12 the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, said that "the Dannebrog stood in line with the flags of the Allies." On May 11 came the G.5 declaration that Denmark would be treated after the war "as an Ally." On September 26 King Haakon of Norway said: "Of course we regard the Danes as Allies." The former American Secretary for State, Mr. Cordell Hull, and the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, spoke in the same spirit in their references to Denmark after the people's strike. The Soviet Union agreed to resume diplomatic relations with Denmark and recognised the term, "Fighting Denmark." In his speech on the anniversary of the Russian Revolution Marshal Stalin

placed Denmark in line with the other oppressed countries of Europe which are to be liberated. And at the opening of the Danish Exhibition in London in November the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, said that the Allies would extend a welcome to Denmark when—once more free—she expresses the desire to occupy the same status as the other Allied nations, large and small.

The British Prime Minister, who has followed with close attention and admiration the successful resistance of the Danish people to their German oppressors, sent the following New Year message to the Danish resistance groups:

"When we in Britain speak of the GRANDE ALLIANCE, we mean not only the armies, navies and air forces of the UNITED NATIONS, we mean also the resistance movements throughout Europe, whose members have played so gallant a part in this total war against a brutal and unscrupulous enemy.

"To you in the Danish Resistance Movement, under the brave leadership of the Freedom Council, I say this: We know what price you have paid and are paying for refusing to be tempted by Nazi blandishments or cowed by Nazi threats; we know something of your achievements in harrying and wrecking the German war machine which rolled across your defenceless frontiers nearly five years ago. We admire your steadfastness and your skill. Your resistance is a valuable contribution both to the Allied cause and to the future prosperity of a free Denmark.

"Now, as the enemy is near defeat and becomes more violent, we must all stand firm. We must strengthen our grip to hasten the end. With cool heads and stout hearts let us march together to the victory which will restore the ancient liberties of the Danish people."

And Denmark is now waiting for the day when she herself can strike the final blow for her liberation. The Danish people are ready.



R.A.F. Helps the Danish Patriots

On October 31, 1944, Mosquitos of the R.A.F. Second Tactical Air Force attacked the Gestapo H.Q. housed in the University of Aarhus, Jutland. Two adjoining 4-storey buildings formed the target. To obtain accuracy in bombing a model of the target was built for the crews. The aircraft went into the attack at zero feet, one pilot going so low that he hit part of the University building and returned with a buckled engine nacelle.

The chief of the Gestapo and about 200 of his agents were killed. Furthermore, files containing thousands of names of Danish citizens wanted by the Gestapo were destroyed.

TRIUMPH IN DISASTER

THE  TIMES

LONDON TUESDAY JULY 11 1944

The Danish Triumph

The state of siege in Copenhagen was raised on Sunday; the curfew, which the population of Copenhagen has resolutely ignored ever since its inception, is to be totally abolished; and executive power has been restored to the Danish authorities in greater Copenhagen...The history of the European underground movement, so rich in examples of the triumph of organized popular action against apparently invincible power, contains no instance of so complete and impressive a victory as that which the Danes have now won. No doubt this success could not have been achieved but for the increasing demands on German man-power made by the allied assault on three fronts and the threat of still further attacks. But this does not detract from the credit due to the courageous and obstinate Danes; and it gives warning to the German military authorities that the *débâcle* which they have suffered in Denmark is merely another symptom of their steadily and universally declining fortunes and another significant landmark on the road to final disaster.

