

# DAILY EXPRESS

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FOUNDED BY LORD BEAVERBROOK

Black-out 9.49 p.m. to 6.35 a.m.



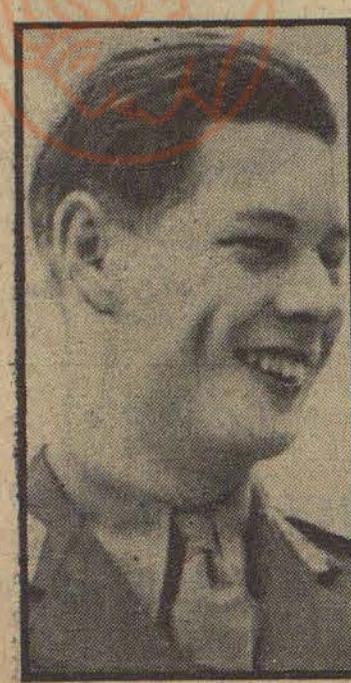
One Penny

King Michael makes sensational broadcast: 'We have accepted armistice offered by Russia, Britain and the United States. All hostilities against the Allies have ceased'

## RUMANIA MAKES PEACE, NOW FIGHTS WITH US

### Hitler thrown over, army turns round THE BREAK-UP BEGINS

RUMANIA is out of the war as an ally of Germany. She is the first of the three Balkan satellites to throw Hitler over. She has accepted peace terms from Russia and she is ready to fight on the side of the Allies.



KING MICHAEL  
"Let us save Rumania."

This sensational news was given by Bucharest radio last night in a proclamation read in the name of young King Michael.

With dramatic suddenness the announcer broke into the ordinary programme and for 45 minutes he repeated the terms of the proclamation.

The broadcast disclosed the fall of the Antonescu Cabinet and the formation of a pro-Ally Government.

The only Allied reaction to the Rumanian report was this statement by the Soviet Information Bureau early this morning: "Shooting between the withdrawing Rumanian forces and German troops has broken out at several points." The Germans said in their Forces bulletin that the Rumanian Third Army had already turned round and were fighting on the side of the Russians.

The suddenness of the whole dramatic manoeuvre indicated that King Michael had acted to give Germany as little warning of the break as possible. This is the text of his proclamation:

"Rumanians! In the difficult hour of our country I have decided, for the salvation of the Fatherland, the immediate cessation of hostilities with the United Nations. I call upon a Government of National Union to fulfil the determined will of the country to conclude peace with the United Nations.

"Rumania has accepted an armistice offered by the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and the United States of America. From this moment all hostilities against the Soviet armies and the state of war with Great Britain and the United States will cease.

"The United Nations have guaranteed the independence of Rumania. Anyone who opposes the decision we have taken and who takes justice into his own hands is an enemy of our nation.

"I order the army and the whole nation to fight with all means and at the cost of any sacrifice against him.

"All Rumanians must rally around the Throne and the Government. He who does not assist the Government and resists the will of the nation is a traitor to the country.

"The United Nations have recognised the injustice of the Diktat of Vienna under which Transylvania was torn from us. At the side of the Allied army, and with their help, we will cross the frontiers unjustly imposed upon us at Vienna."

The last part of the broadcast was indistinct, but the announcer was understood to say that the future of Rumania depended on the courage with which Rumanians would defend their rights. Then the national anthem was played.

The new Prime Minister is General Konstantin Senatescu. His Cabinet includes M. Iuliu Maniu, veteran Opposition leader and chief of the Peasant Party. His Foreign Minister is M. Niculescu-Buzesti. M. Bratișanu is also in the Cabinet.

George Bratișanu was reported earlier this year to be one of the signatories of a memorandum submitted to King Michael of the dangers of the Government's pro-German policy.

Juliu Maniu supported an appeal by King Michael to Antonescu to seek armistice terms from the Soviet.

Hitler had at least 16 divisions in Rumania at the close of the Russian offensive this spring, but what

more than 1,000 Russians were liberated, many in a pitiful condition. Maria Petilskova, of Odessa, hairy, grey, face lined, had worked for three years for the Rumanians in a factory. She turned out to be only 19.

### BEFORE THE CEASE FIRE

### Russians drove into Rumania

—And Red planes bombed forts

NEW Soviet victories in Rumania were announced by Marshal Stalin last night before the news of the Rumanian acceptance of Soviet peace terms.

In two Orders of the Day Stalin announced the capture of the towns of Vaslui, Bender and Akkerman, and 350 more inhabited places.

A Soviet air communiqué said that the Black Sea Fleet Air Arm bombed the Rumanian ports of Constanța, Sulina, and Valcov, all on the Black Sea south of Akkerman.

In the last four days the two Ukrainian armies of General Timoshenko and General Tschitschikov have smashed gaping holes in the Rumanian defences, and the German-Rumanian army has lost more than 37,000 men.

### Thousands there

The determination and strength with which the Soviet communists led their men into Rumania apparently convinced Antonescu's Government that further resistance was useless.

Rumania is still garrisoned by thousands of German troops and the Allies may find it necessary to continue a military campaign to clear the country of its Nazi elements.

Vaslui, which fell yesterday, is 20 miles south of Jassy, the last town in Rumania captured by the Russians on Tuesday.

Daily Express War Reporter A. J. Jacob cabled from Moscow last night:

"Jassy captured yesterday fell virtually undamaged. The power station and water supply are intact and few houses have been burned or blown up, including the headquarters of the German Corps commander."

The Germans removed the machinery from some of the factories and though others had been machine taken from Odessa, Melitopol, and other Russian cities. Apartments were found furnished with rugs and pictures looted from the Ukraine.

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### Bolshevik bogey

At the end of the first day's occupation, some thousands of inhabitants returned to the town.

The Red Army occupied shops and private houses to prevent looting, but as the owners returned their property was handed back to them.

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### OPEN TO ALLIES

The Political Correspondent of the Daily Express writes:

"THE French patriots' triumph inside Paris means that American columns can enter the city and possibly are now doing so. Rearguards of the enemy

are on the river banks and in the northern suburbs might cause trouble, but the main body of

Frenchmen have fled.

Possession of the city will give the Allies many crossings over the Seine to aid the sweep into northern France and the Low Countries. Control of the transport communications of France also favours the Allies."

It will be found, when the full story of the liberation can be told, that the police and the Garde Mobile played a big part. They knew exactly where firearms and munitions were, and made good use of them.

Inside knowledge of the German defence plans was useful to them and those who joined them after the call to rise

### FORMAL ENTRY

FRENCHMEN who held positions of trust under the Nazis are known to have revealed themselves at the critical moment as leaders of the rising.

The liberation of Paris will presumably be followed as soon as possible by the formal entry of General de Gaulle.

Lord Templewood (formerly Sir Samuel Hoare) went over the French-Spanish border yesterday, the first British diplomat to enter the liberated France. He talked to the local Maquis leaders and to the Mayor of Biarritz, M. Irigoyen, who returned to his post from Spain.

Following the sudden visit to Helsinki last weekend by the Finnish Minister in Stockholm, the Foreign Minister's secretary, named Sverker, arrived two days ago.

It is reported that this mission was to establish direct contact with the Russians. It is said he has already met Mme. Kollontay, the Russian Ambassador.

### SALUTE

Radio France, Algiers, announced last night:

"THE Provisional Government of the French Republic issues the following proclamation on the occasion of the liberation of Paris:

August 23, 1944: Paris is free.

The Provisional Government salutes the dead and martyrs of Paris, as well as the soldiers of Allied and French Armies who have fallen in the fight of national independence.

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Liberator crashes on village infants school and sets it on fire

## 34 CHILDREN KILLED AT LESSONS

## Soldiers trapped in snack bar

Express Staff Reporter: FRECKLETON (Lancs), Wednesday

THERE are many heroes among the 1,400 people in this market-gardening village tonight, but the village has lost nearly all its children aged from four to six.

Thirty-four of them out of the village's total of 41 were killed when a Liberator bomber crashed on the church school beside the village green this morning and set it on fire.

The bomber struck the school, then swung right across the main street, demolishing a snack bar, and trapping several people, including Service men, in the wreckage.

Tonight the people of Freckleton are standing silent round the roped-off area of the damage, watching Americans with bulldozers, cranes, and ten-ton lorries clearing debris.

## 30 injured

Latest death-roll figures tonight is 53. Of the children, one woman teacher, five other women, a man, two R.A.F. men, nine Americans and an unknown.

About 30 people were injured.

Miss Jennie Hall, of Manchester, was the schoolteacher who died. She was leading her infants' class in choir-singing before starting the day's lessons when the plane crashed. This was the second day of the term, and Miss Hall, 22, was just one year qualified.

The other infants' teacher, Miss L. Hulme, was badly burned. She came from Salford with evacuees two years ago, is due to retire on pension at the end of the month.

The infants' section was demolished and set on fire immediately by the burning petrol tank. A wall of flame 100 feet high enveloped the school, the roadway, and the houses opposite. Inside the school were the infants and 139 boys and girls in the senior school.

The plane landed by the side of the war memorial and afterwards in the words of Mr F. A. Billington, the headmaster, "The whole area was a sea of flame."

## Americans thanked

"There was a great crack," said Mr. W. Durant, an A.R.P. warden, "and the wooden partitions of the classroom crashed on top of us in flames. I put out the flames with my hands. I grabbed a girl who was very frightened and pushed her through a window and I jumped after her myself. That's all I can remember."

Among the dead children are three London evacuees, John Cox, Martin Alston, Sylvia Whyshaw. Their mothers brought them here a few weeks ago.

Mr. W. Durant, an A.R.P. warden, said he tried to rescue some of the children.

"Many of them were in the school yard calmly walking towards a field," he said. "Part of their school was blazing. Two of those who escaped were my own children. For some time I could not find them. But later discovered one in the field at the back of the school and the other sheltering in a neighbour's house."

One of Mr. Durant's children, nine-year-old Jean, said:—

"We were all reading when there was a bang, a tremendous jolt and the windows fell in. We were all startled and the teacher shouted 'Run' but we marched out quietly into the field at the back."

## None of us cried'

"We could see that a great part of the building had been hit by something but none of us cried."

The demolished snack bar known as the Sad-Sack, was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alan Whittle. They and their 15-year-old daughter were killed while serving tea and coffee. Their women assistants were also killed.

## On the school death-roll

Names of some of the dead Freckleton children, all between four and six years old, were given as follows:

William Richard Wright, Thomas Rawcliffe, William Iddon, Tom Hargreaves Foster, John Hardman;

Gladys Truscott, Annie Herring, Lillian Waites, Millie Green;

John Sudell, John Townsend, K. Bocock, David Carr, Alan Wilson, Peter Dawson, George Preston, Howard Allenson;

June Stewart, Gillian Parke, Dorothy Studd, Ethel Rae Askew, Sylvia Bickerstaffe, Sonia May Dagger, Vera Christine Jones, June Parkinson, Jean P. Butcher, and Kathleen Isles.

## ITALIANS GO ON STRIKE

A thousand Italian prisoners who have been helping East Anglian farmers gather their harvest have gone on strike.

They are said to have a grievance against one of their own officers and to have asked for more cigarettes.

Scotland makes you a promise. No. 3

## Mists and mellow Fruitfulness

The reaping machines have begun to clatter across the Lothian cat fields. The Scotch mists have swollen the oat grains until they hang heavy on their stalks. Even the rabbits seem to know it's harvest time. Having lived on the fat of the land in the oat fields for the past few weeks, something tells them it would be safe to move.

The oats are now four feet tall. It seems almost a pity they should be cut. But these are Scotch oats; good to look upon but even better to eat. Most of the grain will be eagerly snapped up to be made into rolled-oats, a food, rich in such essentials as Vitamin B, carbohydrates, Protein, etc. The winter wheat which will be on your breakfast table, when you buy a packet of Scott's Porridge Oats you will be buying the pick of these Scotch oats, which at this moment are falling before the knives of the reaping machines.

**Scott's porridge Oats**  
SCOTTISH AND QUICKEST  
MADE BY A. & R. SCOTT LTD. AT WEST MILLS, COLINTON, MIDLOTHIAN, SCOTLAND

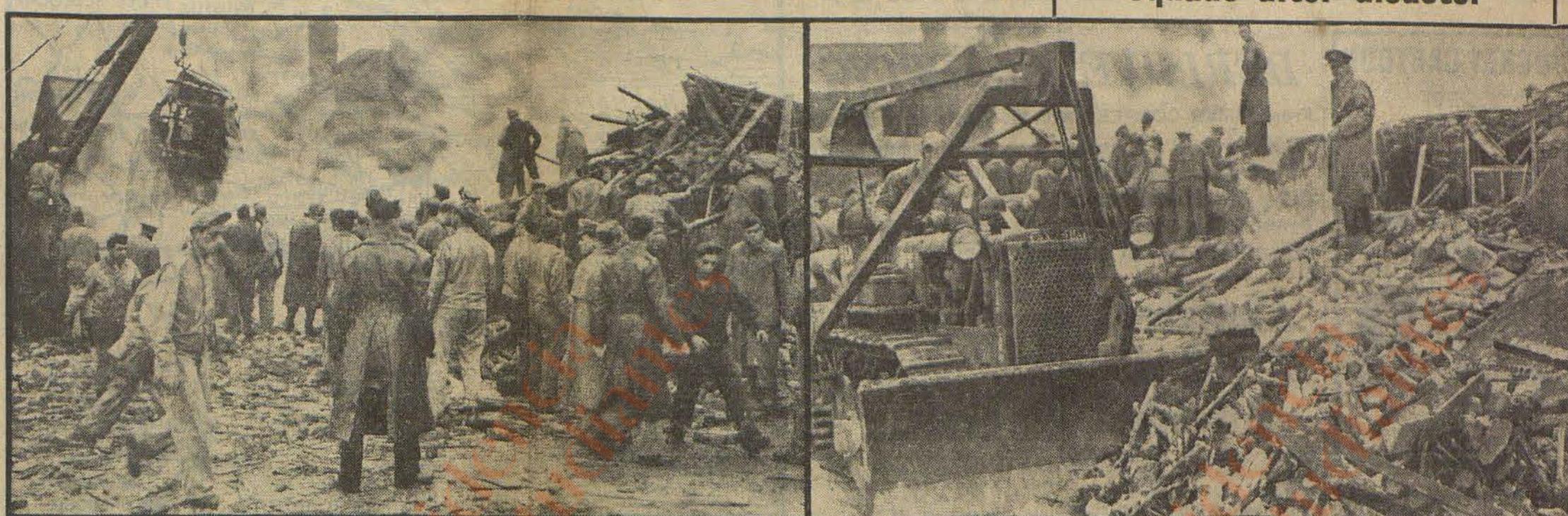
**The complete reply!**

most smokers find in pure, natural Rubicon the complete answer to their search for a cool-smoking, richly-satisfying tobacco. Are you still searching?

Made by  
JOHN SINCLAIR LTD.

25 oz

**RUBICON**  
MIXTURE • NAVY CUT • SPUN CUT



AMERICANS HELP THE FIREMEN

A CRANE helps to clear the debris where houses stood beside the school at Freckleton. In the picture on the right a bulldozer ploughs through wreckage

Troops link up with rescue squads after disaster



## CORSETS WILL BE STRONGER

After the end of this month corset manufacturers will be able to use the strongest utility cloths in corsets of all sizes and in some additional types, the Board of Trade announced last night.

At present these cloths may be used only for garments of size 28 inches upwards but this restriction will end when the new corsets (Gasproof and Anti-Supply) Directions come into force.

The directions also help larger women by prohibiting the manufacture of outside corsets from the lightest utility cloths or in the hook-side style.

## AREA INCREASED

The area of elastic which may be used in utility brassieres has been increased.

People needing surgical corsets will no longer have to obtain two doctor's certificates.

A single certificate will be sufficient if it says that the patient needs the corset as a sufferer from one of the conditions listed in a special list issued in consultation with the Ministry of Health and the British Medical Association.

If a patient is suffering from some other condition for which a special corset is urgently desired, the doctor will prescribe it, but the certificate will not be valid unless it is specially endorsed by the Board of Trade.

## Union leaders to visit France

By TREVOR EVANS

Six British trade union leaders were selected yesterday to visit France. They are to inspect the working of supplies to the Front. The six are: Mr. Jack Tannen (Amalgamated Engineering Union); Mr. Arthur Deakin (Transport and General Workers' Union); Mr. Jack Benstead (National Union of Railwaysmen); Mr. George Gibson, Mr. E. Bagnall, and Mr. J. M. Six American trade union leaders, including representatives of the American Federation of Labour and of the Congress of Industrial Organisations are also to inspect depots in France. After their return to Britain they will investigate the war activities of the trade unions in this country.

**Monty's mother is 80**  
Lady Montgomery, mother of General Montgomery, was 80 yesterday at liberty last night.

**Sudan Cotton surprise**

In a circular to shareholders of Sudan Plantations and the Kassala Cotton Company, Sir Alexander MacIntyre, the chairman, publishes an announcement by the Sudan Government that it will not be in a position to extend the existing concessions beyond June 30, 1950.

In its announcement the Government pays tribute to the great work done by the companies, and says that the decision is made "in view of the developments which now place and under contemplation due to conditions resulting from the war and because of political and social changes which these involve."

Sir Alexander MacIntyre says that "it is which was most desired now to provide for the disposal of thousands of the native population and produces a crop which makes a notable contribution to the revenue of the country."

Directors of Minimax, makers of fire extinguishers and of the famous still that produces fresh drinking water from sea water, say that the company is still in a position to supply a substantial hardship due to "inadequacy in drafting the Finance Act 1940 and 1941."

After a dull opening, stock markets made a marked recovery at the close of business yesterday. Gilt-edged rose further.

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Stock Oils were the outstanding feature of the day with a rise of 3/8 to 7/8.

British American Tobacco - Second

## Home Guard carry on

Invasion danger not yet passed

There is to be no delay in letting the Home Guard know when it may relax its duties; but for the time being it must carry on, for the danger of invasion has not yet passed.

This is an Order of the Day issued by Lieut-General Sir Edmund Schreiber, G.O.C. in C. South-eastern Command. The order thanks the Home Guard for "the splendid way in which it assumed the operational responsibility of keeping watch and ward over this command during the successful crossing of the Allied Expeditionary Forces."

"For the future the possibility of enemy action against this country is by no means over. It is for this reason that the Home Guard is still required."

**CABINET DECISION**

"The time will come, however, when the Home Guard will no longer be needed to defend our country. In an air raid, it may coincide with the end of the war in Europe, or it may be earlier. The decision must rest with the War Cabinet, but the time for this has not yet come."

"While there remains even the smallest danger of a Hun attempting to set his foot in this country, the Home Guard will continue to be necessary."

**Last Division in Italy**

The First Division has been fighting in Italy since January 22. The division fought in France and Flanders in 1940 and was also in the Tunisian campaign.

**Lord Barnby**

Lord Barnby is making slow progress after the accidental injury to his eyes by pellets, caused while shooting on the north Yorkshire moors.

**Germans still free**

The three German prisoners missing from their camp in Cumberland on Tuesday were still at liberty last night.

**Ronald's mother is 80**

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## Professor exploded his fire bomb in back room

## GERMANS CANNOT PUT IT OUT

Express Staff Reporter LEONARD HOLLIDAY: LEEDS, Wednesday

AT daybreak one morning 12 months ago two men left Leeds University with a 21-inch long 5-inch wide metal cylinder. They carried it to the university sports ground two miles away.

A few minutes later people saw from near-by houses a white tail of flame 15ft long, 2ft wide shoot across the end of the football field.

They saw the two men walk up and down beside the flame, meet where it leaped from the cylinder. They shook hands.

The war's deadliest bomb had been invented.

The two men were 47-year-old Professor Donald Thomas Alfred Townsend, head of Leeds University's Coal Gas and Electrical Department, and his technical assistant, Dr. E. C. W. Smith, now acting consultant to a London firm.

The story of the bomb and the Backroom Boys who invented and perfected it was released tonight. It is the deadliest incendiary bomb ever made, and its tail of flame cannot be put out.

The team of six men responsible for its introduction are Professor G. J. Finch, Minister of Home Security; Professor Townsend and Dr. Smith; Lieut-Colonel C. J. P. Bateson and Captain A. Hayton Cowap, of L.C.I., and Squadron Leader D. R. Ashworth, Ministry of Aircraft Production.

**PROFESSOR TOWNSEND**  
Tried it out at dawn.

The back room specially built.

Professor Townsend and Dr. Smith, Lieut-Colonel C. J. P. Bateson and Captain A. Hayton Cowap, of L.C.I., and Squadron Leader D. R. Ashworth, Ministry of Aircraft Production.

**PROFESSOR TOWNSEND**  
Tried it out at dawn.

At the end of the blitz in 1941 the Government called in the experts from the country's universities. One of the first to be consulted and co-opted as a member of round table conferences was Professor Townsend.

He has spent three days a week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., lecturing at the university, from 5 p.m. until early morning working in his back room.

Three days a week he is in London for conferences with military heads and Government department heads.

He sleeps an average of five hours a day, most of which he gets in the train between Leeds and London. His only hobbies are gardening, walking in the country, his wife, his children, and dog. Most of Sunday he spends among his test tubes and retorts.

The new bomb was first exploded in Professor Townsend's own back room—a specially built steel-shuttered and steel-doored building 20 feet square.

Many improvements

The bomb contains improvements in casing, design and a new method of dissolving marsh-gas in petrol under pressure. When he and Dr. Smith took the first model, weighing 30lb, into the back room, the flames shot 15 feet diagonally across the building.

Steel shutters were opened to allow more oxygen into the room, and the bomb burned for two minutes.

The descent of the bomb is controlled by a parachute and restricted by a terminal speed.

The Super-Footer, as the R.A.F. call it, was tried out on Munich in April. Two hundred and fifty Lancasters carried hundreds of canisters. Results were terrific. All pictures of the raids suggested a fair heavier attack, but this was in fact made. Buildings were reduced to the level of the pavements.

It was decided to make further tests. Stuttgart was chosen for a try-out on the nights of July 24, 25, and 26. Buildings were reduced to the level of the pavements.

It was decided to make further tests. Stuttgart

# Riviera beauties sip aperitifs as Germans surrender

## POCKET CARTOON



## DERISIVE CLAPPING

From JAMES COOPER: With the 7th Army, Wednesday  
THIS is still a shooting war, but one has got to turn back to be shot at. That is the strangest thing in this triumphant entry into southern France, this overrunning of a thousand square miles at the rate of hundreds a day.

## Captured: A V2 site, unfinished

HAUT MESNIL, Normandy, Wednesday.—A big quarry beside the Caen-Falaise road, bombed and rocketed by Allied planes, was discovered by an officer of air technical intelligence to have been intended for use as a V2 site.

In the bottom of the quarry, about 60 feet down, preparations had been made for three concrete launching platforms. Hewn out of the sides of the base of the quarry, and running under the Falaise road, there is a complex system of tunnels, obviously intended for the storage of projectiles.

## 50 FEET OF ROOF

The storage tunnels under at least 50 feet of roof are so designed that only direct hits from 12,000lb. bombs right in the mouth of them could ever achieve any real measure of success once the site became operational.

A lot of work was still needed before that time, however, and at a conservative estimate 500 men would have been needed for three months before the site could have launched V2s.

This is not the only place in this locality where preparations were going on.

There are also extensive underground workings just to the north of Bretteville-sur-Odon, another quarry, and in the Caumont area, south east of Falaise, a whole wood had been fitted with blast bays for the same purpose.—Reuter.

## 3-mile push in Italy

ALLIED HQ, ITALY, Wednesday.—Polish and Italian troops, thrusting another three miles north through the hilly country in the Adriatic sector, have reached the Metauro River along a 12-mile front.

Forward elements of General Anders' Polish forces are now about 12 miles south of Pesaro and only 30 miles from Rimini, gateway to the Po Valley.

Allied patrols guard the whole of the south bank of the Metauro between Monte Maggiore in the Tuscan Apennines and the Adriatic.

The infantry has been reinforced with an armoured force which joined up on the lateral Plageda-Cerasa road yesterday and helped to push the advance to the river. The Germans are shelling from the north bank.

Although the country is as difficult as anywhere else along the front, it is nevertheless the Achilles heel of the enemy so far as his Gothic Line defences are concerned.

British patrolling and artillery fire marked the remainder of the front running west across Italy.—Reuter.

## Germans shell Florence

FLORENCE, Wednesday.—Scores of civilians, including women and children, were killed and injured on Sunday when the Germans shelled the city as crowds were running home from Mass.

The spasmodic bombardment continued throughout the day and the following night.—Reuter.

## More cakes

Reception areas are to have increased allocations for the manufacture of confectionery during the present rationing period.

## IF YOU CABLE • THEN •

Make your message concise and above all check the address for accuracy, particularly to those in the Forces.

## EASE THE BURDEN



## Look after them!

War-time has taught every one to value Rubber Footwear, especially when replacement cannot be made without a permit. Give your Wellingtons that little care that means so much extra wear.

## NORTH BRITISH RUBBER FOOTWEAR

THE NORTH BRITISH RUBBER COMPANY LIMITED

## New Jap demands on Indo-China

ALGIERS, Wednesday.—New Japanese demands have been made by Admiral Jean Decoux, Vichy Governor-General of Indo-China to whom Laval's Government before leaving Vichy gave full powers to act independently.

Decoux will be recognised by the French Provisional Government.

Decoux's demands entered into by the French Provisional Government.

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## 'Freedom' sweeps across the map of France



## Battle in streets of Lyons

From ERNEST ASHWICK  
FRENCH FRONTIER

Wednesday  
THE battle for the liberation of Lyons started this morning.

&lt;p