

## Our War Album.--7. Britain's War Minister



**Leslie Hore-Belisha**

Secretary of State for War since 1937, he is one of our younger statesmen—he is only 46—and has frequently shown a readiness to try a new way—the "Belisha Beacons" point to one of these!—and to give one of the younger men his chance.

Keystone



# ODD FACTS ABOUT THE WAR

Worth Noting Today and Re-reading in Years to Come

## Nazi Agents in Canada

Three hundred Germans were interned as enemy aliens after the Royal Canadian Mounted Police carried out a round-up of suspected Nazi agents.

## Black-out Wash-out

Since Alexandra Palace has five acres of glass roofing, and it is impossible to fulfil official black-out requirements, the trustees have been forced to declare a moratorium.

## Stork Refugees

Two storks which were shot in Genoa had rings attached to them which showed that they had belonged to the Warsaw Zoo.

## Safeguarding London Tubes

Floodgates are being built in certain situations in the London Tube system. They can be locked within three minutes of an air-raid warning.

## Jerry-built

Aerial photographs of the Siegfried Line after bombardment confirm the reports that many of the fortifications were constructed in a hurry from inferior materials. The cement used, it is alleged, contained too high a proportion of lime.

## No Casualties

Not a single ship has been sunk, nor one man injured, during the activities of the British Contraband Control.

## Heavy Sleepers

Before the R.A.F. flight over Berlin Goering had assured the people that any enemy aeroplane flying over German territory would be instantly detected and brought down. The official explanation after the flight was that the inhabitants of North Germany must obviously have slept well since they heard nothing of the 'planes.

## Don't Detain; Sink

According to the captain of the torpedoed steamer "Takstaas," the U-boat commander stated that he had orders to sink all ships carrying cargo for Britain.

## Nazi Luxury

Goebbels, who is reported to be in disgrace, had one of the most extravagantly furnished private palaces in Germany, run by a staff of 28 servants. Six of his seven cars have been handed over to the Air Ministry.

## Boys Called Up

German naval students of 17, who normally would have finished their course at the Academy in 1941, are being called up for active service a year earlier.

## Poor British Listeners!

Britain is pitted by Germany because her radio news has to be approved by the Ministry of Information. Yet it is seven long years since German listeners heard from their own stations any news that had not been censored by Dr. Goebbels.

## Tanks for U.S.

The first step in a great mechanization programme of the U.S. army has been made by the ordering of 329 new heavyweight tanks, to cost nearly £1,200,000.

## Killed Sixty-seven—and Himself

A Czech airman, asked by a party of 67 Germans to show them places at Kbely Aerodrome which had been mined, took them and deliberately exploded a mine.

## Soft Heart in Philadelphia

A 12-year-old girl living in Philadelphia has sent a dollar note, saved from her pocket money, to H.M. the King, requesting that it might be used to help evacuated children.

## Offer of Armaments

The "News Chronicle" Bombay correspondent reports that the Gonds, an aboriginal hill race of Central India, have offered to supply the British Government with bows and arrows, and were surprised to learn that these weapons are out-of-date.

## Buttering Their Paws

It has been suggested that, in order to acclimatize evacuees, the Minister of Food might arrange for the better organization of the supply of fish and chips in rural districts.

## Mussolini the Optimist

Rome radio reports that the Duce has laid the foundation stone of the first building for the international exhibition to be held in Rome in 1942.

## Zoo Animals Co-operate

In order to save petrol, elephants, camels and llamas at the London Zoo are undertaking the transport of forage.

## W.W.J.

These initials stand for "Wirtschaftlich Wertvoller Jude," and are inscribed on an armband worn by Jews in Germany compelled to work for the Reich.

## Camouflage School

French artists of all schools and traditions, who have not been called up, have offered their services to the French army as camouflage artists.

## Those Leaflets Again

The latest explanation of the presence in Germany of the famous leaflets is that Britain had dispatched small balloons, without crews, but fitted with one device which automatically released bundles of leaflets over German territory, and another which then destroyed the balloon itself!

## For the Duration

The two great liners, "Queen Mary" and "Normandie," are laid up in New York and may stay there until the end of the war. The latter has taken aboard fourteen great barrels of moth-balls to safeguard her luxurious furnishings.

## Nazi Women Rebel

The Gestapo were called in to make arrests at a Nazi meeting at Nemscheid, in the Ruhr, because women members of the group turned on Frau Anna Ziegler, the woman leader, beating and scratching her, as she was making a threatening speech.

## Saving Petrol in Holland

The Dutch royal family have set an example of economy to their subjects by dispensing with the use of motor-cars and travelling either on bicycles or in horse-drawn carriages.

## Rural London

Residents in some of the Bloomsbury squares are taking great interest in the vegetables that have been planted in the gardens. So far the enterprise is confined to cabbages, but we may yet see well-stocked allotments in London squares.

## London's Enemy Aliens

A large proportion of the 20,000 German and Austrian refugees who have registered for national service are anxious to join the British Army.

## Hitler's "Oracle" Disappears

Elisabeth Ebertin, the Fuehrer's favourite astrologer, has not been seen since the beginning of the war.

## Surprise for Goebbels

A young German woman, a wartime "postman," was brought, with others, before the microphone to help in a propaganda broadcast. When the interviewer inquired whether her husband was at the front, and was she not proud of it, she replied: "Thank God, he is not! It is the first time that I have been glad that his health is not good."

## What a Prize!

Ten hogsheds of Chinese sausage skins, destined for Germany, were seized as contraband and stored in the cargo sheds of a British port.

## Act of God Wanted

That Allah should annihilate the "impious perjurer" Hitler was the object of a prayer meeting convened by leaders of an Arab sect in French Morocco.



THE OFFER. "That's not a white flag. It has a dirty smudge on it." From the cartoon by E. H. Shepard.

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