

# Our War Album.--18. Poland's Premier & C.-in-C.



Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski

By the defeat of a Bolshevik army at the battle of the River Wkra in August 1920 he helped to save Poland from Russian invaders. When the new Polish Government was formed in France in December 1939 General Sikorski became Prime Minister, War Minister and Commander-in-Chief.

Photo, Planet News

# ODD FACTS ABOUT THE WAR

## Worth Noting Today and Re-reading in Years to Come

### Why Moscow Covets Finland

A Berlin paper has published an illuminating article on the mineral resources of Finland. It appears that her extensive nickel deposits, so important in the manufacture of armaments, have been conceded to a Canadian firm for 40 years. Finland also possesses great reserves of copper, zinc and other metals, none of which has as yet been properly exploited.

### Growing Food in London

The Emergency Committee of the London County Council has agreed that parts of the public parks and open spaces may be used for allotments. Demonstration plots will be laid out to show people how to grow more food.

### Garden into Allotment

The Ministry of Agriculture says that in 1918 there were 850,000 allotments under cultivation, and by 1920 the number exceeded 1,250,000. But it is estimated that in England and Wales there are 3,500,000 private gardens, and that much could be done if every private gardener would set apart some of his ground for the production of food.

### Longer Hours, Same Pay

German workers have been told by Dr. Ley, Labour Front Chief, that there is now a general standstill in wages, but that a ten hours' instead of an eight hours' day will be the rule in the future.

### Bonus Instead of Holiday

The French Ministry of Labour has announced that those workers who could not be released owing to the outbreak of war to take a holiday this year will be paid wages equivalent to those allowed for the holiday period in the course of the next three months.

### Polychromatic Searchlights

R.A.F. men on the Western Front have been admiring the coloured geometrical designs made upon the night sky by violet, blue and orange beams from enemy searchlights. The object apparently is to discover which hue best penetrates the clouds.

### Fated to Start War

That Mr. Churchill was responsible for the outbreak of war has been conclusively proved to Berlin by a biographical article in a New York paper in which it was stated that he was born with "a love of fighting."

### Shoe Exchange

A German child who has no line of succession to footwear in his family is taken by his mother to a centre where his own outgrown shoes can be exchanged against a similarly half-worn pair of a larger size. As new footwear can only be bought by special permit, the children's shoe exchange is a valuable asset to the harassed German housewife.

### For the Great White Chief

Every member of the Bakgaila tribe in British Bechuanaland is contributing the sum of 5/- to a fund raised to help King George in his fight against Germany.

### Faked News Reel

In North-East Bohemia, using elaborate Czech fortifications built against invasion, German experts prepared a propaganda film showing the storming of the Maginot Line. They tried to keep it secret, but when the inhabitants, already startled by the sound of gunfire, met soldiers in French uniforms in the street, the news spread quickly, and the resulting film may not impress audiences in the way it was intended.

### To Buy a Battleship

Another spontaneous effort on behalf of the Allied cause is that of 300,000 native mine-boys on the Rand who have clubbed together to contribute 1/- each a month to "buy a battleship."

### Double Escape

An R.A.F. wireless operator in France, one of a crew of five who had to abandon their aircraft and descend by parachute, landed safely in a field of bulls. "In full flying kit," said he, "I reckon I nearly broke the record for the hundred yards, and escaped by getting over a four-foot gate."

### Passion Play Cancelled

There will be no production of the Oberammergau Passion Play in 1940. Many of the actors who habitually take part in it are now in the Siegfried Line, and the one who would have played Christ is an air warden.

### Is Forearmed Forewarned?

Britain is said to be sending a consignment of 60,000 gas masks to Finland. They are of the military type.

### Favoured Island

The one place in the United Kingdom where there may be no rationing is the Isle of Man. The Ministry of Food has sent ration books for the whole of the population, but the decision as to their use rests with the local Government.

### Two to One

Paris Health Services have reported that in the first three months of the war the proportion of male over female births was already very striking. Normally three girls are born to one boy; the figures now are two boys to one girl. Why this apparently natural law of wartime conditions should operate so early is puzzling scientists.

### Penalized for Listening-in

A Berlin resident named Willi Falke was sentenced to four years' hard labour for listening to foreign broadcasts. The court found that "it was dishonourable for a German to listen to lying foreign broadcasts, which form a main weapon against Germany."

### Soviet Loses Skilled Workers

American nationals who are resident in Russia and engaged there in engineering and other expert work will soon have to leave, as the U.S. authorities have decided not to prolong their passports.

### Luminous Dog Collars

Collars made of a plastic substance that gives out a greenish glow in the dark are obtainable from the National Canine Defence League. London dogs' reaction to the phosphorescent effect of a stroll at 10 p.m. has not yet come to hand.

### Finnish Foreign Legion

Two young Britshers in Helsinki are raising a battalion composed principally of Englishmen and Canadians. They hope to take the field in Finland within a month.

### Supporter Now Victim

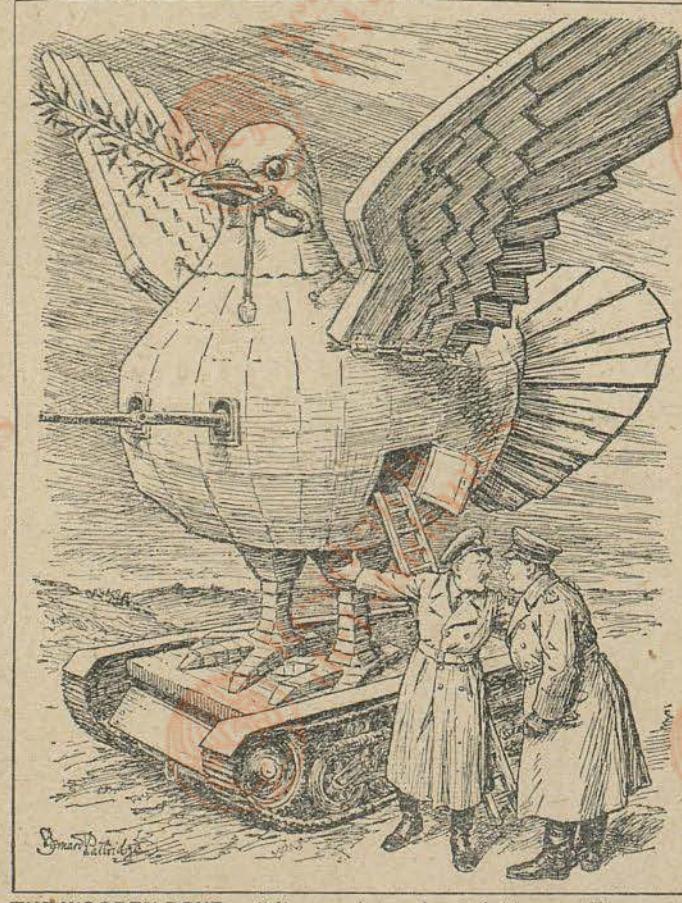
Herr Fritz Thyssen, former steel magnate, who in its early days financed the Nazi party, is now living in Locarno. He was against the war, and had the temerity to say so in the Reichstag. His fortune of about £10,000,000 has been confiscated by the German State under a law originally passed to legalize the impoverishment of political opponents.

### Himmler "Inaccuracy"

One detail in the Gestapo account of the Munich bomb explosion puzzled watchmakers. This was the statement that the accused man "set the clock which exploded the time bomb so that it ticked more softly." Watchmakers the world over, and particularly the one in Amsterdam who raised the point, would be thankful to know how the sound of ticking can be diminished; it is one of the problems on which they have long been working.

### Patches Rationed

Now that the Nazi clothes allowance is so restricted, old suits are being made wearable by patching. But even patches are rationed in Germany. There are special coupons for them, each valid for 9 inches of cloth.



THE WOODEN DOVE. "It came to me in a nightmare, Hermann my secret weapon against the Allies for next year's campaign." From the cartoon by Sir Bernard Partridge. By permission of the proprietors of "Punch."