GERMANY TAKING HAND IN FAR EAST STRIFE

KEEP IT UP! With Savings
TYNESIDE WAR WEAPONS WEEK
This space has been given to Tyneside War Weapons Week by Thos. Hunter (N.E.) Ltd., Northumberland Street.

R.A.F. TWICE BOMB ITALIAN PORT IN TRIPOLI

To-day's official Italian war communique admits a statement in an R.A.F. communique issued in Cairo which says that two raids were made by British 'planes on Tobruk harbour, Tripoli, on Monday.

IN the first raid, says the British communique, the bombs burst among buildings and the jetty. In the second attack the bombs fell on buildings close to ships moored along the side of the jetty.

The Italian communique states that 15 people were killed and 70 wounded.

Kufra Bombed

It is added: "An isolated British aircraft has dropped bombs on Kufra—an oasis in the Libyan desert — causing light material damage.

"In East Africa our air formations have bombed the British aerodrome and military fortifications at Bura in Kenya, also a small fort and troops and camps near Wajir.

"Enemy detachments in the vicinity of Couelna to the north of Gallabat — Sudan, Abyssinian frontier—were also bombed by Italian aircraft.

"One British aeroplane has dropped bombs on Diredawa, Abyssinia."—Press Association War Special.

CATCHGATE MAN'S DOLE OFFENCE

For making a false representation to obtain £1 9s 6d unemployment benefit, John Edward Forster (32), labourer, of Catchgate, Stanley, was fined £5 at Stanley to-day.

He said he was under the impression that he was entitled to make 3s 4d a day and still draw benefit.

Shields Theft Charge

John Clifford Teece (19), a messroom steward, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody until to-morrow by South Shields magistrates to-day on a charge of stealing an overcoat and a jacket worth £3 15s belonging to Frederick Ernest Graco.

FOILING AXIS AT DAKAR

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

UNTIL official details are available in London, it is not possible to form any clear idea of the Dakar situation or the scope of the operations that are in progress.

The reasons for operations at Dakar are to be found in its important strategic position in relation to the trade routes across the South Atlantic, and in the fact that there has been an infiltration there of German and Italian officers and evidence that Germany was planning to assume control.

At the same time, the Free France movement has been growing in the colony to such an extent that the Governor had been recalled and a Vichy nominee put in his place.

Leakage Feared

General de Gaulle believed that he would find sufficient support there to enable a free French administration to be established, so frustrating the Axis plans and the subservience of Vichy Government to its Nazi masters.

There are fears, however, that some leakage of information took place about General de Gaulle's intentions, with the result that several of his sympathisers were arrested by the Dakar authorities, on the instructions of Vichy.

General de Gaulle's withdrawal in the face of a hostile reception is not, however, the end of the matter.

Dakar is of sufficient importance to warrant energetic measures being taken to prevent its falling into German hands, or even remaining under the control of an administration which would offer no opposition to its use by Germany as a base for raiding British commerce, either by air or submarine.

The whole position in the French colonies is one of great difficulty, but it does not follow, because of the amenability of many colonial administrators to Vichy orders, that the Free France movement can be suppressed.

ECUADOR TO EXPEL NAZI AGENTS

Nazi activities in Ecuador were discussed at a secret session of the Ecuador Congress yesterday, and it is understood that a resolution was passed empowering the President to expel foreigners who spread antidemocratic doctrines, says the British United Press.

One Deputy presented a long list of foreigners who, he alleged, were guilty of such activities, and requested their immediate expulsion.

Judge Knows About Kid Berg's Fights

JACK (KID) BERG, former lightweight boxing champion of England, complained to Mr. Justice Charles in the King's Bench, London, to-day, that he had been slandered in a B.B.C. broadcast by a sports commentator, and sought damages on the ground that he had been injured in his profession. The hearing was adjourned.

Defendant was John MacAdam, sporting journalist and commentator, who denied that his comments referred to Berg by way of his profession and who maintained that the words were not actionable without proof of special damages. There was also a plea that the statement of fact in the broadcast were true and the comments honestly made.

Mr. Linton Thorp, K.C., for Berg, said the broadcast comments referred to an impending contest on February 29, 1940, between Berg and Eric Boon. Mr. MacAdam stated, "After Kid Berg has drawn his old age pension next Thursday, he will totter along to Earl's Court and fight Eric Boon. After that fight Berg is almost certain to start thinking of a better way of living."

Judge No Stranger to Boxing

Counsel explained that Berg was 31 and Boon 21. Such criticism by Mr. MacAdam of a man who was only 31 was unfair as Berg still had some years of effective boxing before him. The contest with Boon did not take place as Boon decided he did not could not carry out the contract. A substitute lost on a disqualification.

Berg, in evidence, was questioned about his various fights when Mr. Justice Charles remarked to his counsel, "You need not trouble about them all. I know this man. I feel no stranger to the art myself."

Mr. G. O. Slade, for the defendant, submitted that the words were not capable of a defamatory meaning, were not actionable *per se*, and were incapable in law of being otherwise than fair comment. What was said was meant as a jocular criticism.

Mr. Justice Charles said he found against the submissions of Mr. Slade but would uphold his contention that the matter was one of public interest.

The hearing was adjourned to a date when Mr. MacAdam, who is a war correspondent, would be available to give evidence.

Fatal Fit at Bamburgh

A verdict that "Death was due to asphyxia, during an epileptic fit," was recorded at the Alnwick Inquest yesterday on Thomas R. Morton, who was found dead in his room at Bamburgh.

BATTLE GOES ON FOR INDO-CHINA

Japanese Army in a Hurry

FIGHTING is reported to be continuing between French and Japanese forces on the border of Indo-China, while moves are being made in Tokio to settle the trouble.

Mr. Matsuoka, the Japanese Foreign Minister and M. Arsene Henry, the French Ambassador, are negotiating, it was announced in Vichy, says the British United Press correspondent.

The Chinese Embassy had meanwhile protested to the French Government over the Franco-Japanese agreement, which, reached on Sunday, was yesterday reported from Hanoi to have been cancelled. It gave Japan special army, navy and air force rights in the colony.

Renewed Attacks

A renewal of Japanese attacks on Indo-China from the Kwangsi province of China was officially disclosed at Hanoi. The attacks were said to have assumed a fresh intensity during the afternoon.

It was earlier reported that the Japanese, who had clashed with the French troops on the frontier, had not yet encountered the main French and Colonial forces.

Two hundred Japanese prisoners captured by the French admitted that their forces had sustained 20 casualties up to midnight on Monday.

Posters urging the people to evacuate Hanoi have been put up throughout the city, and civilians are being evacuated by train. The Chinese Consulate has advised Chinese residents to leave gradually. French women and children are hurriedly evacuating the border area.

Appeal for Delay

The fate of Indo-China depends on the efforts of General Nishihara, head of the Military Mission, which negotiated the agreement.

He sailed on a minesweeper early yesterday for Hainan, off the South China coast, to persuade General Ando, head of the Japanese Army in South China, to postpone attacking the colony.

While on his way to Hainan Island, General Nishihara sent a message requesting that a Japanese fleet, consisting of eight transports, a cruiser and three destroyers, which was on its way to the Indo-Chinese port of Haiphong, should not try to force a landing.

Japan Hinting at Pact With Germany

It is reported from Tokio, states the British United Press Shanghai correspondent, that Japan and Germany have agreed in principle on a defensive alliance to counter collaboration between Britain and the United States in the Far East.

The alliance, it is reported, would become effective in the event of Anglo-American collaboration, such as in the use of the Singapore base, which might cause Japanese abandonment of the non-involvement policy.

Hitler's personal representative, Herr Stahmer, is stated to have negotiated the provisional German-Japanese defence pact, envisaging a diversion of American attention, especially in South America and the Far East.

It is understood that Nazi pressure included the direct threat that, if Japan did not join the Reich, Hitler would offer Britain an armistice, leaving the Empire virtually intact, and releasing the British Navy for joint action with the United States against Japan.

The alliance is reported from Tokio to have been approved in principle at an imperial conference on September 19, although the announcement of the pact has been delayed pending formal ratification by the Japanese Privy Council.

Understanding With Russia

The alliance, it is reported authoritatively in Shanghai, includes German assurances of her good offices in dealing with Russia, amounting in effect to a Russo-Japanese non-aggression understanding, thus freeing Japan for any move to the south.

One interpretation of the agreement is that Berlin has at last decided that a blitzkrieg against England is not likely to succeed, and that the understanding represents German recognition of the fact that the war may be prolonged.

"Should a misunderstanding arise between Tokio and Washington leading to a crisis, Japan would give blows at any opposition regardless of what happens," says the Japanese army newspaper "Sin Shin Pao."

Italy Backs Invasion by Japanese

The Rome correspondent of the Tokio newspaper "Yomiuri Shimbun," quoted by the British United Press, states that Mr. Eiji Amau, Japanese Ambassador in Rome, has discussed recent international conditions with Count Ciano, the Italian Foreign Minister, who supported a Japanese invasion of Indo-China.

RACING IN IRELAND

Good-sized fields competed in the races at the second stage of the Listowel meeting to-day.

2.0.—GAY STEFAN, (J Biggar), 1; Dundrin, 2; Up the Aisle, 3. Also ran: Bright Child, Lotte, Magic Loch, Lord Berie, Lord Bye, Lord of France, Lord Bright Child. 5-2 GAY STEFAN, 5-2 Dundrin, Up the Aisle, 10-1 others. Tote: Win, 7/-; places, 2/-, 3/-, 4/6.

2.30.—TIRRIVEE (B Whittle), 1; Halloween, 2; Tipperary Boy, 3. Also ran: Lady Arrow, Sandoon, Shadow Suicide, Ballymarlow, Evens (Sandoon), 4-1 Halloween, Tipperary Boy, 5-1 Ballymarlow, 8-1 Suicide, 20-1 TIRRIVEE, others. Tote: Win, 22/-; places, 5/-, 3/-, 2/6.

3.0.—RUNNERS: Jackbook, Piper's Luck, Wavy Navy, Battle Chief, Aquarium, Brighter Sun.

For falling to obscure a light at his house during the black-out on September 14, Emanuel Hellbron (52), of Marsden Road, South Shields, was fined £1 at South Shields to-day.

("Evening Chronicle" Photo.)

TEAM WORK COUNTS.—A young pair of horses at work during ploughing for next year's crops at a farm near Newcastle.

DAKAR 'TRAITORS' TO BE TRIED

Firing Squad Threat by Vichy Cabinet

(Continued from Page One.)

ing on the French Cabinet's decision to court - martial "traitors" who joined General de Gaulle, including participants in the Dakar action, said, "All traitors found guilty will be sent to the firing squad immediately."

Berlin Says 7,000 Allied Troops at Dakar

Vichy reports, issued by the official German News Agency, say that there are 7,000 men in the six British transports concentrated off Dakar. These took part in the landing attempt, together with crews of other British warships.

The first surprise attack, it is stated, took place in thick fog, which severely hampered the work of French reconnaissance 'planes.

A Madrid despatch received in Berlin, says that a British cruiser, four destroyers and two submarines were sighted in the Straits of Gibraltar yesterday afternoon, steering for the Atlantic.

It is thought that they were destined "to take part in the action against the French colonies."

MAP showing the important strategic position of French West Africa.

"Brilliant Stroke"

"General de Gaulle and the British cannot now afford to fail at Dakar," says the New York "Herald-Tribune" to-day. "It is an operation which must succeed, and its success will stand as the first brilliantly offensive stroke comparable to those of the Nazis.

"It is bitter that it should be against Frenchmen, but that cannot be helped.

"The United States, above all, cannot afford to see it fail."

(Press Association and British United Press.)

HOSPITAL PATIENTS' CONDITION

BOLDON ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Slight improvement: 26 7/- Making satisfactory progress. 8 Others doing well.

KNIGHT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BLYTH.—Condition much the same: 311 414 43. Making satisfactory progress: 418 445 444 413. Others doing well.

DARLINGTON BOROUGH HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Condition much the same as on previous day: 83 202 205 272 331 332 334 336 337 338 341 343 347 348 349. Slight improvement: 310 315 325 326 327 328 330 335. Making satisfactory progress: 270 276 320 321 324 339. Convalescent and doing well: All others not mentioned above.

DEANS HOSPITAL, SOUTH SHIELDS.—Same as on admission: 254 255 256 257 258. Slight improvement: 242 251 252 253 244 245 246 247 248. Other patients satisfactory.

THORPE (EASINGTON) ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Condition much the same as on previous day: 257 258 259 261 262. Slight improvement: 249 250 251 254 255 256. Progressing favourably: 229 242 244 249 244 246 248. All others doing well, convalescent and doing well.

TANFIELD SANATORIUM.—III: 129 136 137 138 139 140 141 142.

LANGLEY PARK HOSPITAL.—Dangerously ill: 38 61 62 35.

LEADGATE HOSPITAL.—III: 54 55 56 57 58 59 60.

SUNDERLAND HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Dangerously ill: 752 719 721 724 726 727 728 729 730 731 702. Ill, condition much the same as previous day: 701 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742