

• PSF Great Britain: Arthur Murray 1940-44

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1940

AN CALA,

ISLE OF SEIL,

BALVICAR 37. ARGYLL.

My dear "Missie,"

file  
personal

With my letter to the  
President of a few days ago I  
meant to send him enclosed newspaper  
cutting on "India's War Effort,"  
but overlooked to do so.

I think it will interest  
him. It confirms and elaborates  
what I said to him in a letter  
a couple of months ago.

Every good wish  
yours very sincerely

Arthur Murray

P.S. The second enclosure may  
amuse you!

file  
personal.

Carrington House  
Herford Street W. 1.  
May. 0495.

Dec. 26,  
1939

My dear "Missie",

Enclosed is a letter, please,  
for the President.

We both send you our very  
best wishes for 1940, and we hope very  
much that 1940 may bring you to  
Ben Cala. Whether in 1940, or at any  
other time, you will always find  
yourself warmly welcomed there.

Yours very sincerely  
Arthur Murray

Carrington House  
Herford Street W. 1.

May. 0495.

December 26th, 1939

Dear Franklin,

As the war continues the Allies grow stronger and stronger, as does their determination to pursue their aims until Europe is freed from brute force and constantly recurring threats of jungle aggression. The Germany of Hitler remains, and will remain until defeated, the enemy of all that we think worth living for. Communism, if it has to be dealt with, can be dealt with at the appropriate time, and no heed at all is paid to those -- even if they be neutral diplomats in London -- who have whispered that it were better to come to terms with Germany in order that together we may combat the evils of Bolshevism.

Faith and I were staying last week with the Eric Perth. Since he gave up his Ambassadorship in Rome they have been living in Berkshire. The great work he accomplished in Rome lives after his departure from Italian soil. He -- because of his sterling character and personal charm -- continued to be held in friendship and regard by the Italian Government and people throughout all the bitterness created by the "Sanctions" policy, and, in successfully negotiating the Anglo-Italian Agreement last year, he laid one of the corner stones of Italian neutrality in this war. Had the "Anthony Eden" policy prevailed -- instead of that of Neville Chamberlain -- in the winter of 1937/38, and had the "Perth" conversations with Mussolini's Government not taken place, Anglo-Italian relations would have continued on an increasingly strained basis, and might assuredly have drifted on to a footing of such hostility on the part of Italy as gravely to affect the Allied cause in the tremendous struggle which is now taking place. Perth is now doing a job at the Foreign Office as head of British publicity in European countries. Ronald

Lindsay is also doing work in the F. O., lending a hand in the "Economic Warfare" section, which is doing so much to help break the brute aggressor's economic back. No ex-diplomat who can be of assistance, or who has special knowledge of this or that, is idle in these times. All are putting their hearts and heads into the strenuous task of defeating the evil thing that spreads its horrible body and creeping tentacles across Central Europe. It is the deep realisation of what we are fighting against, and of all that we are fighting for, that has caused us to wonder why an Ambassador, coming straight from our midst, knowing intimately, from personal contact, our feelings and all that we are going through, should have deemed it necessary to say things which have hurt us not a little, and which, we feel, in all the circumstances, might have been left unsaid.

Your great love of the sea, and profound knowledge of naval history and affairs, will assuredly have caused you to be stirred, as we have been, by the recent magnificent and heroic feat of the Exeter, Ajax, and Achilles in driving the Graf Spee off the seas. By sheer seamanship and contempt of danger the three cruisers nullified the Graf Spee's advantages, and in so doing wrote another illustrious page in British Naval History. The engagement was a masterpiece of strategy and tactics, and will, without doubt, become a classic of Naval text-books the world over. We should also learn lessons from it. Inter alia, it may put the soft pedal on the passion of the last three decades for building the hugest possible ships with the hugest possible guns. The action affords a striking example of the value -- within reason -- of having a number of ships instead of a few big ones, and this will doubtless be kept in the forefront of the minds of "naval construction" circles in connection with future programmes.

As a Director of a Railway Company in this country one naturally takes a special interest in the German railway system. When I was in Germany in 1937 I had occasion to note that in many parts of Germany the permanent way and rolling stock had been -- to use a railway term -- "let down".

Since that time "deterioration" has been on the upgrade. But there has been no diminution in the number of trains required every day to keep troops in the field! It has been computed that the requirements of a modern army are approximately,

(a) Army carrying out auxiliary operations: 2.7 to 3.1 trains a day for each Infantry Division.

(b) Army carrying out decisive operations: 3.2 to 3.3 trains a day for each Infantry Division.

The outstanding fact is that German railways started this war heavily handicapped. Since the advent of the Nazi régime to power, the Reichsbahn has been over-worked and under-fed, and, in the piling up of armaments, maintenance and renewals of track, rolling stock and locomotives have been gravely neglected. In 1934, for instance, the German State Railways had 2400 locomotives in reserve, by 1938 there were no more than 400. During the latter year, and through 1939, the materials and labour obtainable by Dr. Dorpmüller for his railway workshops have proved quite inadequate for the purpose of restoring efficiency, and before the war began at all it was estimated that something like £300,000,000 were due to be spent upon the Reichsbahn if obvious defects were to be remedied. Desperate efforts are doubtless now being made to remedy some of the more glaring shortcomings of the German railway system, but what might have been done before the war, if Hitler's wild-cat political schemes had not outrun the capabilities of his railway and road engineers, is, for many and obvious reasons, incapable of accomplishment during the war. Had Hitler been the Napoleon that he believes himself to be, he would have postponed his war until 1941 or 1942, and would have spent the interval in completing his autobahnen and in remedying the defects in the German State Railway system. His failure to do so may well prove to be one of the decisive factors in favour of the Allies. In point of fact there is no stalemate on the Western Front. The attrition which heralds Germany's eventual collapse began before 1939. It cannot but increase every month, as greater and greater burdens are placed upon a tottering railway system. Who can say that allied bombing of German railway junctions and stations may

not bring with it the final catastrophe?

The mention of Napoleon reminds one how very care-fully that great Commander -- though unscrupulous personage -- prepared for his projected invasion of England. The Camp at Boulogne was commenced in the autumn of 1803, but it was not until two years later that his plans were complete. By August 1805, some 2,300 vessels had been collected at Boulogne, Etaples, Wimereux, Dunkerque, Calais and Ostend. They were of various types, ranging from ship-rigged vessels carrying 12 guns, to mere boats. All were flat-bottomed, and designed for rowing. They were estimated to carry approximately 167,000 troops, and 9,000 horses. Napoleon had the troops, and he had the vessels to convey them to England. But the most difficult part of the scheme was getting them across the Channel in safety! He knew, he said, a hundred ways of getting into England if he had command of the Channel for three days, and he did not know a single way of getting out unless he had that command for longer! It is a matter of history that the superb strategical skill and seamanship of Nelson prevented him from obtaining the necessary command of that strip of blue water, and his whole plan for the invasion came to nought. By September 1805 the Boulogne Camp was broken up, and the Grand Army was marching on Germany. It is not uninteresting to recall that Robert Fulton, the American engineer and inventor of the steamboat, having had his invention refused by the British Government, offered it in 1804 to Napoleon. Napoleon showed considerable interest and forwarded Fulton's designs to the Minister of the Interior in Paris. After being under consideration for a couple of months the Committee appointed to enquire into the invention came to the unanimous decision that it was a "mad scheme" and a "gross error"! We have all known that kind of Committee even in the twentieth century!

And now, for one moment, the lighter side of the war!

Two true stories:

SCENE, London Police Court; Magistrate:- "Have you been affected by the war?"

Defendant:- "Slightly -- my daughter has left her job and got married to a blind man; my sons have joined up; my wife has left me; my business has gone smash; the bailiffs are in -- still, while there's life there's hope".

And yet one more from a Police Court, "Fate was unkind, Your Worship, when it hit upon my husband for me. It showed about as much discrimination as one of those magnetic mines":

Two charwomen, who had not met for some time, came across each other. Said the first:- "What's your 'usband a doing of? Mine's got a job -- he's a hair raid warning". to which the second replied:- "My old man's got a job too -- 'e's in the luxury fire service"! (Auxiliary fire service).

The Prime Minister and principal Members of the Cabinet are having a "grilling" time, but are standing the strain not only without flinching but without showing it. Chamberlain, at the age of 70, seems to thrive on strain and hard work! Two things, at least, account for this, firstly, he is fortunate in a "cast-iron" digestion, and secondly, he has been a fisherman -- and a very good salmon and trout fisherman -- all his life! Two such accompaniments to life give peace in the body, and patience in trial and difficulty! Chamberlain and his Government have the confidence of the country behind them -- though that is not to say every Member is thought to be a round peg in a round hole! That would be the era of "perfection", a state arrived at only -- in the opinion of Dictators -- in Dictatorships! The "business" end of the prosecution of the war is going strong, and yet stronger. Controls of raw materials, and of this and that, are always, in the first instance, of a hampering nature, but we in business are working hand in hand with the Government to smoothe out difficulties and turn the manufacturing wheels at ever greater speed. Labour is playing its part in decisive manner. "We are against aggression, whether it is from the Right or the Left", said recently John Marchbank, the Railwaymen's leader, and a Member of the Trades Union Congress Executive. "We condemn unhesitatingly", he went on, "the attack by the Soviet Government on Finland. That Government have struck from beneath their own feet the foundations upon which they built their appeal to the European working class. There is no moral or political difference between them and the Nazi Government of Germany, for both are following a policy of aggression, employing the same methods of violence for the

same ends of conquest and domination. The consequences will recoil upon the Russian people, as they will upon the German nation. Now, more than ever, the British Labour movement must take up the challenge and stand resolutely by the principles of democracy against dictatorships".

In a few days time we shall be marching into another year, the twenty first since you were on this side of the Atlantic in charge of the demobilisation of the United States Naval forces in Europe. Of no avail to attempt to prophesy what the next several months may bring forth. That a quickening of the tempo of the war will take place is more than probable, and highly likely. And the sequel to Germany's naval setbacks will probably be an acceleration of aerial activities. Perhaps bespangled and bespattered Göring may soon be given an opportunity of using his much-vaunted Air Force for some spectacular raid on British docks, harbours and other military objectives. But the Allies are no less ready to take the offensive in that sphere, and recent air actions have confirmed the confidence felt both in their air defences and in the strength and quality of their fighter and bombing squadrons.

And now I will bring this discursive letter to an end! We are both very well, and trying to "do our bit". We drank your health at Xmas, and we shall be doing it again on New Year's Day!

Our love and every good wish,

as ever yours,

*Arthur Murray*

The President

The White House

Washington, D.C.

U.S.A.

From THE TIMES of 1839

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1839. Price 5d.

FASHIONABLE WEDDING.—The gallant gay Lieutenant-Governor of New York, Mr. Bradish, yesterday led to the holy altar the beautiful *millionnaire*, Miss Hart, who resides in the upper regions of Broadway, in one of its most splendid houses. The marriage was celebrated by the Rev. Dr. Hawks, at St. Thomas's Church, about 12 o'clock. They were attended to church by a small party of chosen friends, among whom were the Hon. F. Granger, now on his way to Washington, accompanied by his accomplished daughter, and several ethereal loves that fluttered through the church like spirits from heaven. The happy bride and bridegroom looked charmingly, and saw company up to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when they took their departure amid troops of smiling friends in the afternoon boat for Albany. This lovely lady will be a great acquisition to society in Albany during the approaching session of the legislature. We have hopes now that his Excellency, inspired by his fair partner, will go his whole heart for General Scott. My God! I believe I shall have to get married soon, or go hang myself. This putting off won't do longer.—*New York paper.*

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# THE INDIAN WAR EFFORT

## ESSENTIAL UNITY

### DEFENDING HALF A HEMISPHERE

#### From Our Correspondent in India

The political demand of the Congress Party for a declaration of British war aims has tended to obscure the importance of the practical support which this country is giving to the Allies. The Congress demand is the one jarring note in a situation which finds Indians, of all creeds and communities, in complete accord with Great Britain and France that Hitlerism must be eradicated before permanent peace can descend upon the world. Even the Congress Party, while seeking some specific assurance as to the future Constitution, is in agreement with all other political parties in expressing hostility to Nazism and all it represents.

The Indian reaction to the seizure of Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, and Poland corresponded with the opinion of all the great democracies. The Press has been unanimous in condemning the power politics, both in Europe and the Far East. Sympathy with Great Britain has found expression in a wide variety of offers of service and cash from all sections of the community, and, although the Congress Party is withholding active support for the moment, its leaders constantly emphasize that they seek a declaration of British intentions only that they may the more willingly collaborate in winning the war. The machinery of the Government of India, under the immediate guidance of the Viceroy, has been unobtrusively but definitely directed into war channels, and the vast resources of the country are being systematically regimented behind the Allied cause.

The geographical position of India and her association with Great Britain endow the country with immense political and military importance, while her actual and potential assets in men and material are enormous. In conjunction with the Royal Navy, the Indian Army is helping to maintain peace over half a hemisphere. With troops in Egypt and Aden the country is assisting in the protection of the Red Sea; her influence is behind the friendly sheikhs of the Persian Gulf. Afghanistan, apprehensive of the intentions of Russia, has in India a firm friend, holding that arch of mountainous terrain stretching from the Arabian Sea to the Bay of Bengal. Indian troops in Singapore contribute to the safety of Burma and the Malay States, sharing with the British Navy in upholding peace over the northern part of the Indian Ocean. East Africa looks to India for goods and reinforcements if necessary; Great Britain, the Dominions, and France obtain supplies from her.

## ARMY EXPANSION

The expeditionary forces of British and Indian troops which reinforced the garrisons in Egypt, Aden, and Singapore did so at the request of the British Government. The troops are fully equipped for their tasks in these places, and possess the latest mechanized first line transport. Arrangements for the expansion of the Indian Army are proceeding. Under a registration scheme designed to secure the services of 25,000 men, recruiting officers are examining the thousands who are flocking to the Colours. The men are not enlisted immediately. After examination they are returned to their homes, to await calling-up orders. Groups of Europeans are now being called up for service as officers and are undergoing training at Belgaum. They represent only a few of the hundreds who are anxious to serve.

While the authorities are ready to provide officers in larger numbers the unexpected course of the war has prevented the absorption of as many officers as was at first expected. The withdrawal of civilians from commerce and industry has been arranged in collaboration with the European Association, which has rendered the Government notable service, in the matter both of supplying officers and of the compilation of a national register. Arrangements to associate the Indian upper and middle classes with the provision of officers in emergency are also well advanced.

Units of the Royal Air Force, normally stationed in India, have reinforced Imperial garrisons in Malaya and the Middle East. An Indian Air Force Volunteer Reserve is in process of creation; it will consist of five independent flights located at Karachi, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras. The personnel for these forces will be found in India. Hitherto all pilots and mechanics for the Air Force in India have been trained at Air Ministry establishments in the United Kingdom and elsewhere; now British, Indian, and Anglo-Indian personnel are being recruited, trained, and commissioned in India. The various civilian flying clubs have placed their resources at the disposal of the authorities, and nearly all pilots who hold the necessary licences have expressed their willingness to serve with the air forces.

The Royal Indian Navy is mobilized and is collaborating with the Royal Navy in Indian waters. Arrangements have been made for the protection of ports and harbours. Enemy ships in Indian ports when war broke out have been detained. Authority has been given for the commandeering of vessels and for restricting the transfer of ships and aircraft. A Controller of Shipping and controllers of enemy trading have been appointed. Exports to the enemy have been forbidden, and exports to neutral countries are supervised and controlled. Restrictions have been placed on the movement of gold and on exchange and foreign securities. Air raid precautions have been taken in important towns and cities, particularly on the seaboard. Provincial and local authorities have organized trial black-outs, in which the public have been deeply interested and have actively cooperated.

## PRINCES' GIFTS

The loyalty of the Indian Princes is reflected in their spontaneous and unanimous rally to support the British Throne. Rulers of princely houses, which for generations have played an important role in Indian history, have once more placed their personal services and the resources of their States at the disposal of the King-Emperor. Large cash gifts are flowing in to the Viceroy from the States. Up to November 30 cash contributions totalling Rs.44 lakhs (£330,000) and recurring donations amounting to Rs.14 lakhs (£105,000) have been made by the Princes. The Nizam of Hyderabad has not only made a gift of £100,000 to the British Air Ministry to meet the cost of an air fighting squadron, but has offered a monthly contribution of £10,000 for the duration of the war. The Jamsaheb of Nawanagar is making a monthly contribution representing one-tenth of the income of his State. All the States possessing troops have offered their services, the most outstanding examples being Hyderabad, Kashmir, and Bikaner; the Maharaja of Bikaner has offered to raise and maintain five battalions.

Leading Princes have inspired their countrymen to support the Allied cause. Appeals for war support have been addressed to the

M.G.O. Branch of Army Headquarters, which has a major share in the provision of weapons and mechanical vehicles, has been directed towards accelerating the process of modernization. Factories are being expanded and modernized to meet war requirements, and all supplies surplus to Indian requirements are being made available to Great Britain and the Dominions. Thus essential military supplies, such as ammunition of all kinds, saddlery, clothing, respirators, and metal and steel products, are being sent for the use of Imperial service troops in all parts of the world.

### ECONOMIC REACTIONS

The mere allocation of resources for war purposes has had repercussions on general economic conditions, and an Economic Resources Board has been set up to deal with this aspect of the war problem. The increase in price levels, attendant upon restricted imports and exports at higher prices, has had effects upon Government policy, and it has inevitably followed that different departments supervising different interests have had divergent views as to the policy to be pursued. The Economic Resources Board provides a centre for the discussion and solution of these special problems. Already much has been achieved by a conference on price policy, and steps have been taken to check profiteering in food-stuffs and other necessities. The board is preparing special memoranda and statistics for the use of departments of Government, and, apart from its war work, is regarded as a nucleus for that permanent body of specialist opinion which is required in India if the country is to take its due place in the economy of the Commonwealth and the world.

Much is being done in the dissemination of war news and authentic information regarding the British war effort. A Central Board of Information has been created to coordinate the provision and publication of news through all existing channels. All India Radio has increased transmission hours at all its eight stations—Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Lahore, Lucknow, Trichinopoly, and Peshawar. Daily news bulletins are given in eight languages—English, Hindustani, Bengali, Gujerati, Marathi, Tamil, Telegu, and Pushtu. For neighbouring listeners Persian has lately been added. There are five daily news bulletins in English, four in Hindustani, and three in each of the other languages being used for Indian listeners. In addition, all stations relay London bulletins daily, and there are special bulletins in different languages for rural listeners.

Spontaneous gifts from all classes of the community prompted the Viceroy to open a special fund, which is rapidly mounting. The fund incorporates appeals for the Red Cross and St. Dunstan's, which is arranging to meet the needs of Indian soldiers who may be blinded in the war. The gifts received vary from handsome donations by the Princes to small contributions from the poorest in the land. An ex-soldier, with an income of one rupee a month, has offered to contribute one-thirtieth of it to the fund. A Punjab cultivator has made gifts of potatoes and onions, and has volunteered to supply eggs and fresh vegetables "ever ready" at pre-war prices. The gifts to the fund reflect the widespread willingness of the people to render aid in some form.

Whatever may be the outcome of the domestic political controversy, it is not likely to alter the unanimous opinion of the country that Hitlerism has to be defeated, nor lessen the efforts made in India to assist in the prosecution of the war.

### ALLEGED THEFT OF COMMUNION PLATE

JOSEPH WILLIAM PARKER, 19, a messenger, giving an address in Fieldgate Street, E.C., was remanded at Clerkenwell Police Court yesterday on a charge of stealing from St. George's Church, Bloomsbury, on Wednesday three cases containing eight pieces of silver

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Carrington House  
Herford Street W. 1.  
May. 0495.

*File  
personal*

January 6, 1940

My dear "Missie",

I think it possible that it may interest the  
President, in a leisure moment -- if he ever has one! --  
to read the enclosed newspaper article on the British  
war effort at sea.

The other enclosure -- some recent school boy  
"howlers" -- may amuse him; especially the third  
"howler"!

Yours very sincerely

*Arthur Murray*



School Boy "Howlers"

- (a) Contralto is the low sort of music that only ladies can sing.
- (b) A republic is a country where no one can do anything in private.
- (c) Tarzan is a short name for the American flag. Its full name is Tarzan Stripes.

Jan. 6th, 1940

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1940

# Britain's sea-grip tightens

**H**ITLER was convinced that Germany would win this war and win it at sea and in the air, and that Britain's defeat on land would follow as a matter of course since we should have no supplies of food, raw materials, or oil fuel, without which we could not fight.

Mines were to block the entrances to the chief ports on the east coast and, in particular, the Thames, through which more than one-third of our overseas supplies of food and raw materials pass.

U-boats and the pocket battleships were to sink shipping, British and neutral, on the trade routes by torpedo or gunfire without regard to the fate of the crews.

Thousands of aeroplanes were to bomb the bases of the Fleet, the shipping in the great ports, our aerodromes and munition factories, as well as London and our other big cities.

The offensive by sea and air was to be instant and simultaneous.

It was an ingenious scheme "on paper," but its success depended on some unknown factors, moral and material. Ribbentrop, who had lived in London as German Ambassador, no doubt declared that they could be ignored, even if we fought, which he did not believe we should do.

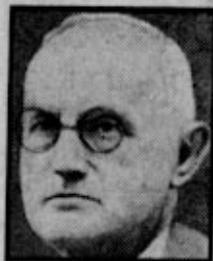
One of these factors was the influence which would be exerted by the Royal Navy, with its superior strength in surface ships, another was the efficiency of its officers and men, and a third was the impossibility of our organising in time to take adequate counter defensive measures.

Hitler was satisfied his plan would succeed. But it was first necessary to hoodwink the British Government. So the Germans promised that in any future war between us, which they declared to be unthinkable, they would not sink ships at sight; and U-boats would conform to international law.

## The Sea Lords were not asleep

**I**T was also decided to go a step farther in the hope of disarming the suspicions of the British people. So

by



**SIR ARCHIBALD  
HURD** eminent  
naval historian

Hitler volunteered as a gesture of peace, as he stated to restrict the tonnage of the German Fleet to 35 per cent. of that of the British Fleet, provided that he was at liberty to build a higher ratio of U-boats.

These undertakings were swept aside on the eve of the war. Ninety more U-boats were immediately begun in the shipyards and the training of officers and men was speeded up.

In August last the pocket battleships left their ports secretly; orders were given to U-boats to creep out of their bases and wait on the trade routes for the opening of hostilities against British merchant ships, then unarmed; other U-boats were instructed to be in readiness to lay mines in the Thames estuary and elsewhere in the pathways of shipping.

What delayed the bombing scheme is uncertain. But the naval scheme was carried out "in accordance with plan."

The sinking of the *Athenia* on the first day of the war was intended to spread consternation in this country and frighten neutrals, suggesting the terrors which were to come.

The Germans knew that the Auxiliary Patrol, which, in association with the convoy system, mastered the U-boat in the last war, had been dispersed. It consisted of

nearly 4,000 small craft, manned by 50,000 men, most of them amateur seamen.

The secret agents of Germany reported, no doubt, that it would be impossible to mobilise such a force rapidly, and that the immediately available resources of the Admiralty for hunting down U-boats and sweeping mines were small.

But the Sea Lords were not asleep.

Squadrons in the outer seas were strengthened so as to deal with the pocket battleships, and a large number of trawlers and drifters were assembled and equipped for their war work.

When war came, cruisers were on duty in distant seas, and amateur sailors, yachtsmen, and others whose hobby was small-boat sailing, came forward in hundreds, while fishermen and longshoremen volunteered their services with hardly a thought of the dangers which would confront them.

Thus the First Lord of the Admiralty was able to speak with confidence of the issue within a few weeks of the opening of hostilities, stating that the number of small craft would soon be trebled.

## Germany's blockade broken

**O**WING to the vigilance of the Navy's cruisers and destroyers, the ubiquitous activities of the small auxiliary vessels, and the unceasing patrol of the Coastal Command of the R.A.F., the German blockade, after a short period of modest success, was broken.

The convoy system, introduced at once in accordance with plans prepared and perfected months in advance, and the defensive armament of merchant ships contributed to this result.

Control stations for all ships in home waters were created by the laying of minefields, the situation and extent of which were announced to the world.

What happened subsequently is well known. The *Graf Spee*, in spite of her 11in. guns, her armoured belt and her high speed, was defeated by three light cruisers.

As to the U-boats and mines, after a short run of success they were mastered to such an extent that while in September 150,113 tons of British shipping was destroyed by enemy action—gun, torpedo and mine—in October the losses fell to 86,740 tons, and in November they were only 74,710 tons.

In one month of the last war U-boats sank more than half a million tons.

## Enemy swept off the seas

**W**E may suffer heavy losses in the future, but our supplies are coming in to our ports much as usual. The rationing scheme is not due to shortage of stores of food, but to the necessity of conserving our foreign credits to pay for war material and the need to release as much shipping as possible for the carriage of essential supplies for the fighting Forces, our own, our Dominions', and our Allies'.

British seamen, by their resourcefulness, courage and endurance, are enabling us to live at a higher standard of comfort than any other people in Europe in spite of the enemy's blockade, besides supporting the B.E.F. in France, the strength of which is increasing week by week as reinforcements from this country, as well as from the Empire, are safely shepherded across the Channel.

In the meantime a total of 230,000 tons of German shipping has been captured or scuttled, and the enemy is unable in safety

Sent to Ambassador Kennedy  
to have delivered to Colonel The  
Honorable Arthur Murray.

March 5, 1940.

Dear Joe:-

Will you be good enough to have someone deliver this letter to Colonel The Honorable Arthur Murray or Mrs. Murray for the President?

I hope you had a good trip back and that you are feeling much better.

My best to you and the Moores,

Affectionately,

Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy,  
American Embassy,  
London,  
England.

(Enclosure)

3

March 4, 1940.

Dear Arthur:-

It is grand to get your letter of February eighth. I heartily concur in all you say -- and remember that I, too, went to school - a village school - in Germany and, indeed, spent almost every Summer there until I was fourteen years old.

In those early nineties I gained the distinct impression that education and outlook under the old Kaiser and under Frederick was quickly and almost suddenly changed when Wilhelm, II, came to the throne. When I was eleven in 1893, I think it was, my class was started on the study of "Heimatkunde" -- geography lessons about the village, then about how to get to neighboring towns and what one would see, and, finally, on how to get all over the Province of Hesse-Darmstadt. The following year we were taught all about roads and what we would see on the way to the French border. I did not take it the third year but I understand the class was "conducted" to France -- all the roads leading into Paris.

The talk among us children became stronger each year toward an objective -- the inevitable war with France and the building up of the Reich into the greatest world power. Even then we were taught to have no respect for Englishmen and we were taught that Americans were mere barbarians, most of whom were millionaires.

It is mighty difficult for us over here to realize the real difficulties which the black-out entails on all members of the community --- and I think that you, knowing this country, will understand when I tell you, as I told King George in 1918, that it is extremely difficult for the average American to appreciate what living day and night in the actual theatre of war means.

Furthermore, there has been so little of the dramatic during the past six months that probably a majority of Americans have been, to a certain extent, lulled into a feeling that the relative land inactivity will continue.

I do think, however, that this land activity is helping the outcome for you and the French and that even if intense attacks on the part of Germans start this Spring, the German army and the German people must have suffered in morale and striking power to some extent.

I am happy, of course, that your Government and the French are on the whole so frank with us. Incidentally, I imagine that I am getting better information from the world as a whole (except Russia) than anybody else. Public opinion here is in good shape in spite of the extreme isolationists, and I do not think that you people have to worry about it as far as we can now tell.

Give my love to Faith and tell her I hope that in her work she has been given a thoroughly becoming uniform and that when

I see her next I expect her to put it on for me. I rather think, however, that her task of working in one place must be a bit more trying than your opportunity to travel "up and down the line".

Do take care of yourself -- both of you -- and remember that when this disagreeable but very necessary business is over we are expecting you both to make Hyde Park your first port of call.

As ever yours,

Colonel The Honorable Arthur Murray,  
New Club Edinburgh,  
Edinburgh,  
Scotland.

TELEPHONE 21284.



February 8th, 1940

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.  
U.S.A.

Dear Franklin,

At the moment of writing, our dear friend John Tweedsmuir is reported to be gravely ill in Montreal. May Divine Providence watch over him, and restore him to health and home. Wherever Britons reside he is held in high regard, as indeed I know him so to be held in your great country. In Scotland naturally, as a "brither Scot", as a great Scot, and as a man of charm and sterling worth, he is held in high esteem and affection by us all. It is only a few days since I wrote him, regretting his coming departure from the high Office in Canada which he has so adorned, and looking forward to seeing him on his arrival home. I know with what sympathy and anxiety you must be watching the course of his illness. When visiting him in Ottawa during the last several years he has always spoken to me in the warmest terms of his friendship with you and of how much it meant to him. And I recall that you once said to me that he was "the best Governor General that Canada had ever had".

We are emerging -- it is to be hoped! -- from a winter of a severity unknown since snow and frost records first came to be jotted down! Even in the comparatively warm areas of the West Highlands, in the vicinity of An Cala, snow drifts from 12 to 20 feet in depth have not been uncommon; and in the town of Peebles -- not far from the erstwhile domain of your ancestor the "Outlaw Murray"! -- 47° of frost were registered one night a couple of weeks ago! Still, we have felt that



if these severe climatic conditions throughout Europe were helping the heroic Finns in their epic struggle against the Kremlin and its slaves then we would gladly suffer them, and much more. And not only from a sentimental point of view. Finland, it may truly be said, as well as being an outpost of civilisation against barbarism is a first line of defence of Western Europe against the Russo-German combination. A Scandinavia dominated by the Nazi-Red Alliance would be a first-class calamity. Therefore the Allies are going to help the Finns all they can, within the limitations imposed by the present European political and military realities, not as a diversion of the war, but as an adjunct to it. We shall do all we are able to help save Finland from Russian conquest as part of the larger and superlatively essential task of defeating Russia's senior partner in crime, Germany.

Generally speaking, of the state of the Allied war against Germany there is nothing that I could tell you which you do not already know. As to public opinion here, it may be, at this stage, "inactive", but it is none the less "determined". The revelations of the vile atrocities committed by the Germans in Poland and elsewhere, and the callous murder of defenceless members of fishing-vessel and Lightship crews by German airmen, has finally brought home to the "man-in-the-street" the evil and horrible character of the thing that he is fighting; and any man in any Government in Britain, from the Prime Minister downwards, who attempted to "toy" with terms of a "patched-up-peace" nature would be swept from Office -- as indeed he ought to be. The Nazi Regierung knows well what the Allies are fighting for. They know our terms, and they will never get any others, however long they may contrive to drag out the war. We have



nothing to yield, and we are afraid of no sacrifice so long as victory for our aims be achieved. Those of us who, in the last war, "passed through the furnace" of bloody and horrible battles and, by God's mercy, are alive to-day know full well that those of this generation, to whom a like task has fallen, are equally determined, as were we, to bring about the defeat of the German armed forces. And if it was considered that their defeat was a necessity in 1918 for the ordered progress of civilisation, then how much more is it a necessity to-day -- and how much more thoroughly must it be carried out. In Britain and France the vast bulk of the population is iron-willed that this war must, at whatever cost, be in reality a war to end German militarism. Any other end would be a futile catastrophe. We are engaged on a Crusade to save not only ourselves and coming generations but civilisation from a cult of brutal tyranny which would destroy it and all the dignity of human life.

I must confess to having little patience with those who seek to draw a clear distinction between the German Government and the German people -- particularly a German people which comprises vast numbers of the younger generation who have been brought up under, and know no other than the teachings of Nazi paganism. It was my fortune -- I do not say "good" or "bad" -- to be at school for several years in Germany, where I learned to think in German, and I have known Germany, not un-intimately, ever since. Whilst some of us, from 1933 onwards, were endeavouring to unmask for the British public the real Hitler, these very people -- who now affirm that the rulers and governed in Germany are widely separated in thought and feeling -- people, some of them, with great names and in high places, were garb-ing Hitler for the public gaze in a mantle of integrity,



well-meaning and greatness. Heavy is their responsibility for the final catastrophe. And what is the record of the German people? It stands out for all to see.

In 1870 the German people were behind Bismarck in his deviously conceived and grossly unwarranted attack on France.

In 1914 the German people enthusiastically supported their Government in its violation of Belgian neutrality and in its attempt to obtain the hegemony of Europe on land and sea.

In 1938, and in 1939 the German people showed no perturbation at Hitler's brutal rape first of Austria then of Czecho-Slovakia, and, had Britain and France condoned the attack on and conquest of Poland, the German people would assuredly have applauded Hitler for "bringing off" yet another victory -- at not too great a cost -- and for adding further territory and plunder to the Greater Reich.

This is the record of the German people for the past three score years and ten, and, by the British and the French peoples, this record -- with its tragic and sorrowful accompaniment of human sacrifice, persecution, torture, misery and hopeless despair -- is not, and will not be forgotten. The menace to European peace and security has been, and still is anchored in the faith of the German people in the Frederician tradition and in the Bismarck policy of the "big stick", and we should do well not to believe either that that faith is now non-existent, or that defeat will cause it to disappear overnight.

Faith is in London working hard in Lady Reading's Organisation, the "Women's Voluntary Service & Civil



Defence League", a body which is doing valiant work on the "home front". I am "on the move" between London, York, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness and elsewhere on the "business front", and being "on the move" throughout the winter in "black-out" conditions makes one yearn longingly for the advent of summer with its short and comparatively light nights! If this war is not a war to end "black-outs" then many of us will feel that it will not have been worth fighting it!! Just as, in a similar sense, an old lady who -- on being told that probably after all London would not be bombed -- exclaimed: "What, not bombed -- and after all this expense we've been put to!"

We who have to move about in "black-outs" may curse them but we may spare a thought for the poor fellow who has to make some of the "black-out" regulations understandable to everyone! Here is an example -- which will appeal to you as a lawyer -- of what the "interpreter" sometimes has to cope with!--Clause 52 (4) of the Lighting (Restrictions) Order, 1940, which is intended to help the interpretation of previous clauses:-

"Without prejudice, in the case of premises, a vehicle, or a vessel, to the liability of the occupier of the premises, the person in charge of the vehicle or the master of the vessel, any provision of this Order rendering unlawful the display of any light, or requiring any light to be displayed or any other thing to be done or not to be done, shall be construed as including a specific provision that no person shall cause or permit that light to be displayed or not to be displayed, or, as the case may be, that thing not to be done or to be done."

What a mouthful! But "telle est la guerre"!

Yesterday I was inspecting the Forth Railway Bridge,



which you have often crossed. With my Engineers I walked out by the side of the track to the main centre cantilever -- the trains thundering past us, a 3 ft. clearance between us and them; the river shimmering 300 feet below us. Up and down the Forth lay craft -- as the enemy well know! -- once unguarded from the air except by aeroplane, now protected by the Balloon Barrage glistening several thousand feet up in the sun-lit sky. A magnificent sight -- and our "fighter" squadrons that have taken on enemy bombers approaching the spot have done magnificent work. One Squadron in particular -- the "Edinburgh Squadron" -- a Territorial (volunteer) squadron in peace-time; composed of Edinburgh and surrounding district business men, clerks, lawyers, farmers, etc.; who used to assemble and do all their training at week-ends; has covered itself, since the war broke out, with fighting glory, and has been responsible for the majority of the German bombers brought to earth or sea during the raids on the Forth estuary. One "farmer" pilot drove a bombing plane to earth on the outskirts of his own farm!

As we walked back across the Forth Bridge to terra firma we looked for pennies beside the track! It is not at all uncommon for passengers in trains crossing the Bridge to throw pennies out of the windows for luck! It must be admitted that the passengers are mostly English who do this extravagant thing! We Scots may spend our pennies, but there are not many of us who throw them away, even for luck! However, we found no pennies, which was not surprising -- in time of war!

With every good wish,

Yours as ever,

*We are both keeping very  
fit and well. A. H.*

*Arthur Murray*



Feb. 8, 1940

My dear "Missie",

Enclosed letter for the  
President, if you please.

We have had a terribly  
severe winter, but up-to-date it  
has helped the poor Finns in their  
heroic defence, and we pray that  
final success may be theirs.

Hoping that all goes well with  
you, and with every good wish

Yours very sincerely  
Arthur Murray

# TURKEY'S PART IN CHAMPIONING THE INTEGRITY OF THE BALKANS

## Two Fronts Open to the Threat of Aggression

By **ARTHUR MERTON**, *Daily Telegraph Special Correspondent in the Near East*

**T**HE Balkan Entente has undoubtedly been a factor for peace between its members. It has definitely dissipated all animosities and all causes of disagreement which previously existed between Yugoslavia, Rumania, Greece and Turkey.

No longer does the word "Salonica" arouse national passions at Belgrade, or "Byzantium" create excitement in Athens, nor does there exist in Turkey any irredentist feeling regarding her lost provinces in Europe.

The new methods of waging war bring dangers to the "exceptions" and render necessary some provision for concerted action at the first attack, whether from within or outside the Balkans. Failing it the Entente States risk seeing themselves treated in similar fashion to their Baltic friends. That action, predetermined, would be more satisfactory than the present situation is recognised, but it is extremely doubtful whether all the Balkan States would feel themselves free for the time being to agree to any such change in their present relationship.

The situation, I find, is a constant topic of conversation at Ankara. Uncertainty whether Germany and Russia are acting in concert, in spite of appearances at times of independent action; whether Italy would seize a German move into Rumania, and how the Allies propose to assist Rumania under their guarantee, adds to the complexity of the outlook and causes a good deal of anxiety.

### IN THE CAUCASUS

Opinion as I have sounded it seems unanimous that it is not in Germany's interest to invade, or encourage Russia to invade, the Balkans, since she would then lose the food, petrol and other supplies she now obtains. It is anticipated that, as in the last war, the moment Germany or Russia sets foot on Rumanian soil the oil wells will be destroyed. At least a year's work would be necessary before production could be resumed. Furthermore, every Balkan State would start mobilising, thus reducing the labour available for the fields, with a consequent restriction of cereal crops. But, as a prominent Turk said to me, we now live in a world whence logic seems to have been banished and one can make no deductions based on normal reasoning.

Despite the defence works now being erected on the Russian banks of the Black Sea, a Russian offensive in the Caucasus or Central Asia is regarded by many authorities as out of the question. Russia would have great difficulty in carrying on a campaign so far from her bases as Afghanistan or Iran, even if in either country the revolution broke out which Russian and German agents are so actively trying to promote, and even if the Finnish campaign permitted it.

An incursion by Russia into Central Asia would, it is admitted, mean Turkey's abandonment of the neutrality which her traditional policy of friendship with Moscow has dictated.

### IS IT GERMAN BLUFF?

A Russian move into Iran is a menace to Turkey; it may be only indirect, but it is a menace Turkey cannot afford to ignore. It may be recalled that one of the Russo-Turkish wars was due to Russia's invasion of Iran.

Were the Straits then opened to the Allied Fleets, Russia, whose Black Sea fleet is negligible, knows well that that means the loss of Batumi by bombardment from the sea as well as attack by land by the Turks, who would, in addition, harass the Russian lines

of communication. The Turks are prepared for any Russian move towards the East. But, as recently foreshadowed, what they most anticipate is a concentration within the Russian frontier as a diversion while action is proceeding in the Balkans.

There has, however, been so much talk about German or Russian or even Germano-Russian action in the Balkans with a possible Russian offensive in the Caucasus, and the rumours of German troop movements have been so persistent, that feeling is growing that all this may well be a part of the "war of nerves" which Germany has been waging since September, 1938.

If, it is said, Germany really intended to invade the Balkans she would surely not put the Allies on the qui vive so obviously as this. The opinion is that this persistent chatter of

Greece the return of Dedeagatch, with access to the Aegean Sea. Her claim is far from strong in this case, since she never possessed the area for long and there is practically no Bulgarian population.

For some time Turkey has been concentrating on a rapprochement between Rumania and Bulgaria. She can plead with Rumania from her own bitter experience that it is wiser to give way peacefully than under war pressure. Turkey remembers that she refused to cede Crete to Greece and then, as a result of the Balkan War, lost not only Crete but also a large slice of her European territory.

It has been suggested that if Rumania would cede the lesser Dobrudja, Bulgaria might be persuaded to come into line with the other Balkan States for the mutual protection of their common interests. Efforts continue in



Turkey, in relation to Russia and the Balkan States.

what Germany and Russia may do in South-Eastern Europe may be inspired with the idea of inveigling the Allies into sending heavy reinforcements there when all the time the Nazis' spring objective may be Holland, Denmark, Belgium, or Switzerland. It is remarked that London and Paris seem to share this view since, according to the latest declarations, a large force is being held in England in anticipation of a German push to the sea.

### TO MEET ALL DANGERS

Meanwhile Turkey is concerting measures to meet all eventualities. She is keeping a careful watch on the Caucasus frontier and has made great efforts in the Thrace sector. Allied preparations in Egypt, Syria and Palestine arouse much interest and there is much satisfaction at the large force that is being assembled.

A bloc between the Entente States and Bulgaria and Hungary would, of course, be the ideal protection against Nazi or Soviet aggression. Bulgarian territorial demands, however, are the main obstacle. Bulgaria demands the return of the Dobrudja, which Rumania received under the Neully Treaty and declines to cede because she would then have to admit Russia's claim to Bessarabia and Hungary's to Transylvania. To allow these claims would leave her relatively where she was in 1914. Bulgaria also demands from

this direction, and Italy and Yugoslavia, each in her own sphere, are collaborating to bring about the vitally necessary closing of the ranks between the Balkan and the Danubian States.

### TURKEY AND ITALY

The recent visit of Bay Numan Menemencioğlu, the Turkish Secretary-General of Foreign Affairs, to Sofia seems to have had good results, and the exchange of telegrams between President Ismet Inönü and King Boris seems to reveal good understanding.

In her peace efforts Turkey has been glad to see herself seconded by Italy. Turco-Italian relations appear much improved. Whether the suspicions, engendered by Mussolini's boasted intention to re-create the Roman Empire and his subsequent occupation of Albania, have been entirely forgotten is doubtful. But Italy's talks with Hungary, her own statements regarding her attitude towards any Soviet move into the Balkans, and her recent friendly gestures incline Ankara to regard Rome as a factor for peace in the Balkans.

Turkey's great hope is that, following the Belgrade conference, the conversations which will continue between Ankara, Rome and the Balkan and Danubian capitals may lead to wider appreciation of the common danger of the common interest to stand together, with the backing of Britain and France, against the invader, whoever he may be.

April 17, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR

ARTHUR AND FAITH

In view of Faith's African trip and her present residence in the general neighborhood of the Hebrides Islands, I think you will be amused by this full page article in "LIFE" in the March 25th issue. Please note the assertion "By no means a regular item of diet, human flesh is eaten in the Hebrides in the belief that from it the eater will inherit the fighting qualities of the victim".

I always had a suspicion that the Murrays were cannibals -- both on Arthur's side and mine.

Two weeks later "LIFE", in its letters to the Editor, carried the enclosed.

Mr. Joseph Fink thinks there are no cannibals in the Hebrides and the Editor insists "There actually has been cannibalism in Scotland."

I am so intrigued that I will visit An Cala at the first opportunity -- and insist on searching the cellar.

F. D. R.

(Enclosures)

3

April 17, 1940.

Dear Faith:-

It is grand to get your letter written on that saintly day, April first, and I think of you as up to your elbows in wool! During the old war I used to have nightmares of being smothered to death by huge piles of woolen socks and woolen sweaters, and it is tragic to think that said nightmares will probably start again. I am glad that you unravel the garments which turn out to be fitting only to a giraffe or a hippopotamus. When I went abroad on a destroyer in July, 1918, my wooly socks were lovely but I could not get them into my shoes, and my sweater was so big that my Aide and I both wore it at the same time!

You do not tell me what your rank is or what your uniform looks like. I take it from your description of your inspection work that you are an Inspector General and I should much like to have a photograph of you in your uniform.

It is grand that the spirit continues so wonderful and I hear the same thing of people in France. Our planes are beginning to go over in larger numbers and, as a Navy man, I am, of course, thrilled at the news of the past week of the operations around the Norwegian Coast.

We think much of you both and we are counting on you and Arthur at Hyde Park just as soon as peace comes. You will probably find me sitting there doing a little writing and praying that my successor will carry on the general policies of this Administration.

Give Arthur my love and tell him not to work too hard. He owes it to everybody to keep fit.

I will send you a snapshot of the new Library and of the cottage, with its new shrubs, when I go up in May.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Arthur Murray,  
Carrington House,  
Hertford Street, W.I.,  
London,  
England.



WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES  
for CIVIL DEFENCE

41, TOTHILL STREET  
WESTMINSTER  
S.W.1

Arthur has  
asked me  
to thank you  
very much for  
your letter  
much  
much

April Fools' Day

Our dear Mr. President (Cousin Franklin)

Today seems an odd  
day to write to you - and lots NOT somehow  
seem to fit in with the saying "Betwixt the  
day, betwixt the deed" - but as I have started  
I will go on for a while all - all Fools' Day  
is a sort of a Feast - and I shall look  
upon this as my treat - and I am taking  
up time in order to indulge in my treat.  
I wish I had some news for you - but  
there is NOTHING of a domestic or political  
or international nature that I can tell you -  
of the two latter subjects you know more than  
a babe as your countrymen would say -

and I can tell you nothing - beyond the fact that  
at the moment, in this building we are all  
blessing you. yesterday 1500 lbs of wool -  
the most lovely wool I have seen since the  
war began, has descended upon us from  
America. Wool as you know is as scarce  
as gold at the moment in this country -  
and of very poor quality - although it has  
improved in quality lately - and it is <sup>one of</sup> my  
jobs to sort out the wool. Keep a check  
of it - arrange where it is to be  
distributed. We send it round the  
slums - suburbs - surrounding districts  
of London, to knitting parties composed  
of all the women we can collect who  
cannot afford to buy wool, but who can  
knit, - and give their time for this purpose.  
We even have blind parties <sup>of women</sup> who sit  
for hours, - unravel some of the  
deformed garments which are made.  
They like to feel they are doing their bit also  
- a good useful bit - it is too -



# WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES for CIVIL DEFENCE

41, TOTHILL STREET  
WESTMINSTER  
S.W.1

Whitehall 7383

I, <sup>also</sup> have to run round - all dolled up in a uniform - with two subordinates (doesn't that sound important) to visit the parties - inspect the work - answer all their questions - drink strong cups of tea - talk to them on Salvage - bones - wastepaper - - keep them up to date in the patterns - Sometimes I do not get back until 7 at night. I also visit canteens - inspect dish cloths, <sup>so you see that</sup> <sup>life is</sup> <sup>all</sup> <sup>most</sup> <sup>is</sup> thinking! It is tiring work - I am feeling very much like a few days leave - but I shall save it up & take it in June - when the garden will be out. We shall only open a corner of An Cala this year & picnic there in August with the gardeners & his wife to cook - I would like the pictures

Daisy Suckley has sent me of your "wee hoose".  
It looks quite perfect - I wonder if we shall  
ever come & see you there - living in Peace  
& Serenity - You are going through your  
Crucifixion now - but you have us live for  
ever - and that is what I always say  
to myself when I meet some nitwit of an American  
- I happen to overhear his gibberings -  
I never enter into an argument with him -  
but I usually leave him looking rather  
surprised. There are many names  
here who believe in you - in your  
policy, and you know that.  
I feel it is almost impertinent to write  
to you like this - but we do love you  
so & I cannot bear to think that  
these calumnies - injustices should  
ever in any way hurt you - but then  
again you are too big for that ...  
so I must NOT worry. It will be such



# WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES for CIVIL DEFENCE

Whitehall 7383

41, TOTHILL STREET  
WESTMINSTER  
S.W.1

3/ fun when we can come & see you again -  
and I feel that we shall ~~come~~ <sup>see you again</sup> and see  
This war cannot be a long one - I am NOT  
one of the 3 to 5 years believers - but I may  
be quite wrong - that civil man is  
almost through, and he will probably be  
quite through by the autumn - in health  
I mean - Russia doesn't want to have any  
more war - blockades - how can ~~it~~ it  
be a long war? that is the feeling  
over here among a very big section -  
The spirit continues to be wonderful - &  
the masses - so called proletariat, are  
the keenest of all to go on and finish it -  
to have no half baked - patched up -

Temporary peace.

Arthur is well + working rather hard, as  
he has to do other men's jobs now who have  
gone - but work is a marvellous thing.  
We spend weekends in the country & it  
helps a lot.

We so often think of you - and Hyde  
Park - your adorable mother. I saw her  
last week the other day - she works in  
a depot for the Navy which I was visiting -  
she is a sort of cousin isn't she? a  
never one that me I am afraid? but still  
she is so nice that I do NOT begrudge it her.

I must go now - my transport has  
arrived - I am due in Selwynston! in  
half an hour to talk about saving bones -  
cures etc for the meantime - never  
forget that you are so often in our thoughts -  
and I have my picture of you looking like  
a shaggy bear - (just the day before you had  
a hair cut it must have been) but such a

Lonely picture + one of my treasures -  
Think of me sometimes  
I am affectionately yours



THURSDAY APRIL 11 1940

## BOMBING OF CIVILIANS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—The hope may be expressed that well-intentioned efforts to prevent civilians from being subjected to aerial bombardment is not to be permitted to operate to the military disadvantage of the Allies. Who is, and who is not, a civilian in a modern, total war? It is clear that the word, in this sense, has largely lost its ordinary meaning. What is, and what is not, a military objective? And in what respect—from the practical point of view—does bombardment by gun-fire differ from bombardment by aerial bomb?

In the last War, in France and in Flanders, practically every town and village on either side of the line within artillery range was badly damaged or completely "blotted out" by the opposing guns. During the process neither the civilians in them, nor those of us serving at the front, nor the Governments raised the cry that, contrary to the rules of war, a massacre of civilians was being carried out. Nor was this cry raised when Paris, in 1918, was bombarded by the world's greatest cannons, the Big Berthas, which dropped 367 shells on the city.

Presumably it is proposed that artillery should play the same role in this war as in the last, and that enemy towns, villages, munition works, vital points and communications within range should—if thought advisable for military reasons—be bombarded by artillery (whether or not they are known to contain civilians). Is it suggested that—because civilians might be killed—such bombardment should not alternatively be carried out from the air not only upon these particular objectives within, but upon those out of, artillery range? If the answer to this question be, "No, that is not suggested," then well and good. But, if there be any hesitation in answering it, then are we not dangerously near the acceptance of a proposition which is not only illogical but which may seriously, and without justification, hamper our war effort? The munition and communication centres of western and north-western Germany are inhabited by many civilians engaged side by side with men in uniform on vital war work for the enemy. Equally so, Germany's naval harbours and docks. The guns would not spare them if within range; why should the aeroplanes? I suggest, Sir, that in this matter of bombardment from the air we should be wise not to lose our sense of proportion. Assuredly the enemy will not lose his.

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR MURRAY.

Carrington House, Hertford Street, W.1.

Carrington House,  
Hertford Street,  
London, W. 1.

Mayfair 0495.

Since this letter of mine appeared in "The Times" of April 11th, the Germans have ruthlessly, without the slightest regard for the civilian population, bombed any town, village or other spot in Norway, the possession of which by the Allies would, in the Ger-view, assist the Allied campaign.

*Arthur Murray*

*April 24.*



WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1940

### SEA POWER AND THE AEROPLANE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—The Rotterdam Correspondent of *The Times* revealed to-day the significance of the German adventure in Scandinavia. The enemy entered on this gamble in the belief that by the use of air power at short range he could neutralize locally the superior sea power of the forces under the command of Admiral Sir Charles Forbes. The Germans claim to have sunk, as your Naval Correspondent has pointed out, four battleships, two battle cruisers, seven cruisers, one aircraft carrier, 10 destroyers, eight submarines, and seven transports, whereas the losses have amounted to only four destroyers and one submarine.

These gross misrepresentations are intended to mislead neutral opinion for sufficient time (for the truth will out eventually) to enable the enemy to reap the benefit from his bluff. In particular, it is hoped to convince Italy, interested in the circumscribed areas of the Mediterranean, that the bombing aeroplane, supported by a relatively small fleet, can gain command of those waters. We may be assured from what has already happened in Norwegian waters and on land that superior sea power, with the aid of the enterprising Fleet Air Arm and the daring pilots of the R.A.F., will dispel such illusions.

I suggest that except as the extension of the power of active navies and armies, the aeroplane is merely an instrument of terror and destruction and cannot achieve decisive results in adequately defended countries. History will repeat itself in our experience. Trafalgar was won in 1805 and Waterloo not until 1815. "Amid all the pomp and circumstance of the war which for 10 years desolated the Continent, amid all the tramping to and fro over Europe of the French armies and their auxiliary legions, there went on that noiseless pressure upon the vitals of France, that compulsion whose silence, when once noted, becomes to the observer the most striking and most awful mark of the working of sea power." Those words were written by Admiral Mahan, the American naval historian. They will be proved true in our experience since our supreme Navy, as events are showing, has gained in range of vision and effectiveness of action by the advent of the aeroplane.

Yours, &c.,

ARCHIBALD HURD,  
1, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.2, April 19.

Carrington House,  
Hertford Street,  
London, W. 1.

Mayfair 0495.

The main interest of this letter lies in the fact that the writer of it, Sir Archibald Hurd, occupies a pre-eminent position in the domain of Naval and Military historians. Sir Archibald is an Asso. Member of the Institution of Naval Architects; was Editor of "Naval & Military Record", 1896-99; on Editorial Staff of "Daily Telegraph", 1900-28; Official Historian, Historical Section of Committee of Imperial Defence, 1917-28; author of "The British Fleet in the Great War", and "The Merchant Navy" (3 vols.)

*Arthur Murray*

April 24th, 1940

[PSF: Murray]

Carrington House,  
Hertford Street,  
London, W. 1.

Mayfair 0495.

26 April

1940

My dear Miss,

For the President

- by your kindness.

" I think the  
Raeder " cartoon will

amuse you all!

Yours very sincerely

Arthur Murray

ZEC



**Admiral Raeder Reviews His Fleet!**

April 17, 1940

April 25th, 1940

3



BOARD ROOM,  
LONDON & NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY,  
MARYLEBONE STATION,  
N.W.1.

Dear Franklin,

In my "army" days of long ago I was always taught that it was a strategical error to make a flank march across your enemy's front if that front be unbroken. Across the unbroken Allied front, land sea and air, stretching from Switzerland to the Arctic Circle, Hitler made a flank march. It is difficult to believe that the German Naval, Military and Air Staffs, if left to decide for themselves, would have made a strategical mistake of this nature. It would therefore seem that Hitler is, in the meantime, really and effectively "in charge", and, if that be so, it is clearly to the military advantage of the Allies, for he may be expected -- ignorant, incompetent and swollen-headed as he is -- to make further strategical blunders.

His invasion of Denmark and Norway had as its objects the setting up of air bases nearer to the Scottish coast than he previously possessed, the control of the Swedish iron ore, and the seizure of Danish food and gold. But the factor of prestige must also have played a large part. Since the close of the Polish Campaign, Hitler had handed out no successes -- only a "winter of discontent" -- to the German

people, and the Spring brought with it the necessity for some feat of arms and new conquest which would brighten their spirits and stiffen their resistance to hardships.

Despite military surprise, and moral and material sabotage of a nature quite unexampled in any previous war, gallant little Norway stood up to the bestial attack upon her freedom, and thus rendered for Hitler what might have been a limited military operation one of considerable extent. It is no great effort so far as her army resources are concerned, but that is not so as regards her Air Force, while for her Navy the enterprise has been disastrous. The Allies know well that they must face great risks, and that setbacks may, and probably will occur. But the vital importance of Norway was instantly recognised, and, in whatever manner the campaign may develop, speed, boldness and skilful strategy -- despite certain unskilled criticisms to the contrary -- have been the keynotes on the part of the Allies to its initial stages. Whether or not Hitler, in the near future, makes a move elsewhere -- either against Sweden, the Low Countries, or in the Balkans (and few military experts opine that he can launch offensives at Sweden and in the Balkans simultaneously) -- Germany has, since April 9th, done us, and everyone of her neighbours within reach of her treacherous tentacles, a great service. She has revealed, in clear cut fashion, the whole technique of the Verschleierung, or deceit, which is one of her principal war weapons, and which has now been immortalized under the name of its latest apostle, QUISLING, of evil and traitorous fame.

With every good wish, as ever yours,

*Arthur Murray*

April 30, 1940

Dear Arthur:

Yours of April fifth came to me a few days after I had written to Faith -- and in the meantime, the situation has disturbed me even more greatly as I know it has you. Over here people for the first time are showing a greater concern for the general outlook. Frankly, I wish things could be speeded up a bit on your side -- because the only way to meet the product of an almost perfect machine is to build up an equally perfect machine.

Thank Halifax for his message. I know that we talk the same language and I hope much that we can meet some day.

I have just had a week of comparative quiet at Warm Springs but I do not dare to be far away from Washington.

My love to Faith and tell her I still hope for her photograph in her uniform. Before you know it she will be an Inspector General and be able to give orders to a mere Colonel.

As ever yours,

Colonel The Honorable Arthur Murray,  
Carrington House,  
Hertford Street,  
London, W. 1  
England.

fdr/tmb

TELEPHONE 21284.



April 8th, 1940

My dear "Missie",

Enclosed, by your kindness, to the President.

Thank you very much for your kind trouble in the matter of the President's photograph for Mr Nasmith, the American Consul in Edinburgh. It was good of the President to sign it, and Mr Nasmith is quite over-joyed at having the autographed photo, and treasures it most highly.

Hoping you keep well in these troublous times, and with sincere good wishes, and deep regret that your projected visit to us remains unpaid, though we look forward to welcoming you when Hitlerism is crushed,

yours very sincerely,  
ly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur Murray".

Miss Marguerite LeHand  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Carrington House  
Hertford Street  
London, W. 1

~~AN CALA  
ISLE OF SEIL,  
BALVICAR 37. ARGYLL.~~

April 5th, 1940

Dear Franklin,

Thank you so much for your letter of March 4. The story of your boyhood experiences in Germany is intensely interesting, and is not dissimilar to that upon which I myself look back. Your recollection that in Germany at that time all Americans were thought to be millionaires(!) brings back to my mind one of my German schoolmasters about 1889 who disliked and bullied me, a Scottish boy, because the Scots, he said, had once been allied with the French! It mattered nothing to him -- even if he knew -- that the alliance was as far back as the sixteenth century, and that its chief aim was to secure the safety and independence of Scotland against the predatory attacks of England under the sovereignty of the Tudors. Enough for this bully that the Scots should have been allies and friends of the French whom he hated! The "twist of mind" here depicted is a characteristic of the German race intensified a hundredfold -- as you are well aware -- since the separate States have been completely swallowed up in the Reich. And the "twist" to-day for the whole of the younger, and not inconsiderable portions of the older generations in Germany is deeply rooted in the soil of the hideously evil thing that has spread its tentacles across the race in the name of Hitlerism. Some folks who talk glibly of the necessity after this war for recreating on autonomous bases (subject to a Federal Union) the territories of the old German kingdoms, would do well to ponder this outstanding fact.

But whatever the problems to be settled after this stupendous contest is over, it has first to be won. The brutality of the Nazi tyranny, in its every aspect, is sinking deeper and deeper into the minds of the British people. The happenings of seven months of war has proved to them -- if they did not fully realise it before -- that Hitlerism denotes the denial of every Christian thought, sentiment, act and ideal, and that it must be exterminated root and branch. They feel, therefore

-- and the feeling is growing stronger and stronger -- that, in the face of the callous and cynical disregard by Germany of the rules of international law, the Allied Governments should not, for any indefinite period, allow themselves, by a strict interpretation of the laws which the Germans have consistently violated, to be placed at a grave military disadvantage. This struggle represents the supreme conflict in the history of mankind between "right" and "might" -- might in its horriest form. Were "right" to disappear in the convulsion, all law in the old world, except the law of the barbarian and the jungle, would be submerged in a black abyss of long years of slavery and frightfulness. Realising all this, the average citizen in this country, as in the French Republic, has reached in his mind the firm and unalterable decision that a law which operates in only one direction is not entitled to respect, so long as, in his case, disrespect of it involves no violence or inhumane action.

We are singularly fortunate at this most momentous crisis in the world's history in having as principal leaders of the British Commonwealth of Nations two men of such sterling character, worth, judgment, clear-thinking and decision as Chamberlain and Halifax. I told Halifax a few days ago that I was shortly writing to you, and he asked me to give you a personal message from himself. I will put the message in his own words:

"When you write to the President", he said, "tell him that both the Prime Minister and I liked Sumner Welles very much indeed when he was over here, and tried to be perfectly frank with him. It is an immense reassurance to us to know that, while we all recognise the position of the United States and what must be the immense difficulties of the President, he and we have exactly the same values".

Edinburgh, April 8th.

I was unable to finish this letter before leaving London for business in Edinburgh, and in the

interval the Allies have laid minefields at three points in Norwegian Territorial waters, an action which has evoked the lively approval of a public opinion which -- as I suggested earlier in this letter -- was becoming very impatient at the spectacle of Germany using neutral waters to supply herself with the iron ore which is so vital to her prosecution of her war of conquest, while the Allies, out of scrupulous regard for territorial rights, refrained from interference.

And, in the same interval, Hitler -- without a shadow of excuse -- has invaded Denmark and Norway; his crowning, though it may not be his final, infamy. The issue stands forth more clearly than ever. In Nazi Germany we see the enemy of all mankind, an exponent of ruthless force who must be crushed if life is to be tolerable for peace-seeking, liberty-loving nations.

And when that essential object has been achieved, Faith and I will look forward with great joy to accepting your very pleasurable invitation, and to seeing you once again in your home surroundings in the lovely Hudson valley where we have spent such happy days with you in the past.

With every good wish, and love from  
us both,

As ever yours,

*Arthur Murray*

P.S. Halifax said that he looks forward tremendously to meeting you one day.

*h. h.*

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

*File  
Personal* *Arthur Murray*

AN CALA,  
ISLE OF SEIL,  
BALVICAR 37. ARGYLL.

May 12th, 1940

Dear Franklin,

The hour of mighty conflict has struck. Hitler, the wild beast of Berchtesgaden; leader of the vilest gang of liars, perjurers, murderers and torturers that this planet has ever seen installed in the position of supreme authority in a State; has launched his slaves (withal enthusiastic followers) and engines of war against yet two more innocent, democratic peoples. The battle is joined across countries where, in years past, the standard of freedom has been defended against the same butcher foe as now seeks to seize and destroy it. Five and twenty years ago to-day I was in the fighting lines of a bloody battle raging across the fields of Flanders that have now once more suffered brutal invasion. The thoughts of all of us who went thro' the furnace then are with our successors who now, in their turn, have been called upon to do battle for right and justice amongst nations, and for the preservation of civilisation and free institutions.

The Nazi hierarchy is staking almost all -- if not indeed all -- in a great summer offensive against the Allies. Consumed with a burning hatred against the British, whom he has sworn to destroy; the German war machine at peak production; the Allies each day better able to resist, and to counter-attack; the blockade of Germany becoming tighter and tighter; Hitler brushed on one side any cautious advice to the contrary and embarked on a short-term policy of attack. The extent of his gamble is assuredly known to none better than to the German generals and industrialists. Nevertheless the first waves of his murderous thrust, and the sheer weight of his colossal forces, are likely enough to bear down opposition in the preliminary stages. We must be, and are, ready to face a summer of brutality, agony and ferocity. The days ahead will test to the utmost not only our men, material and plans, but also the calmness and fortitude of the civilian population. To

this test all alike will prove equal, and more than equal. The spirit of the country since hostilities broke out has been wonderful, but even a greater spirit has swept over the nation in the last week. A united people stands behind a new Government -- a Government representing all parties, and all the will and determination of Britain to win through to victory. The fall of Chamberlain from the Premiership was due as much to the feeling in the country that a number of his Ministerial colleagues were lacking in "war" energy and ability as to anything else. Testimony to this may be found in the fact that he still retains a high position in Churchill's Cabinet. Little did I think a year ago that before Winston's name would appear the words "Prime Minister"! Little did anybody think it! But we are glad now that it should be so. The whole nation salutes the Prime Minister who has gone. The whole nation salutes the Prime Minister who has taken his place. The fulfilment of Churchill's lifelong ambition coincides with the unanimous feeling of the country that he has become Britain's man of destiny, and that in him, at this moment of stupendous import, is to be found, more than in any other man, an expression of the nation's unconquerable spirit and of its iron determination that the bell of terrible strife, whose tones reverberate across the plains and hills and dales of Europe, shall sound the knell of the Nazi Reich.

Before the battle broke over Holland and Belgium -- whose gallant resistance has been invaluable to the moving up into Belgium of the British and French forces -- Faith and I had arrived at An Cala for a few days -- for the first time since the war began! We are refreshed by our sea breezes and tramps over our hills, and are returning to our respective "war works" with renewed vigour.

Faith asks me to thank you very much for your letter of April 17. And we have been very much amused by the article in "LIFE" anent cannibalism and the Hebrides! Now we know where the Outlaw Murray, and his descendant the present President of the United States, originally derived their fighting qualities! Not to mention any of the Outlaw's descendants on this side of the Atlantic! The cellar at An Cala will be open for your inspection -- as well as for

other necessary and delectable purposes! -- on your greatly looked-forward-to visit to us at An Cala when the fight for civilisation, Christianity, right, justice, liberty and freedom has been won.

With our love and best wishes,

As ever yours,

*Arthur Murray*

The President

The White House

Washington  
D.C.

U. S. A.

P. S. / May 18th. A "Railway" matter called me from home, and delayed the despatch of this letter. In the interval, the mighty German attack has pushed forward at great speed, over-running Holland and large tracts of Belgium. The "spear-head" Tank Attack, (against armies like those of France and Britain, assisted by strong aerial formations both for attack and defence), is on its trial. It was not really tested in the Polish campaign. Into the furnace of their attack the German High Command will now cast -- by land, air and sea -- all the material, human and physical, at their disposal. The moment is grave, but we suffered retreats and reverses of

grave character in the first year of the last war, and again in March - June, 1918, and yet in good time we "rebounded" and achieved the victory which we sought. Thus, assuredly, and in like manner, will history repeat itself. In the meantime, we are much heartened by the mass of Aeroplanes and material coming, with your encouragement, from the United States; by your courageous words; by your tremendous "Defence Programme; by your attitude towards Mussolini -- whose curiously rapid physical senility appears to make him increasingly the victim of a false fighting lust -- and by the knowledge that it has sometimes happened that an audience has become so enraged by a revolting exhibition that the spectators have left their seats and hurried to the work of rescue and retribution.

*A. H.*

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SATURDAY MAY 11 1940

## HITLER AND THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—Have the tortuosities of the German Führer during the last 12 months in the diplomatic sphere caused him to alter by a jot or tittle the plans of conquest which he has treasured for a number of years? If not—as presumably not—then may it not be suggested that certain schools of thought in Italy might do well to ponder at this moment the speech which he made at Nuremberg on September 12, 1938?

"The Holy Roman Empire," said Hitler in the course of that speech, "begins to breathe again. . . . I had the *insignia* of the old Reich brought to Nuremberg in order to induce not only my own nation but also the whole world to consider that more than 1,000 years before the discovery of a new world a mighty Germanic Reich existed. . . . The German Reich has slumbered for a long time; the German people have now awakened and taken their 1,000-year-old crown to themselves." As a postscript it may be added that in the Holy Roman Empire of Charlemagne—to which Hitler was referring—was incorporated the territory which now comprises France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, most of Germany, a portion of Northern Spain, Bohemia, Dalmatia, Istria, and Northern Italy.

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR MURRAY.

Carrington House, Hertford Street, W.1, May 8.

"THE TIMES", MAY 10th, 1940.

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### THE PATH TO VICTORY

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—A war on which the future of democratic institutions not only in Europe but throughout the world depends is not to be judged by incidents but by the cumulative effects which are obtained by the belligerents. The issue of the struggle of 1914-18 was not decided by the unfortunate Antwerp expedition, the early successes of the German Army, which eventually threatened Paris and occupied the greater part of Belgium, including the ports of Antwerp and Zeebrugge, or by the sinking of three British battleships, 10 cruisers, four gunboats, three destroyers, six submarines, and many smaller men-of-war in the first six months. The aggressor, making his preparations for months, or even years, ahead, always has the advantage of the initiative, as does the criminal, whether murderer or burglar, before the law can intervene and inflict punishment. Germany is imitating the methods of the gangsters, and Americans know how difficult it is to deal with them.

The Napoleonic wars dragged on for over 20 years at a time when every country in Europe could feed itself and was largely independent of world markets. But, though Napoleon made one conquest after another with his vast armies in the 10 years which intervened between the battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo, a French historian has declared that "they were the ships of Nelson which won the battle of Waterloo."

In the war which is now in progress the nine Allies—Great Britain, France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland, Poland, and Norway—have at their disposal vastly superior sea-power and can control and use to the full the seas of the world. Moreover the Allies, as the Italians have always realized, hold the points which dominate all movements by sea, the Straits of Dover as well as the northern exit from the North Sea, Gibraltar, Bab-el-Mandeb, Singapore, and, so far as can be foreseen, nothing can now happen to depreciate the value of Table Bay. The Suez Canal is owned by a Franco-British company and is defended by British, French, and Egyptian forces by land, sea, and air. One-third of the small German Navy has been destroyed and the whole of what remains of her merchant shipping—for 750,000 tons have been sunk—has been swept from the seas. On the other hand, the Allies continue to use the seas of the world for the mobilization of their enormous strength in men, in money, and in materials with a freedom from molestation which was unknown either in the Napoleonic wars, when privateers took a heavy toll, or in the Great War, when U-boats and mines sunk 13,000,000 tons of shipping.

Yours, &c.,

ARCHIBALD HURD. . . . Sir Archibald Hurd,  
1, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.2, May 8.

eminent Naval historian.

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