

EUROPEAN SCENE

War in the Air

The greatest air battle since the war began was reported on November 8, when an official French communiqué stated that nine French planes had successfully attacked and routed 27 German fighters, after destroying 9 of the enemy planes. An official report stated that 10 German planes were brought down in October, compared with 28 in September. German scouting planes had made a flight over the Western Front. A German bomber was brought down over Roubaix and two or three others were forced down. Roubaix, in Northern France, is a big manufacturing town, and was visible from the New Zealand sector of trenches near Messines.

Air Surveys

On November 1 a British official report contained the information that the R.A.F. flights over Germany had been most successful and had revealed secret airdromes. The whole Western Front had been surveyed and photographed. Enemy air bases, the Siegfried Line and road and rail communications had been listed. There has been no confirmation of reported enemy raids over Britain. Four R.A.F. officers and one sergeant have been decorated by the King for gallantry in action.

Western Front

Wintry conditions on the Western Front seem to have called a halt to any great activity, and little news has been forthcoming this week. Heavy enemy artillery fire was reported on Nov. 5, including a howitzer bombardment of Foerbach and Saarguemines.

Earlier in the week French communiqués reported that enemy raids had been repulsed and that the Germans were using shock troops for this raiding. There were no German troops on French soil. The first French trenches were some miles in front of the Maginot Line.

Mr. Chamberlain reported that activity on the Western Front had been confined to local raiding parties and artillery fire. Despite the cold and wet, the British Expeditionary Forces were concentrating on their defences.

Holland Uneasy

Reports from Holland indicate that the Dutch authorities are seriously disturbed. On November 7 Danish newspapers reported that German officers and men had been recalled from leave, air squadrons marshalled and that a big German offensive was being prepared. Paris papers of the same date reported that there was an obvious threat of a German thrust through Holland. Martial law has been proclaimed in some parts of the country. Dutch military authorit-

ies have successfully tested the value of flooded areas as a defence against mechanised units. Tanks sank in the mud.

one ship in 300. Thirteen German merchant ships have been captured as prizes by the Allied navies, and eight others have been scuttled to avoid capture. During the first eight weeks of the war 500,000 tons of German contraband have been intercepted by the Allies.

ALLIED LEADERS (2) Viscount Gort



"TIGER" GORT, the British soldiers call the man who has command of the British Army in the field. He is Viscount Gort, V.C., C.B., D.S.O., M.V.O., M.C., Peacetime Chief of the British Imperial

General Staff, and the youngest man who has ever held that post—the highest in the army. He is only 53 and comes of a long line of distinguished British soldiers.

Viscount Gort's personal bravery won him the Victoria Cross during the last war when he was a junior officer with the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, and led his men across the Canal du Nord under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire. Seriously wounded, he got his men down a sunken road and then advanced over open country to get the assistance of a tank which he himself led into action. Wounded the second time, he made his men lift him on to a stretcher where he could direct operations, but he soon clambered off that to lead a further attack against the enemy.

During the 1914-18 campaign he was nine times mentioned in despatches and received two bars to his D.S.O. "It is impossible to speak too highly of this officer's initiative," ran the cold official reports.

In 1927, while he was Chief of Staff to Sir John Duncan at Shanghai, Viscount Gort helped to rescue a party of nuns who had been kidnapped by Chinese bandits. He was educated at Harrow and Sandhurst, entered the army in 1905, married in 1911, and has two children, a son and a daughter.

Belgium Disturbed

Belgium is also disturbed, and on November 7 King Leopold of Belgium paid a surprise visit to Queen Wilhelmina of Holland to discuss the situation. German workmen were reported to be strengthening an extension of the Siegfried Line opposite Belgium and Luxembourg.

Submarines

Anti-submarine activities have been continued, though no great results have been officially reported. The bodies of five German sailors, wearing submarine escape apparatus, were found on the English coast, strengthening the belief that some of the U-boats have been disabled in various combats. The British ship, Egba, escaped from a U-boat attack when 240 miles east of Madiera.

Fewer Shipping Losses

Fewer Allied ships have been lost this week. An official communiqué stated that 2,500 Allied merchant ships had been guarded under the convoy system. There had been a loss of only

Finland and Russia

Nothing new has been reported to clarify the situation between Finland and Russia. Talks are still proceeding, after several delays. The Prime Minister of Finland, Professor Cajander, stated on November 6 that Finland was prepared to defend herself in all circumstances. Russian claims on Finland have been considerably reduced, and there are hopes of a peaceful settlement.

City of Flint

At the time of going to press the American merchant steamer, City of Flint, had been released by Norway. The German prize crew had been interned, and the ship was free to proceed where she wished. The Norwegian Government had rejected Germany's request that the crew should be released. International law was being invoked to clarify the situation.

American Neutrality

The United States Neutrality Bill was signed on November 4. The House of Representatives approved by 243 votes to 172. It was stated that 700 war planes were waiting to be shipped to England and France.

The British Minister of Supply, Dr. Burgin, stated in a broadcast to the German people from London that with America's aid Britain and France would soon be producing double Germany's output of airplanes.

War Items

The British, Australian and New Zealand air mission has begun formal talks in Ottawa.

Details of the British air defences have been shown to representatives of the Dominions and Indian Governments who are at present attending a conference in London.

American newspapers report, without confirmation, the presence of the German pocket battleship, Admiral Scheer, in the Pacific Ocean.

Belgrade reported on November 4 that Croát reservists had revolted and that 50 civilians had been killed.

Twelve Polish divisions are expected to be ready in France by the spring.

Australia Will Be There

Australia's Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, stated that the estimated expenditure for defence would reach £59,500,000 this year. He also said that the Australian Expeditionary Force would be sent overseas unless circumstances rendered such a course undesirable.

THE NEW ZEALAND FRONT

● Nov. 8: His Excellency, the Governor-General, opened the Centennial Exhibition.

● Nov. 8: It was reported from London that, should Britain's requirements warrant such action, men and machinery from New Zealand's Public Works would be transferred to primary production. This statement was an outcome of the conversation of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. P. Fraser, with British officials in London.

● Nov. 7: His Excellency, the Governor-General, made a broadcast appeal to support the National Patriotic Fund.

● Nov. 4: The New Zealand Meat Producers' Board urged the early killing of

stock so that there would be no delays in shipping frozen meat. Otherwise, with a shortage of shipping, a serious position might arise.

● Nov. 4: The Ngahauranga Road and the Pimmerton-Paekakariki highway were officially opened by the Minister of Public Works, the Hon. R. Semple.

● Nov. 3: The committee of inquiry examining the diet of soldiers in camps reported that the diet was on sound lines. Recommendations are to go before the Medical Research Council.

● Nov. 3: Enemy aliens were ordered to obtain written permits to be absent from their places of abode for longer than 24 hours.