

HISTORY AS IT HAPPENS

In this section weekly will appear a day by day record of the events of history in the making. As some time elapses in the publication of "The Listener" this diary is one week retrospective.

Wednesday, January 1

Thousands of telegrams had been received by President Roosevelt since his speech, 99 per cent. being favourable. Some isolationist sentiment was expressed by Senator Wheeler and other Congressmen.

The German and Italian newspapers virulently attacked Mr. Roosevelt, saying that he had practically declared war on the Axis.

The Japanese Prime Minister, Prince Konoye, reiterated Japan's loyalty to the Axis and determination to proceed vigorously with the Greater East Asia programme.

Thursday, January 2

Italians were reported to be trying to establish a defence line from Valona to Elbasan.

The British and United States Governments were considering a plan for U.S. merchant vessels to take over British routes to release British ships for urgent service in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Marshal Graziani was reported to be planning defences for Tobruk, and building fortifications.

Reports continued to be received from the people rescued from the raiders as to how their ships came to be sunk. It was learned that the Turakina fought for 2½ hours and that the Rangitane was sunk by shell-fire and time-bomb after being stopped by searchlight at 4 a.m.

Reports continued to be published of a breakdown in negotiations between Vichy and Berlin.

Eire appealed to Britain for help in solving petrol difficulties.

General Smuts in a broadcast from South Africa said: "A year with a black beginning ends on a cheerier note. Hitler's position has definitely deteriorated, and Italy is in mortal difficulties. Germany will probably seek a decision by invasion this year."

Friday, January 3

A Cairo communique said that the Italian garrison at Bardia showed no sign of activity and was allowing General Wavell to continue preparations without interference.

Cardiff suffered an intense and prolonged bombing.

Twenty thousand incendiary bombs were dropped on Bremen in attacks lasting over three nights and great fires were caused.

Bombs were dropped on several towns in Eire and the Irish Government protested to Berlin.

The British meat ration was reduced to 1/6 per head.

A detailed analysis of British and enemy losses in air warfare during 1940 showed that 2,993 German aeroplanes

were shot down over Britain at the cost of 847 British fighters. Italy lost 416 machines, costing 75 R.A.F. planes.

Saturday and Sunday January 4 and 5

At dawn on Saturday Australian troops, supported by tanks, made a direct assault on the Bardia area, after intensive preparatory bombing by the R.A.F. and the Navy. By the evening the troops with great dash, penetrated the defences to a depth of two miles on a 9-mile front and suffered very slight casualties. Over 8000 prisoners were taken.

There were reports of daring raids into German-occupied France by parties of fifty British soldiers riding motor cycles armed with machine guns. They were landed from trawlers and penetrated far inland, terrorising Germans and bolstering up French morale.

Survivors among the crews and passengers taken captive by the raider stated the leakage of information about shipping movements helped the raiders.

Harry L. Hopkins, formerly Secretary for Commerce, was appointed by President Roosevelt as his personal representative in Britain until a new ambassador is appointed.

Monday, January 6

The surrender of Bardia was announced. Over 25,000 prisoners were taken, including a Corps Commander and four senior generals. A vast amount of war material was secured. All correspondents on the Western Desert extolled in the highest terms the resource and courage of the Australians. Military strategists commented on the loss of prestige suffered by Mussolini.

British mechanised forces set out for Tobruk.

A warm welcome was given in Sydney to victims rescued from the raider.

The Australian Minister of the Navy, Mr. Hughes, announced that he was seeking New Zealand's co-operation in a drive against "fifth column" activity as there have been suggestions that the leakage in information had come from New Zealand.

Tuesday, January 7

Advanced British units reached Tobruk and it was estimated that Marshal Graziani had lost a third of his army and half his equipment. The Australian casualties numbered about 600.

President Roosevelt at the opening of Congress announced the determination of the United States to make sure of victory for Britain by supplying her with millions of dollars worth of arms irrespective of whether or not they could be paid for at once. The U.S. would not be deterred by threats from the dictators. He stated the four essential human requirements to be freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

QUEER JOBS

Ballot List Revealed Strange Occupations

OVER 500 different occupations were referred to in the Gazette listing the names of men called up in the Second Territorial Ballot, and a brief look at the more unusual occupations shows the amazing complexity of modern life.

Among the Wellington names alone these unusual jobs were named: hosiery topper, sand blaster, carpet weaver, radiotrician, cooper, oil blender, tiler, steel furniture maker, paper ruler, steel rigger, small-goods man, battery waxer, and clicker. There were no fewer than 12 shorthand-typists.

It is interesting to notice the new industries that have come into existence since the last war. Radio, for example, is the occupation of nearly 50 Wellington men called in this ballot, 14 radio technicians connected with the Government services, 6 give their occupation as that of radio engineer, 4 programme and announcing staff, 1 copywriter, 6 radio servicemen, 7 radio assemblers, and 2 radio salesmen.

The hosiery industry, too, is a newcomer. There are 15 hosiery machine operators, not counting 2 hosiery pressers, 3 hosiery toppers, 1 hosiery machine legger operator, and 4 hosiery machine mechanics.

Other mechanics of specialist type who will join the new Territorials are: oxide operator, dictaphone mechanic, envelope machine adjuster, vulcanizer, spring-smith, knife setter, cycle mechanic, iron machinist, 2 cash register mechanics, 2 felt makers, a pumice worker, steel melter, file maker, jig maker, brush maker, milling machine worker, several process workers, pianoforte mechanic, 3 boxmakers, a die-setter, sound engineer, light engineer, heating engineer, lift installer, lens grinder, a milking machine expert, and a scientific instrument maker. So the new Army will not lack men for technical jobs.

Many Clergymen

Professional men rub shoulders with labourers. There seem to be a very large number of clergymen of all denominations called up, several dentists, doctors and lawyers, and accountants of many types, such as cost accountants. The meteorological service claims 5 men, 7 were analytical chemists, 2 biochemists, a physicist, 3 bacteriologists, 2 stock-brokers, 3 industrial chemists, an air pilot and a Judge's Associate. There are also 3 Y.M.C.A. secretaries, 3 physical culture instructors, a zookeeper, a statistician, a bath attendant, 2 artists, 2 violinists, a lecturer in music, and a lighthouse keeper.

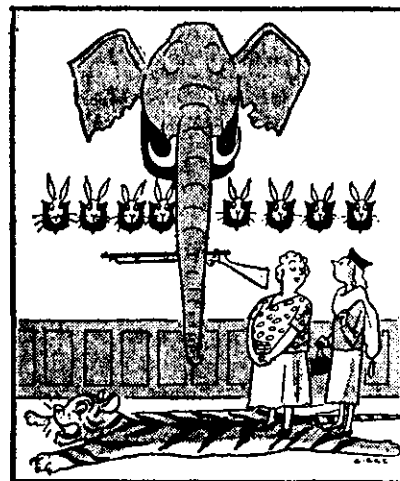
The Government services will be hard hit when these men go into camp, judging by the large number of Wellington men who are Government clerks. There is also an inspector of explosives on the list, a Hansard reporter, an "examiner," a sleeping car attendant, a traffic inspector, no fewer than 4 land and income tax assessors; and, to even that

up, a taxation consultant, 3 cable joiners, several librarians and mental hospital nurses, a chief siteing draughtsman of the housing department, quite a number of policemen, a "searcher," a compiler of a cattle catalogue, and a deer stalker and a chamois shooter.

What is the layman to make of the following occupations? Spotter, soap boiler, porcelain enameller, battery operator, meat preserver, foreman propagator, silk screen processor, lithographic plate grainer, which is apparently different from the man who is a lithographic multigraph transferer, a laster, a striker, salt hand, guillotinish, match maker, paint shader, oven and doughman, advertiser, carpet planner, core marker, assistant pedologist, tailer-out, slag worker, blowing machinist, acid chemical mixer, filer improver, tiler improver, lead burner, and the man who says he is a metal-refiner and lead oxide expert and another who says he is a V.S. stitcher?

Better Known Callings

Better known callings are: journalists, who are named in plenty, a theatre manager, 2 or 3 jockeys, 2 monumental masons, waiters, stewards, ships' crews, a hat blocker, a remarkably large number of barmen, a funeral director, a solitary office-boy, a slaughterman, a showman, indentor, coalman, footman, piston-maker, advertising specialist, projectionist, 2 toymakers, 4 tobacco workers, 6 typewriter mechanics, 4 bottlers,



"Bystander," London

"Fifteen years in India and a fortnight in the Home Guard, dear"

3 glass bevellers, 2 stair builders, 2 golf club makers, 3 wicker workers, 2 mattress workers, 4 chair makers, 2 tea blenders, 6 French polishers, and 5 fur cutters.

Some of the men state their occupations in rather vague or lofty terms such as student of science, organiser, preventive officer, and discharger and loader of ships.