

WAR DIARY

L.C.C. TEACHERS

Service In The "Blitz"

"H, young ladies, go to shelter: they're right overhead now" . . . and a trio of girls with colanders on their heads in place of helmets, with mixing basins and spoons in their hands, run out from the improvised kitchen where they are working to the sandbagged entrance of a school shelter.

These are L.C.C. teachers, part of whose premises they have turned into an emergency feeding centre, and who, in rota, combine teaching with feeding the neighbourhood round them — not actually the homeless, but those whose gas and electricity services have been so reduced that home cooking is no longer practicable. And the colander helmets are there so that, should the gunfire last long, they can make a dash to take the joint out of the oven or the pudding off the fire.

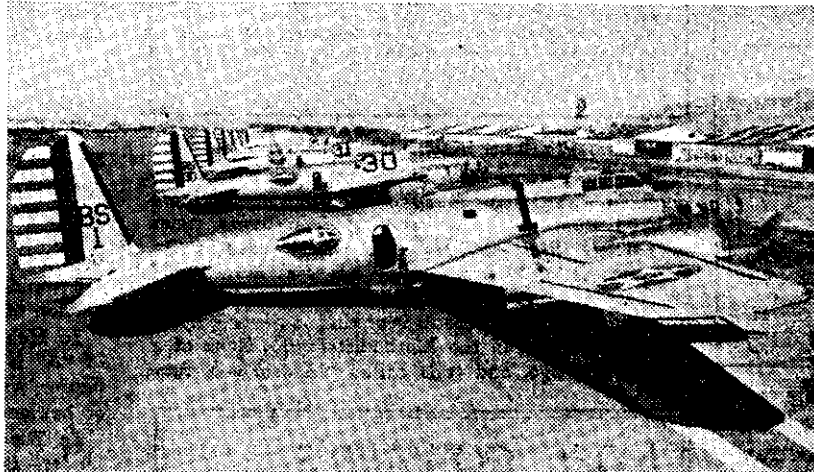
Let gay little Miss Morgan, who comes from Aberystwyth, tell the story of her work, for she is now O.C. cooking at one such centre in London, as well as being the domestic science teacher to the girls there. "We've got a field kitchen set up, and in theory this is only a centre where food is cooked and carried away. But in fact there are lots of men here whose wives and kiddies have been sent away and you can't ask them to take a basin into an empty home, so we keep a few tables for them. Here's the menu: roast beef, greens and potatoes for sixpence, pudding twopence, tea a penny, sandwiches twopence. Who are those men with towels as aprons? Those are the masters carving and serving. And that friendly man looking after the children is our Assistant Education Officer."

Nothing can exceed the devotion of these London teachers to their neighbourhoods. In one East End school they were bombed out, carried on in the kitchens (which survived) of a bombed hospital, drawing the food (kept hot over basins of water) on the hospital trolleys to the improvised serving counters.

AIR MINISTRY CLAIMS "TOO TIMID"

"From now onwards my only complaint against these Air Ministry communiqués will be that they are too timid in their claims about the successes of the R.A.F.," said Mr. Vernon Bartlett, M.P., broadcasting on his visits to R.A.F. squadrons in various parts of the country.

One pilot said he had shot away a large piece of the enemy's radiator. That almost inevitably meant that the machine would catch fire long before it could get to the Continent. The claim was not included as a "kill," but went into the second class of "probably destroyed." Another pilot saw a piece five feet long fall from a German machine. Again it was included in the second class.



AMERICAN "FLYING FORTRESSES" FOR THE R.A.F.: Twenty 17-ton U.S. Army Air Corps "Flying Fortresses," photographed at March Field, Riverside, California, ready to take off for Langley Field, Virginia, from whence they will be ready for despatch to the R.A.F.

LIBYA VICTORIES Early Prophecies Raise A Smile

THE glorious victories of the Imperial Army of the Nile, to use Mr. Churchill's noble phrase, have, in altering the whole strategic situation of the Mediterranean, turned all the bombastic prophecies of the Axis Powers and their friends into so many children's fables.

Serious essays on what the Italian Armies would do in Egypt now look merely funny. Pseudo-strategists have to eat their words. Tables contrasting the numbers and armaments of the two Armies in Egypt and Libya have to be revised. Whole fields of calculations and mountains of words are now so much amusing reading.

In the most recent copy of the well-known American magazine "Current History and Forum," to reach New Zealand, that for November 26 last, there is a long article on "The Battle for Suez," by Charles J. Rolo, an American correspondent for the two English language newspapers in Cairo, a man who has spent the greater part of his life in Egypt.

Here is a sample:

"To the dictator of modern Rome, the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal are, as Il Duce himself has said, 'Life Itself.' Once in possession of Egypt and the Canal, Mussolini could strike to the south and east to achieve his imperial ambitions. With Alexandria in Egypt converted into an Italian air and naval base Britain would be powerless in the Eastern Mediterranean. Italy could send troops and war materials through the Canal to Ethiopia for a large scale offensive against Britain's East African possessions. At the same time, having laid her hands on the large cotton supplies of the Nile delta, she could turn to the East—towards the rich oil resources of Saudi Arabia, towards Persia, towards the wealth of India. What is equally important, she would for ever have broken the stranglehold of British sea power. She would no longer be a prisoner in her much-talked-of Mare Nostrum. How much this means to Il Duce, a few figures reveal. Italy has no tin, rubber, copper, petroleum. She has to import most of her coal and wool. In peacetime 86 per cent. of her trade was sea-

NAMES FOR U.S.A. DESTROYERS

Names of towns and villages common to the United Kingdom and the United States of America have been selected for 44 of the destroyers transferred from the United States Navy, states the Admiralty.

Two ships are to bear the names of towns in Newfoundland as well as in Britain and the United States — St. Albans and St. Marys.

Six ships will bear the names of towns in the West Indies as well as in the United Kingdom and the United States — Bath, Georgetown, Brighton, Hamilton, Charlestown and Roxborough.

Twenty-eight ships are to be named after towns and villages common to the United Kingdom and the United States. Their names will be as follows:—

Belmont	Mansfield
Beverley	Montgomery
Bradford	Newark
Broadwater	Newmarket
Broadway	Newport
Burnham	Ramsey
Burwell	Reading
Buxton	Richmond
Lancaster	Ripley
Leamington	Rockingham
Leeds	Salisbury
Lewes	Sherwood
Lincoln	Stanley
Ludlow	Wells

borne through the Mediterranean. Ninety per cent. of her oil supplies, and all of her commerce with her East African Empire, used to pass through the Suez Canal.

"The burning question to-day is: can Italy drive the British out of Egypt and wrest from them the control of Suez? The basic strategic factors in the situation are simple, the imponderables complex. The British can muster in Egypt a well trained army of approximately 150,000 men, many of them tough colonial units from Australia and New Zealand. In addition, Egypt has a compact little force of 50,000 to 80,000 men, which—reports from Cairo have indicated—would be thrown into action if the country were vitally menaced by an Italian advance. These British and Egyptian troops are backed by approximately 1,000 light tanks and armoured cars and 500 'planes. The Italians, who have been driving eastward into Egypt from Libya, enjoy a superiority in men, 'planes, and other war material of at least 2 to 1—to which must be added the fact that the major part of Italy's home air force could be thrown into action against Egypt if required.

"If Britain is driven lock, stock, and barrel out of the Mediterranean, if North Africa, the Arab World, and the overland route to India fall under Axis control, the British Empire will have suffered a mortal blow. But if the Axis Drang Nach Suez is routed, if the warships, and legions of the Axis suffer the same fate as those of Napoleon, then Britain will have taken a decisive step toward ultimate victory in the Battle of Europe."

INDEX

Aunt Daisy	45-46
BBC Replies	8
Conversation Piece	11
Dan Foley Returns	44
DX Notes	41
Editorial	4
Extracts from Talks	5
Free France & Oceania	14
I Explored—Alone	12
In the Programmes	24-25
Letters	4
Listenings	13
London Calling	16

Londoners' Letters	7
Mischa Levitski	17
New Caledonia, Stern, etc. ..	9
Programmes:	
National & Commercial ..	18-40
Overseas	41
Puzzles	47
Tauranga's History	10
Things to Come	6
Through the Records	15
War Diary	2-3
Women	42-44
Your Garden	44