NEWS OF THE WAR.

Statement issued by the Department of Native Affairs for the information of the Natives of the Union of South Africa.

Statement No. 69 (for week ending 7th June, 1941).

TO THE YOUNG MAN WHO GOES FORTH.

The Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, was fortunate in his advisers. He said: "From my grandfather I learned good morals and the government of my temper. From the reputation and remembrance of my father, modesty and a manly character. From my mother, piety and beneficence, and abstinence not only from evil deeds, but even from evil thoughts, and further, simplicity in my way of living".

We pass these words on to every young man who may be going forth into life.

MORE FORCES ARE NEEDED.

In the course of a broadcast speech on the night of the 3rd June, General Smuts said that "heavier fighting was expected as the forces go forward to meet the formidable German".

"A year ago to-day", said General Smuts, "South Africa sent forth her sons to the North in order to defend the freedom and liberties which are our heritage as a united nation. The people of South Africa took part in one great war which menaced their future security, in common with that of other countries. Now again war has come, and mainly from the same quarter. Germany and her satellites are once more attempting to destroy the freedom-loving countries of Europe, and threatening to dominate other countries, including our own".

"To meet this danger, South Africans have taken up arms, have gone North and have taken a foremost part in East Africa and Abyssinia. Mussolini's Commander-in-Chief with his principal armies have had to surrender, and all the principal towns and centres have been occupied. Another illustrious chapter has thus been written in our history and the Italian menace has been eliminated."

"We now go forward to meet the more formidable German forces in North Africa. Heavier fighting is expected. The country is therefore in need of a constant inflow of volunteers to fill whatever gaps may have been caused in our ranks. For these volunteers I now make an appeal, and I know that it will not be in vain. South Africans are always ready to follow the call of their country."

"South Africa calls on every man and woman to do his and her duty."

THE WITHDRAWAL FROM CRETE.

The grim and bitter battle which has raged in Crete for 12 days and which has resulted in the fircest fighting of the war, is virtually at an end. It has been decided to withdraw British troops from the island.

Although the losses inflicted on the enemy troops and aircraft have been enormous, it became clear that British naval and military forces could not be expected to operate indefinitely in and near Crete without more air support than could be supplied from bases in Africa.

The Germans gave it out that they would conquer the island in two days; they have failed to do it in twelve.

* * * *

Of the many acts of heroism that might be told of the defence of Crete we record one.

A British lance-corporal in command of an anti-aircraft gun kept on "blazing away single-handed" at enemy aircraft. The rest of the gun crew had been either killed or wounded. This man and his gun became a special target for German raiders. He always held his fire till the last moment and then opened fire singing at the top of his voice. On one occasion alone he shot down two dive-bombers from a single flight. On another occasion his clever hiding defined the efforts of 20 German aircraft to find him.

He was last seen against a background of burning trees that had been set alight by a petrol dump which had been blown up.

He belonged to the Royal Marines, a section of the British Army trained to fight either on land or at sea. His fate is not known, his name may not be known, but of him we quote the saying "their works shall follow them".

* * * *

To this might well be added the fact of how three British tanks and three Australian Bren gun carriers fighting a rear guard action over the mountains of Crete held the advancing Germans at bay while British troops retired to the embarkation beaches. A wounded tank Captain told the story. "Slowly we were forced to retire down the valley", he said, "as the Germans in great numbers carried out flanking movements trying to encircle us. We made use of every bend in the road where we made a fresh stand, halting the enemy and giving our retreating troops as many extra valuable minutes as possible. The enemy advance was thus delayed and our troops reached comparative safety behind the last prepared British line . . . . when we reached the prepared line we destroyed the tanks leaving them to block the road."

* * * *

It is now definitely known that in the enemy operations in Crete a quick capture of the island was to them of supreme importance; the capture has been delayed so that a fresh disposition of British forces has been made possible.

ENEMY AIR LOSSES.

From the beginning of the German air raids on Britain until the 1st January, 1941, over 3,000 German aircraft have been brought down over Great Britain

and round Britain's coasts. This implies the loss to Germany of at least 7,000 trained airmen.

This achievement by the fighter aircraft of the Royal Air Force and the guns of British anti-aircraft batteries ranks as a major victory of the war. The supposed invincibility of the German "Luftwaffe" (air weapon) bombing arm was a principal factor in the Nazi plan for the overrunning of Europe.

That weapon broke in Hitler's hand when, last September, Britain was suddenly attacked by the huge invading legions of his bombers, and British "Hurricanes" and "Spitfires" shot them down to destruction in hundreds each day, broke up their attacks and forced the abandonment of daylight raiding.

Before us is a photograph of a huge mass of twisted metal. This is where the remnants of destroyed enemy aircraft have been gathered so that it can be melted down and welded into weapons, whatever their nature may be, to be used against the enemy. This picture shows one of the several graveyards where German hopes lie buried, the hopes that German air power would terrorise and destroy free Britain.

* * * *

The victorious British pilot who returns to his aerodrome, after intercepting German raiders, makes his report to the Station Intelligence Officer who subjects each claim to have shot down enemy aircraft to a searching examination. The pilot's statements are carefully investigated and checked by reference to others who saw the fight. In the absence of corroboration, no pilot is allowed to count an aircraft as 'certainly destroyed" unless he is prepared to pledge his word of honour that he saw it breakup in the air, crash, or go down enveloped in flames. A raider may be badly damaged or be seen to be on fire, so that its chance of reaching its base is remote, but unless it is seen to fall into the sea or its wreckage is found on land, it is not counted in the official figures.

The figures, when tabulated, are forwarded to command headquarters where they are checked. The final figures are sent to the Air Ministry where they are again carefully checked before they are issued to the public. On September 15th last, 184 German aircraft were brought down. This was the day of Hitler's promised entry into London. These figures were checked by Brigadier-General Strong, the United States Chief of Staff, and were stated by him to be an understatement. Only certainties are included in the British totals.

Over the length and breadth of Britain lie the skeletons of the huge German air armada which has perished in the battle of Britain.

BRITISH VICTORY INEVITABLE.

In a recent speech at Hercules, Dr. Colin Steyn, Minister for Justice, gave three reasons for his confidence in an ultimate victory for the British.

The first reason was that Germany was far behind her time-table. According to German calculations the war should have ended in their favour long, long ago.

The second reason was that nothing that Germany or Italy had been able to do had affected Britain's unquestioned mastery of the sea. "Britain's naval strength was relatively greater to-day than it had been this time last year".

The third reason was that Britain, with the prodigious assistance of the United States, was rapidly overtaking the Axis-powers in the production of tanks, planes and other weapons of war.

"If to supremacy on the sea yo add supremacy in the air," said Dr. Steyn, "you will see how inevitable is Britain's ultimate victory . . . .". "So don't listen to propaganda about how the Germans are winning. They cannot and will not win the war."

To Dr. Steyn's views and beliefs we add our own and in so doing say that it will take something far greater than Hitler and his forces to finally break British resistance to his efforts, and something still greater to break the spirit of Britain in her endeavour to maintain uprightness and justice as between nation and nation.

THE WAR IN NORTHERN AFRICA.

Successful attacks by South African Air Force planes on enemy aircraft in Cyrenaica are reported. South African fighters machine-gunned a number of enemy aircraft on the landing ground at Gambut, destroying three of them.

A raid was made on Benghazi on the night of the 2nd June. Large fires were started on the wharves and among military buildings. The few remaining enemy positions in Abyssinia have also been attacked. This is in the course of operations which have been edscribed as a "mopping up". This is the sweeping of a floor of a house with a wet broom and the removal of such impurities as may still be found to be there, in the same way that the Native people smear the floors of their dwellings with new dropped cow-dung. And so the house is cleaned.

THE ISLAND OF CRETE.

Like other Grecian islands Crete has been surrounded by the mist of mythology out of which emerges its history. We do not propose to attempt to write a history of Crete, but the island figuring so largely as it does at the moment in the European struggle we feel that a brief outline of one of its best known myths may not be quite out of place.

* * * *

When King Minos ruled in the island of Crete King Aegeus ruled at Athens. A quarrel arose between these two kings and they went to war. The Athenians were badly beaten and King Minos imposed upon them the payment of a tribute of seven young girls and seven young men. These were given as food to a terrible monster known as the Minatour, which lived on the Island of Crete. King Minos had made more or less a pet of his ferocious "thing", which had the body of a man and the head of a bull. Minos made an underground dwelling for it, consisting mainly of winding passages at the extreme end of which the Minatour had his lair.

For three years Aegeus paid his tribute of young men and maidens to Minos. Then knowledge of the matter coming to Theseus (son of Aegeus, he said "This year six young men will be chosen as tribute to King Minos, I will be the seventh." King Aegeus pleaded with his son: "You are my heir", he said, "why should you go to certain death?" "It is because I am a prince and your son are the very good reasons for my deciding as I have decided". The young man's mother, Aethra, begged and implored him not to go to the Island of Crete. He made the same answer to his mother as he had made to his father: "It is for the reason that I am a prince and *your* son that I must do this".

A ship took the seven maidens and the seven young men to Crete where they were taken to the palace of King Minos. Theseus, the seventh of the young men, pleaded with the King for the lives of his companions. Ariadne, the King's beautiful daughter, also appealed for mercy. The King was harsh in his answer. He brushed his daughter aside

and instructed his guards to place the fourteen young people in the dungeon that had been prepared for them. Theseus was placed in a place apart, the stone walls of which made escape impossible. He lay down to sleep his last sleep when rousing he heard the soft t ap of footsteps. Raising himself on his elbow he looked up to see the beautiful Ariadne standing before him. She held his father's sword which had been taken from him, and a long skein of silken thread.

" If you are determined to do battle with the Minatour," she said, " here is your father's sword. This silken thread, if you hold it fast, will enable you to find your way back out of this labyrinth, from which once entered, none have found their way. They have fallen a prey to the Minatour who dwells in its innermost recesses ".

Theseus girding on his father's sword and taking the end of the silken thread in his left hand made his way on and on till he came to a wide open space, and there before him stood the Minatour, the " thing " with the body of a man and the head of a bull.

The Minatour gave a roar of rage. Theseus unsheathed his sword. The bull-man dashed at him to make an end of him, but Theseus stepped edftly aside, the Minatour broke off one of his horns on the rocky side of the cavern. By that time Theseus was ready. The Minatour returning to the charge, gashed Theseus in the side with his remaining horn. At the same moment the young man struck hard and swift with his father's sword and the Minatour's head fell from the body. Theseus picked up the head and still grasping the silken thread in his left hand made his way out of the labyrinth from whence no other person had so far escaped alive.

He released his companions, the six young men and the seven maidens. They found a ship and all made their way safely back to Athens.

There is much more to this story but lack of space prevents us from giving it in full.

A THRILLING ESCAPE.

Here is the story of a remarkable escape made by two R.A.F. officers from Crete.

Flight-Lieutenant Honor made an attack on the air-field at Malemi, shooting down two enemy aircraft. He himself was then shot down into the sea. His plane dived forty feet below the water but he managed to struggle to the surface, and after a four-hour swim reached the coast of Crete.

He spent the night in an ice-cold cave. He walked all the next day and spent the night in a disused church.

The next day he found some lentils in the hut of a goat herd. After further wandering he came upon a village where the people gave him goat's milk, cheese and bread. He was told that another British pilot was in the village.

The villagers were undecided as to how they should act. They were afraid they might be shot if they did not give information to the enemy as to the presence among them of the officers.

In the end the villagers decided to allow the airmen to attempt to find their way through the German lines. The officers saw enemy aircraft attacking a nearby aerodrome and hearing another aeroplane approaching thought it was an enemy plane. It proved to be a British " Sunderland ".

They signalled with a pocket torch " R.A.F. here, R.A.F. here ". The chances of the Sundeland pilot seeing the signals were very remote, but he did see them and managed to land and take off the two R.A.F. pilots.

Flight-Lieutenant Honor is now back on duty. He has already shot down nine enemy aircraft and has been given a bar to his Distinguished Flying Cross.

NATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO WAR FUNDS.

Through the Magistrate, Pearston, the sum of £3. 3s. has been received. This is made up by 2s. from Kleinbooi Grootboom, a cleaner in the Magistrate's Office, who says " I am certain that our King will win this war ". Grootboom! £3. 1s. has been collected at a concert held on the farm Cranemere with a message from Geoffrey Mdlalo, the principal teacher: " We, the residents of this small valley of Falafili are the community of a small rivulet. We are sending you herewith our pup to join the pointers, the greyhounds and the bulldogs to chase out the wolf who has flung himself unexpectedly into the midst of the world's nations ".

Through the Native Commissioner, Cala, come the following donations:—S. Mdungane and people of Nyulasa Location, £1; E. Balintulo, 5s; Headman N. Gecelo and people of Mbenge Location, £1. 17s. 3d. These amounts are intended for the Mansion House Fund, London.

The following gifts are for various war funds:—S. Balintulo, £1. 5s; S. Mdyeshana, 1s.; P. Tofile and people of Manzimahle Location, £3. 3s. 4d.; George Kutuka, 2s. 6d.; Oliphant Jongqo, £1.; Headman C. Mboyiya and people of Emnxe Location, £6. 13s.

Through the Magistrate, Port St. Johns, comes the following money:—Headman Mkovu and people, Cagulo, £3. 15s.; Headman Billy Ndabeni and people, Mkanzini Location, £1. 17s.; Headman Mokosinkina and people, Tombo, £4. 10s.; Headman Madalalesusini and people, Manosheni, £7. 2s. 6d.; Headman Kwaza and people, Mantusini, £7. 8s.

Through the Native Commissioner, Lichtenburg, come the following amounts:—J. R. Sesotlo and others, £2. 13s. 7d.; M. Mothupe and 23 others, £1. 1s. 10d; John Modisa and 34 others, 18s. 4d; Joseph Xosa and 15 others, 4s. 6d.; Levy Moipalai and others, 13s. 7d.; Chief A. Moshoetle and people, £2. 10s.; Hosia Maabe and others, £1; Bll homa and 5 others, 10s.

Kennet Lebaka has sent 2s. 6d. and S. A. M. Letele has sent 4s. 6d. as contribution to war funds. These donations come through the Magistrate of Rouxville.

The Native Commissioner, Bergville, sends £15. 7s. as a contribution from Chief Madela Hlongwane and his people of the Amangwane.

From the Native Commissioner, Koppies, £3. 2s. 2d. has been received from the War Fund Committee for gifts and comforts for members of the Native Military Corps.

The Magistrate, Vryheid, sends £20. 0s. 3d. as a contribution to War Funds from Chief Zimbede and his people.

The Revd. Matsea has handed £5. 12s. 6d. to the Magistrate, Ficksburg, as a war contribution. In forwarding this money, the Magistrate says " a further amount has been handed to me but as the Native women intend knitting comforts for their men folk who have joined up I intend using this amount (approx. £2) for the purchase of wool ".

Through the Magistrate, Cofimvaba, 5s. has been received from the Revd. A. E. Gobodo of Ntshingeni towards the Spitfire Fund.

The Native Commissioner, Witbank, sends £1. 14s. 5d. " as contributions to the Native Military Guard received from the Native Labourers employed on the Middelburg Steam Colliery ". Added to this is £1 from Stephanus Radebe for the Governor-General's War Fund.

From the Magistrate, Harding, £8. 9s. has been received made up as follows:—9s. from the Native members of the Magistrate's staff and £8 from Chief Mahelana and his people, the M'Botwe.

From Kuruman £1. 18s. has been received through the Native Commissioner as a contribution from Headman B. Selao and his people of Mecwetsaneng. " This is to be used for the purchase of cigarettes for European soldiers on active service ".

In our Bulletin No. 65 the amount contributed by Chief Mhlupeki and followers of Ingwavuma district was was erroneously published as £24. Actually this generous gift amounts to £74. The mistake was due to an error in typescript.

The Native Commissioner, Melmoth, states that a total amount of £41. 6s. has been paid to the Governor-General's War Fund, Pietermaritzburg, up to date. From the same place comes, in addition to the above, the following money:—Chief Mkombisi Biyela and followers (3rd contribution), £2. 11s.; Mgqibelo Sibiya, 2s. 6d.; Tsheza Zulu, 1s.; Giba Xulu, 1s.; Mgciniseni Zungu, 2s.; Mtshayeli Ntuli, 2s. 6d.; C. Sibiya, 2s. 6d.; M. Kumalo, 1s.; S. Mtembu, 1s.; J. Mhlongo, 2s. 6d.; Maqulwane Biyela, £1.; M. Nene, 7s.; Fish Kanyile, 2s.; K. Mgabhi, 5s.

Through the Native Commissioner, Nqutu, comes the following money: Chief Siboniseleni Mdhlalose (personal contribution), £10; Chief Msutu Ngobese and people, £4.

The Native Commissioner, Qumbu, has forwarded the following gifts:—Headman R. Malgas, M. Malgas, A.

Jacobs, C. Lottering and Coloured people of Upper Kosa Location, £7. 0s. 8d.; Headman A. Bulala personal), £1; Headman R. Mda personal), £1; Headman S. Ndzantsi and people of Sulenkana Location, £1., 10s.; Headman F. Madolo and people of Gqukungqa, £5; S. C. Sejoising and Sejoising family, £5.

Mrs. D. S. Mould of Nylstroom has forwarded 18s. 6d., contributed by four natives of the farm Turffontein. It is made up as follows:— Cornelius L. Makgatholela, 10s., Eliphas Matshaba, 5s.; Piet M. Matjile, 2s., Alphius Matlaila, 1s. 6d. These Natives requested that the money should be given to the Spitfire Fund.

Through the Native Commissioner, of Nylstroom come the following gifts:—Simon Malobo and another, Elandsfontein, 2s.; Philip Mahlabane and 21 other natives, Leeuwdoorns, 17s.; Heskia Thapi and other natives, Johannesburg, 861, 10s.; Stefaans Pholobo and 11 other natives, Doornkop, 8s.; Titus Sinoamandi and Frans Malamboa, £4. 11s.

The Native Commissioner, Pietersburg, has forwarded the sum of £21, being a free of interest loan to the Government, out of the Mojapelo Voluntary Tribal Fund. Chief Matlala and people have contributed to the Governor-General's National War Fund the amount of £14. 18s. 6d.

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OORLOGSNUUS.

Verklaring uitgereik deur die Departement van Naturellesake vir die inligting van die Naturelle van die Unie van Suid-Afrika.

Verklaring No. 69 (vir die week eindigende 7 Junie 1941).

AAN DIE JONG MAN WAT DIE LEWE INGAAN.

Die Romeinse Keiser, Marcus Aurelius Antonius was baie gelukkig, wat sy raadgewens betref. Hy het gesê: ,, Van my grootvader het ek goeie sedes en beheersing van my humeur, geleer. Van die reputasie en gedagtenis van my vader, beskeidenheid en manlike inbors. Van my moeder, vroomheid en liefdadigheid en onthouding, nie alleen van bose dade nie, maar ook van bose gedagtes, dan nog: eenvoudige lewenswyse ''.

Ons gee die woorde aan elke jongman wat die lewe ingaan.

MEER SOLDATE IS NODIG.

In die loop van 'n radio-toespraak wat hy die aand van 3de Junie gelewer het, het Generaal Smuts gesê ,, dat swaarder gevegte verwag word wanneer die troepe die gedugte Duitser teëkom ''.

,, Een jaar gelede '', het Generaal Smuts gesê, ,, het Suid-Afrika sy seuns na die Noorde gestuur om die vryheid en vryhede, wat as verenigde nasie ons erfenis is, te verdedig. Die volk van Suid-Afrika het al aan een groot oorlog deelgeneem wat sy en ander lande se toekomstige veiligheid bedreig het. Nou het oorlog weer gekom en hoofsaaklik uit dieselfde oord. Duitsland en sy trawante probeer weer 'n slag om die vryheidsliewende lande van Europa te vernietig en dreig om ander lande, insluitende ons eie, te oorheers.

,, Om die gevaar af te weer het Suid-Afrikaners die wapens opgeneem, Noorde-toe gegaan en 'n vername rol gespeel in Oos-Afrika en Abessinië. Mussolini se Opperbevelhebber moes met sy hoofleërs oorgee en al die vernaamste dorpe en sentra is beset. Nog 'n luisterryke hoofstuk van ons geskiedenis is geskrywe en die Italiaanse gevaar is uitgeskakel.

,, Ons trek op om die gedugter Duitse magte in Noord-Afrika te beveg. Swaarder stryd is te verwagte. Daarom het die land 'n aanhoudende stroom van vrywilligers nodig om die leemtes aan te vul wat in ons geledere geslaan is. Om hierdie vrywilligers maak ek nou 'n beroep en ek weet dat dit nie verniet sal wees nie. Suid-Afrikaners was altyd nog gereed om te antwoord wanneer hulle land roep.

,, Suid-Afrika vra elke man en vrou om sy en haar plig te doen.''

DIE TERUGTOG UIT KRETA.

Die hewige en bitter stryd wat vir 12 dae in Kreta gewoed het, en wat uitgeloop het op die woesste gevegte van die oorlog is, so-te-sê, op 'n end. Dit is besluit om die Britse troepe te verwyder van die eiland af.

Alhoewel die verliese toegedien aan die vyandelike troepe ontsaglik was, het dit duidelik geword dat die nie verwag kon word dat Britse vloot en militêremagte vir 'n onbepaalde tyd op en by Kreta kon optree sonder meer bystand deur vliegtuie as wat voorsien kon word deur die basisse in Afrika nie.

* * * *

Van die menigte heldedade wat in die verdediging van Kreta verrig is, vertel ons een.

'n Britse onderkorporaal, wat in bevel was van 'n lugafweerkanon, het heeltemal alleenig vyandelike vliegtuie toegetakel. Die res van die kanonbemanning was òf gedood òf gewond. Hierdie man en sy kanon het die besondere skyf van Duitse vliegtuie geword. Hy het altyd gewag tot die laaste oomblik en dan losgebrand terwyl hy uit volle bors sing. Op een geleentheid alleen het hy twee duikbomwerpers van 'n enkele vlug afgeskiet. Op 'n ander geleentheid het hy so slim weggekruip dat 20 Duitse vlieg masjiene hom nie kon vind nie.

Hy was laaste gesien teen 'n agtergrond van brandende bome wat aan die brand gesteek is deur 'n petrolopslagplek wat ontplof het.

Hy was lid van die ,, Royal Marines '', 'n afdeling van die Britse leër opgelei om òf op see òf op land te veg. Ons weet nie wat sy lot is nie, sy naam mag nie bekend wees nie, maar oor hom haal ons die gesegde aan: ,, Hulle werk sal hulle agtervolg ''.

* * * *

Hierby kan net so wel bygevoeg word hoe drie Britse tenks en drie Australiese Brengeweerwaens, terwyl hulle 'n agterhoedegeveg gevoer het oor die berge van Kreta, die oprukkende Duitsers teëgehou het sodat die aftrekkende Britse troepe die verskepingshawes kon haal.

'n Gewonde tenkkaptein het die verhaal vertel: ,, Stadig is ons gedwing om in die vallei terug te val '', het hy gesê, ,, omdat die Duitsers in groot getalle probeer het om ons te omsingel. Ons het van elke draai in die pad nuttige gebruik gemaak waar ons weer posisie ingeneem het, die vyand teenhoudend om ons terugtrekkende troepe soveel ekstra waardevolle minute as moontlik te gee. So is die vyand se opmars vertraag en het ons troepe betreklike veiligheid agter die laaste voorbereide Britse linie bereik . . . . toe ons die voorbereide linie bereik het, het ons die tenks vernietig en hulle agtergelaat om die pad te versper ''.

* * * *

Dis nou definitief bekend dat in die vyandelike operasies in Kreta, 'n vinnige verowering van die eiland vir hulle van die grootste belang was en dat die verowering vertraag was sodat 'n vars opstelling van Britse troepe moontlik gemaak is.

LUGVERLIESE VAN DIE VYAND.

Van die begin van die Duitse lugaanvalle op Brittanje tot 1 Januarie 1941, is meer as 3,000

Duitse vliegtuie bo Groot Brittanje en by sy kuste afgeskiet. Dit beteken 'n verlies van tenminste 7,000 opgeleide vlieëniers vir Duitsland.

Hierdie prestasie van die vegvliegtuie van die Koninklike Lugmag en die kannone van die lugdoelbatterye moet beskou word as die grootste oorwinning in die oorlog. Die kamtige onoorwinbaarheid van die Duitse ,, Luftwaffe '' (lugwapen) se bombarderende arm was gereken as die hooffaktor in die Nazi-plan vir die verowering van Europa.

Hierdie wapen het in Hitler se hand gebreek toe Brittanje verlede September onverwags aangeval is deur 'n reusagtige inval-legioen van sy bomwerpers en Britse ,, Hurricanes '' en ,, Spitfires '' hulle by honderde elke dag vernietig het, hulle aanvalle gestuit het en hulle verplig het om af te sien van dagaanvalle.

Voor ons lê 'n foto van 'n tamaai hoop verwronge metaal. Dis hier waar die oorblyfsels van vyandelike vliegtuie bymekaar gebring is om opgesmelt en in wapens gesmee te word, enige soort wapens wat later weer teen die vyand gebruik gaan word. Die foto toon een van die hele paar kerkhowe waar Duitse hoop begrawe is, die hoop dat Duitse lugkrag vrye Brittanje sal vrees inboesem en vernietig.

* * * *

Die segevierende Britse loods wat terugkom na sy vlieghawe na hy Duitse stropers voorgekeer het, doen verslag aan die Stasiegenie-beampte, wat elke aanspraak dat 'n vyandelike vliegtuig afgeskiet is deeglik ondersoek. Die verklarings van die loods word noukeurig ondersoek en getoets aan die verklarings van ander wat die geveg gesien het. Wanneer daar geen bevestigende getuienis is nie, word geen loods toegelaat om 'n vliegtuig as ,, sekerlik vernietig '' te ag nie, tensy hy bereid is om sy woord van eer te gee dat hy gesien het dat dit in die lug stukkend breek, neerstort of in vlamme af gaan. 'n Stroper kan só swaar beskadig of aan die brand wees dat hy geringe kans het om sy basis te bereik maar tensy dit gesien word dat hy in die see val of sy oorblyfsel op die land gevind word, word dit nie in die amptelike syfers ingereken nie.

Wanneer hierdie syfers getabuleer is, word dit na die hoofkwartiere gestuur waar dit nagegaan word. Hierdie laaste syfers word na die Lugdepartement versend waar dit nog 'n slag, alvorens openbaar gemaak, nagegaan word. Op 15 September verlede jaar, is 185 Duitse vliegtuie afgeskiet. Dit was die dag toe Hitler beloof het om London binne te gaan. Hierdie syfer is nagegaan deur Brigadiergeneraal Strong, die Verenigde State se Stafhoof, wat beweer het dat dit te laag was.

Slegs feite word in die Britse syfertotale opgeneem. Oor die hele lengte en breedte van Brittanje lê die geraamtes van die reuse Duitse Lugarmada wat omgekom het in die slag vir Brittanje.

BRITSE OORWINNING ONVERMYDELIK.

In 'n onlangse toespraak wat Dr. Colin Steyn, Minister van Justisie, in Hercules gehou het, het hy drie redes aangegee vir sy vertroue dat die Britte uiteindelik gaan wen.

Die eerste rede is dat Duitsland ver agter sy tydtafel is. Volgens Duitse berekenings moes die oorlog lankal in hulle guns afgeloop gewees het.

Die tweede rede is dat niks wat Duitsland en Italië verrig het, Brittanje se onbetwyfelde meesterskap oor die see kon beïnvloed nie. ,, Die Sterkte van die vloot van Brittanje is vandag, na verhouding, baie groter as wat dit verlede jaar dié tyd was ''.

Die derde rede is dat Brittanje, met die ontsaglike bystand van die Verenigde State. die Spilmoondhede, wat betref vervaardiging van tenks, vliegmasjiene en ander oorlogwapens, vinnig inhaal.

,, Indien by oppermag oor die see, oppermag in die lug getel word '', het Dr. Steyn gesê ,, dan sal julle insien hoe onvermydelik dat Brittanje se uiteindelike oorwinning is ''. ,, Moenie dus ag slaan op propaganda dat die Duitsers aan die wen is nie. Hulle kan en sal die oorlog nie wen nie ''.

Ons vereenselwig ons met die sienswyse van Dr. Steyn en sê nog daarby dat dit iets baie groter dan Hitler en sy magte sal kos om die teenstand van die Britte te breek, en 'n nog groter iets om die gees van Brittanje te breek in sy pogings om opregtheid en regverdigheid te handhaaf tussen nasie en nasie.

DIE OORLOG IN NOORD-AFRIKA.

Geslaagde aanvalle word gedoen, na ons verneem, deur vliegtuie van die Suid-Afrikaanse lugmag op vyandelike vliegtuie in die Cyrenaica. Suid-Afrikaanse vegtersvliegtuie het 'n aantal vyandelike vliegtuie op die vliegveld van Gambat onder masjiengeweer koeëls gesteek en drie van hulle vernietig.

'n Aanval is gedurende die nag van die 2de Junie op Benghazi gemaak. Groot brande is op die dokke en tussen militêre geboue gestig. Die paar oorblywende vyandelike posisies in Abessinië is ook aangeval. Dis gedoen in die loop van operasies, wat beskryf word as ,, bymekaar vee ''. Dis die vee van 'n huis se vloer met 'n nat besem en die verwydering van die vuilighede wat daar nog mag rondlê, net soos naturelle die vloere van hulle huise met nat beesmis smeer. So word die huis skoongemaak.

DIE EILAND KRETA.

Net soos ander Griekse eilande, was Kreta ook omhul deur 'n waas van mitologie waaruit sy geskiedenis te voorskyn tree. Ons bedoeling is nie om te probeer om die geskiedenis van Kreta te vertel nie, maar aangesien dit nou so 'n vername plek inneem in die Europese stryd, voel ons dat 'n korte beskrywing van een van sy bekendste mites nie onvanpas sal wees nie.

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Toe Koning Minos die eiland Kreta regeer het, het Koning Aegeus Athene regeer. 'n Twis ontstaan toe tussen die twee konings en hulle maak oorlog teen mekaar. Die Atheners word heeltemal verslaan en Koning Minos eis van hulle die betuiging van 'n jaarlikse huldeblyk van sewe jong meisies en sewe jongmanne. Hulle word dan gevoer aan 'n verskriklike monster, bekend as die minatoer, wat op Kreta gebly het. Koning Minos het hierdie woeste ,, ding '', met die liggaam van 'n mens en die kop van 'n bul, min of meer vertroetel. Daarvoor het Koning Minos 'n ondergrondse doolhof gemaak en op die end daarvan was die lêplek van die minatoer.

Vir drie jaar lank het Aegeus sy huldeblyk van jongmanne en jongmeisies betaal. Toe Theseus, seun van Aegeus, van hierdie dinge hoor sê hy: ,, Vanjaar se ses jongmane sal uitgekies word vir die huldeblyk aan Koning Minos en ek sal die sewende wees ''. Koning Aegeus het sy seun gesoebat: ,, Jy is my erfgenaam '', sê hy, ,, waarom sal jy na 'n seker dood gaan? '' ,, Dit is omdat ek 'n prins is en u seun. baie goeie redes waarom ek besluit het soos ek besluit het ''. Die jongman se moeder, Aethra het hom gesmeek om nie na die eiland Kreta te gaan nie. Hy het aan haar dieselfde antwoord gegee as wat hy aan sy vader gegee het: ,, Dis omrede ek 'n prins is en u seun, dat ek dit moet doen ''.

'n Skip het die sewe meisies en sewe jongmanne na die eiland vervoer, waar hulle na die paleis

van Koning Minos geneem is. Theseus, die sewende van die jongmanne, het gepleit vir die lewens van sy maats. Ariadne, die Koning se mooi dogter, het ook vir genade gesmeek. Die Koning se antwoord was meedoënloos. Hy stoot sy dogter opsy en las die wagte om die veertien jongmense in die kerker te gooi wat hy vir hulle reggemaak het. Theseus is in 'n aparte plek geplaas met klipmure wat ontsnapping onmoontlik gemaak het. Hy het net gaan lê om sy laaste slaap te slaap, toe hy gewek word deur sagte voetstappe. Hy lig hom op sy ellenboog, kyk op en sien die mooi Ariadne voor hom staan. In haar hand het sy sy vader se swaard wat van hom weggeneem was en 'n lang draad sygare.

,, As jy vasberade is om met die minatoer te baklei ", sê sy, ,, hier is jou vader se swaard. Hierdie sydraad sal jou, as jy dit vashou, instaat stel om weer uit die doolhof te kom, waaruit niemand, as hy eers daar in is, ooit weer sy pad gevind het nie. Hulle het die prooi geword van die minatoer wat in die allerdiepste skuilhoeke daarvan woon."

Theseus gespe sy vader se swaard aan, vat die garedraad in sy linkerhand en stap aan totdat hy by 'n groot oop ruimte kom en daar staan die minatoer voor hom, ,, die ding " met die liggaam van 'n man en die kop van 'n bul.

Die minatoer brul van boosaardigheid. Theseus trek sy swaard uit sy skede. Die bulmens bestorm hom om hom klaar te maak, maar Theseus spring rats opsy sodat die minatoer een van sy horings teen die rotsagtige muur van die grot afbreek. Teen die tyd was Theseus gereed. Die minatoer loop hom weer storm en skeur Theseus se sy oop met sy een oorblywende horing. Terselfdertyd slaan die jongman vinnig en hard met sy vader se swaard en daar is die minatoer se kop af. Theseus tel die kop op en terwyl hy nog steeds die draad in sy hand hou gaan hy uit die doolhof waaruit niemand totdusver ontkom het nie.

Hy maak sy maats, die sewe meisies en die ses jongmanne los. Hulle vind 'n skip en gaan algar veilig terug na Athene.

Die storie is nog langer maar die gebrek aan tyd verhinder ons om dit volledig te vertel.

'N OPWINDENDE ONTKOMING.

Ons gaan nou die verhaal vertel van 'n merkwaardige ontkoming van twee offisiere van die Koninklike Lugmag uit Kreta.

Vlieg-luitenant Honor het, terwyl hy die vlieghawe van Maleni aangeval het, twee vyandelike vliegtuie afgeskiet. Daarna is hy self in die see afgeskiet. Sy vliegtuig het veertig voet onder die water ingeduik, maar dit het hom geluk om na die oppervlakte te worstel en na 4 uur se swem die kus van Kreta te bereik.

Die nag het hy deur gebring in 'n yskoue grot. Die hele volgende dag het hy gestap en die nag deurgebring in 'n ongebruikte kerk.

Die volgende dag het hy 'n bietjie lensies in die hut van 'n bokwagter gekry. Na nog 'n rukkie se loop het hy by 'n dorpie aangekom waar die inwoners hom bokmelk, kaas en brood gegee het. Daar het hy verneem dat daar nog 'n Britse vlieënier in die dorpie is.

Die dorpsbewoners was in die middel van die wêreld. Hulle was bang dat hulle geskiet sou word as hulle weier om die vyand te vertel dat die twee offisiere by hulle is.

Op die end het die dorpsbewoners die vlieëniers toegelaat om te probeer om deur die Duitse linies te kom. Hulle het gesien hoe vyandelike vliegtuie 'n naby-geleë vliegveld aanval, en toe hulle 'n ander vliegtuig hoor naderkom het hulle gedink dat dit 'n vyandelike vliegtuig was. Dit het geblyk 'n Britse ,, Sunderland " te wees.

Hulle het met 'n flitslig tekens gegee: Britse Lugmag hier, Britse Lugmag hier. Die moontlikheid dat die vlieëniers van die ,, Sunderland " hulle tekens sou sien was maar baie skraal. Tog het hulle dit gesien en daarin geslaag om te land en die twee Britse vlieëniers op te laai.

Vliegluitenant Honor is alweer op diens. Hy het alreeds nege vyandelike vliegtuie afgeskiet en tot sy ,, Distinguished Flying Cross " is nog 'n stafie toegevoeg.

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BYDRAE DEUR NATURELLE TOT OORLOGFONDSE.

Deur die Magistraat, Pearston is die bedrag van £3. 3s. ontvang. Dit is opgemaak deur 2s. van Kleinbooi Grootboom, 'n skoonmaker in die Magistraatskantoor, en hy sê ,, ek is seker dat ons koning die oorlog sal wen ".

Grootboom! £3. 1s. is gekollekteer by 'n konsert gehou op die plaas Cranemere met 'n boodskap van Geoffrey Mdlalo, die hoofonderwyser. ,, Ons, die inwoners van hierdie valleitjie, Falafili, is die gemeenskap van 'n klein stroompie. Ons stuur jou hiermee ons hondjie om aan te sluit by die jaghonde, die windhonde en die bulhonde om die wolf te verja wat onverwags in gespring het tussen die nasies van die aarde."

Deur die Naturellekommissaris, Cala, kom die volgende bydraes: S. Mdungane en volk, Nyulasa lokasie, £1 ; E. Balintulo, 5s.; Hoofman N. Gecelo en volk van Mbenge Lokasie, £1. 17s. 8d. Hierdie bedrae is bedoel vir die ,, Mansion House Fund ", London. Die volgende gifte is vir verskeie oorlogsfondse: S. Balintulo, £1. 5s.; S. Mdyeshana, 1s.; P. Tafile en volk van Manzimahle Lokasie £3. 3s. 4d.; George Kutuka, 2s. 6d.; Olifant Jongqo, £1; Hoofman C. Mboyiya en volk van Emnxe-lokasie, £6. 13s.

Deur die Magistraat, Port St. Johns, kom die volgende geld: Hoofman Mkovu en volk, Cagulo, £3. 15s.; Hoofman Billy Ndabeni en volk, Mkanzini-lokasie, £1. 17s.; Hoofman Mokosinkina en volk, Tombo, £4. 10s.; Hoofman Madalalelusini en volk, Manosheni, £7. 2s. 6d.; Hoofman Kwaza en volk, Mantusini, £7. 8s.

Deur die Naturellekommissaris, Lichtenburg, kom die volgende bydrae: J. R. Sesotlo en andere, £2. 13s. 7d.; M. Mothupe en 23 andere, £1. 1s. 10d. John Modisa en 34 andere, 18s. 4d.; Joseph Xosa en 15 andere, 4s. 6d.; Levy Moipaloi en andere, 13s. 7d.; Kaptein A. Moshoetle en volk, £2. 10s.; Hosia Maabe en andere, £1, Bill Homa en 5 andere, 10s.

Kennet Lebaka het 2s. 6d. gestuur en S. A. M. Letele, 4s. 6d., synde 'n bydrae tot die oorlogfondse. Hierdie donasie kom deur die Magistraat van Rouxville.

Die Naturellekommissaris, Bergville, stuur £15. 7s., synde 'n bydrae van Kaptein Madela Hlongwane en sy volk, van die Amangwane.

Van die Naturellekommissaris, Koppies, is £3. 2s. 2d. ontvang van die Oorlogfondskomitee vir geskenk en geriewe vir lede van die Naturellemilitêrekorps.

Die Magistraat, Vryheid, stuur £2 aan as 'n bydrae tot Oorlogfondse, gegee deur Kaptein Zimbede en sy volk.

Die Eerw. Matsea het £5. 12s. 6d. aan die Magistraat, Ficksburg, as 'n oorlogsbydrae, oorhandig. Die Magistraat, wat die geld aanstuur sê: ,, Nog 'n bedrag is aan my gegee maar daar die Naturellevroue voornemens is om geriewe vir hulle mans wat aangesluit het te brei, is ek van plan om hierdie bedrag (ongeveer £2) te gebruik om wol te koop."

Deur die Magistraat, Cofimvaba, is 5s. ontvang van Eerw. A. E. Gobodo van Ntshingeni ten behoewe van die Spitfirefonds.

Die Naturellekommissaris, Witbank, stuur £1. 14s. 5d., synde bydraes tot die Naturelle-militêrewag, ontvang van die Naturelle-arbeiders werksaam in die ,, Middelburg Steam Colliery ". Behalwe dié, skenk Stephanus Radebe £1 aan die Goewerneur-generaal se Oorlogsfonds.

Van die Magistraat, Harding, is £8. 9s. ontvang wat as volg opgemaak is: 9s. van die Naturellelede van die Magistraatskantoorpersoneel, en £8 van kaptein Mahelane en sy volk; M. 'Potwe.

Vanaf Kuruman is £1. 18s. ontvang deur die Naturellekommissaris, geskenk deur Hoofman Selo en sy volk van Mecwetsaneng. ,, Hierdie geld moet gebruik word vir die aankoop van sigarette vir die blanke soldate op aktiewe diens.

In ons bulletin No. 65 is die bedrag wat bygedra is deur Kaptein Mhlupeki en volgelinge, distrik Ingwavuma, verkeerd aangekondig as £24. Eintlik beloop die milde gif £74. Dit was te wyte aan 'n tikfout.

Die Naturellekommissaris, Melmoth, verklaar dat tot op datum 'n totale bedrag van £41. 6s. inbetaal is in die Goewerneur-generaal se Oorlogsfonds, Pietermaritzburg. Vanaf dieselfde plek kom behalwe die hier bo ge-

noem die volgende geld: Kaptein Mkombisi Biyela en volgelinge (3de bydrae), £2. 11s.; Mgqibelo Sibiya, 2s. 6d.; Tskeza Xulu, 1s.; Giba Xulu, 1s.; Mgciniseni Zungu, 2s.; Mtshayeli Ntuli, 2s. 6d.; C. Sibiya, 2s. 6d.; M. Kumalo, 1s.; S. Mtembu, 1s.; J. Mhlongo, 2s. 6d.; Maqulwane Biyela, £1; M. Nene, 7s.; Fish Kenyile, 2s.; K. Mgabhi, 5s.

Deur die Naturellekommissaris, Nqutu, kom die volgende bedrae: Kaptein Siboneseleni Ndhlalose (persoonlike bydrae), £10. Kaptein Msutu Ngobese en volk, £4.

Die Naturellekommissaris, Qumbu, het die volgende geld aangestuur: Hoofman R. Malgas, M. Malgas, A. Jacobs, C. Lottering en kleurlinge van Bowe Rosa-lokasie, £7. 0s. 8d.; Hoofman A. Bulala (persoonlik), £1; Hoofman R. Mda (persoonlik), £1; Hoofman S. Ndzantsi en volk van Sulenkama-lokasie, £1. 10s.; Hoofman F. Madolo en volk van Gqukungqa, £5; S. C. Sejoising en Sejoising familie, £5.

Mev. D. S. Mould van Nylstroom het 18s. 6d. aangestuur, bygedra deur vier naturelle van die plaas Turffontein. Dis as volg saamgestel: Cornelius, L. Makgatkolela, 10s.; Eliphas Matshaba, 5s.; Piet M. Matjile, 2s.; Alphius Matlaila, 1s. 6d. Hierdie naturelle het gevra dat die geld gegee word aan die Spitfirefonds.

Deur die Naturellekommissaris, Nylstroom, kom die volgende geld: Simon Mcalobo en 'n ander, Elandsfontein, 2s.; Philip Mahlabane en 21 ander naturelle, Leeuwdoorns, 17s.; Heskia Thapi en ander naturelle, Johannesburg, 861, 10s.; Stefaans Pholobo en 11 ander naturelle, Doornkop, 8s.; Titus Sinoamandi en Frans Malamboa, £4. 11s.

Die Naturellekommissaris, Pietersburg, het 'n bedrag van £21, wat uit die Mojapelo Voluntary Tribal Fund geneem as 'n rentevrye lening aan die Regering geskenk. Kaptein Matlala en volk het £14. 18s. 6d. bygedra tot die Goewerneur-generaal se oorlogsfonds.

Gedruk in die Unie van Suid-Afrika deur die Staatsdrukker, Pretoria