

word, and that members of the Party should transfer their allegiance accordingly. Even *Faétrelandet*, which has recently been removed from Clausen's control, does not conceal the internal dissatisfaction. The Germans have taken the same line, and are looking elsewhere for a native Nazi leader, the most probable substitute for the present régime as the head of a puppet Government being now Dr. Christiani.

The three men on trial in the Waffen S.S. recruiting case in Sweden made no secret of their sympathies, but greeted the court with the Nazi salute. This gesture was indulged in with less impunity by the Swedish Nazi Party leader Lindholm, who was recently thrown out of the Stockholm Recreation Park, Skansen, for greeting the national flag with this salute. Several of his followers suffered a similar fate.

THE LOW COUNTRIES.

Recent evidence would seem to indicate that the latest German measures are still meeting with considerable resistance in the Netherlands. Wireless sets are not being duly surrendered; the latest labour call-up is not proceeding satisfactorily; ex-servicemen are seeking to evade internment; in at least five towns patriots have seized and destroyed the local population registers.

The Netherlands Legion has come home on leave in a body. The reasons for this are unknown. But their return may be designed to stimulate a recruiting drive. Certainly the W.A.—from whom the Legion has so far been mainly recruited—are being encouraged to volunteer for active service at the front; though there is reason to believe that many of them have no great desire to go. At the same time male members of the N.S.B. aged under 40 are being urged to join the W.A., which, indeed, they should have done already, had they listened to Mussert. This is yet another proof that the N.S.B. are not in good heart (see *Summary* No. 193). It is also possible that the Legion has been brought home for use against the patriots. The Germans have revealed that they do not consider the Landwacht reliable for that purpose; the Legionaries are less likely to boggle at firing on their fellow countrymen. It is now known, indeed, that Dutch S.S. helped to put down the May disorders.

There is fresh evidence from Belgium about the discontent among the V.N.V., who are irked that no real progress has been made towards the realisation of the Dietsch ideal. Meanwhile De Vlag, the rival body of Flemish traitors, is trying, as usual, to outbid the V.N.V. in pro-Germanism; it has been announced that 700 local leaders of De Vlag have taken an oath of "unconditional loyalty to Hitler and to the Reich he will establish."

In Germany Degrelle solemnly announced that the Walloons were Germanics, in a speech which did him a great deal of harm. None the less he has been at pains to repeat that assertion. It is no more likely to please the Walloons than before; but Degrelle's stock is already so low that it cannot sink much lower. Curiously enough there have also been hints in the Rexist paper that, if Germany is defeated, the Rexists may turn Communist in desperation.

FRANCE.

Though the announcement from Buckingham Palace stated that the visit of His Majesty The King, accompanied by the Secretaries of State for War and Air, to North Africa, beginning on the 12th June, was to the British Forces there, it also made it clear that His Majesty welcomed the opportunity of seeing the United States Forces and the French Army, with "whom his own forces have been so closely associated in the recent memorable victory." His Majesty entertained Generals Giraud, de Gaulle and Catroux at a luncheon, and later was welcomed by General Barré when he visited Tunis on the 18th June. Though regret was expressed in the French North African press that it was not possible for security reasons for His Majesty to make any public appearance, papers welcomed the visit as a gesture made to "the advance post of liberty" and "the springboard of Paris," and members of the Algiers public found occasion for shouting "Vive le Roi!" while later the population of Tunis and the Tunisian battle areas had an opportunity of providing The King himself with an enthusiastic welcome. In France itself the German-directed Paris press and wireless were the first in the field, exploiting the visit as evidence that "the British and Americans consider French North Africa as a conquered country

under their exclusive domination." It was a fitting sequel to Casablanca and to Mr. Churchill's recent further visit. The Germans even asserted that The King had neither seen Generals Giraud and de Gaulle nor inspected "French dissident troops." Laval's *Moniteur* (Clermont-Ferrand), though not repeating these lies, spoke of "a serious impropriety towards France," since the journey had not been "preceded by any invitation from the dissident leaders, although the latter make out that they represent French sovereignty"; while the *Petit Parisien* recalled the offer of "total union" of exactly three years ago, which involved the acceptance by France of "the rôle of a British dominion."

In the meantime most important developments took place not only inside the French Committee of National Liberation but more particularly in its relations, and in the relations of the two generals, with the Allied High Command. As regards the committee itself it now transpires that the creation by the original committee of seven new commissaries on the 7th June in fact involved the increase of the size of the committee to fourteen. A decree was published on the 15th June in Algiers laying it down that the seven new commissaries should be full members of the committee.

But the negotiations between the members of the original committee and the two generals had not in the meantime led to a solution of the question of the command and control of the Fighting French Forces. As it looked as if these discussions might drag on in such a way that security of Allied bases and lines of communication in North Africa might be threatened, His Majesty's Government and the United States Government decided that the time had come when, in fact, the Commander-in-chief should tell Generals Giraud and de Gaulle what his minimum requirements were in this area as regards control of French forces. On the 17th June an oral communication was accordingly made to the two generals that General Eisenhower might speak to them on this subject in two days' time. On the 19th June General Eisenhower thus met the two generals in the presence of the Chiefs of Staff and, as a result of discussion, undertook to communicate a written memorandum of requirements for consideration by the French Committee at their next meeting, which had been arranged for the 21st June. He disclaimed any intention of interfering with the committee's internal arrangements, but required that there should be a Commander-in-chief, that Giraud should be that Commander-in-chief, and that the Commander-in-chief should have effective control of the army under him.

The Committee of National Liberation, which at the plenary session of the 17th decided to postpone further consideration of this whole problem until after the above-mentioned meeting, on the 21st and 22nd June considered the Allied Commander-in-chief's memorandum. Late on the 22nd June it issued a communiqué, stating that they had given their approval to a decree on the organisation of the armed forces; a permanent military committee composed of General Giraud, General de Gaulle and the chiefs of staff of air, land and sea had been set up to proceed with the fusion of the French forces; General Giraud and General de Gaulle were appointed Commanders-in-chief of the French North and West African armies and the armies of other territories respectively; General Juin and General de Larminat were appointed chiefs of staff of these commands. Thus, while the committee has met the requirements of the Allied High Command, it has also—while maintaining separate commands for Generals Giraud and de Gaulle—taken steps calculated to ensure the unity of French military effort in the war.

The large daylight raid of 94 Lancasters on Le Creusot in the French northern zone on the 17th October last, has now been followed up by a night attack on an even larger scale by Bomber Command, which took place on the 19th June. The Schneider works, which cover about 270 acres, and have been turning out guns and armour plate for the German armies as well as locomotives for the Reich, would seem to have been largely destroyed. So has the power station at Montchanin, 5 miles away, which is a key point in the French grid system, and supplied not only the Schneider works themselves but current for most of the factories of south-western France. Despite the value of these works to the Germans, surprisingly little flak and fighter opposition were encountered. Though the raid took place on the night of Saturday/Sunday, there seems no serious reason to doubt the casualties given by Vichy as 250 identified killed. A great part of the town, including a church and numerous schools seem to have been destroyed and half the population are without shelter.

The problem of filling the gap between the two harvests has again been occupying the Administration in France. Laval himself started the campaign for the "soudure" as early as January of this year, no doubt in anticipation of

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