

"British Show How Nazis Get French Food"  
(Front page headline in N.Y. Herald Tribune, March 28, 1941)

This release from London (March 27th) releases reports from the British Intelligence Service to the Ministry of Economic Warfare. The reports are not inclusive because they only cover the traffic in food and other war materials over the French railroads, not transit by highway or canal, and they are only for the period December 16, 1940 to January 15, 1941.

During this period 1,220 tons of pork went from "unoccupied" France to Cologne, 90,000 tons of oats to Belgium and occupied France, 37,750 tons of straw to Belgium, 78,750 tons of hay to occupied France and 3,000 tons of coffee to central Germany. The Germans kindly supplied "ersatz" coffee in exchange.

Further shipments from Vichy include 7,500 tons of bauxite (aluminum ore) and 9,300 tons of aluminum to Dresden where there are important aviation works; 38,272 tons of fluorspar (used in manufacturing both aluminum and steel) to eastern Germany and the Ruhr, 6,300 tons of manganese (essential in steel manufacture) to the Ruhr and Essen. Other items were lead, magnesium, oil, asbestos, grease, leather, and 2,000 tons of Chilean nitrate.

The same article mentions many substances sent from occupied France to Germany. The British maintain that these figures prove France is self-supporting and is suffering only because of German appropriations.

They prove more than that. For they prove that "unoccupied" France is controlled by Germany and is being used by the Germans as the channel through which necessary materials can be brought into Germany.

Admiral Darlan is stated as claiming that ship traffic between France and Algiers and Tunis is approaching normal. The itemized imports from October 1940 to February 1941 show 363,000 tons of wine, 5,000 tons of meat, 260,000 tons of grain, 180,000 tons of peanut oil, 135,000 tons of fruit, 3,000 tons of fish, 35,000 tons of sugar, 3,000 tons of rum, and 12,000 tons of cocoa.

We have consistently claimed that "unoccupied" France was left unoccupied for just this purpose; that Petain and Darlan are helping Germany to the best of their ability; and that France as a whole must be regarded as under Nazi domination and treated as such. We have recently been informed that French industry is collaborating with Nazi industry, that the ports and air-fields of Vichy and French Africa are controlled by Germany and that Petain regards the work of the Free French under General de Gaulle as traitorous. On March 26th the Journal-American carried the following headline and article:

PAMPHLET OFFICE

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Food question,

Food

World war, 1939 -

"Petain Endorses 'New Order'"

"Premier Petain is convinced France must participate in the 'New Order' in Europe, Fernand de Brinon, French envoy to German occupied Paris, declared today on his return trip to Vichy.

"De Brinon also said Petain believes France must cooperate with the Reich, he added."

These things reveal the danger of the appeasement movement which the United States and Britain recently undertook. We trust that is finished but, in the meantime, it has given Herbert Hoover's plan to lose the war fresh impetus and his followers' renewed courage.

William M. Agar