



**FREE FRENCH
✝
FORCES**



GENERAL DE GAULLE



VICE-ADMIRAL MUSELIER



GENERAL CATROUX



PROFESSOR CASSIN



GOVERNOR-GENERAL EBOUÉ



GENERAL OF THE MEDICAL CORPS

(The portraits of Governor Sautot and Colonel Leclerc did not arrive in time to be included.)

COUNCIL OF DEFENCE OF THE FRENCH EMPIRE



GENERAL DE LARMINAT



PS SICÉ CAPTAIN D'ARGENLIEU

FORMATION.—General de Gaulle, recognised as leader of the Free French on June 28th, 1940, realising the lack of any Government of France that was both regularly constituted and independent, signed at Brazzaville on October 27th, 1940, his first Order in which he set up a Council of Defence of the French Empire.

FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Council are to maintain fidelity to France among the peoples of the territories of the Free French Empire, to watch over their external safety and their internal security, to direct their economic activities and to maintain their moral unity.

It carries on in every sphere the general direction of the war in order to liberate the mother-country and treats with foreign powers questions relevant to the defence of French possessions and of French interests.

Finally, it provides for the setting up of bodies which will exercise the juridical functions normally devolving upon the Council of State, the High Court of Appeal and eventually upon the High Court of Justice.

COMPOSITION.—The Institution of the Council of Defence was immediately accompanied by the designation of its members by General de Gaulle, who desired that the Council should be composed, without distinction of race or religion, of military and civil leaders, of those already exercising authority in French territory, and of those who symbolised the high intellectual and moral values of the nation.

General Catroux, formerly Governor of Indo-China, now Delegate-General and Plenipotentiary of General de Gaulle, and Commander-in-Chief in the Levant.

Vice-Admiral Muselier, Chief of the Free French Navy.

General de Larminat, formerly High Commissioner of Free French Africa, now Deputy Commander-in-Chief in the Levant.

Governor-General Eboué who, as Governor of the Chad, was the first to rally on August 26th, 1940, now Governor-General of Equatorial Africa.

Governor Sautot, formerly French Resident Commissioner in the New Hebrides, which rallied on

July 22nd, now Governor of New Caledonia.

Doctor Sicé, scholar of repute and benefactor in French Africa, now High Commissioner of Free French Africa.

Professor René Cassin of the Paris Faculty of Law, now Hon. President of the Union Fédérale des Anciens Combattants et Mutilés de la guerre 1914-18.

The Reverend Father d'Argenlieu, Captain in the French Navy, wounded at Dakar when bearer of a flag of truce. Now High Commissioner in the Pacific.

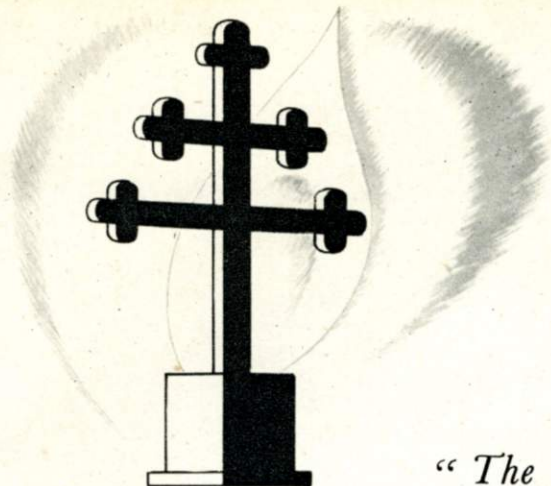
General Leclerc, successively Commissioner for the Cameroons, Commander-in-Chief of the Chad, Victor at Koufra.

The permanent Secretariat of the Council has been placed in the hands of Professor Cassin.

METHOD OF FUNCTIONING.—Although the members of the Council of Defence are scattered, General de Gaulle has instituted a practical system for consultations. Shortly after its establishment the new organisation published an important declaration on the integrity of France and her Empire. It is in the name of the Council that since the beginning of 1941 General de Gaulle has signed several important economic and financial agreements with the British Government to permit economic and financial collaboration.



H.M. KING GEORGE VI AND GENERAL DE GAULLE



“The Flame of French resistance must not and will not be extinguished.”

“It is the positive duty of every Frenchman to continue resistance.”

[GENERAL DE GAULLE, JUNE 18TH & 19TH, 1940.]

IT was the prerogative of the leader of the Free French to define in person the spirit of the movement, of which, following the armistice in June, 1940, he assumed the direction, and which he has since inspired with his great patriotic faith.

He has proclaimed in speeches, which are models of clarity and precision, on the wireless and in public, the reasons which decided him to pursue the struggle and which have brought to his side thousands upon thousands of volunteers burning with the same fervour.

“TO ALL FRENCHMEN.

“France has lost a battle !
But France has not lost the war !

“A makeshift Government may have capitulated, giving way to panic, forgetting honour, delivering their country into slavery. Yet nothing is lost !

“Nothing is lost, because this war is a world war. In the free universe, immense forces have not yet been brought into play. Some day these forces will crush the enemy. On that day France must be present at the victory. She will then regain her liberty and her greatness.

“That is my goal—my only goal !

“That is why I ask all Frenchmen, wherever they may be, to unite with me in action, in

sacrifice and in hope. Our country is in danger of death. Let us fight to save it.

LONG LIVE FRANCE !

(Signed) GENERAL DE GAULLE.”

On the occasion of the 14th July, he wished to make it clear that this day of mourning was also a day of hope.

“This evening,” he said in a broadcast on the 13th, “there is not a thought in French minds that is not for France alone.

“Not, of course, that we must remain plunged in sorrow or wrapped in resignation. Such an excess of sorrow, such an abandonment, would be playing the game of our enemies. . . .

“For the moment, it is a question of doing everything possible, actively or passively, to secure the defeat of the enemy. Accomplish this defeat and we rise again, but so long as he remains unbeaten, each day he will break us, plunder us, stifle us more.

“If, then, the 14th July is a day of mourning for our country, it must also be a day of muted hope. Yes, victory will be won and, I will answer for it, won with the help of the arms of France.”

On November 11th, 1940, General de Gaulle was at Brazzaville, in Free French Equatorial Africa. In an address which took the form of a report to Marshal Foch, “whose body lies entombed in the Invalides, but whose

spirit still haunts the spirit of the French soldier," he proclaimed his fidelity to the teaching of the great soldier who forced the victory of 1918.

"Marshal Foch," he cried, "you have always taught and demonstrated that no one has the right to surrender so long as the means of fighting remain; the Poles, the Czechoslovaks, the Belgians, the Dutch, the Norwegians, the Luxemburgers, all those peoples, without exception, whose national territory was in the hands of the enemy, had the courage to understand this. But I have to tell you that those men who were our leaders surrendered the sword of France when there still remained to her an Empire of 60,000,000 guarded by 500,000 soldiers, a redoubtable air force, a magnificent fleet, intact, and powerful and resolute allies.

"But I have not to tell you only of things of such an infamous nature—for there are **SOLDIERS, FRENCHMEN, WHO HAVE NOT ASSENTED TO THESE THINGS—THERE ARE FRENCHMEN, SOLDIERS, WHO ASPIRE TO EFFACE THEM.**

"We are these Frenchmen, these soldiers—we, the Free French soldiers. . . . We follow your example, we are carrying out your orders by refusing to throw away our arms, by continuing the fight, by climbing, little by little, out of the abyss of disaster.

"If we tear the French Empire, piece by piece, from those who collaborate with the enemy, so as to secure it for France and to obtain from it the means of fighting, if we have already brought back into the struggle the Chad territory, the Cameroons, Ubangui, the Congo, our colonies in the Pacific and in India and, no later than yesterday, Gaboon, it has been in order to follow your example and loyally to execute your orders, united, as you wished that the French should be, to the allies whom you once commanded.

"Reassembling, little by little, all French territory, we shall bring to the service of the war a sword that grows weightier each day."

On December 25th, 1940, those parts of the Empire which had rallied to the cause and the National Committees of Frenchmen overseas which had been set up in all those countries which were still free in order to help in the liberation of France, addressed to General de Gaulle their good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

These messages of faith and hope were

broadcast by the B.B.C. on the evening of Christmas Day. General de Gaulle prefaced them with a statement of faith whose Christian inspiration stirred the emotions of all the French.

"France in her suffering welcomes Christmas in sorrow. But militant France gathers together at this Christmas time her courage and her hope. One day France triumphant will recover the sweet joy of Christmas."

On January 1st, having called upon the people of France to join with him in a vast and silent plebiscite, General de Gaulle broadcast the following message in which is expressed his confidence in the will of the French people to resist: "We Frenchmen assembled together exchange our good wishes for the New Year in the French fashion. And we record also that in everyone's heart is the same wish—**FOR VICTORY.** For we know perfectly well that there is no other solution. Those who, at home, in France, through fear, treason or despair proclaim the opposite, do not—let it be said—believe a word of it."

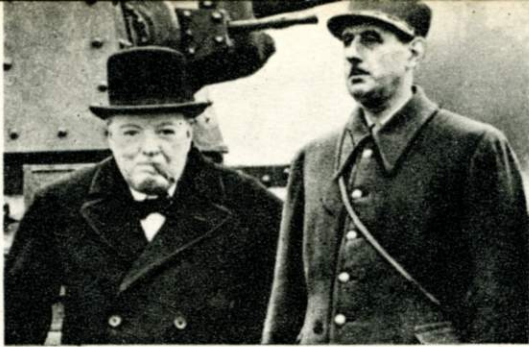
But it was in a speech after a lunch at which His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley, Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, took the chair, that General de Gaulle defined even more clearly the position of the Free French.

"The Free French Movement," he said, "is based on three elements. The first is the conviction that France is not vanquished. The second is the feeling that, in a war in which the fate of France is linked with that of England and their common Allies, France is in honour bound to fight on as long as England and the Allies continue the struggle. The third is the refusal to acknowledge as valid the authority of a government which is constitutionally irregular and which, moreover, is under enemy control. . . .

"Free France stakes again the territories of the Empire, the troops, the warships and the merchant ships, as and when they become

General de Gaulle and Cardinal Hinsley





Mr. Churchill and General de Gaulle

available. Free France strives to be worthy of the admirable words of Cardinal Hinsley : ' The spirit of France is not crushed. The spirit of St. Joan of Arc still lives, and will conquer.'

" While the British Empire, in its turn, heroically carries almost the entire weight of this gigantic struggle, Free France makes it possible for Frenchmen to fight by its side unto death or unto victory. Free France keeps alive in the French people a spirit of loyalty towards our Allies, and it is this loyalty which alone to-day prevents the enemy from using, for the purposes of its war, the nation which it now holds in servitude, and which alone to-morrow will enable Europe to be reconstructed in accordance with law and freedom.

" Free Frenchmen are conscious of what they already represent and of what they will represent to-morrow. This feeling confirms their resolution never to be anything but the simple servants of their country. No doubt, the horrible situation in which the nation finds itself, and the necessities of war, oblige them to take decisions and to act outside the normal framework of government, since that framework has now been shattered ; no doubt, those men who struggle, who suffer, and who pray, have the right and the duty to pass judgment on the causes of France's temporary disaster. No doubt, they claim to show by their union, by their renunciation, by their spiritual uplift or their religious faith, the social, political and moral lines along which their country will again find her happiness and her greatness.

" However, Free Frenchmen are careful not to usurp any powers. They do not tear up rights and liberties on the pretext of a so-called national revolution carried out with a view to a new European order, the rules of which are dictated by the enemy. They declare that France, and France alone, will have to decide, when she is in a position to do so, what her

regime and her institutions will be. From the day a regular Government, independent of the enemy, and a true national representation are reinstated in France, they intend to submit to the legitimate power of these institutions.

" Meanwhile, we must conquer, and Free Frenchmen have driven from their minds the illusion that victory can be near or easy. . . .

" For us, there is no better encouragement than the certainty of fighting for an ideal shared by the millions and millions of men who reject slavery for themselves and for their fellow men.

" We could hardly find a more forceful expression to explain our own attitude than that used by President Roosevelt when he proclaimed the aims of the great American nation : ' This nation,' he said, ' has placed its destiny in the hands, heads and hearts of millions of free men and women, and its faith in Freedom under the guidance of God.' "

In the work of common salvation, Free Frenchmen will ensure that France plays her part to the end.

Already in fact Free France is playing an important part in the struggle against the enemy.

Her airmen are showing their fighting worth both in the skies of Great Britain and of Africa.

Her navy co-operates in the seas in convoy operations, submarine hunting and mine-laying.

As for her merchant navy, which comprises a quarter of the tonnage of the pre-Armistice French Merchant Service, this too lends a hand in bringing vital supplies to Great Britain and to the Free French colonies.

Her land army, growing stronger and more powerful every week, has already distinguished itself in Africa by collaborating with British forces in the conquest of Cyrenaica and in the operations in Eritrea and Abyssinia. Whether they belong to battalions formed in Egypt, to the Camel Corps which raided Mourzouk where Colonel Ornano met a glorious death, to Colonel Leclerc's troops who took Koufra, to the Spahis, to the Senegalese, or to the Foreign Legion, every man fights valiantly and has already made the Italians pay dearly for the stab in the back which she dealt to France.

And this is only a beginning ! One day France and her great Empire will re-enter the war and will be associated again with Great Britain in final victory.

PROCLAMATION!

General de Gaulle's appeal is displayed throughout Great Britain



A TOUS LES FRANCAIS

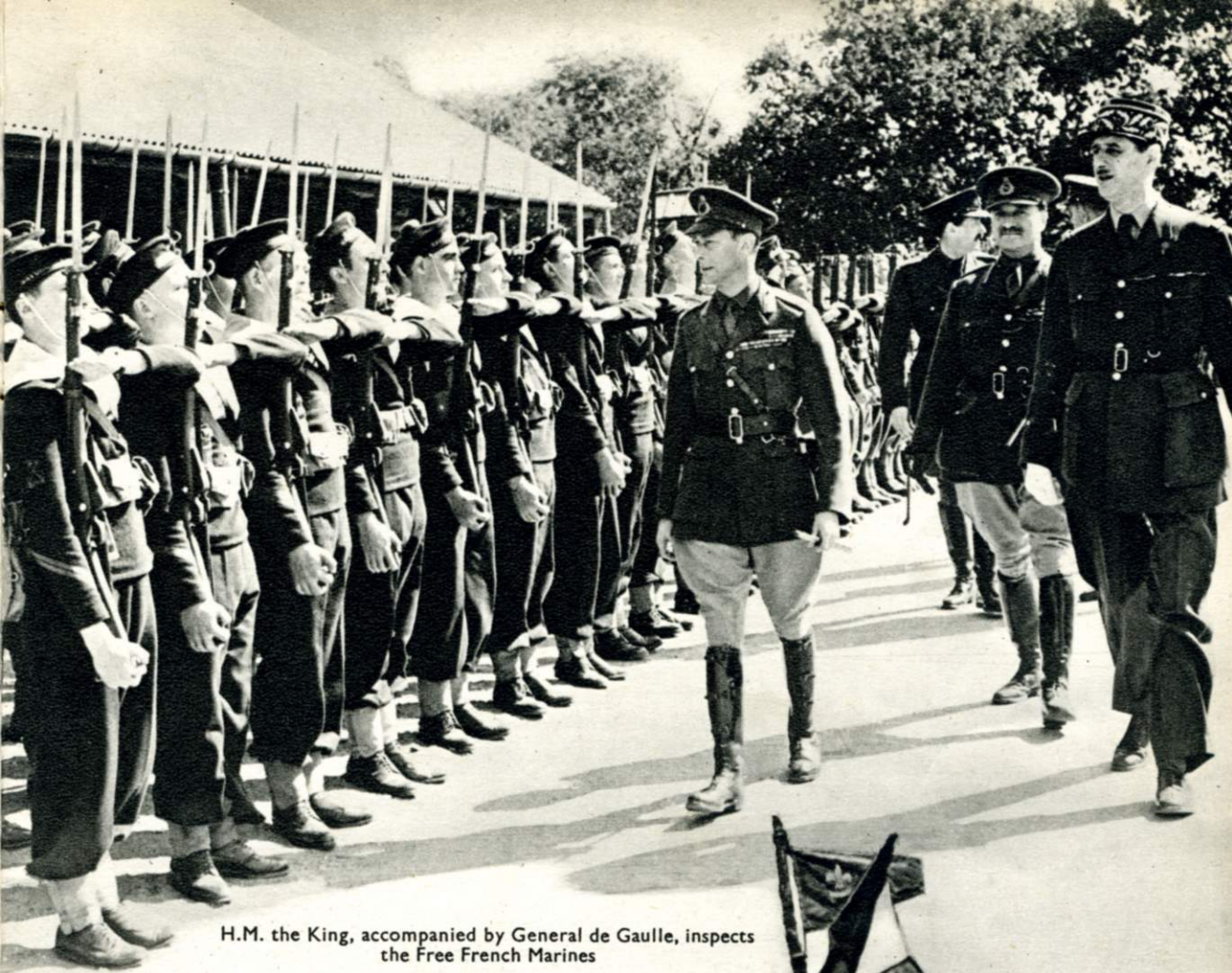
Le Français n'est pas un être isolé.
Lorsqu'il se livre à une bataille, il se bat pour son pays et pour son honneur. Pendant la guerre, les gouvernements de rencontre ont pu capituler, pendant la panique, oubliant l'honneur, livrant le pays à la servitude. Cependant, rien n'est perdu. Rien n'est perdu, parce que cette guerre est une guerre mondiale. Dans l'univers libre, des forces immenses s'opposent à l'ennemi. Il faut un jour, ces forces s'écarteront l'ennemi. Il faut que la France, ce jour-là, soit présente à la victoire. Alors, elle retrouvera sa liberté et sa grandeur. Tel est mon but, mon seul but.

Voilà pourquoi je convie tous les Français, non dans le trouble et dans l'espérance, qu'ils se trouvent en peril de mort. Notre patrie est en peril de mort. Luttons tous pour la sauver.

VIVE LA FRANCE !

GENERAL DE GAULLE

CHARLES LEMER
1, CANTON GARDON
PARIS 14



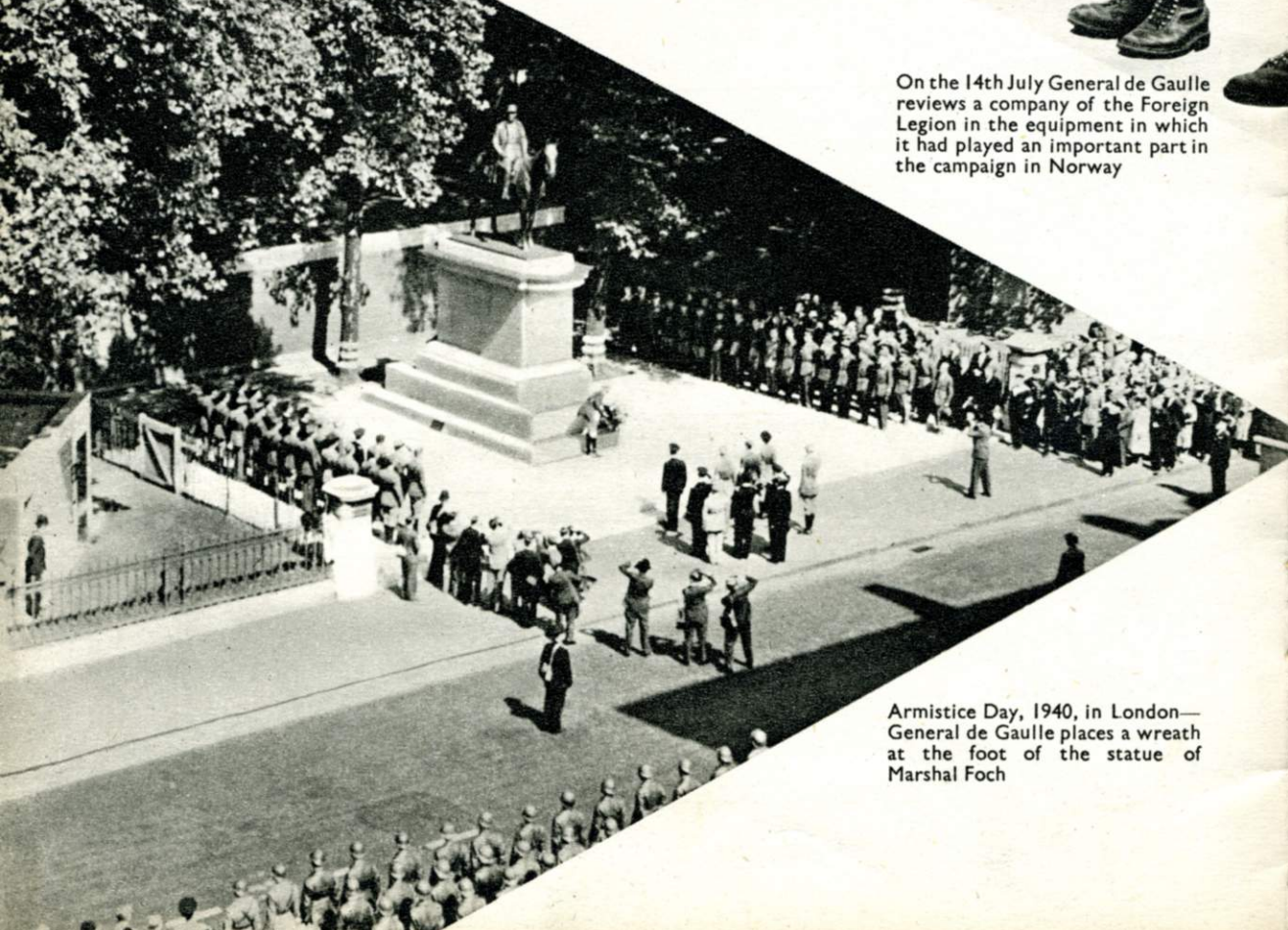
H.M. the King, accompanied by General de Gaulle, inspects the Free French Marines

The Boy Scouts Association organises camps for young Frenchmen from 15 to 19 who had escaped from France at the time of the Armistice. General de Gaulle visits one of these camps in North Wales





On the 14th July General de Gaulle reviews a company of the Foreign Legion in the equipment in which it had played an important part in the campaign in Norway



Armistice Day, 1940, in London—General de Gaulle places a wreath at the foot of the statue of Marshal Foch

Applauded by an enthusiastic crowd, units of the various arms of the Free French Forces marching through London on the 14th July, 1940





The Cadets

FREE FRENCH FORCES MILITARY CADET SCHOOL



Rehearsing for a march-past



A rest after physical training



Maths !



A French Matron presides in the Refectory



A driver of the Free French A.T.S.



Lieutenant Simonne Mathieu, famous French tennis champion, inspects volunteers of the Free French A.T.S.

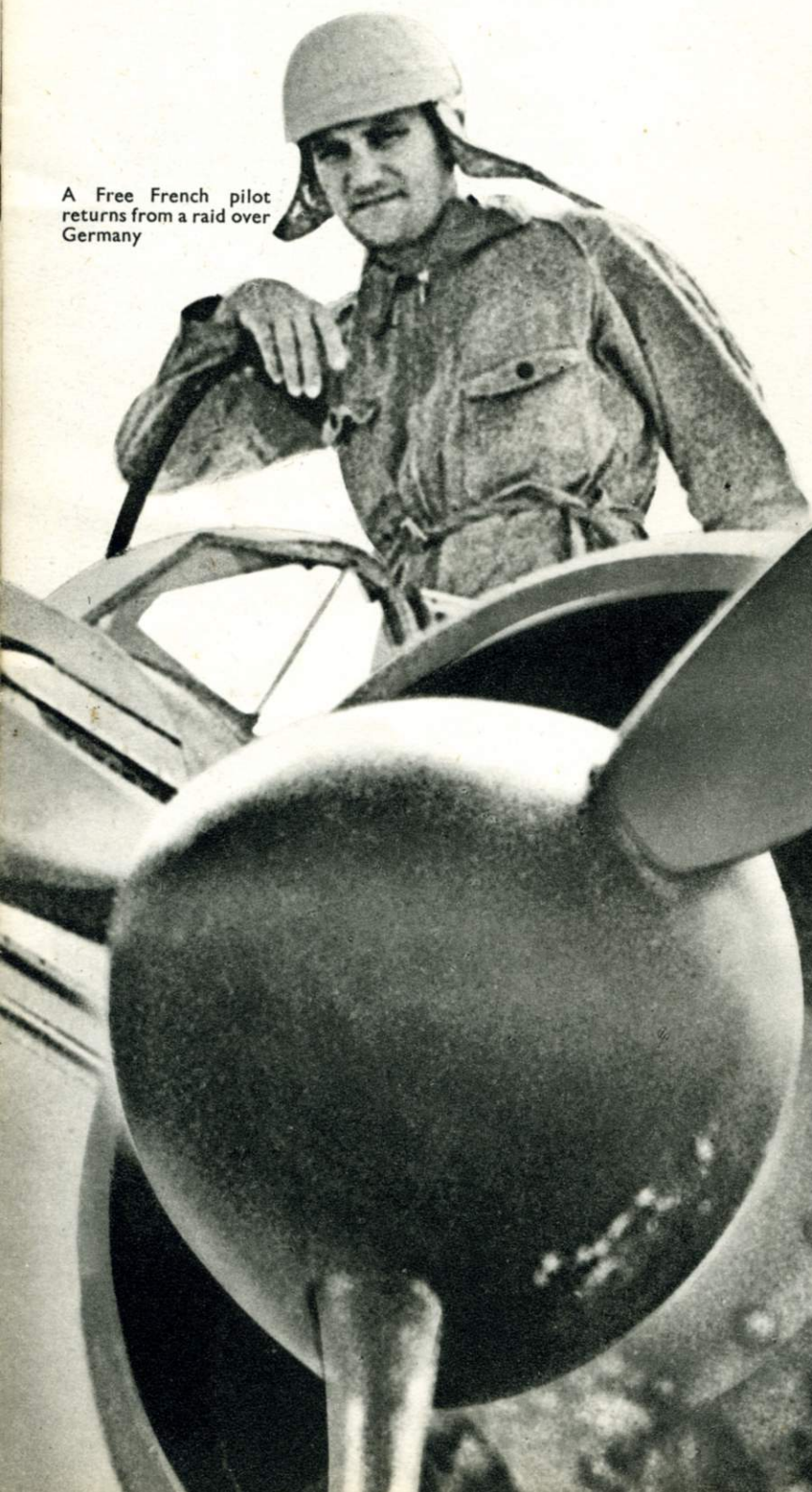
The Free French A.T.S.



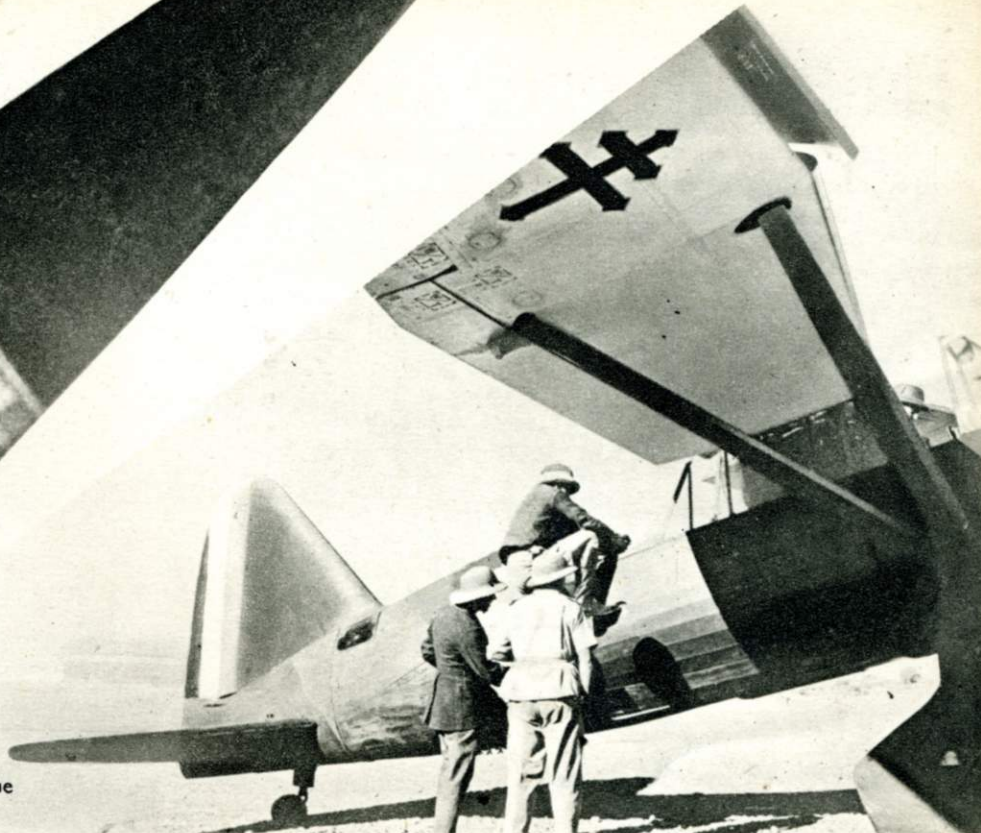
Gas Mask Drill

The Free French Air Force

A Free French pilot returns from a raid over Germany



One of the pilots familiarises himself with the instruments-board of a British 'plane



The Cross of Lorraine in the skies of Free French Africa



Many Free French airmen joined the allied forces in their own machines. Here is a Potez 63 back from Cyrenaica. The Free French Air Force is already a thorn in the flesh of the Axis powers



PRESENTATION OF A FLAG

by the Bristol branch of the Association of Frenchmen in Great Britain to the Free French Forces



General Petit, Chief of Staff to General de Gaulle, hands the flag to the standard bearer



At a Free French training camp, troops march past the flag


**“TANKS,
more
tanks!”**



Tank exercises in England

Tanks in action in Abyssinia





The crew of a Free French destroyer in working rig painting the ship's sides

A Free French sailor signalling by lamp

THE FREE FRENCH NAVY

F. N. F. L.



Vice-Admiral
Muselier



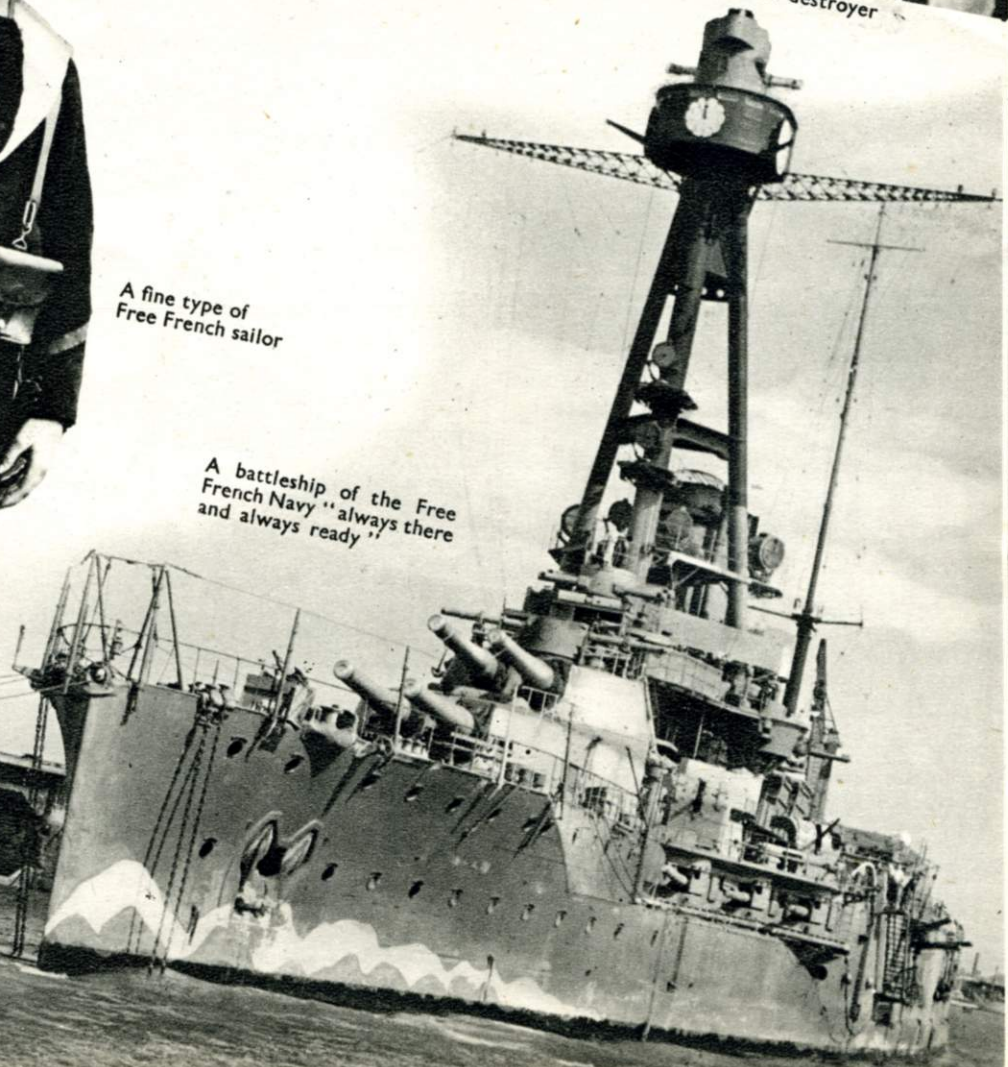
From the magazine these men feed the guns with an incessant stream of shells in troughs and hoists



General de Gaulle and Vice-Admiral Muselier inspecting a Free French destroyer

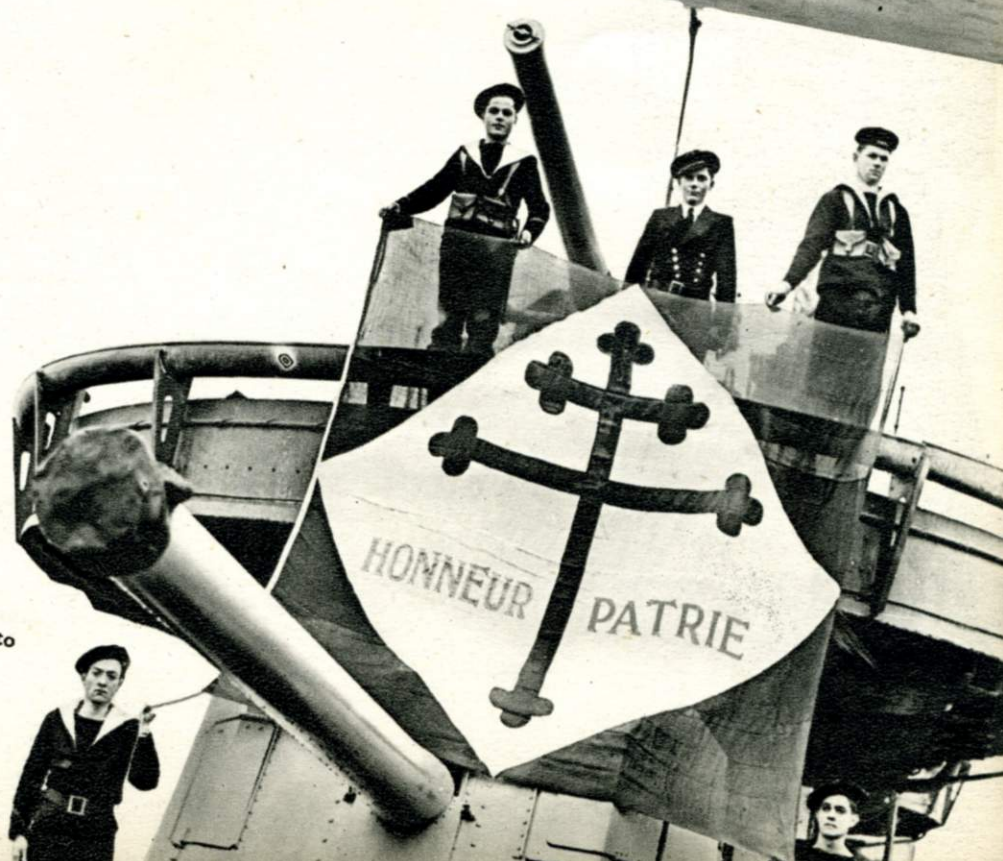
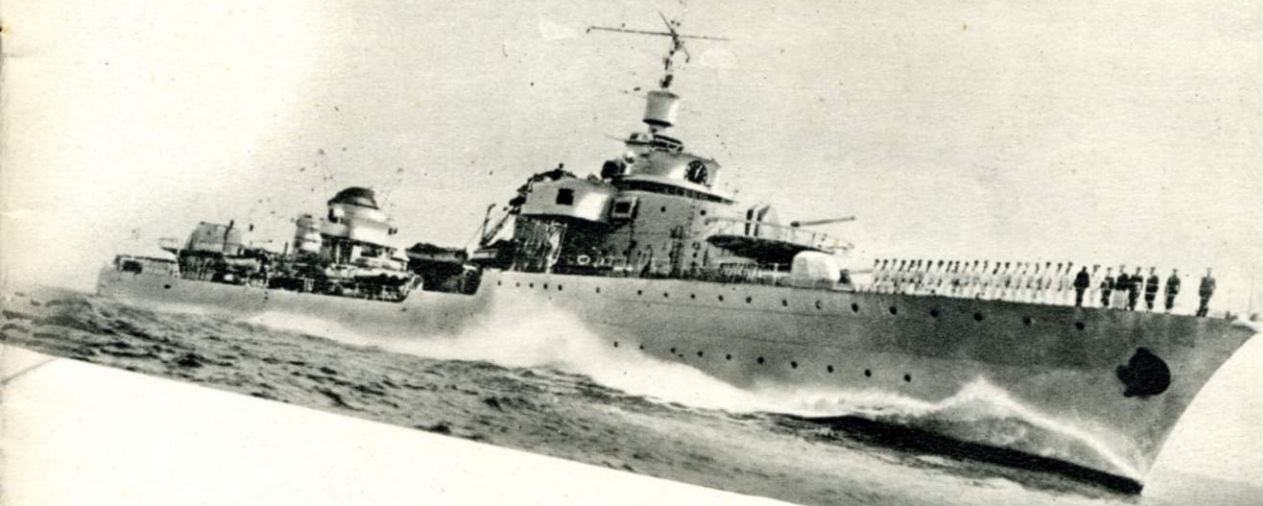


A fine type of Free French sailor



A battleship of the Free French Navy "always there and always ready"

"Le Triomphant," one of the fastest light cruisers in the world, in action



*Their flag—
their motto*

Spahis -

the famous French desert Cavalry



A non-commissioned officer



The Spahis ceaselessly patrol the endless wastes of sand



The Spahis who come from Syria are magnificent horsemen

**THE CALL TO ACTION
SOUNDS IN THE
DESERT**





A march-past of French colonial infantry, in action in Libya

An anti-tank gun in the Libyan desert



INTO ACTION



Free French Colonial Infantry "de-bussing" for the attack on Bardia

Troops on the move in Libya





Free French Camel Corps before their daring raid on Mourzouk



