

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1940)

Heft: 971

Artikel: Great Britain at war : Impressions by a "Neutral"

Autor: F.I.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693156>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 04.12.2024

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Graf Spee and the Altmarm, whilst at Narvik, Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk he showed his mettle. But now he really roars and woe to his enemies when he is ready to pounce, supported by a whole pride of lions from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Let there be no doubt about it, this country has now become the last bulwark in the defence of Liberty, Freedom and Civilisation. In the words of Pitt, England will have to save herself by her exertion and the World by her example.

It is now a contest of endurance, not only between military forces but between nations of men and women. Victory can only be won by morale, energy, endurance and will power. From all one can see and hear there should be no doubt about the outcome of the struggle, however bitter and protracted. National stubbornness and the practical genius of the people will prevail. Pedigree will count and the Bulldog breed should come out on top.

Mixing with the crowd and listening to what it says leaves one with the conviction that the spirit of the people is sound. In fact to find out what common people and the man in the street are doing acts like an inspiring tonic.

They have a firm belief in the justice and righteousness of England's cause, absolute trust in the Navy to upset Hitler's appercart, and a 100 to 1 certainty that the Army and Airforce will give Hell to the Dictators. At first it was hoped that it would be a fairly easy job; what with the blockade and the Maginot Line.

However, these illusions are gone now and everybody realises that they are in it up to the neck and that it is a question of sink or swim and do or die. But there is no sign of fear, despair or panic, the trust in the Army, Navy and Airforce is stronger than ever, fortified by what happened at the River Plate, Narvik, Calais and Dunkirk.

And there is plenty of evidence that both the Homeland and the Empire have put their backs into the fight. Gone is the "it can't happen here" frame of mind. Gone are the half measures; 100% action and 100% output are the order of the day. People realise that to come under the German yoke would be no joke and are taking good care to see that it does not happen.

Much as the Britisher hates regulations, restrictions and regimentation he is now quite willing,

for the duration of the war, to suspend many of his liberties and to submit himself to disciplinary measures. He realises that without discipline and organisation the war will never be won and that bows and arrows are useless against a modern Frankenstein.

"Go to it" is now the motto, both in the industrial army and the fighting forces. It is realised that the Maginot Line mentality cannot win the war and that the old maxim "attack is the best mode of defence" is as true as ever.

But the real driving power behind the tremendous effort is the resolve that "Britains never, never shall be slaves." The soul of Great Britain has never submitted, and will never submit, to brute force. Hitler will find that besides tanks, planes and battleships he will be confronted with superior forces, such as the spirit of Man, nurtured in centuries of freedom and liberty, proud, unflinching and unconquerable. With France's capitulation it is realised that the tragedies of nations are not their defeats on the battlefields but their self-betraysals.

The world will now be witnessing the greatest siege in history, with Great Britain turned into an Island fortress. Let there be no mistake about it, the great Amphibian will fight hard, strike hard and emerge victorious.

Whilst the civilian population will stay put, Hitler will find to his cost that the Army, Navy and Airforce have no intention to remain inactive. On the contrary he will soon find Great Britain to be a veritable hornets nest, with swarms of aircraft emerging day and night and stinging here and there and everywhere like angry wasps or fighting like eagles clawing down their prey. Alternatively, Great Britain and the smaller Islands surrounding her will adopt the tactics of the Octopus, the long arms of the navy seizing and destroying enemy ships and sucking up submarines. Then again, the great amphibian will stretch out its tentacles, feeling for weak spots where the army can disembark and grip at the enemy's vitals.

As mentioned at the beginning, it is a privilege to live with a great people in these stirring times and to be permitted to share its sorrows and tribulations. The World recognises that if Great Britain falls Christian civilisation, Justice and Liberty will vanish from the earth. Whatever happens, we can feel sure that the British Commonwealth and Empire will do their duty and acquit themselves in such a way that, in the words of Mr. Winston Churchill, History will say "This was their finest hour."

F. I.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

Capital Paid up s.f. 160,000,000

Reserves - - s.f. 32,000,000

Deposits - - s.f. 1,218,000,000

NEW YORK AGENCY

15 NASSAU STREET.

All Descriptions of Banking and Foreign Exchange Business Transacted

TO SWITZERLAND!

Shall I behold you once again
Ere death must surely lay me low?
To call my hopes and longings vain
Disturbs my mind like threaten'd blow.
Your snowy peaks attract me still,
Your streams and lakes my mem'ry hold,
Open then your doors now closed
Spread wide your mother-arms and I will
Enjoy true peace yet once again.

"Over Seventy."
(J.J.E.)