

British City People, Moved to Country to Escape Robot Bombs, Assist in Harvest of Bumper Crops

Joke Is on Hitler As He Unwittingly Aids Food Program



Making a "V for Victory" symbol with his pitchfork, George Casely, an English farmer, defies Hitler and his bombs. "He needn't think he can starve us out," said George, who operates a 50-acre dairy farm in Devon.

Whatever insane plans were behind the Nazi robot bombing, certainly helping the English farmer was not one of them. Yet that is what has happened.

As the harvest season of 1944 approached, it seemed certain that there would be an acute shortage of farm laborers. In other years the army had been able to assist with the harvest, but the army is now busy in France and elsewhere. There are few young men left in England. The Women's Land Army has helped all through the war years, but this year it was already fully employed.

The situation looked pretty bad with the richest harvest since the war and not enough help to bring it in. Then along came the robot bomb, or "doodlebug," striking at London and the surrounding counties. The doodlebug does not have the penetrating qualities of earlier blitz bombs, but it has a blast effect that covers a lot more territory. During attacks houses are damaged at the rate of 700 an hour.

So the evacuation of London was begun all over again. One million women, children and older men have already left the city, and the second million has started. Where are they going? Straight to the farms where they are helping to reap the wheat, gather the corn, flax and other crops.

Evacuation is an old story to most of these people. They are the ones who left during the blitz attacks of 1940 and '41 and who returned to their homes in 1942 and '43. This time many of them do not have homes to which to return. Even with the crews of plasterers, plumbers, tilers, etc., who follow along after an attack to make "first aid" repairs, the great majority of homes are beyond repair. It is not surprising that many former townspeople plan to stay on farms after the war.

Intend to Stay on Farm.

In fact, ever since the war began, quite a number of people have been going on farms with the intention of staying. They spend a period of apprenticeship with a farmer first, and usually make good farmers. Even before the war the motor bus had fairly revolutionized farm life and took away some of its terrors for townspeople. There have never been many automobiles in England because of their high cost, and practically none in farming communities. Bicycles have always been the chief means of transportation. The British equivalent to the American county fair is the "walk-over," an annual fall event. Because of the shorter distances in England, the farmers go in groups from one farm to another comparing crops and produce. They gather for tea in the afternoon and discuss the methods of cultivation and argue over breeds of cattle, etc. There is quite a bit of interest in different types of fertilizer and many have been tried.

The farms are as a rule much smaller than those in the U. S.—in fact, all distances in England are shorter than in this country since the whole of Britain is about as large as Illinois and Indiana put together.

The English people are in good spirits, notwithstanding the dreadful bombings, and are looking forward to enjoying the fruits of peace. Oddly enough, the farm animals around London were more upset than the people. The doodlebugs often fall or are shot down over open country in the counties of Kent, Sussex, Essex and Middlesex, all on the channel coast. The cows particularly were upset by the crazy contraption and didn't produce as well as they had. However, it didn't take long for them to become adjusted, as animals—especially cows—usually do, and they are now up to their previous records.

The way city people have adapted themselves to farm life is remarkable. Town girls who had never been near a farm before are now doing dairy work with a zest. They are happy and look wonderful. They are housed in brick buildings of semi-permanent nature where they eat in communal dining rooms that are nicely furnished.

More Machinery in Use. There has been a decided increase in the use of farm machinery since the outbreak of war. Today

England is the most highly mechanized farming country in Europe. The big tractor works that had contemplated closing down early in 1939 were given a contract by the government to produce all the tractors they could. Farm machinery was also shipped from Canada, Australia and the United States.

In order to make the best use of available machinery, plowing contractors were helped to extend their operations, and farmers were asked to help each other. In some counties implement depots, where a farmer could hire an implement for a few shillings a day, were set up. There has been a remarkable increase in the actual number of machinery of different types employed. The number of tractors has about tripled, cultivating instruments have increased about two and a half times the prewar level. Harvesting machinery, however, has not shown a comparable increase, but the introduction of improved types, such as the combined harvester-thresher, together with its greater use over longer hours per day and for longer periods, have helped.

Farm wages have almost doubled since the war and it is hoped to keep a considerable part of the increase after the war. This is important because tenant farming in England is widespread—most of the farmers do not own the land they work. They are furnished homes with garden plots as part of their wages, and usually live on one farm all their lives. The wages are reached by agreement between the National Farmers' Union and the Agricultural Farm Laborers' Union.

Britain Feeding Self Now.

Before the war Britain was only 40 per cent self-sufficient in food, and imported 8½ million tons of animal feed annually. Perhaps this was the basis for Hitler's decision



Tractors, many of them from the United States, rip up the English grasslands as the British determinedly set to work to raise as much of their own food as possible. At the outbreak of the war in 1939, the British Isles produced less than 40 per cent of their food. By 1944, they were raising 70 per cent.

not to invade England; it looked easier to bomb and starve the country into submission.

But while the bombs were dropping in London and the seacoast towns, the British farmers were busy plowing up the grasslands. In 1939 there were 19 million acres of these grasslands, and seven million acres have now been brought under cultivation. This is against two million acres of grassland plowed up in World War I. Today Britain is raising more than 70 per cent of its food.

The general policy governing agricultural production is laid down by the cabinet, and the minister of agriculture is responsible for carrying out the government's plans. The execution of these plans is in the hands of war agricultural executive committees, who in turn appoint district committees of local farmers. Farmers' organizations, land owners and agricultural workers all have

their share in shaping the plans of the government, for the ministry of agriculture consults regularly with the National Farmers' union, the workers' unions, and the Central Landowners' association.

Before the outbreak of war in 1939 the minister of agriculture had called for an increase in the amount of land under the plow. In the spring of 1939 a subsidy of two pounds sterling (\$8) an acre was granted for the plowing-up of seven-year grassland and bringing it into cleanliness and fertility, and immediately after war broke out, each farmer was asked to plow up roughly 10 per cent of his unplowed land. Further financial grants are now made in order to encourage the production of certain crops and to discourage the production of others. Payments of four pounds (\$16) per acre are made on crops of rye and wheat harvested, and ten pounds (\$40) per acre on potatoes.

The Farm Survey. However, much of the land has had to be reclaimed to offset losses of land to military and industrial use. Therefore, it was extremely important that the best possible use be made of each farm acre, and in 1941 the Farm Survey was initiated.

This survey consisted of: (1) a "farm record" for each farm, containing information under the following heads: conditions of tenure and occupation; natural state of the farm, including its fertility; the adequacy of its equipment; the degree of infestation with weeds or pests; the adequacy of water and electricity supplies; the management condition of the farm, and its wartime plowing-up record. The information on the management condition of the farm is summarized in the grading of the farm as: (A) well farmed, (B) moderately farmed, and (C) badly farmed.

(2) The complete 1941 June 4 census return of the farm including all the usual statistics of crop acreages and live stock numbers together with supplementary information, asked especially for Farm Survey purposes, on length of occupation and rent of the farm.

(3) A plan of the farm showing its boundaries and the fields contained in it, on six-inch or 12½-inch scale. The Agricultural Executive committees have the right of entry on all farms and the power, which it has not been necessary to use often, to remove inefficient farmers. They can compel farmers to follow their directions, and have the power to take over badly farmed land with the consent of the minister of agriculture. They may then rent this land to suitable tenants, or farm and improve it themselves. The land taken over is acquired at value when possession is taken, and within five years after the war it must be offered back to the original owner at a price determined by agreement or arbitration if the minister of agriculture believes the land will be properly managed and cultivated.

Today a trip through the English countryside is a refreshing experience. Wheat acreage has increased from a million acres in 1939 to 3,200-



Arturo de Cordova, former Warner Bros. star, now in the navy, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. . . . Karl Swenson, "Lord Henry Brinthrop" of the air, "Our Gal Sunday," still has the rag doll given him by his wife for good luck when he auditioned for the role seven and a half years ago. . . . Hedy Lamarr makes her first appearance in a costume picture in "Experiment Perilous"—and by the way, lots of people are annoyed because a Hollywood make-up man and stocking expert said for publication that Hedy has piano legs.

000 in 1944. Potato acreage was 700,000 in 1939 and is now 1,400,000 acres. Milk production has increased in consumption total from 363 million gallons in the year ending March, 1939, to 1 billion 40 million gallons in the year ending March, 1944.

After two lessons in one generation, the British farmer is determined that the land must not go out of cultivation again. Whether his desire will be realized or whether Britain will return to the policy of importing food as a balance to manufactured goods exported, is one of the problems of peace. Perhaps the two can be correlated with the increased use of farm products for manufacturing purposes.

In any event, the farmers of England have joined hands with all the farmers of the Allied nations to show that this most peaceful of occupations can become a mighty implement of war.

All Sorts of Persuasion Used to Keep British Farm Hands on Land

Vigorous measures have been taken in Britain to keep farm laborers on the land. Agricultural workers who have left the industry have been encouraged to return to it, and conscientious objectors are used to supplement the existing labor supply. Labor gangs and labor pools have been set up to supply labor for drainage, harvesting and other purposes. Special hostels have been built by the ministry of works and buildings to house mobile labor

gangs and members of labor pools. Some groups live in small mobile trailers in which they travel around the country.

The schedule of reserved occupations, set up on the outbreak of war, was finally replaced in January, 1942, by a system of personal deferment, and all applications for deferment of military service in respect of workers on the land in the agricultural industry are dealt with by the district manpower boards under a

special scheme operated jointly by the ministry of agriculture and the ministry of labor and national service through the county war agricultural executive committees.

In general, men over 25, if they are bona fide farm workers, are retained in the industry; men under 25 are subject to an individual examination and if they are deemed to be "key" workers where they are employed, deferment is granted for an indefinite period.

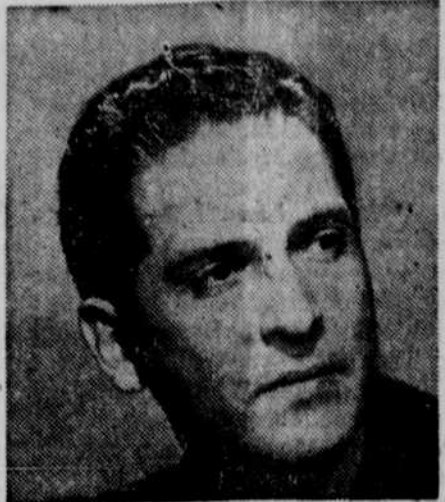
Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

ARTURO DE CORDOVA could have spent the entire lunch time discussing his first American starring role—that of the swash-buckling pirate in "Frenchan's Creek," the picture Paramount's said to have spent about four million dollars on. He could have told about his work in Mexico, where he made more than 30 movies, or told that he's going right ahead, playing opposite Betty Hutton in "Incendiary Blonde," because he's so good. But



ARTURO DE CORDOVA

he chose to talk about Joan Fontaine, the heroine of "Frenchan's Creek"—about how well she handles a role quite different from her others, about how lovely she looks in it—in short, about Joan.

How's this for shooting the works on a single picture? Metro announces as the principals for "Week-end at the Waldorf" Ginger Rogers, Lana Turner, Walter Pidgeon and Van Johnson. The picture will be in the general pattern of "Grand Hotel."

Paul Guilfoyle is enjoying ideal working conditions—a set for "The Master Race," in which he has one of the top roles, has been built practically in his back yard at Encino.

Watch the lad who does an extra-special jitterbug routine in "Youth Runs Wild." He's Pat Kane, 19, who was blinded in one eye by shrapnel in the Pearl Harbor disaster. He and his partner, Laure Haile, were among 24 hepcats called in for the picture; he's a former Missouri state champion jitterbug, she won the national tango and rumba championship—and they've started on a promising picture career.

Members of one of those Radio City guided tours paused in front of the RCA building. "High above you you'll see the Rainbow Room, on the 70th floor, where a cocktail party is being given for Fred Waring," said the guide. But the sight-seers looked not at the towering building, but at the man getting out of a taxi at the curb—Gary Cooper, who also towered above them.

They've got to build a bit of Central Park in Hollywood for Samuel Goldwyn's "The Wonder Man." California's weather has set a 67-year record for clouds and overcast, for all exteriors will be shot indoors, on one of the largest greenery projects ever tackled.

The CBS "American School of the Air" launches its 15th season October 9, offering listeners a liberal education. With 400 army radio stations taking the program, as well as schools and the general public, the science programs will show how returning soldiers can fit into jobs, and also discuss new developments in science. There are five different divisions of these daily programs, lasting till April 27.

Paulette Goddard, Mary Treen, Marie McDonald and the other girls who play shipyard welders in "I Love a Soldier" did it in borrowed shoes. Only genuine workers can buy those heavy work shoes with steel-reinforced toes, so the company asked real workers to lend some.

Did you hear Cliff Edwards singing "Careless Love" on Hildegard's program recently? Harry Sosnick and his band did, and went straight up in the air for a second—seems Cliff was supposed to sing "I Can't Give You Anything but Love, Baby."

The appearance of Dinah Shore on French soil inspired the editors of the Continental Edition of Stars and Stripes to come out with this headline—"Is There Anything Finab-A-Gal in ODs stepped on shore, and Who Was She but Dinah Shore!"

ODDS AND ENDS—Lt. Wayne Morris, former Warner Bros. star, now in the navy, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. . . . Karl Swenson, "Lord Henry Brinthrop" of the air, "Our Gal Sunday," still has the rag doll given him by his wife for good luck when he auditioned for the role seven and a half years ago. . . . Hedy Lamarr makes her first appearance in a costume picture in "Experiment Perilous"—and by the way, lots of people are annoyed because a Hollywood make-up man and stocking expert said for publication that Hedy has piano legs.

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Sleepy Pup

THE caution to let sleeping dogs lie needn't worry you with this floppy, cuddly pooch—he'll go right on sleeping. Everyone loves him!

Smile Awhile

That's Not Painless
Dentist—Stop waving your arms and making faces, I haven't even touched your tooth.

Mrs. Brown—I know you haven't but you're standing on my corn.

A woman can rush through the narrow, crowded aisles of a dime store without toppling over a thing—then drive home and knock the door off a 12-foot garage.

Oh, That!
Jasper—That new girl is very dove-like.
Joan—Soft, and cooing?
Jasper—No, pigeon-toed.

Head and Foot
Joan—Where was your cousin born?
Jasper—In California.
Joan—What part?
Jasper—All of him.

An amusing toy, simple to make and inexpensive. Pattern 7244 contains a transfer pattern and directions for dog; list of materials.
Due to an unusually large demand and current war conditions, slightly more time is required in filling orders for a few of the most popular pattern numbers.
Send your order to:

Sewing Circle Needlecraft Dept.
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Enclose 15 cents (plus one cent to cover cost of mailing) for Pattern No. _____
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Lizard Gunman

There exists a lizard "gunman" that shoots with a jet of blood. This remarkable marksman, the Arizona spiny lizard, when on the defensive, resorts to shooting, projecting with startling suddenness and great force a thin stream of blood from the corner of each eye. Though the reptile's attack is of a comparatively harmless nature, it is, nevertheless, most disarming and the aggressor very seldom stops to make further inquiry.

After this performance the lizard turns on its back and "shams dead," remaining motionless until it has recuperated from its efforts.

Interested

She had gone to the fortune teller and had listened with increasing interest to the sketch of her life.

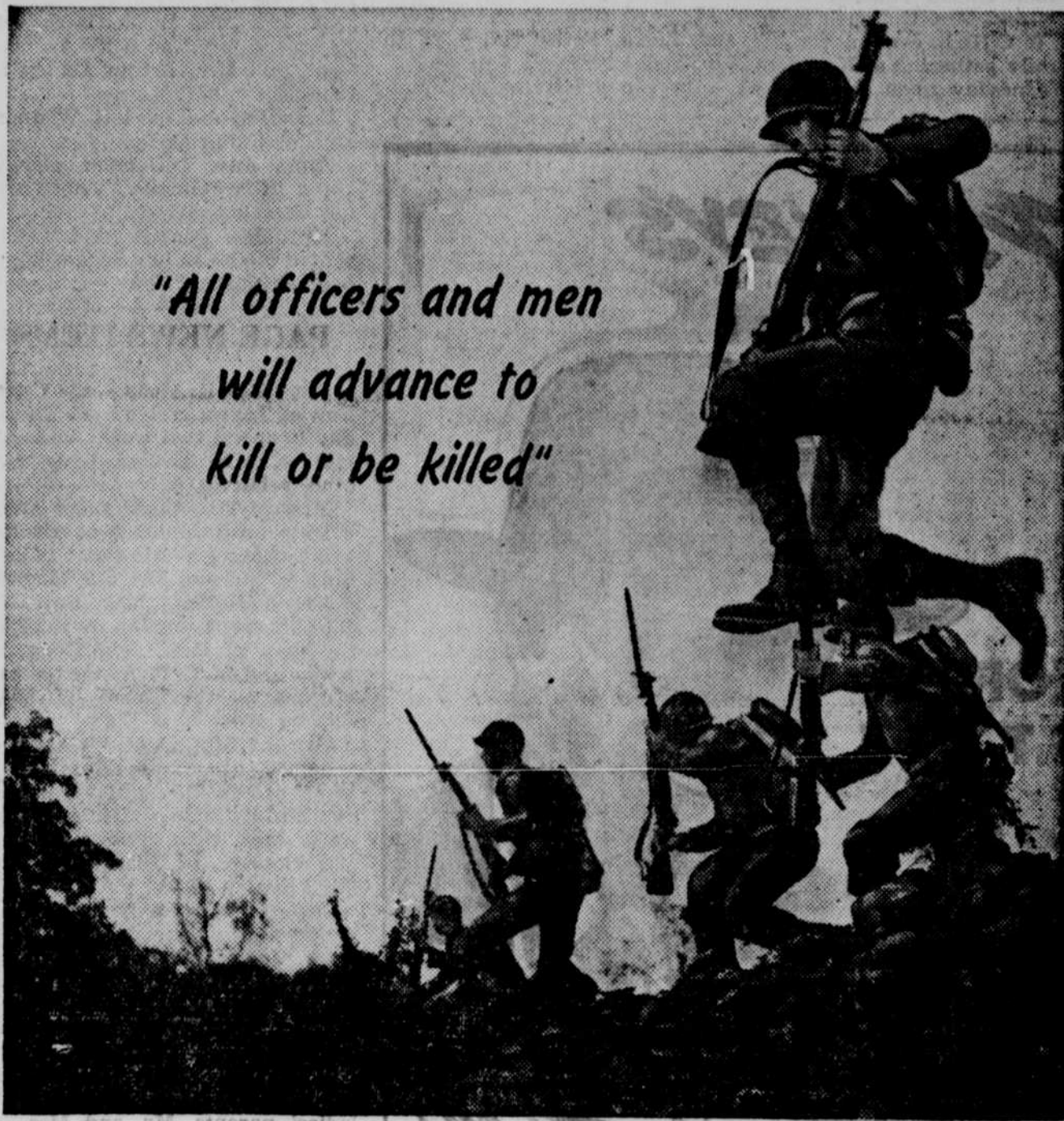
"Madam," said the fortune teller in her most impressive manner, "you should be very, very happy. A noble man than your husband you have yet to meet."
"How absolutely thrilling! When?"

There's a great deal of difference between being in a rut and being in the groove.

Cats Up

A woman checking over her grocery bill, found this item: "One tom cat, 15 cents."

Indignant, she called up her grocer and demanded an explanation.
"Oh, that is all right, Mrs. Jones," explained the grocer, "that's an abbreviation for tomato catsup."



"All officers and men will advance to kill or be killed"

THIS IS NO DREAMED-UP HEADLINE—no "tone poem" conceived on an inspired typewriter. It's the way the army explains the command "Fix bayonets—charge!" Only the Infantry has it put to them in these words. As one doughboy said:

"I'll remember those eleven words the rest of my life."

Remember? How can he forget them? They describe the climax of the Infantryman's assault—they describe the most cold-blooded action on a battlefield. Yet Infantry officers and men have advanced, countless times, to kill or be killed . . . at Saratoga . . . at New Orleans . . . the Argonne . . . New Guinea . . . Salerno. There's no rescinding of this order—no retreating—no nothing but plain killing.

Right now, the men of the Infantry are closing in for the final kill. They're advancing every day—advancing to the order of "kill or be killed." Remember this the next time you see a doughboy on furlough. Remember this the next time you almost forget to write that letter. Remember it till your dying day. You can't pay the doughboy back—but at least you can be forever mindful of his role in this fight for freedom.

"Keep your eye on the Infantry—THE DOUGHBOY DOES IT!"

MINOR SKIN IRRITATIONS

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Quick Relief FROM SNIFFLY, STUFFY DISTRESS OF Head Colds!

SPECIAL Double-Duty Nose Drops Works Fast Right Where Trouble Is!

Instantly, relief from sniffly, sneezy distress of head colds starts to come when you put a little Va-tro-nol up each nostril. Also helps prevent many colds from developing if used in time. Just try it! Follow directions in folder.

VICKS VA-TRO-NOL

SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

Consumption of reclaimed rubber in the United States increased more than 50 per cent from 1940 to 1943. Reclaimed rubber may frequently be used in the manufacture of the same articles from which it was reclaimed.

In 1943 gasoline and motor vehicle tax revenues combined accounted for nearly 30 per cent of the total state revenues.

Next year will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the use of motor vehicles in the rural free delivery mail service. Rubber-tired mail cars had a bearing on the passing of the first federal aid highway law in 1916.

Buy War Savings Bonds

In war or peace

B.F. Goodrich

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