

# MALTA IS BLASTED BUT FORT HOLDS

### Writer Touring Rock-hewn British Base Finds Inhabitants With Spirit Unbroken by Merciless Air Raids.

By JAN YINDRICH  
United Press Staff Correspondent

VALETTA, Malta, Oct. 9.—Italy has hammered 150 air attacks against the solid rock of this British island fortress since the entry into the war, I found today, taking a toll of about 200 killed and 400 wounded.

I am the first representative of an American news organization to be allowed to tour the bombed areas of this naval base midway in the Mediterranean.

Despite the incessant Italian attacks I can report that the spirit on the island is still high and that the fortress' power to defend itself has not been shaken.

Some 700 persons have been bombed out of their homes, but they have found safe shelter in the tunnels and caves hewn in solid rock five centuries ago by the Knights of St. John.

#### Raids Slow Down

The Italians began their attacks by launching an average of eight raids a day against the island. That went on for a month. During the second month they slowed down to about four daily raids. There has been only one interruption in the attack. During one period of eight days no Italian planes came over.

The Italian attack has cost them a steady stream of pilots and planes during the Spanish Civil War. Losses were estimated at 35 planes and 46 pilots.

Touring the bombed areas and the air raid shelters I saw scenes that recalled vividly the havoc wrought in Spain by Italian fliers during the Spanish Civil War.

I was told that on some occasions as many as 60 planes have attacked the rocky fortress, which has an area of 90 square miles and is inhabited by some 250,000 persons.

The Italians usually come over at a height of about 18,000 feet. At that altitude they can not be heard from the ground. Only rarely do they attempt dive-bombing tactics.

#### Bomb Falls Gateway

Ironically enough the first bomb to fall on Malta dropped near the magnificent old stone gateway of the Porte des Bombes at Valetta. It fell June 11 and made a crater in the street two feet deep and six feet across. Two persons were killed by that bomb. A nearby government power station built of solid blocks of Maltese stone was hardly jarred by the explosion.

The greatest damage, I found, was inflicted on the poorer quarters, where the houses are fairly modern, but are not built of the huge hewn blocks of stone as are the historic buildings of the island.

I walked through streets, lined with abandoned houses and shops, along which no automobile could ever travel because of the narrowness of the passage.

#### Spared of One Terror

Malta has been spared one terror. There have been no great fires. This is because of the general stone construction which is impervious to incendiary bombs.

The stone is so strong that it can resist anything but a direct hit. I saw several houses which had been struck directly, but even in these cases damage was confined to that part of the house where the bomb hit. Anti-aircraft shrapnel merely pocks the walls.

The calm with which the raids have been met is indicated by the fact that the Government Council finds time to discuss the respective difficulties of treating tuberculosis

in cows, undulant fever in goats and the possibility of halting wastage of official note paper.

Malta is only a half hour flight from Italy which explains the ease with which the Italians carry out their attacks.

#### Wives Interned

The island is preparing to defend itself against possible invasion with the same ferocity with which it fought Napoleon's invaders more than 100 years ago. Taking their lesson from that war in which the French Knights of St. John allowed French troops to come into the fortress, the local authorities have rounded up all Italian suspects—about 200 in all—and dispatched them to Egypt. Italian wives of Maltese citizens have been interned.

Barbed wire barricades have been stretched across all roads and many fields on the island. Stone buildings have been converted into block-houses and every effort has been made to meet the possibility that the Italians might attempt to land parachute troops.

### McMillins' Home Life Featured

Times Special

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Oct. 9.—The family life of Indiana University's football coach, A. N. (Bo) McMillin will be told in the November issue of the Ladies Home Journal which goes on the news stands today. McMillin and his family were chosen as being representative of American families living on incomes ranging from \$5000 to \$10,000 per year.

"Bo" has a salary of \$10,000, a 10-year contract at Indiana, a \$14,000 home, a family of four children, all of which is the background for the intimate story of the McMillins told in the current issue of the Journal.

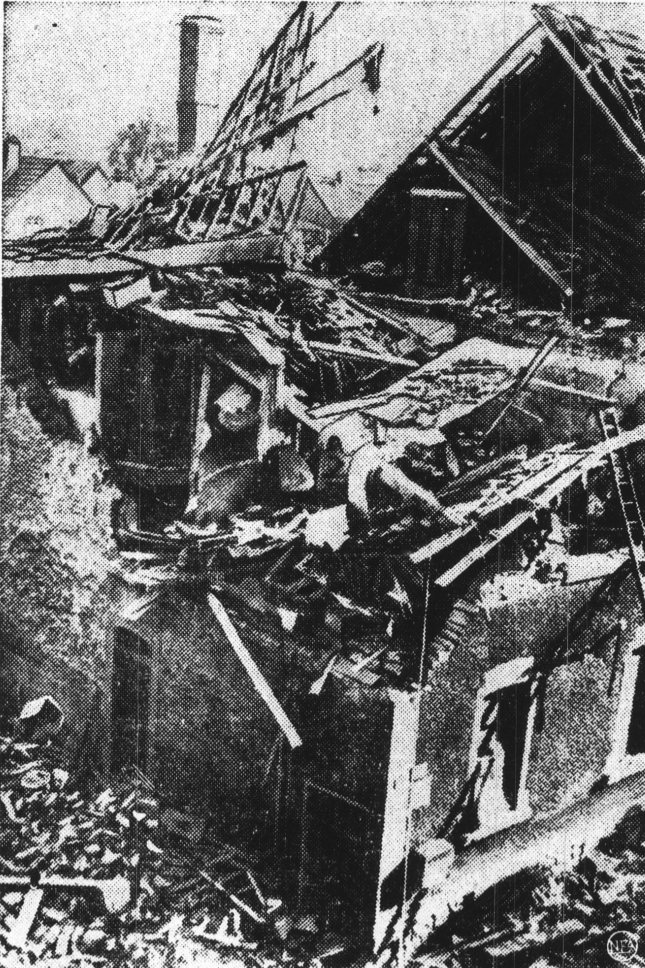
There are two boys and two girls in the McMillin family. They bought their home out of savings and the largest item in their budget is \$1800 for insurance. The sum of \$1020 is spent for food each year and \$750 for clothes. Every phase of Mrs. McMillin's housekeeping is explained in the article.

### REPORT JIMMY HAS CALL INTO SERVICE

HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 9 (U. P.).—Daily Variety, film trade publication reported last night that the 2d Battalion, U. S. Marine Corps Reserves, in which James Roosevelt, son of the President, is a captain, has been ordered mobilized for duty at San Diego, Nov. 1.

Maj. W. S. Van Dyke, motion picture director, has received the orders to prepare for service, the paper said. The battalion is composed mainly of film workers and has been drilling weekly since its formation by Maj. Van Dyke several months ago.

### R. A. F. Damage in Reich



This building, in western German town, was destroyed by Royal Air Force bombs, according to Berlin censor.

### EPISCOPALIANS OPEN SESSION

#### Mission Crisis, Proposal to Alter Divorce Canons Face Delegates.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 9 (U. P.).—The 53d triennial convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church opens today, faced with a crisis in its international missions and a highly controversial proposal to change its strict canons on marriage and divorce.

In its two-week meeting—the first since 1937—the church will consider a war-time policy for its far-flung international missions, most of which operate under difficulties imposed by dictatorial regimes.

Foremost will be the problem facing the church's 60 missionaries, 125 parishes and endowed institutions in Japan, where a recently enacted law forbids foreign missionaries or contributions.

The church stands to lose a vast spiritual and financial investment in Japan—including its \$10,000,000 St. Luke's Hospital in Tokyo and famed St. Paul's University. Executive Secretary John Wood of the Department of Foreign Missions, was virtually in constant session with Bishops Shirley Nichols of Japan and W. P. Roberts of Shanghai planning an Oriental policy to be presented to the delegates.

The war emergency will bring a proposal from the Church of England that the U. S. institution take over its West Indian and Canadian missions for the duration of hostilities.

#### PREDICTS WHEAT DROP

ROME, Oct. 9 (U. P.).—The International Institute of Agriculture today forecast a 16 per cent drop in Europe's 1940 wheat crop (excluding Russia), but said that it did not foresee any pronounced curtailment of food this winter because other cereals promise to be abundant.

### NEW BUSINESS HIGH EXPECTED

#### Defense and Foreign Trade Are Credited for Rise By Jones.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9 (U. P.).—The Commerce Department today looked forward to industrial production this winter that will reach new record highs. The defense program and heavy foreign purchases of war materials are responsible.

Commerce Secretary Jesse H. Jones reported that business activity continued to advance during September, reaching levels attained in December, 1939, the highest month on record.

New business pouring into manufacturing concerns and the heavy volume of unfilled orders, he added, assured a further expansion of production during the winter months.

#### Predicts Higher Figures

He said that defense expenditures from July through September amounted to \$396,000,000, while contracts cleared by the National Defense Commission totaled \$7,600,000,000. But these figures, he said, "greatly underestimate the quantity of production now in process for the defense program since the bulk of supplies are not paid for until delivery."

August exports were 10 per cent above the previous month, totaling \$342,000,000 of which \$190,000,000 went to Great Britain, he said. Meanwhile, Chairman Joseph O. Mahoney of the Federal Reserve Committee made public a summary of a report prepared by Labor Statistics Commissioner Isador Lubin which held that employment and production are retarded by rigid prices which are maintained collectively at unduly high levels. Mr. O'Mahoney said the report, entitled "price behavior and business policy," does not represent committee findings.

### National Defense Puts New Interest on Lock Systems

By HARRY MORRISON

To most of us a lock is something a key goes into but to Best, the lock company of Indianapolis, it's a scientific protection problem.

Since national defense has made the country think in terms of saboteurs and foreign agents, the Best Universal Lock Co. has made about 30,000 locks to guard the Government's secrets.

In peace time, the theft of plans or the slowing up of work may mean disaster to one person or a company. In war time, such contamination may spell ruin for a nation.

That's why Best has been asked to install master key schemes in scores of American factories where airplanes, tanks, reconnaissance cars and munitions are being made for the nation's defense.

The Best system, like some other systems, can isolate a section of a factory so that not even the president could get into it.

At the same time, the company has patents on an "interchangeable core." By making the core—the part of the lock containing the tumbblers and the key—interchangeable, a whole system of locks can be changed within a few minutes after the loss or theft of a key.

As a matter of fact, one big Indiana gear company who recently received Government orders changed all its locks and keys overnight. Companies taking long-term Government orders have had to reorganize completely. When they do that, they call in a lock company, often Best. "The problem is presented to a Best expert."

He and the company officials work out the best system of protecting each segment of the factory, both from outside sources and from other employees, who, having access to those segments, might inadvertently give away important secrets.

There would be scores of keys, each opening locks to successively fewer sections of a factory.

The lock combinations and the ultimate locations of the locks are kept separate at the lock factory.



Frank E. Best . . . 30,000 locks to protect national defense secrets.

The girls who set the tumbblers in the locks follow a serial number. The shipping clerk knows where the serial is going, but he never sees the serial number.

The Best company was founded in 1925 at Seattle by Frank Ellison Best, the inventor of the interchangeable core, who is company president.

It was moved to Indianapolis two years ago to provide a more central location and a factory was established in the old Cole Motor Car Co. building at 730 E. Washington St.

### MISS THOMPSON SUPPORTS F. D. R.

#### He Has Assets No One Can Match, She Explains in N. Y. Paper.

NEW YORK, Oct. 9 (U. P.).—Columnist Dorothy Thompson, a consistent critic of President Roosevelt's policies, announced in her column in the independent-Republican New York Herald Tribune today that she was supporting him for re-election.

"This column," she wrote, "has often criticized the Roosevelt Administration, and sometimes very sharply. On the issue of the Supreme Court Bill, the manner of the spending program, on the silver policy and the production versus purchasing power theory, and on some of the tax measures and the arguments and means used for enforcing them, this column has not seen eye to eye with the Administration.

"But I shall support the President because I think he has assets on his side that nobody can match. . . . The President knows the world. He knows it . . . better than any other living democratic head of a state or ex-head of a state. The range and precision of his knowledge—military, naval, political; his understanding of conflicting social forces; his grasp of programs—all these impress every person whose life has been spent in foreign affairs with whom he talks. No new President could acquire this knowledge in weeks or in months or in four years. . . ."

#### DIES OF AUTO INJURIES

ANDERSON, Ind., Oct. 9 (U. P.).—Mrs. Margaret Swaltney, 75, formerly of Cleves, O., died today from complications of injuries suffered July 4 in an automobile accident near Cleves.

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- Gracefully designed bridal pair set with one large fine diamond and seven smaller diamonds. Both Rings \$59.50
- The six small side diamonds give the effect of a much larger center diamond. \$59.50
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