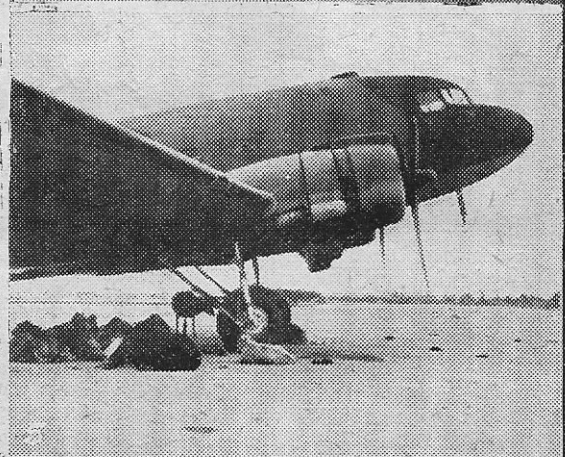
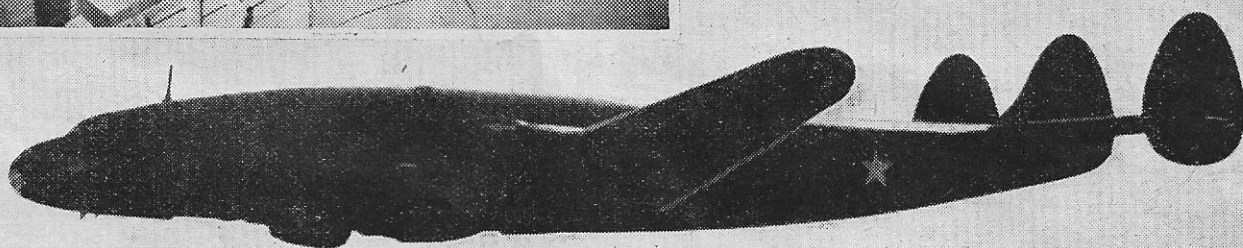
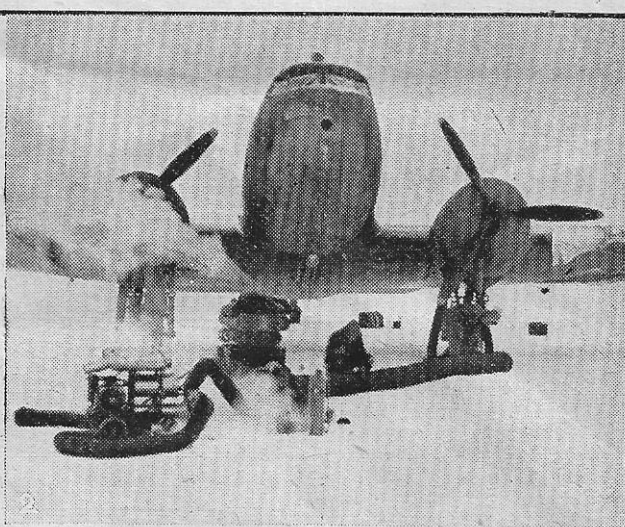
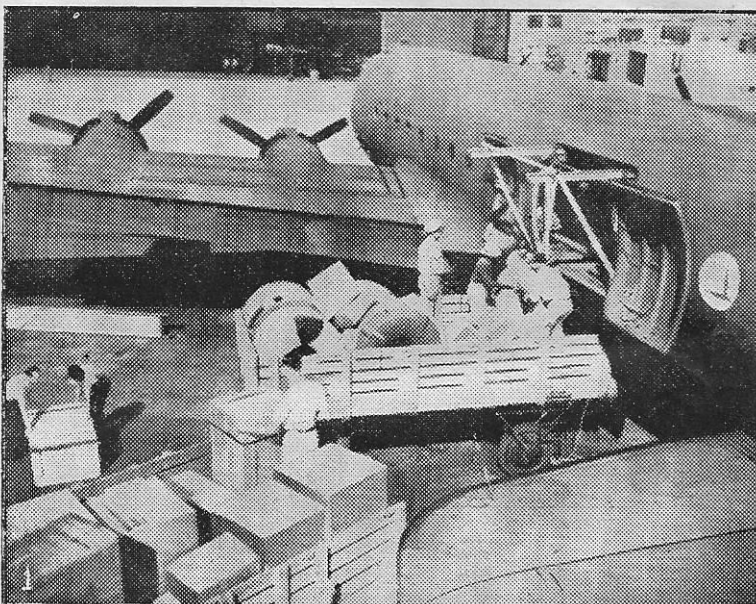


These Flying Pantechnicons Deliver War Goods



SKYMASTER IS THE NAME of this Douglas C.54 transport plane (1), which carries its own crane for loading and unloading supplies. Another of the 16 types used by America is this high-speed Lockheed Constellation (3). An Alaskan transport's engines are warmed up by the use of hot-air machines (2) before it takes off; while in kinder climate, another wings its way over Egypt's pyramids (4). A U.S. freighter on the India-China route (5); native cattle lie down in its welcome shade.

Workshop for Germany: Switzerland's Dilemma

As the waves of war advance, the neutral Swiss look over their ramparts. Compelled by force of circumstances to realize that their country is far more valuable to the Nazis as a workshop than it would be as a battlefield, what prospect do they now see? JOHN ENGLAND explains what the present holds for this peace-loving people and suggests what the future may bring.

FOR three hundred years no foreign soldier has stepped on Swiss soil to wage war. For three hundred years no Swiss army has left its mountain home to wage war abroad. Yet despite this apparent immunity, the Swiss government decided in 1936 that the condition of Europe warranted a vast scheme of rearmament and general preparation for defensive war.

When I visited Switzerland in 1939 I was told that in the three preceding years this little republic of a mere four million people had sunk the enormous capital sum of £46,000,000 in arms. Not only that. The age limits for military service had been changed to rope in all men between 18 and 60. The annual period of training had been increased from three to four months, and the systematic exercise in marksmanship had been brought to a higher standard of efficiency. In addition, nation-wide organization of all the auxiliary services, A.R.P., Fire Service, Red Cross, and so on, had by that date been perfected, so that no citizen was without his or her assigned post against the possibility of invasion.

On the side of material, the modernization of this peace-loving State under the stress of the increasing threat of war was even more impressive. All types of arms and armaments had been modernized with a complete disregard of cost, from small arms and the ordinary soldier's equipment to the guns which today, invisible and rock-protected, give the vast wall of concrete and steel which stretches from Geneva to the Jura Mountains its offensive sting.

This defence system of concrete walls, pillboxes, machine-gun posts, and blockhouses, is Switzerland's first line of defence. Her second line is the ramparts of the Alps. And between these two every bridge and every highway is mined. In the Zurich district I saw something of this fine protective system and learned something, too, of how Switzerland stands prepared for the coming of any aggressor. I was told, for example, that complete mobilization could be carried out throughout the Confederation in forty-eight hours. I was told that within one hour every post of the outer defence system could be manned. And every man knows precisely what is his military task, and how to perform it without detailed orders.

SWITZERLAND is the only country that has kept her citizens armed and equipped for war through periods of peace. Then, as today, every Swiss of military age had in his own home rifle, ammunition, and uniform. Cavalrymen are given their own horses and have them at hand in their own stables. The order for mobilization finds the army virtually at battle stations. The alarm of invasion might, within sixty seconds, find every road and bridge blown sky-high. A single button controls the whole system.

Such, in brief, are the measures Switzerland has taken to preserve her neutrality. It is fair to ask: What obstacles would the invader meet? There are, first of all, the apparent obstacles—the mountains, the passes of which are covered by artillery. No doubt a military machine, such as Germany's, could, caring nothing for the cost in men and materials, force a way through. But there are limits to what the invader can do. For example, the bridges of the mountain roads,

and most of the highways themselves, are incapable of supporting the weight of heavy tanks, a circumstance which would restrict, too, the transport of artillery units—in the event of the system of defence by mines having broken down.

ON the air side, the Confederation has prepared itself thoroughly. Anti-aircraft defence naturally plays a more important role than fighting aircraft and bombers. It is, indeed, the central characteristic of the Swiss rearmament that it could never be taken for anything but a defensive machine. It could not be used for offence, for it lacks all those adjuncts which an army designed for movement in remote terrains finds to be absolutely essential.



SWISS APPEAL FOR AID for war-stricken children of the Occupied Countries, at a Red Cross exhibition in Lausanne, met with the sympathy of the citizens and resulted in substantial contributions. Work of the Red Cross among interned British and Empire troops in neutral Switzerland is mentioned in this page. Photo, New York Times Photos

What has transpired since Italy's fall to bring this four-year-old system of defensive measures in a neutral State into the news? The answer is simple. There are two routes by which the Germans were able to move men and war materials between Germany and Italy. The first was the Brenner. But the Brenner is a single-track line, and is not adapted to heavy war traffic of this kind. The other route is via the Simplon and St. Gotthard systems, with their tunnels (which have now been mined at both ends).

Switzerland is in a very difficult position. She is today virtually enclosed in the heart of continental Europe; and the envelope that encloses her is the military might of Nazi Germany. All her foreign trade is cut off, and at her frontiers Gestapo agents in civilian dress watch her customs officers and sometimes even interfere with them.

Like ourselves, Switzerland imports food and all her raw materials. It is quite wrong to envisage this lovely land as one wherein yodelling herdsmen roam the mountains in the wake of bell-tinkling cattle. Only 21 per cent of the population is on the land; no less than 44.6 per cent is employed in industry. At the time I was in Switzerland

I was told that the contingency that has now befallen had been provided against by the accumulation of vast stores of raw materials of all kinds, and of all essential foods.

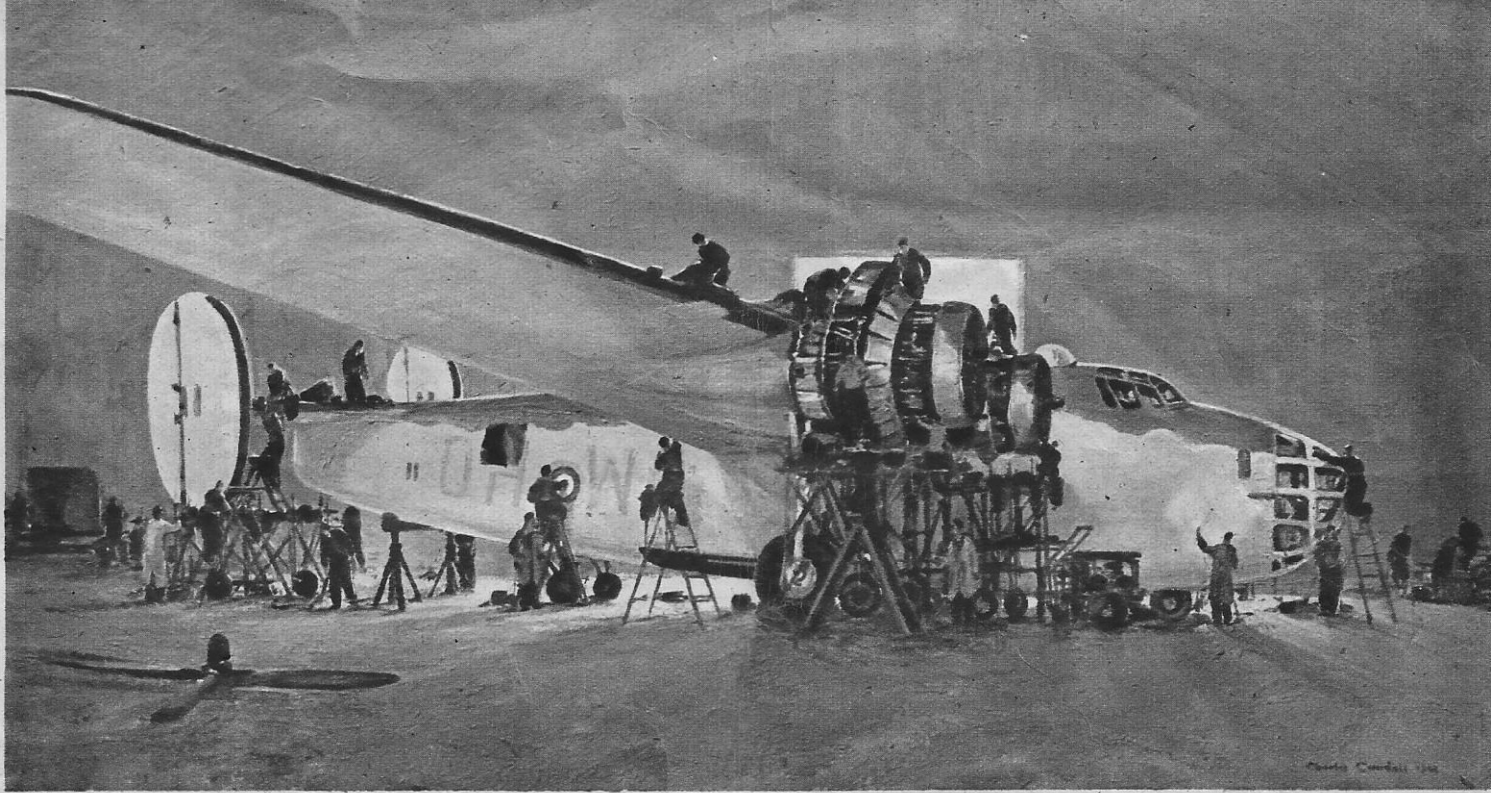
It is these materials which have kept the wheels of Switzerland's industry turning—for Nazi Germany. Here she had no choice, since there was for her, ringed about as she has been, no alternative customer. From Zurich and the other great industrial centres, Switzerland has been pouring into Germany the precision instruments which are the natural transition of the watchmaker's craft to war work. As for food, it is upon the stocks of accumulated staple foods that the country has been feeding. Even so, there is no meat in Lausanne, or in Geneva, and precious little anywhere else.

Naturally that food shortage affects also the thousands of British and Empire soldiers who escaped from captivity after Italy capitulated and are now interned in Switzerland; they are, however, being looked after, so far as is possible, by the International Red Cross. They are allowed by the Swiss Government to be at liberty in towns and villages in about 20 centres, where their daily routine is a fairly rigorous one. Just now boredom is one of their chief handicaps, but this the Red Cross is trying hard to dispel by providing the officers and men with occupations and educational interests.

IF one considers Switzerland today from the Nazi standpoint it is plain she is far more valuable to the Germans as a workshop than as a battlefield. Faced by the terrible dilemma of risking war by closing her transport systems to all transit traffic, Switzerland has taken no action in the face of the plain Nazi threat and the overt hostile act of closing the Swiss-Italian frontier. The collapse of Italy and the occupation of the northern part of the "leg" by the Nazis and their puppet Italian government, has created a situation crucial for Switzerland, for German customs officers control all outside world openings and thus maintain what is, virtually, a state of blockade.

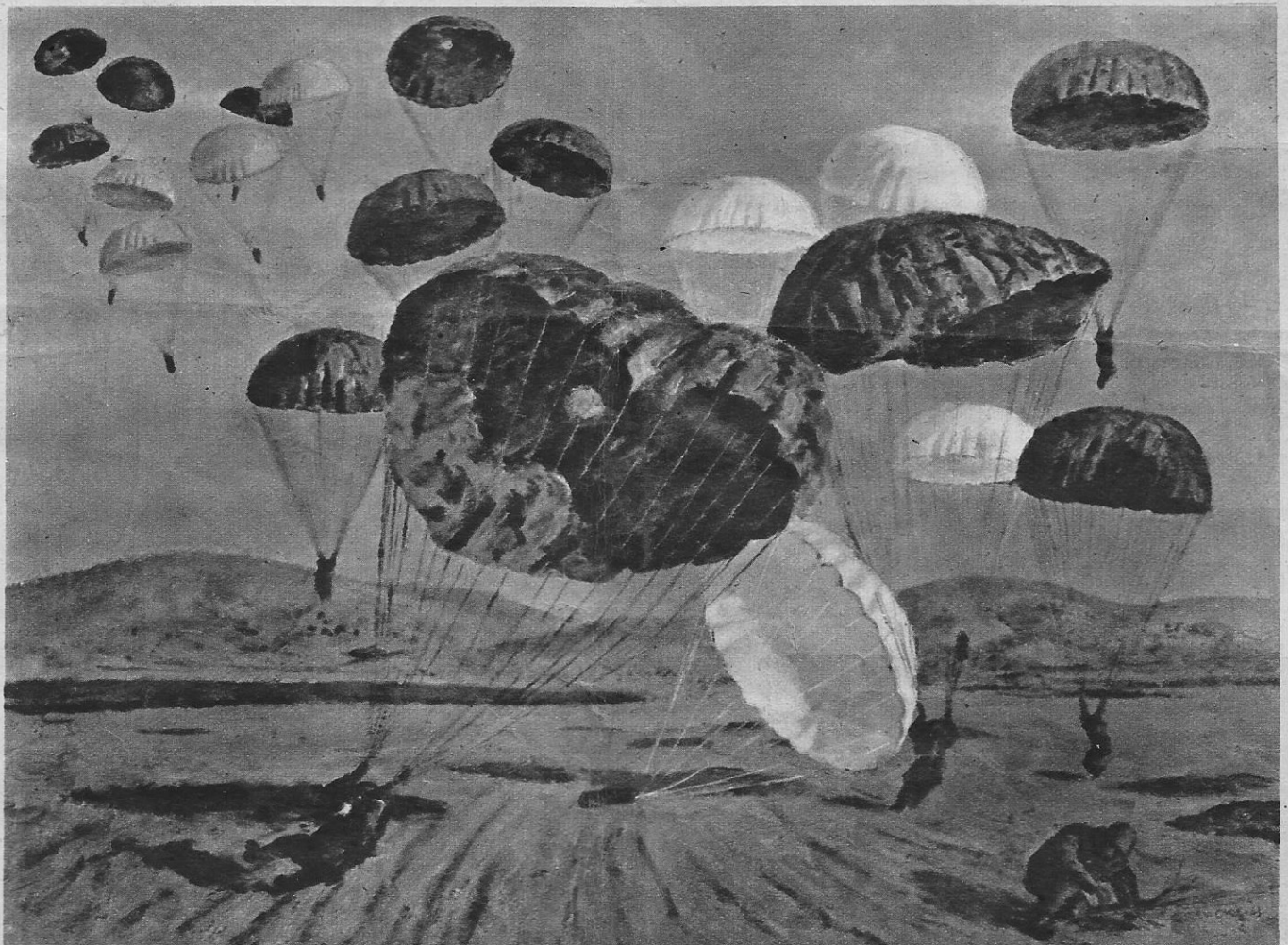
What do the Swiss think of the Nazis and of the Democratic Nations in arms? In the 1914-18 war the line-up was one that followed the logic of language: German-speaking Swiss were pro-German, the French-speaking were pro-Ally. When I was in Zurich and Berne I found everywhere a complete detestation of all that Hitler's Germany stands for. I never met, or heard of, a single Swiss Nazi sympathizer. But since then Dr. Goebbels has been very active. His high-powered propaganda has been worked with skill and thoroughness. So far, in face of it, we have done nothing by way of counter-propaganda. The fact, therefore, has to be faced—the inevitable has happened: there has been some lapse here and there towards the Nazi view, evidenced from the pages of the Gazette de Lausanne, and La Suisse.

By and large, I think it may be taken as fairly certain that Switzerland has an overwhelming majority in favour of those things for which the United Nations stand and for which they are fighting. But, as Professor von Salis put it: "Part of the ransom which the Swiss people must pay for their policy of *stillesitzen* (neutrality) is to endure without hope of recompense or benefit great military, financial and personal sacrifices."



SERVICING A LIBERATOR

Charles Cundall, A.R.A.



PARACHUTE DROP

Henry Carr

War Depicted by the Artist's Brush

CELEBRATING its fifth year of activity, Britain's War Artists' Advisory Committee has placed on view at The National Gallery, London, new oil paintings, water colours and drawings covering every aspect of the war in Europe, from N. Africa, Malta, Sicily and Italy to as far north as Iceland,

and ranging from the picturesquely vigorous to the grimly dramatic. In this and the following pages is a selection of striking examples of the work of artists who have contributed to this display. There are eight official artists, appointed by the Committee, now attached to the Armed Forces.

Exhibited at The National Gallery, London, Spring 1944. Crown copyright reserved.



A PATHFINDER

J. Berry

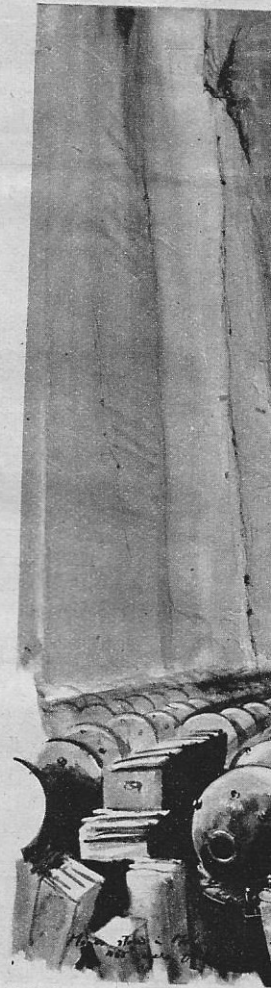


HEAVY A.A. AND VALETTA IN DISTANCE DUR



R.A.F. AIR SEA RESCUE LAUNCHES ; THE FISH QUAY BEYOND

Stephen Bone



MINES STORED IN MELIL

Exhibited at The National Gallery,