AIF AMENITIES SERVICES



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Egyptian mechanic La turned a switch in the press-room of the Societe Orientale de Publicite, Sharia Galal, Cairo, on January 23 last, ending the career of The A.I.F. News.

We watched the last copies of our 150th issue stack up as the tired old Hoe press came to a standstill. It was cease-fire for the largest and oldest Service newspaper in the Middle East, after close on three years of continuous weekly production.

A.I.F. News was inaugurated The day a brown, rugged Digon March 15, 1940, at the sugges- ger walked in and inquired diffition of Brigadier (now Major- dently whether he could put an General) A. S. Allen, and ushered ad in was a milestone. in under the collective wing of Most certainly! We sat him war correspondents John Heth- in our best chair. Was it someerington. Reg Glennie, Guy Har- thing he had lost or wanted to riott, and Ian Fitchett. The buy? and Sydney, later P.O.W. in

ington, "is a serious newspaperknuckle stories."

We were the first newspaper in the field among all United Nations forces in the M.E., probably in any theatre of war.

By its 11th issue, A.I.F. News, previously cyclostyle, had A.I.F. News." attained the dignity of print.

in Palestine. Then Captain C. We hoped Foley, sen., liked it. H. Cheong, who had worked on Melbourne and Perth dailies, was seconded from H.Q. 21 Aust. Inf. ties Services agreed to buy the Bde to be editor-manager.

Egypt, for two reasons; proximity basis of one to five, then one to to the troops, and Cairo's better three, and finally one to each printing facilities. Aided by an Australian soldier in the Middle enlarged staff of newsmen drawn East. from units serving in the M.E., representing all States except mid of much greater weight and Tasmania, news and features inertia than the giant tomb of were strengthened, pictorial dis- King Cheops. It is an immutplay more than doubled, and a able philosophy of inevitability page of Digger contributions which sits alike upon business

added. Previously a losing proposition,

handsome profit-maker. Armed with a rate-card printed in English, French, Arabic, and toils. Coupled with language

The A.I.F. News is no more, but its heir, Table Tops, has just started publication "somewhere in Australia," with the same staff on which Lieut. Harry Grover, writer of this article, is chief sub-editor.

Egyptian and Palestinian firms than did the local English, French, and Arabic dailies.

editor was Pte. Roley Hoffman, a "Well, no, it's not exactly that pressman in Perth, Melbourne, kind of ad," he said, regarding us dubiously. "I just want you to print in big type, EAT MORE "The aim," wrote John Hether- FOLEY'S BUTTER."

It looked like a leg-pull. Was not just a vehicle for near-the- Foley's butter on sale in the Middle East? Well, no, it wasn't.

"You see," he explained, "Foley's my Dad, and he runs it back in New South. He'd be tickled pink to see this ad in the

In its first year it was printed for two insertions at £1 a time. Later, the Australian Army

Canteen Services and the Amenipaper for the boys and distribute Operations were transferred to it free. This was done on the

There exists in Egypt a pyraconcerns and individuals, and is expressed in the word, "Mah-A.I.F. News was converted into a leesh," meaning, "It doesn't matter," or "Forget it."

Mah-leesh got us in its invisible higher rates from conservative growth that seemed to be ever our Christmas issue.

PET RHINOCEROS

I fed him upon rhubarb leaves, and honeycomb, and corn.

And at night the faithful creature used to sleep beside my bed.

- E was kind, and he was gentle and as quiet as a mouse,

As he went thinoceromping up the long thinoceroad.

I never slept a wink till I was absolutely sure

And slew my pet rhinoceros rhinoceruthlessly.

He at length had reached thinoceregularity once more.

She bought a pound of cyanide and slipped it in his tea,

10 longer do the loungers by the local village pump

No longer at their concerts he the peasantry amuses

HAD a pet thinoceros, cremated he has been;

With his long thinocerepertoire of gay thinoceruses.

And a very useful animal to have about the house;

On his horn I hung my bowler, stropped my razor on his legs,

If it chanced my dear rhinoceros should suffer from the croup,

RUT at last he earned the hatred of my neighbour Mrs. White,

Strike matches for their gaspers on his tough rhinocerump.

We spread him on the lettuces, they're springing fresh and green.

For he kept rhinoceroaring in the middle of the night.

Though he now is dust and ashes I've a faith won't be denied

His Rhinoceraith will greet me when I reach the Other Side.

The vile rhinoceringworms or perhaps rhinoceroup,

And I found his feet were peerless when it came to cracking eggs.

WHEN my work was done each evening we would wander o'er the lea.

Oh, he lowed thinocerambling through the countryside with me.

All the people stopped to watch him and their great amazement showed

HAD a pet rhinoceros who never blew his horn,

I kept him at the bottom of the garden in a shed,

closing in faster than we could chop through it.

Among the workmen who set and printed our paper and made our photographic blocks were Maltese, French, Arabs, Italians, Armenians, Syrians, Greeks, Turks, and Russians. One of our linotype operators was a Dalmatian, completely deaf and

Few of these men could speak any English. We could speak only a little Arabic, a little

Operators could set only from typed copy, repeating the shapes of the letters, and any literal typing errors were thus perpetuated in type.

When proof corrections were made, often three or four new errors would appear in the line. Every item had to be read and reread at least six times before going to press.

Right at the outset of our Egyptian career we were suspended for two days by the Egyptian Government, for reasons which were never clearly given; it seemed to be that they hadn't expected us to publish advertisements. We were allowed to continue—when the editor

Public holidays in Egypt are even more of a national habit than in Australia. There were So Foley, jun., paid cash down Arabic fasts and festivals. Jewish Christmas, besides the usual English Christmas and bank holidays. Whatever their colour or creed, our workmen seemed to share each other's holidays indiscriminately.

Trouble of another kind came to us from the simple loyalty of Richarde Radimir, the Yugoslav in charge of handset types used for our magazine display.

Because of his ruthless desire to grind his heel into Rommel's head, and his fervently uttered "V pour Victorie," we christened him Mikhailovich, after the Yugoslav general.

But Mikhailovich's patriotism became difficult, the Christmas before last, when he flatly refused to release to us an old Hebrew, our ad-man got far difficulties, it formed jungle lish, which we planned to use in

> "It is Zherman type," he said. "Down with Rommel Down with Hitler."

> Finally, when we brought higher authority to bear, it was found that he had hidden the type, and would not, even on threat of dismissal, say where he'd put it.

Just a year later, when Captain Cheong was nosing around Gothic. Despite Mik- ably true. hailovich's wails, he the Christmas then under way.

But the old Yugoslav had the last word. He rechristened the type, pasting new labels on all the racks contain-

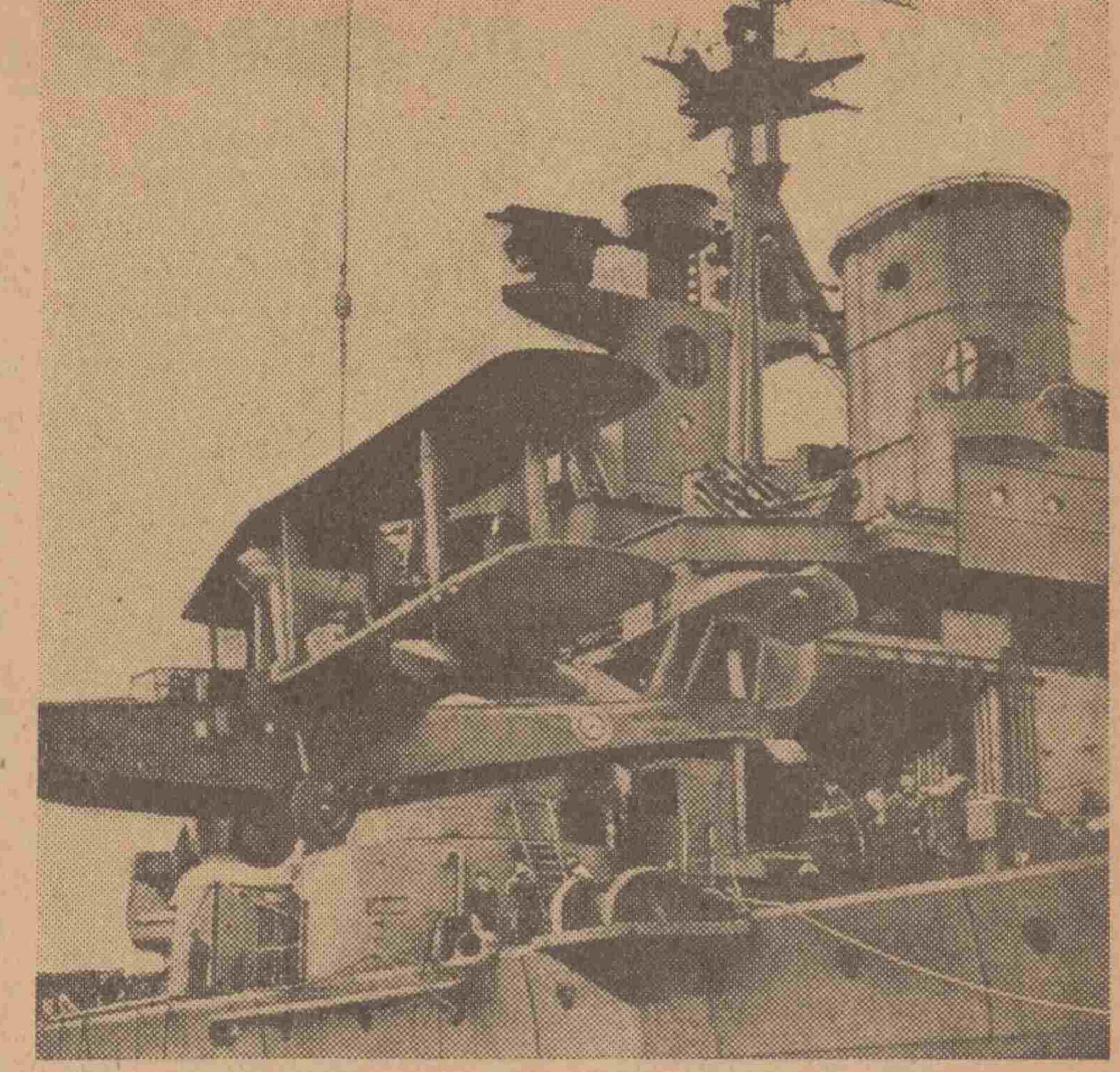
Now, anyone seeking that Old Gothic will find it under "18pt. HATE, 36pt. HATE," and so on.

From a financial viewpoint, The A.I.F. News had proved successful. Profits, as far as possible, were put back into the paper, and several expensive features were intro-

And as a special pre-Christmas feature we issued a two-colour art-paper supplement of scenes from lands traversed by the A.I.F. to every A.I.F. member in the M.E., and to some thousands of R.A.A.F. as well.

This last job cost some £500. Even so, the final wind-up accounts show a gross profit of over £6000.—Reprinted from Salt.

-"A. CHESS."



A Walrus flying-boat being hoisted on to the decks of a British battleship after a reconnaissance flight. Planes of the Fleet Air Arm are playing an important role in the Mediterranean in the war against Italy.

## Plan to save Jews entered into a £150 bond to conform to Egyptian newspaper laws.

MHOUSANDS of Jews are whence the emigrants could be still being massacred all taken to places of refuge.

Every possibility should be exover Europe. Victor Gol- pl lancz, noted English publisher, in a pamphlet which has just arrived in Australia, advances proposals which, he claims, will assist at least some of the survivors.

The pamphlet, which is titled, induce the peoples of the United Nations to give aid to his race.

He wrote it, he says, on Christmas Day, 1942, just after he had heard broadcast "the sweet, childish carol, O Come, All Ye Faithful."

ing at the outbreak of war in Europe, between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 have been deliberately murdered by the Nazis and their satellites.

the form of random shootings, electrocutions, gassing, and transportations in conditions which inevitably involve death during the journey.

To support his allegations, he quotes from the Polish White Paper presented to the British among the types, he Government, the main facts of came upon the missing which, he says, are unquestion-

This after giving paper, insisted on using it in detailed accounts of mass killings, says:

"Himmler during his visit to Warsaw in March, 1942, ordered the extermination of 50 per cent. of the Jews in Poland . . . Today fewer than a third of the 3,130,000 Jews who were in Poland at the beginning of the war are now living."

Gollancz' comment on this is: "Anyone who has studied Hitler's mind, revealed in his acts and his utterances, cannot fail to be aware that for this pitiful paranoiac there is one supreme idee fixe—that the Jews are a subrace, and that it is his, Hitler's, literally divine mission to exterminate them."

Discarding the theory of revenge after the war as a useless contribution to the alleviation of suffering, Gollancz pleads for immediate action to save as many survivors as possible. He claims that the plan he outlines is practicable.

This is how he proposes that the peoples of the United Nations, particularly the people of Britain, should work:

The United Nations should approach Germany and other enemy countries through the protecting Powers to allow Jewsparticularly parents and children —to emigrate, to grant them exit visas, and give them transport facilities to points at frontiers

plored for the exchange of Jews in occupied countries against similar categories of enemy nationals. (This, he says, would not alter the manpower balance.)

The United Nations should make arrangements to evacuate refugees at present in neutral countries; should encourage neutrals to allow the entry of as many more refugees as possible by guaranteeing that they would be evacuated as soon as possible; Let My People Go, is designed to should further encourage these neutrals by guaranteeing food and money for the maintenance of the refugees.

There should be an approach, in a systematic and planned fashion, to the South American States to discover how many Gollancz claims that of the refugees evacuated through the Gothic type, resembling Old Eng- 6,000,000 or so Jews who were liv- European neutrals they would be willing to receive.

what is at present Nazi-occupied Temporary camps should be established in North Africa, Cyprus, Kenya, etc., so that, pending evacuation to a more permanent home, the flow of refugees through European neutrals would not be impeded.

The International Red Cross should be approached to undertake the work of supervising the evacuation of refugees.

The doors of Palestine should be thrown open to despairing men women, and children.

Shipping should be provided at Lisbon, insofar as war exigencies permit, as a considerable volume of evacuation from France, Italy, Belgium, and Holland could be directed through Spain and Portugal.

The United Nations themselves should provide every bit of sanctuary they can as an example to other world States which might be prepared to co-operate. Gollancz particularly appeals to

the people of Britain to ask for relaxation of the regulations controlling the entry of refugees to

## Soviet industry

THE most ominous news for the Germans should be sought in the great changes on the list of Russian requirements of help from Britain and America.

The decrease in want of finished weapons, the secret pronegotiated by Britain, America, and Canada, setting forth supplies to be furnished to Russia beginning with July 1; and the entire lease-lend agreement being adjusted to the Soviet's new needs; the fact that the Russians have asked for priority in food, industrial machines, and tools, all this is indicative of the growth and renewed strength of the Soviet industrial potential.

Examples of history teach us that powers are only able to win wars when they are capable of increasing in strength in the process of war.—D. P. Fomenko, in an A.B.C. talk.