

Letters From London Received

The Sentinel is permitted to print extracts from letters received recently by Mrs. Geo. Ulett from her sister who resides in the east. They were written by friends in England six and seven weeks ago, and while they may not exactly paint conditions as they exist at the present time, they do breathe the determination of the English people not to be conquered by that arch fiend of the twentieth century, Adolf Hitler. The first letter was dated Aug. 28:

I hope you Americans do not believe all the lies which Germany is putting out about our air losses, because they are merely wishful thinking, whereas the figures we give of German air losses are on the conservative side since no loss is recorded unless the pilot or people on land or sea have actually seen the plane fall to pieces in the air, go down in flames, or actually land on shore or sea. You will see therefore, that really quite a large percentage could be added to our figures to give the true German losses. I am enclosing some photographs from the London Times, which I hope the censor will pass, because they give you a very good idea of the smashed German machines we have salvaged, and you must remember that these only represent the machines that come down on land, whereas many more were shot down over the sea, and of course sank. There is no doubt about it, our air men are masters of the situation, and no daylight raid will succeed. It would appear that the Germans have now learnt their lesson and returning to increased night raiding, because it is very difficult to shoot down planes at night, as we have found during the many raids we have carried out over Germany over the past few months. There is no doubt that we have knocked them very badly on the Ruhr, and Northwest Germany, which are now very unhealthy places.

What I can never forgive the Germans for is bombing and machine-gunning lighthouses and ships, and machine-gunning civilians in the streets of our towns. There is absolutely no excuse for this deliberate murder.

Our experience of German raids is that they are pretty bad shots. For one thing they are too nervous to come down very low, and try and do their work from about 20,000 to 30,000 feet so that they do not get within five miles of their target. This, of course, makes it more dangerous for the civilian population when they are aiming at some military objective.

Apparently the German are very angry about the Home Guard we have formed; why they should be I really do not know except that it will frustrate any attempt on their part to invade England. You may rest assured that if they do try to land they are going to be absolutely wiped out because we are all ready for them, and should they try and land inland from aeroplanes the Home Guardsmen will be out behind every hedge ready to shoot them down as fast as they land, and this

is what makes the Germans sore. I have been roped into the Home Guard and command what we call a platoon which is comprised of volunteers from this factory and neighboring establishments so that you will see that I have again got into uniform. All are hoping for a chance to shoot some of the vermin should they try any of their tricks around here. There is going to be no nonsense and no prisoners because, after all, if you are exterminating rats you do not want them alive, and a dead rat or German is only one that suits us.

It makes us all laugh to hear the Germans putting out on the radio that we are all cowering in our dug-outs and afraid to move. They will find the situation very different if they care to come and visit us. I think they are most probably judging us by the state of mind of their own people. I can assure you that all our tails are well up now that we have been roused, and I think you will find from past history that when the British people are roused they are extremely ingenious in devising methods for destroying the enemy, and as for morale and fighting qualities there has been no one to touch them since the earliest days when English Mercenaries were much sought after all over the world. Hitler may be fool enough to try to invade us, but if he does it will be a great mistake on his part because he will get wiped out and his prestige will drop with a flop. I personally think he is too clever to do this and that he will centre his energies further east. He will, however, try and make things very unpleasant for us by continual bombing, but two can play at this game, and I have very strong reasons for believing that not only are our bombers more effective than theirs, but that our bombing sights are far superior so that we really do hit the targets we shoot at. The Italians have been honest enough to admit that we have messed up their Fiat works, and apparently the Caproni and Savoia plants have also been badly hit.

Our aeroplane production at the moment is greater than the Germans, so that we are gradually overtaking them by this increased production and by the terrific havoc that we have created amongst their numbers when they have called on us. You may have read in your papers that of all the bombers that has bombed Croyden not one got away, which I think, speaks volumes for our wonderful defences.

It hardly seems possible that practically a year has gone since war was declared, in fact this time last year I was with you and enjoying your company. I hope that peace may come soon, but only after Hitler has been wiped out, so that I can return to your country for another visit. I feel that I would like a really long

holiday when this war ends because although we have not seen much of the active side yet, we have our business worries and, of course, the factory has to work long hours.

The second, from London, was written a few days later, on Sept. 2:

We are all right up to the present time, and have plenty to eat, drink and wear and the rations are ample. Sugar, meat, bacon, butter and tea are rationed, and some of the rations are likely to be increased during the winter months, although the butter ration is being reduced. It is rather curious that here in London one would hardly know that there was a war on if it were not for the number of houses and shops being vacant and the streets being less crowded with vehicles than usual.

We are getting quite used to air raids now. Bombs have been dropped in and around the London area, but so far little damage has been done. London is very well defended and the Germans pay very dearly for these raids. As time goes on, instead of the British people being scared, I think they are more and more confident. German losses in men and machines have been very heavy, the ratio I think, being four or five to one British, and a large proportion of the British crews have been saved. Also the British are inflicting great damage to military targets in Germany and Italy and other fronts. When we get more airplanes, the offensive will be carried more and more into enemy territory.

I do not yet understand the collapse of France, for the army was not beaten, but there appears somehow or other to have been a large number of traitors in high places. We have heard nothing whatever from France since about the 10th of June. We are at a loss to know where our employees and friends are; we cannot communicate with them and they can not communicate with us.

These are, of course, anxious and strenuous times but up to the present we have been very fortunate in not suffering directly from these bombing raids. The spirit of the people everywhere is excellent, and all the working men feel that this is their war, and are working for all they are worth everywhere, and the women are doing wonderful work in all directions, not only in the factories but in various other departments. We are very busy and, of course, working directly or indirectly for the various Government Departments.

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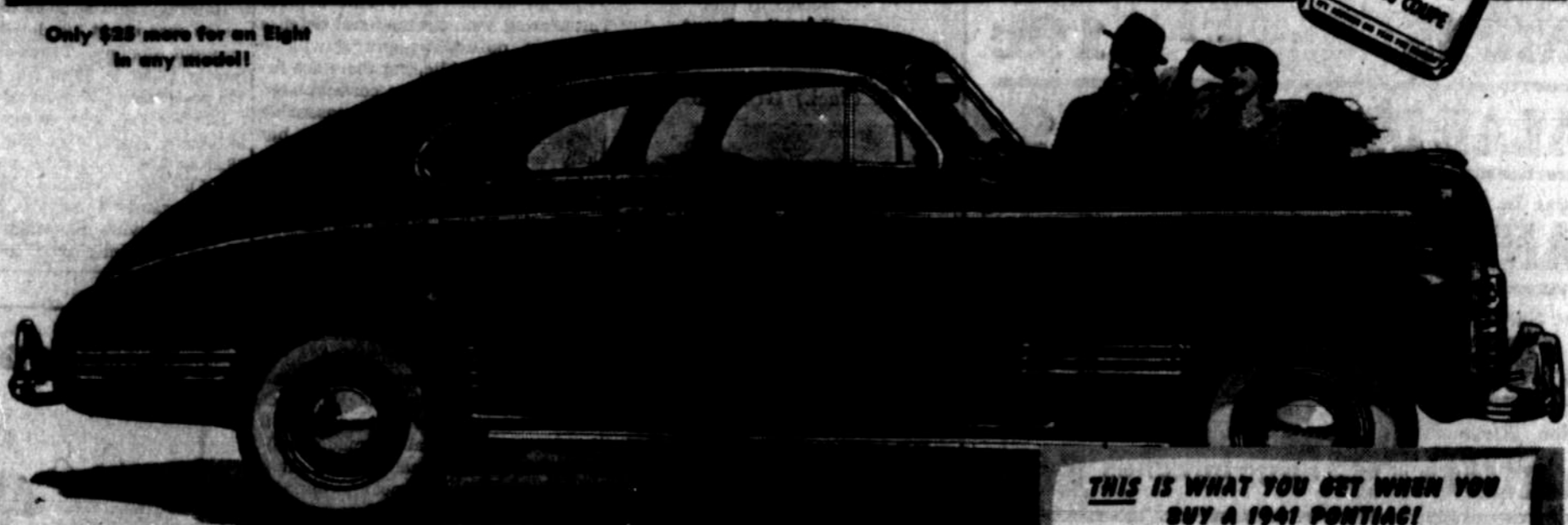


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