

heads while General de Gaulle, surrounded by high-ranking French and British officers, wished the new fighting ship Godspeed.

"A sign of the times . . . this ship built in British yards for the Navy of France. . . Our two peoples . . . our two navies . . . a common effort for a common victory. . . We can both say that from the first day to the last,

this war will have been our war."

The *Curie*, new ship with her future before her, the tried fighters *Lobelia* and *Aconit*, and all the gallant craft of the Allied navies, are part of the common effort that each day brings victory nearer and the final award of which the *Croix de la Libération* stands symbolic: France and the world freed at last from chains.

AN AMERICAN GIRL IN BRAZZAVILLE

(Continued from page 5.)

sleeping sickness. A radio station, built in a land where every tool must be imported, which could be heard in Vichy Africa and France.

Strange as Brazzaville seemed to me, it quickly developed that I was even stranger to Brazzaville. Many there had never seen an American girl before, and they could not understand why one had come to settle in their midst. Quite a few were curious about the United States, and the younger ones told me they would very much like to visit America after the war.

Meanwhile they were working sixteen hours a day in a fearsome climate and under appalling labour conditions, so that Frenchmen whose only other news access was Axis bulletins could hear the truth.

The stenographers who took down the news broadcasts of the B.B.C. got up at dawn and were still working at dusk, because there were not enough of them to allow for even a day off. The important news items which came in from the world's agencies in Morse were transcribed by natives who could neither read, write, nor speak English. When the radio station was started, there wasn't a soul who could read Morse, and at first it seemed hopeless to teach the

natives. But they were taught, painfully, laboriously—shown that when they heard three dots and a dash they should strike the letter "V" on their typewriters, and so on down the alphabet. Thus Radio Brazzaville got the news hot off the wires.

While I was there a new and even more powerful station was being constructed with 400 tons of material sent over from America. It was going up in the face of tremendous difficulties. Sometimes a whole shipment would arrive smashed, or sometimes one would be lost at sea, but the small staff kept doggedly at it anyway.

In my six months in Brazzaville I met many men like them working at jobs throughout the vast colony. Some were constructing roads through swampy jungle where a white man had never been; others were carrying out campaigns across desert and mountains hitherto considered impassable. Many of them were the little people of France, who after the war is over will return quietly to their shops and homes. The world will never hear of them, but they don't care. When the French Empire is united and free again, and when Equatorial Africa is no longer known as the heart of the Dark Continent, it will be due largely to the efforts of Frenchmen like those I knew.

Escaped from France

HENRI QUEUILLE

M. Henri Queuille, Senator for the Corrèze, and Minister of Food in the last Reynaud Cabinet of 1940, is the second Senator to escape from France recently and place his services at the disposal of General de Gaulle and the French National Committee—the first was M. Maroselli, Senator for the Haute-Saône (see "La Lettre de la France Combattante", March 1943).

M. Queuille, who has been a Radical Deputy since 1914 and a Senator since 1936, has been Minister in over twenty French Cabinets. He held the portfolios of Agriculture, Public Health, Communications, Public Works and Food. In 1937, he founded the French State Railways Company. In 1938, he was considered a possible candidate for the Presidency of the French Republic. As Minister of Food in the last Reynaud Cabinet of 1940, M. Queuille, to the end, distinguished himself by his uncompromising hostility to the policy of capitulation. Since the Armistice he has maintained his resistant attitude.

Questioned about the food situation in France, at a Press Conference in London on the 11th May, M. Queuille said that children were so gravely affected by the shortage of food that there was fear for the future of the coming generation. In many parts of the country children were without milk, and the need of meat was urgent.

M. Queuille said that the morale of the French people was very high, and that the whole country had organised itself with General de Gaulle and the movement of resistance, to be ready to fight on the side of the Allies when an invasion took place.

PIERRE VIENOT

M. Pierre Viénot has been, since 1932, Socialist Deputy for the Ardennes Department. He was elected French Delegate to the League of Nations in 1934, and was a member of the Foreign Affairs Commission and Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the Léon Blum Cabinet. Before the war, M. Viénot was well known in London, and gave a number of lectures at Chatham House. In the last war, he volunteered for service at the age of 17, was badly wounded, and was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. At the outbreak of the present war he joined up again in the infantry.

At the time of the capitulation, M. Viénot was on board the "Massilia." Subsequently arrested in Morocco, in September 1940, by General Noguès—the man whom M. Viénot had himself appointed Resident-General in place of M. Peyrouton in 1936—he was imprisoned at Casablanca.

From Casablanca, M. Viénot was transferred to Toulouse, where he was imprisoned, and then to Clermont Ferrand, and was condemned to eight years' hard labour by Vichy. A reprieve, however, was granted on account of his past military service, and after his release he went to visit Léon Blum in prison at Riom, and M. Reynaud, who was writing his memoirs in his cell at Fort Portalet, in the Pyrenees. Again arrested in August 1942, and sent to prison at Vals, M. Viénot was later transferred to Evaux les Bains, where he found M. Herriot and M. Jouhaux. He soon succeeded in escaping both from prison and from France and managed to reach England.

ESCAPED FROM FRANCE

Prominent Frenchmen, who, in the last few months, have succeeded in reaching England to serve with General de Gaulle.



ANDRE PHILIP
"Underground" Delegate



FERNAND GRENIER
Deputy, St. Denis



RENE MASSIGLI
Foreign Affairs



d'ASTIER de la VIGERIE
Air Marshal



PIERRE VIENOT
Deputy, Ardennes



ANDRE MAROSELLI
Senator, Haute Saone



GENERAL BEYNET
Acting War Commissioner



GENERAL GEORGES SUFFREN
Knew Lyautey



HENRI QUZUILLE
Senator, Correze



PIERRE BLOCH
Deputy, Aisne



MAJOR DE BOISLAMBERT
Twice Escaped



ALBERT GUIGUI
Trade Unionist



GEORGES BUISSON
Workers' Delegate



FELIX GOUIN
Deputy, Marseilles



MARCEL POIMBOEUF
Christian Trade Unions

MARCEL POIMBOEUF

A French Christian Trade Union leader, M. Marcel Poimboeuf, has been an active member of the *Bureau de la Confédération Française des Travailleurs Chrétiens* for the last thirty-five years. In 1926 he became Secretary-General of the *Fédération Française des Syndicats Chrétiens et Employés, Techniciens et Chefs de Service*. He is also Secretary-General of the *Fédération Internationale des Syndicats Chrétiens et Employés*.

M. Poimboeuf stated, at a Press Conference in London on the 30th April, that his personal opinion was that about one million workers had already been deported to Germany. As well as the "Relève," there was a sort of military mobilisation in progress. Three classes had already been called up, and according to recent information that he had, ten classes would soon be mobilised, ready for service for Germany. This mobilisation served, first and foremost, as a means of emptying France of all her able-bodied young men so that they would not be able to aid allied troops when they landed on the Continent. Each military class comprised 300,000 men. Vichy announced in February that 500,000 men had left for Germany, and in March the numbers were considerably higher. On the other hand, the few French prisoners who were released as Germany's part of the bargain only came to their homes on "war leave", and were liable to recall at Germany's whim.*

* Vichy radio announced on the 8th May that the first contingent of prisoners of war which was on leave in France was to return to Germany three days later. The men were "to resume their places not as prisoners but as free workers."

GEORGES BUISSON

Georges Buisson, Secretary of the C.G.T. (Confédération Générale du Travail), the largest Trades Union organisation, which numbered approximately 2,500,000 members before the war, escaped to England recently with M. Marcel Poimboeuf. M. Buisson is head of the C.G.T. Delegation to London, and was one of the closest colleagues of the Secretary-General of the C.G.T., M. Léon Jouhaux.

M. Buisson described the spectacular way in which Laval staged his "Relève" campaign, at a Press Conference in London on the 30th April. "A train," he said, "would leave a distant point, like Nice, for example, and would stop at each station to take on one or two recruits. The press would then give a very false picture of the real situation, by making it appear that more than one train was *en route* for Germany, and the statistics concerning the numbers of workers involved were equally misleading. Laval's first campaign fell absolutely flat, and the government had to try other means. Workers were compelled to undergo a medical examination before signing an engagement form: when they refused to submit to the examination, their names were signed for them by divisional inspectors. These medical examinations were a pure formality. Even workers who had lost an eye or a leg were dragged off to work in Germany. Resistance grew: spontaneous demonstrations broke out, women massed at the stations to prevent trains leaving. To-day, however, factory owners are forced to send the exact number of workers that is demanded—numbers must be made up by foremen, skilled workers and even the owners' own sons.

GENERAL BEYNET

General Beynet, who is now acting as National Commissioner for War in the French National Committee during General Legentilhomme's absence in Madagascar, recently escaped from France. Lieutenant-General Etienne Paul Beynet was head of the French Section of the Wiesbaden Armistice Commission. While in Germany he was well treated, but was under constant surveillance, and a Gestapo detachment was even installed in the hotel allotted to the French Section. General Beynet's movements were also restricted and he was not allowed to travel more than twenty miles away. He always had to be accompanied by his Nazi liaison officer. If ever a German was seen talking with General Beynet or any member of his staff, he was reprimanded by the police, and, if caught a second time, was arrested.

The Allied landing in North Africa, according to General Beynet, took the Nazi command completely by surprise. They were convinced that the convoy of ships was bound for Crete, Greece or Egypt. Nazis were stupefied by the turn of events, and some went as far as asking General Beynet for a written testimony that they had always been "correct and friendly" towards him.

Talking about conditions in Germany, General Beynet said that the younger generation were mad Nazis. The older people were fed up, and in private conversations they admitted that they had had quite enough of the war.

A short biography of General Beynet was given last month.

GENERAL SUFFREN

General Georges Suffren, who has just succeeded in reaching this country from France, has served, during practically the whole of his career, with the French Army in North Africa. He first went to Morocco in 1912. Two years later, when war broke out, he left for the Western Front with the *Tirailleurs Algériens* (Algerian Sharpshooters) and it was not until 1919 that he returned to Morocco—this time under Marshal Lyautey. It was General Suffren who, in 1926, succeeded in bringing in Abd-el-Krim. In 1929, General Suffren was in command in Southern Morocco, and was under the orders of General Giraud.

Nine years later, from 1937-39, General Suffren commanded the 25th Algerian Regiment at Sarrebourg. In March, 1939, he left, once more, for North Africa, where he was placed in command on the Algerian and Moroccan borders. Soon after the declaration of the present war, General Suffren went back to France, and once again on the Western Front fought throughout the Battle of France.

After the Armistice, he was one of the band of officers who hoped to bring North Africa back into the war on the side of the Allies. He was attached to General Weygand's *Délégation Générale*, but, being considered a "dangerous element" by the Germans, he was forced to leave Africa and returned to France in January 1942.

General Suffren is a Commander of the Legion of Honour. He was awarded the *Croix de Guerre* both in this war and the last. His 1914-18 *Croix de Guerre* bears four palms.

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