

UNDER VICHY -- PEACE - AT A PRICE

Issue No. 1078..30th June, 1941.

Title: Light That Failed.

Tracks: Texans..Way Of All Flesh..Fight..Mystery Sea Raider.

Discs: 432.

Lines: Stag.

Voice: Do.

Crowds gathered outside the Hotel de Parc, Vichy, to hear what concessions Admiral Darlan had obtained from Hitler. Paramount pictures from Unoccupied France, delayed by war conditions, show Marshal Petain presiding over his Cabinet. The effective head of the Puppet Government is Admiral Darlan, hater of Great Britain, suitor for Hitler's favours. General Huntziger sits on Petain's right. Huntziger commands the army in Unoccupied France. Darlan reported that Hitler would probably grant Vichy's much-urged desire to include Paris and intervening territory in the unoccupied zone. That hope had no more substance than a line idly traced on a schoolboy's map. The boundary stays where it was.

To write to anyone in Occupied France people must use the official form - conveying its stereotyped message much on the lines of the field postcard of the last war. Not on the Government but on the people lies the oppressor's hand. To pass the boundary of Free France they must seek permission of the Nazis in occupation.

One worth-while concession Hitler did grant. 100,000 former prisoners of war in Germany are being allowed to return. Most of the able-bodied ones are well over 40. Some wounded men came with them, their return negotiated by the Red Cross in Switzerland.

On parade to honour the wounded, General Huntziger came to confer decorations, a pathetic ceremony whose one bright aspect is it's evidence that, in the darkest hour of defeat, the memory of the Grand Armeé is not finally extinguished. These men suffered mutilation, not that Vichy degenerates might fawn on Hitler, but that free men might rid the earth of Hitler.

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(SV SHAKE HANDS) Not only the soldiers are betrayed by Vichy. People in Marseilles and other towns form over longer queues for ever diminishing supplies. There's no guarantee that the coupon is even worth cutting out.

(continued on back)

LIFE UNDER VICHY....continued.

Cafes, the very social life of France in normal times, are mostly closed. Paramount report reveals a hungry, dejected Marseilles. No meat, say the butchers. No chocolate, say the confectioners. And as there is no sugar the people are told to use saccharine.

No eggs, no rabbits, no fowls.

Clothing is short too.

Their coffee is adulterated.

There is no petrol, rationed, supplementary, any kind.

In the garages cars are laid up till true peace comes.

In the radiators there is no water.

This to-day is the harbour of Marseilles, once the gateway to the East, largest port of France and of the Mediterranean sea. It is as if a plague had descended on the eight-hundred people who, little more than twelve months ago, thronged the now deserted scene. France in defeat presents a woeful sight. God speed the day when the shackles of Hitler and Vichy shall be flung off and France resume her true place as a great, prosperous nation.