

PATHE GAZETTE: 40/58.

FRANCE'S NATIONAL DAY

Frenchmen on their native soil are prevented by their Nazi invaders from celebrating the 14th of July, except in their hearts. But the day is honoured by all Free French people as they assemble at the Cenotaph in the heart of Britain.

General de Gaulle, leader of the French Legion, first inspects the Guard of Honour composed of representative French detachments and then places a large wreath inscribed Les Français Libres, at the foot of the Cenotaph. To the men gathered here and the many French people assembled to witness the moving spectacle, this historic day commemorating France's liberation heralds a double meaning. Soldier, sailors and airmen of the volunteer legion, lead by the man whom exiled Frenchmen hope will one day be the saviour of the French France, march proudly to the statue in Grosvenor Gardens of one of France's greatest soldiers Marshal Foch. The Prime Minister in a message to General De Gaulle says: I look forward with confidence to the time, not far distant, when July the 14th will once again be celebrated as a day of rejoicing by a free and victorious France. As in the past, so in the future from beneath the shadow of the Arc de Triomphe will arise a new France freed from her Nazi shackles to celebrate her twice won freedom. The spirit of France is not dead, in this hour of her adversity, there still lives the spirit of independence which for a 150 years has been her proudest claim. France will rise again.