

5-58800

SALUTE TO THE RED ARMY.

All Britain commemorates Red Army Day. Starting in Bristol, we follow the lines of marching men and women doing honour to their Allies in arms of the Soviet Union.

Mr. A. V. Alexander, the First Lord of the Admiralty, is in the Mercantile City as representative of the British Government. Through the war-scarred heart of Bristol winds the Parade of service men and women, as a salute to the fighting prowess of the superb Russian Army.

In like manner Cardiff gives expression to her admiration. In this great Welsh City, we see Mr. Attlee, as Ministerial representatives, watching with obvious pleasure this impressive salute to the heroic Red Army, celebrating its 25th birthday with brilliant victories in the field. The day is also marked by a statement from Premier Stalin on the nine-million Germans put out of action in eighteen months of war.

As in Cardiff, so in Manchester. The world's centre of manufacture joins fully in the day of celebration. On the rostrum stands Major Leberdev, a Red Army Officer and an honoured guest. The British people are wholehearted in their tributes manifest in a day of military parades.

Now we travel to the city of steel where a similar scene is being enacted. The Minister present at Sheffield for the occasion is Sir Stafford Cripps. In the midst of this display we give thought to the rapidly approaching day when, to our material help to Russia, will be added the Army of European invasion. These ranks of marching men tell of the accumulating force which has grown from a Britain, resolute in adversity and alone, now awaiting the signal which will answer Russia's call for physical help.

The peak of pageantry is at London's Albert Hall, where drama, verse and music combine in an impressive demonstration; the British Government's tribute to the U.S.S.R. Five thousand people and more witness a magnificent spectacle, during which the stage is dressed with the uniforms of men and women, marshalled in such a way as to make each and all of them significant parts in a grand design.

Here now are some highlights from a speech given by Mr. Eden.

"In three months the Russian Army has reconquered all the territory wrested from it by the Germans during the summer of last year, and more besides. Much more besides, for the Red Army has driven into the minds of the German people the lesson that German troops can be defeated and hurled into the confusion of retreat. We are proud that our own Eighth Army has taught Rommel that lesson too.

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"And here let me add one other tribute which is of a domestic character - to the men of the Royal Navy and the Merchant Marine, who, in all seasons and in all weathers, have braved the perils of that Northern route to carry munitions and supplies of all kinds to our Russian Allies."

"Today we Salute the Red Army. We salute and mourn their gallant dead. They have died defending their Motherland against the most treacherous and ruthless of invaders, against the most awful menace that has imperilled western civilisation. The victories of Stalingrad, Rostov and Kharkov are avenging them. We applaud these glorious feats of arms. We look forward to the victories that are to come, to the final victory that will be won together."