

FLASHES

Belgium has made a much appreciated gesture of thanks to Britain, taking the form of thousands of toys, some made by students and others given up by children who love them themselves. They are to be sent to Britain and given away in hospitals and to ~~some~~ ^{journalists} who have been bombed out.

So to the children of Belgium's liberators young Belgium plays the welcome role of Father Christmas

The scene looked like the draw for the Irish Sweepstake when a Corporal of the A.T.S. made the first draw in the Middle East Leave ~~XXXX~~ ballot. ~~Many~~ Thousands of men who have been out there ~~for~~ a long time are due for leave and this was the fairest way of selecting the lucky ones. ~~Handed out~~ ^{Handed out} ~~was~~ a Sergeant Major. Even the revolving drum has a proper sense of respect.

near Vichy
The village of Chateaudon/ through no ~~fault~~ fault of its own, was the birth-place of Laval. He ~~was~~ bought the local Chateau, and till a few months ago was ~~the~~ monarch of all ~~the~~ surveyed. Here at home he did much of his work when, with the Gestapo behind him, he was ruler of France. Now he is under sentence to death and has fled.

All the property Laval had to leave behind was sold by Government order. He no doubt has a fortune hidden ~~in~~ ^{Switzerland} abroad, but his chances of enjoying it are a bit slender.

In the hills nearby Laval had a farm. That was sold too ~~and~~ ^{and} the live-stock now keep much ~~of~~ ⁱⁿ better company.