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WORLD AT YOUR ELBOW

Berlin

As the huge transport planes of the Western Allies roar over their city, Berliners reflect on the strange contrasts they have seen in airborne cargoes. Three hundred tons of coal comes in a shuttle service which taxes the resources of the landing control staff.

Nose to tail the aircraft line up in taxi rank formation. Britain's share in the cost of this air freightage runs out at six thousand pounds a day, but food supplies move into the city in a steady stream.

Railway repairs were given by Russia as early excuse for the blockade, but the canals which need no repairs are similarly barred to traffic.

Sunderland flying boats, landing on Lake Havel in the British sector, arouse immediate Soviet protests on the grounds that all waterways are under Soviet control. The dispute moves steadily towards consideration by United Nations.

Canada

Fire - uncontrolled and sweeping - runs wild through Northern Ontario's vast forests. Hopelessly outnumbered, firemen are reinforced by air from Chapleau seaplane base. Mobile fire-fighting equipment, axes, blankets and first aid kit are rushed up as Ontario's Government mobilised all its resources in the battle against the flames.

Griny-faced men have fought for days to contain the blaze. As relief is speeded to them, airman signal an easing off in the flames' power. Meanwhile, unbearable heat has sent all wild animals scurrying for safety.

Equipment is hurriedly unloaded and rushed into the battle. Ontario's firefighters take fresh heart as there comes a break in the dreaded hot weather, which started the blaze.

Canada's biggest forest fire is checked in time and 125,000 acres of Ontario's bushland are saved from destruction.

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico, in the West Indies sets out to become the world's pineapple garden. Four feet wide sheets of paper, impregnated with germ-killer and fertilizer, are laid over the fields. Through holes punched in the paper, the slips are planted. It takes fourteen months for the plant to reach maturity. Few other crops pay so well - £125 sterling an acre. At harvest time, every available islander is called out to gather the juicy fruits.

Within 24 hours after picking, four fifths of the crop is canned. They eat what they can and what they can't eat they can.