

**England's
Trump Card**
and other things that
haven't happened yet



Francis Beckett

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**The Prime Minister addresses
the nation on
30 December 1940**

This is the full text of the radio address to the nation given on 30 December, 1940, by the Prime Minister, Edward Frederick Lindley Wood, First Earl of Halifax.

Good evening. Yesterday, in one terrible night, more destruction was wreaked upon London than our capital has ever known since the Great Fire, three hundred years ago. The bombs of the Luftwaffe were concentrated in the square mile of the City of London. Most of Sir Christopher Wren's fine churches were destroyed, though swift and courageous action by air raid wardens saved St Paul's itself. Since the start of the Blitz in September, 15,000 civilians have lost their lives.

And now I will tell you something that, for reasons you will I know understand, has been kept secret until now. Before the Blitzkrieg began, we had an indication from the German authorities through a third party, that peace talks might be possible.

However, His Majesty's Government decided that the time was not right to enter upon these talks.

Some of us argued in vain that we should do so, and I am afraid that the talks foundered on the opposition of our Labour colleagues under Mr Attlee, and of some members of my own party such as the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr Churchill.

Nonetheless, after the events of last night, I received a direct communication from Mr Hitler. He intimated that peace on most favourable terms for our country could still be obtained.