

PEOPLE OF ENGLAND REFUSED  
SEE THEIR COUNTRY DESTROYED  
CAPT. MAIDENS TELLS ROTARY

Some vivid recollections and impressions gained during his lengthy service overseas were given to the Rotary Club on Monday when Captain Bruce Maidens, recently returned, delighted the members with an impromptu address.

"When I arrived on the bleak shore of Nova Scotia at the end of October, it struck me that Canada is a very young country compared to England steeped in age and bearing the customs of centuries. When we left England the fields were nice and green and the roses were blooming. It was a country altogether lovely after having suffered for so long the hardships of war. Canada seemed young and new and to lack the graces and the charm of centuries that is England.

"There was something about the fight for survival in England that is indescribable. While bombs were falling and people were huddled underground in air raid shelters and in the basements of great cathedrals, it seemed that here was something that must not be destroyed and the people of England refused to let it be destroyed.

"I think the people of England are wonderful. They cannot be beaten and they deserve all the credit in the world for their historic stand. These people fought for a long time - alone - and they must have had the Lord on their side or they wouldn't have come through."

The speaker gave a vivid eyewitness account of the advance through France and the low countries, through Belgium and Holland until the victorious Canadian army crossing the Rhine and entered Germany. Outside of Caen was where fighting was particularly bitter and where many Canadian troops gave their lives. The stiffest fighting was encountered

along the dikes in Holland where there wasn't much place for shelter and the Germans took a heavy toll from well concealed entrenchments. The people of Holland presented a problem, openly telling the Canadian troops that they would just as leave have the Germans and appearing to resent the appearance of allied help.

The Germans, stated Capt. Maidens, "Have the pants trimmed off them this time. Their towns and cities are flattened and there is nothing left to go on with. Where once great cities stood there is now but a pile of rubble and no living thing. The R.A.F., he stated, carried out many saturation raids and as a comparison, stated that a town the size of Lindsay could be levelled as flat as a field by an R.A.F. squadron in five minutes.

Canadians should be particularly grateful that they were spared the horrors of war and the horrors of the days following war as in European countries where millions wander homeless, ill clothed and ill fed.

The speaker was introduced by Mr. Newton Smale and the vote of thanks expressed on behalf of the club by Frank Weldon.