

Lindsay Mother's Prayer And General's Eagle Eye Send Soldier, 16, Home

Lindsay, Dec. 4 (Special)—“It was the answer to a Mother's prayer,” stated Mrs. D. D. Tolmie as she told of how her 16-year-old soldier son, John, arrived home unannounced and unexpected from active service in England.

Major - General Victor Odlum, Commander of the Second Division, C.A.S.F., in making an inspection



John Tolmie

of a Canadian hospital, noticed young Tolmie, who was confined through illness. Taking note of his youthful appearance, the general cabled Ottawa to check the boy's age with the parents in Lindsay. The result was that John soon received one hour's notice

that he was to embark for Canada.

Tolmie joined up in March at Picton and sailed for England in June. “I was only 15 years of age when I joined,” he said, “but I liked the army life and persuaded mother to let me carry on.”

GLAD TO BE BACK

He experienced many air raids

while in England and at one time was in a building which was struck by a bomb, caving in the roof and killing a fellow Canadian.

“I am sure glad to be back to a place where there are street lights at night and no air raid alarms,” he said. “I had 7 days' leave in London and every night was spent in an underground shelter. I was glad to get back to barracks.”

“The people of Canada would be amazed if they could actually see the damage in London,” he said, “but they would be more surprised after viewing the havoc, to hear the cheerful comments of the civilians. I talked to one Canadian woman who had been bombed out of her home three times. She was far from down-hearted, although she evidently had suffered great shock and was at that time homeless.”

RECALLS R.A.F. ATTACK

One incident outstanding in the boy's mind was the witnessing of three Spitfires attack a formation of 75 to 100 German planes. He saw three enemy planes brought down and one German aviator landed in the Canadian camp and was immediately stripped for souvenirs.

While in England, Tolmie won the C.A.S.F. table tennis championship. At present he is on leave, still attached to his regiment and may continue in service in Canada.

His brother, Gordon, 19, is stationed with a Toronto regiment at Three Rivers.