

## NEWS FLASHES

**Montrose, Welland:** Every member voted at the provincial and federal election and two of our members acted as poll clerks.

**Dymond, Temiskaming S.:** A paper on Venereal Diseases was given and a unanimous vote was taken for blood testing before marriage.

**Thornbury, Grey C.:** As a result of two meetings on Education—one on Education and Citizenship in the post-war world and one on Education in Relationship to European Countries,—the women have taken a much more active interest in our school system.

**Savard, Temiskaming C.:** As there was a lack of opportunity for children in the community to take piano lessons, one of the members of the W.I. undertook to teach piano lessons on the Institute piano at the school. The children practice during the noon hour.

**Stamford, Welland:** A literature table has been made up by one of the members at each meeting giving others an opportunity to use this material whenever needed.

**Appin, Middlesex W.:** Appointed a committee of two to work with the Township Council and others to plan receptions for returning men and English war brides and have community gatherings to help community spirit.

**Lemieux, Glengarry:** An effort is being made to get a health unit and the T.B. situation is being studied in the district.

**Hall's Glen, Peterborough:** More members are interested in Hospitalization. The Institute has not been enrolled a year yet and already three families have benefitted through the Hospital Plan and each one is very grateful for the attention and care they received.

**Erindale, Peel:** Project for the year was renovating the community hall. To date the results have been most gratifying and we hope by spring our objective will be reached.

**Terra Cotta, Peel:** The Manager of the Royal Bank spoke on "Facts women should know about banking."

**Louise and Crawford, Grey S.:** As a result of a paper on post-war planning for agriculture and a discussion on hydro for everyone, we are wondering how long it will be before the wires are up?

**Sydenham, Frontenac:** Decided at one of our meetings that some kind of recreational centre was needed for our young people. A committee was appointed to meet with the Township Council to find out about government grants available for such purposes, the project to be a memorial for our boys in the Services.

**Elmvale, Simcoe:** The Institute has sponsored a County Library Unit and members are enjoying the privilege of having good books to read. A Tweedsmuir Village History has been started.

## THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

Ontario Women's Institutes have given generously to the appeal of the Hospital for Sick Children. In response to the letter sent to the Institutes by the President of the F.W.I.O. \$3,569.40 has been forwarded through the Women's Institute Branch to this Fund. In addition we know that other Institutes have contributed through local community funds. The best thanks which you can receive for your generous gifts will be the feeling of pride and satisfaction which must be yours in the thought that you have had a part in alleviating the suffering of thousands of children and in bringing them back to normal health and strength.



ABOARD H.M.S. MARINER

Left to right: Mrs. B. Daniels, Lt. Cdr. C.B.O. Shorter, R.N.R., Mrs. A. Manley at Port Arthur June 2, 1945.

## H.M.S. MARINER—"A TRIM SHIP"

Last November the F.W.I.O. Board voted \$600 to supply comforts for a minesweeper to be built at Port Arthur and manned by a British crew. Thus H.M.S. Mariner became "our ship". In appreciation of this tribute to the North the Institutes of Thunder Bay "adopted" the ship, provided additional gifts and entertained and visited the crew.

Keeping in mind the wartime shortages in Britain a collection of gifts was made by the Thunder Bay Institutes for the wives, mothers and other loved ones of the crew. The reponse of the 24 Institutes was magnificent, resulting in gifts of 157 cosmetic articles, 156 bars of soap, 52 notions, 70 records, 22 gifts of candy, 10 of food, 110 toys, layettes, 108 articles of babies' and children's clothing, 57 articles of clothing for women and 3 for men. For the crew there were magazines, books, toilet articles, candy and gum. Two lovely quilts, special gifts for the Captain and Chief Engineer (the only two aboard who have single beds), were made by the Hymers Institute. The Cobourg Institute sent a splendid collection of gifts for inclusion in the gift from Thunder Bay, truly a thoughtful gesture. A special baby gift box for the son born in England on May 13th to Lt. Commander and Mrs. Shorter was included. Wherever possible, the Women's Institutes labels were sewn on and the gifts were assembled in cartons as to type, and labelled for easy distribution.

## Tea on Board

This task of expressing appreciation to the men of the Navy, and to their families who have withstood with pride and vigour the strain of war years, was highlighted on Saturday, June 2nd, when 40 members of the Institute were privileged to go aboard the ship as she lay at anchor in the up-town harbour of Port Arthur. Armed with treats of homemade cakes and cookies for the members of the crew (approximately 120 men) the Institute members were received by Lieutenant Commander Shorter and Lieutenant N. Story. After being conducted from station to station members of the crew served tea in the various messes. What a lovely time every one had! Soon, some of our members found someone who came from their part of "home", and that made for mutual pleasure. The majority of the crew were very young, and for the most part this was their first trip abroad. We noticed, however, several who wore decorations for meritorious service in the present war and there were others whose length-of-service badges signified that they had seen action on

many a sea front. Just to listen to those lads' accents as they recounted their re-action to Canadian customs, was a treat in itself. We were very thrilled too, to be told of the esteem in which our organization is held in the British Isles—very proudly several of the lads volunteered the information that "Mum" was a member. During the week that followed the visit aboard ship, hospitality was showered on these lads in visits to private homes and sight-seeing trips.

Then, too, several of our members were in attendance when the ship's company paraded to divine service on Sunday.

## "God bless this Ship"

On Thursday, June 7th, prior to the ship's departure, in company with Mrs. S. Hudson Johnston, President of the Service League for British Ships, who had come from Toronto for the occasion, Mrs. A. Manley had luncheon aboard.

At this time opportunity was given to view the beautiful comforts supplied with the \$600.00 donated by the F.W.I.O. How I wish that every member of the province could see for themselves the transformation they made from very plain surroundings to an atmosphere of comfort with a grand touch of warmth and colour. Promptly at 2 p.m. the "H.M.S. Mariner" shoved off. She was a trim-looking craft, resplendent in her new paint and very pretty job of blue grey camouflage, reminding one of the ocean waves. She was speedy too, and cut out into the waters of Thunder Bay as if she were really setting out on a job. We know what that job is—and the guns aboard reminded us that although we have had Victory in Europe, the British Navy still has a job to do in the Pacific theatre of war. As she sired a last farewell we re-echoed the age-old wish "God bless this ship and all who sail in her".

## The Commander's Letter

Before departure from Canada, Lt. Commander Shorter sent the following message:

"We are now all settled down on board and have had the opportunity of seeing the hundred and one different gifts which the very kind folks of the Women's Institute of Ontario made for us.

"No word of mine can tell you how very much we all appreciate the really wonderful generosity of all these kind souls. It is not possible for me to write to all the districts responsible, but I know you will pass the contents of this letter to them.

"Our comforts are complete, and the only thing we now wish is that

## WAR WORK

Following is the resume of war work done by the Institutes of Ontario during the six-month period from November 1, 1944, to April 30, 1945, as reported by 1,097 institutes (87.5 per cent).

## EXPENDITURES

Gifts to local enlisted men	\$36,883.55
Wool and sewing supplies	9,368.36
Central Fund, F.W.I.O.	5,159.84
Red Cross	14,202.99
Navy League	2,347.43
Ditty Bags	3,080.84
Salvation Army War Work	2,463.34
British War Victims' Funds	1,538.21
United Nations' Relief Funds	614.21
British Minesweepers' Auxiliary	415.26
Milk for Britain	946.21
Jam for Britain	6,436.77
Cigarette Funds	352.08
Blood Donors' Clinics	272.95
Bales of Clothing	1,048.14
War Saving Certificates and Bonds	9,881.86
Sundry	3,363.64

## WORK DONE

Knitting (articles)	34,985
Sewing (articles)	50,036
W.I. War Savings Certificates Filled	95
Blood Donors	3,691

## JAM FOR BRITAIN

This project is well under way for the 1945 season. The response from the Institutes is excellent and pays silent tribute to the fact that Ontario Institute members are deeply concerned about feeding the hungry in Britain and Europe and are anxious to bear their share of the responsibility in this time of dire need. In addition to local purchases of jam, and to contributions of homemade jam of which no record is yet available, \$4,750.89 has been sent to the W.I. Sugar Fund.

## NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION WEEK

September thirtieth to October Sixth has been set aside as National Immunization Week sponsored by the Health League of Canada and the Health Departments. The object is to draw attention to the fact that every Canadian child should be and can be protected against smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough and scarlet fever.

Watch for the publicity which will be given to this week and do all that you can to help in the prevention of these needless communicable diseases, which take a yearly toll of Canadian children.

(Continued from Col. 3.)

we will soon be able to say the Japanese war is finished. In the meantime we shall continue to carry on the same as you are carrying on in looking after the comforts of British Seamen.

"Thanking you all so very much, believe me,

Yours very sincerely,  
(sgd.) C. B. O. Shorter,  
Lieut.-Commander R.N.R."

(Contributed by (Mrs. A.) Elizabeth S. Manley, F.W.I.O. Director.)

(Note: The list of comforts purchased with the \$600 from the Central Fund, F.W.I.O., will be included in the next report of the Central Fund which will be sent to your Secretary.)