THE FLESHERTON ADVANCE

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Defence Against Bombing Attack

Recent articles in this series have described bombing planes, bombs and the effects of bombing. To complete that story, it is necessary to write something about the defence against bombs.

Defence against bombing might be divided into two categories, active and passive, or defensive and offensive might be a more accurate division.

The one consists of shelters, fire-watching, the bomb-proofing of buildings, so far as that is possible, gas masks, provision of extra water supplies and fire-fighting equipment, all designed to deal with bombs after they fall.

The other includes barrage balloons anti-aircraft guns, radio detectors, fighter planes and attack on the air bases of the enemy, all designed to destroy enemy raiders.

Bomb Shelters

Bomb shelters are of many different kinds, from the little private Anderon shelters, usualy dug out and arched over in the back garden, to huge community affairs under the streets of large cities. The back-yard shelters must have been uncomfortable affairs A hole would be dug in the earth and an arch-shaped concrete roof built over it, with a doorway at one end. The family would go there when an alarm sounded, and remain, without heat or comforts of any kind. A later development has been to build shelters inside the house. If the building has a cellar (and many English houses do not have them) the shelter can be built there, or it may be an unused garage. These can be made more comfortable, with heat, lights and even radios and telephones. There is another type of shelter for home use, a steel-topped table with steel legs, Capable of carrying a heavy weight without collapsing. If the family should be under the table it supports the weight of masonry and prevents the occupants from being crushed.

The cities have many types of air-raid shelters. Probably the safest in London are the tations of the Underground railways. These are far below the surface of the ground, are easily reached by the usual stairways and escalators. Hundreds of persons still sleep every night in these public places. Generally, they are safe, even in the heaviest bombing, but twice there were heavy casualties when bombs did penetrate or water mains burst.

To some extent, important buildings can be bomb-proofed. It ' an expensive process if thoroughly done and consists of building up all winows with heavy brick walls, building blast walls in the interior and behind doors, and putting water tanks in the upper storeys.

War factories are usually camouflaged. They may have flat roofs, painted to look like 'elds, or there may be some more elaborate means which are probably still kept secret. Netting painted, and with bits of cloth hanging from it to look like foliage, may be stretched over small areas, or over guns and mechanical equipment used by the army.

Gas masks are usually carried in case the enmemy starts to use poison gas.

Incendiary Bombs

Most of the defences mentioned are precautions against high explosive bombs. Incendiaries have to be fought in the pen. The first two minutes may make all the difference between success and failure. These bombs fall literally by the thousand and a small proportion hit vulnerable targets but those must be controlled before they can set a city on fire.

The way the British people as a whole were organized to fight bombs is an eye-opener to a visiting Canadian and might be enlightening to those on our side of the water who talk about "total war." Every ablebodied person must take a turn at fire watching in some assigned spot. This is a cold and tiresome job, but vigilance must never be relaxed.

The Air Raid Patrol system is an organization of more highly trained persons, with regular posts, where warning of raids are received and to which calls for help are sent. The wardens and others are trained in first aid, rescue work, fire fighting and communication. I saw them at work in one bombing and marvelled at their speed and efficiency.

The firemen probably have the most dangerous jobs. Some of the London fires must have been terrific, judging by photographs I saw in the Press Club. Added to the regular dangers of fire fighting was the unpleasant habit of the German raiders of dropping high explosive bombs as soon as the fires were well started. One of the chief handicaps in early days of the bombing was water scarcity, when wated mains burst when hit by high explosives. That has been taken care of in London and other cities. Basements of bombed buildings have been made into great storage tanks. Where there are no such basements available metal water tanks are placed in public squares and in the centre of wider streets.

Destroying Enemy Planes

With all these means of combatting the effects of enemy planes, no matter how successful they may be, the morale of the people would hardly stand up month after month. There must be some feeling that the enemy is getting it back, is losing something too. That calls for methods of destroying enemy planes.

Strangest of all these methods is the barrage balloon. These hang by the hundreds over London and in smaller numbers over other cities and such important points as munitions factories. Convoys going out the Thames and through the channel have barrage balloons being pulled along on cables behind them.

The barrage balloons look lovely and quite harmless, like children's toys. They always reminded us of hot dogs, with the end of the weiner hanging out one end. Most of them are silvery in color. They are hauled down in parks and public squares, the cable winding around a big drum on the back of a truck. They are allowed to float below low-hanging clouds, when there are any, or put out in the open sky. A number of steel cables swing down below these balloons, but they cannot be seen except when the gas bag is lowered.

It is the steel cables which do the damage. An enemy night fighter comes along, dives down to use his machine guns, and clips off a wing against a cable. It actually does happen, apparently, though it looks impossible. This danger keeps the big bombers up igh and spoils their aim.

The parks are likely to contain anti-aircraft guns as well as barrage balloons. The guns are of various sizes. Apparently the Bofors is one of the smallest, next to the machine-gun batteries, while some are quite large. Everyone has seen pictures of them. When they fire, there is a bright flash at the gun and another in the air where the shell bursts. Near the guns there are likely to be listening posts and shearchlight batteries, the latter throwing long arms of light across the sky.

There are other weapons not so openly displayed. One of these, kept a secret for some time, is the radio locator, which detect enemy planes long before they come within sight or sound—a great advantage. Along the coastal areas, one comes across little huts here and there, with small poles erected outside. These are the detector stations. I never saw the inside of one, but I probably would not have known what it was about anyway. It is said there are other devices, still secret, which haven't been publicized in Britain because there hasn't been much need to use them lately, the raids having fallen off.

None of these things saved Britain during the rays in 1940 when Hitler was sending his planes over by the hundred. In those days, it was the fighter pilots who downed so many enemy bombers that at last the Germans couldn't stand the losses any longer, even though they had far more planes in those months than the R.A.F. had. Even now, the fighter plane is probably still the main defence against raiders. Finally, there is the bombing of enemy territory, which may be defensive in part although lately it has become mainly an attack on his factories, railways canals and cities as a whole. This keeps the Germans at home. It forces Hitler to bring his fighter pilots from Russia, to use in an attempt to stop the British bombers. Meanwhile British fighters are attacking enemy airdromes, partly to keep them from sending planes to Britain, partly to keep them too busy to attack British bombers, going to or returning from Germany.

8TH LINE OSPREY

Welcome back "Flesherton Advance!" We missed you very much. Hope you had a pleasant holiday, Mr. Editor.

Tom Stephens, who is in the Ordnance Corps at Kingston, was home on two weeks' furlough. On Wednesday evening, prior to his departure, at a party held in his honor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Haley, he was presente' with a wrist watch and an address of appreciation.

A large gathering of friends and neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Davidson (recent groom and bride) met at their home here last week and presented them with a studio couch.

Miss Evelyn Hale spent a few days with friends at Sudbury.

Mr. and Mrs. L. McInnes and three children of Etobicoke spent last week end with Mr. and Mrs. J. Ottewell and Dolly.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Graham and Miss Ethel Ward of Orton were recent visitors at the Somers home.

Mrs. S. R. Hawkins, Kendal and Kilbourne spent a day last week with Mr. and Mrs. Sam McNab and Alex. at Chatsworth.

Mrs. D. W. Clinton of Toronto is visiting at the Hanley home and with other acquaintances.

Mr. Vernon Somers of Guelph spent the week end at his home.

Mr. Ben Hanley of Thornbury spent a few days at the parental home, recuperating after having a piece of steel taken from his eye. A part of the eye ball had to be removed, but fortunately his sight is not impaired.

Mr. Leonard Kennedy of Banks spent the week end with friends.

Friends here were delighted to renew the acquainance of Mr. Emerson Osborne of Hamilton, who was visiting recently with his father and other relatives in Feversham.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank our many friends and neighbors for their faithful help during our recent fire.
—Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Ditson.
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Heathcote.

The Canadian soldier is ready to defend himeself against attack by gas. He won't be caught napping.

PORTLAW

Miss Florence Boyce of Toronto spent the past week end with her parents Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Boyce.

Mrs. Wes. Clinton of Toronto spent a few days at Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Meldrums.

Miss Mary Sheardown of Toronto ivsited with freinds here over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Authur Hutton, Miss N. Patton and Mrs. J. Scott and babe are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Patton.

Miss Velma Fryer of Toronto visited this week end with her aunt Mrs. A. Blackbourn here.

The Patton and Pedlar families spent a day in Owen Sound this week.

Teddy Rich of Dundalk is spending his holidays with his Uncle Mr. Stanley Patton.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Potts of Toronto visited recently with Mr. and Mrs. Laurie Pedlar.

Mr Austin McKee of Hamilton visited friends here over the week end.

Gordon Blackburn of Collingwood is holidaying with his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. A. Blackburn.

Mrs. Wm. Rehill of Winnipeg visited a few days with the McNally families and with Mrs. A. Blackburn.

Rev. Dingwall and Mrs. Dingwall of Thornloe are spending their holdays with the McNally's here.

Mrs. Wilfred McNally visited with her mother, at Elmwood, who has been ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Fisher, Thelma and Doreen also Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Boyce spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. P. Neffs, Singhampton.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Blakey have returned to Toronto after spending two weeks with the formers parents Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Blakey.

Clifford Fisher of Toronto is visiting with his Uncle Mr. Roy Lyons.

As the Edmonton Journal says: 'drive slow' may be rough on grammar but it's easy on tires.

It is easy to explain what has happened to Mussolini. He is just a sawdust Caesar who has been punctured and can't get a refill.

We think that too many people are calling Laval a rat. A rat would have enough sense to desert a sinking ship.

Men, Women Over 40 Feel Weak, Worn, Old?

Want Normal Pep, Vim, Vitality?

Does weak, rundown, exhausted condition make you feel legall past, old? Try Ostrex. Contains general tonics, stimulants, often needed after 40 or 50. Supplies iron, calcium, phosphorus. Tablets. Helps you get normal pep, vim, vitality. Introductory size Ostrex Tonic Tablets only 35c. For sale at all good drug stores everywhere.

Summer Time Table

Effective Friday, June 26, 1942

LEAVE FLESHERTON

TO TORONTO

c 10:10 a.m. d 7:45 p.m.

TO OWEN SOUND

c 6.30 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

b—Friday only
c—Saturday only.
d—Sunday & Holidays.
(Eastern Daylight Saving Time)

GREY COACH LINES

EFFECTIVE NOW

TEA AND COFFEE

are rationed by coupon

The ration is one ounce of tea or four ounces of coffee per person, per week

Coupons A, B, C, D, and E, on the Temporary War Ration Card, now in the hands of the public, are to be used, and are NOW valid for the purchase of tea and coffee.

Each coupon will entitle the purchaser to one ounce of tea or four ounces of coffee - a supply for one week.

If desired, purchasers may use any or all of these five coupons simultaneously, and buy up to 5 weeks supply at one time, on the surrender of the appropriate number of coupons.

Numbered coupons are good only for the purchase of sugar and may not be used to buy tea or coffee. Similarly, lettered coupons may not be used to buy sugar.

COFFEE CONCENTRATES AND SUBSTITUTES CONTAINING COFFEE

One coupon must be surrendered for each quantity of coffee concentrate or substitute containing coffee, sufficient to make 12 cups of beverage.

TEA BAGS REQUIRE COUPONS

When purchasing tea bags, the following coupon values shall be used:

2 coupons for a carton of 18 or 20 tea bags
4 coupons for a carton of 40 or 45 tea bags
8 coupons for a carton of 80 tea bags

CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ANY RATION OF TEA OR COFFEE.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO RETAILERS

On and after August 3rd, retailers must establish their right to purchase new supplies of tea or coffee from their suppliers by turning over to the supplier currently valid ration coupons, equivalent to the poundage of tea or coffee ordered from the supplier

THE WARTIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD

TC 5W Ottawa, August 3rd, 1942

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