IT'S A COME-DOWN FOR THE AXIS

German and Italian airmen, guarded by Tommies, walk through axis-coveted Malta as prisoners after being shot down over heavily bombed Mediterranean island.

The Individual Citizen's Army

By Alan Maurice Irwin

A Weekly Column About This and That in Our Canadian Army

Three weeks ago I devoted this space to the subject of drill. Here comes the same subject again because we have been given an object lesson by our own soldiers at Dieppe in its value.

For the past two years instructors have referred to an incident at Dunkerque as an illustration of the value of drill as a discipline builder. It was the evacuation of the beach by The Guards.

Newspaper despatches said: "The Guards brought their rifles with them."

That was all! But it was quite enough. No one would have criticized them if they had left their equipment behind on that shell-swept beach—nearly everyone did leave his equipment behind and there were no recriminations.

But, "the Guards brought their rifles with them". It has long been fashionable for Line Regiments to sneer gently at the Brigade of Guards for their meticulous adherence to parade ground soldiering. The sneers were good-natured, of course, as all bickering between regiments is, and no-one really believed what he said.

Not after Le Cateau in the last war, or after Dunkerque in this!

Now we have a new tradition, a new example of how well-drilled soldiers act in a tight place—the Canadians at Dieppe!

Here is a quotation of one of the early cables from the Channel front written by Ross Mundo of the Canadian Press who went ashore with the Canadians.

"One group of the Westerners was in such good form that even after a five-hour battle they smartly sloped arms and marched aboard the boat that picked them up."

The "Tankers" have earned a place in military history, too!

Of them another Canadian Press despatch said:

"Crews of the Calgary Tank Regiment, which led the way into Dieppe yesterday, drove the remnants of their battle-smashed tank formation through this town tonight . . ."

Those two examples of the intelligent discipline that grows out of drill will be quoted by many a drill-sergeant, by many an officer lecturing to recruits in the next few years and will, I hope, be borne in mind by those of us who are apt to criticize without thinking.

Some of you are bound to be asking, just about now, "what's he trying to get at? Surely he does not suggest that the raid on Dieppe was put on just to demonstrate the value of parade ground drill!"

No, I don't suggest that for one moment.

In fact any columnist who tries to say why the Dieppe raid was made would be a fool! There are many reasons why a military high command decides to stage a raid—especially with the war conditions that confront us at present.

And the high command cannot take even the public into its confidence. We'll have to be kept guessing about it—and so will the enemy.

Perhaps its intention was to find out the defense system employed by the enemy.

Perhaps it was to draw attention from some other move.

Perhaps the idea was to find out the morale of the enemy now in France.

Perhaps it was designed to disrupt communications by causing a rush of reinforcements to the place attacked.

Perhaps it was a realistic training scheme in the co-operation of Navy, Army and Air Force.

Perhaps it was none of those reasons, but, whatever the reason was we members of the Individual Citizen's Ormy may be sure that "Andy" McNaughton who would rather expend machinery than lives, had the best of all possible reasons and that the lessons learned and the knowledge gained will be used to prosecute the war and hasten the Allied Victory.

In the meantime new recruits who join up here as volunteers for service anywhere will start out with squad drill without arms, the manual of arms, musketry and all the other "kindergarten" work that teaches them unity, cohesion and intelligent discipline so that they too, when their opportunity comes, will be ready to "slope arms and march aboard."

The men who took the beaches at Dieppe and played their part in demolishing the town have found out after weary months and years of waiting what war is like.

That is something we have still to find out.

So far we have only bought a few bonds, licked a few war savings stamps, given to the Red Cross and the Buckshee Fund—that sort of thing!

We haven't sacrificed anything. We don't sweat for the war.

Public men rap us on the knuckles if we say that Canada is not doing a full job of war work. They raise a smoke screen of empty eloquence to boast of what is being done. They promise that some day the government will place the whole war effort on a wartime basis, but in the meantime too many of us carry on with our bridge and our golf. We stick nobly to the rations of tea and coffee and sugar and gasoline—and sneak out of all-out service by buying cakes and pastries with sugar in them, by drinking tea and coffee in restaurants and hotels, by using taxicabs to take us on our useless errands when our own tanks are empty.

We are long on talk and short on discipline. What we neeed is drill, and lots of it, thrown at us by tough sergeants with a rasp in their voices.

Could we march abroad with our rifles at the slope?

Fewer strikes, fewer attempts to evade the rationing decided upon after careful study by the War time Prices and Trade Board, less indulgence in petty luxuries—that's the kind of drill we need to fit us to play a proper part when the going gets tough.

British Warships

British shipbuilders turned out more than 500 fighting ships in 30 months—an average of about one fully equipped warship every two days—the British radio reported last week.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

SHOULD BE SQUELCHED

Some people seem to spend their time accosting friends and others with such a remark as "Did you know" or "Have you heard", and if the listener does not know or has not heard they proceed to unload the most nonsensical stories about the conduct of the war (usually stories of blunders or mismanagement) and then declare that they secured this information from most reliable sources. People like this are a menace. Intentionally or otherwise, they do much to damage public morale, and they should be properly squelched. — Brantford Expositor.

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WITHOUT THE CEILING

The way to judge the Canadian price ceiling is not by the present cost of living, but by the cost of living that would prevail if we had no ceiling. We can judge that by the experience of our American neighbors. In the United States they have a ceiling also, but many goods are exempt from it—and wherever goods are exempt prices are steadily rising. —Vancouver Sun.

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ATE HIS OWN POTATOES

When a farmer in East Prussia was so hungry he ate some of the potatoes out of his own garden, he was sent to prison. The potatoes had been ordered kept for seed.

Just a little item but one showing how the Germans are being pressed for food.—Windsor Star.

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NEW EXCUSE

One of the latest excuses for not going to the dentist is that the doctor has joined the armed forces. Of course, a sincere sufferer could overcome this by enlisting and getting all his work done without cost to himself.—Victoria Times.

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LONG LIFE

A newspaper in China has been in uninterrupted publication for 1,000 years. Fancy having a subscriber write in: "This is the position you took in 1066 and all that!"—Edmonton Journal.

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BETTER BELIEVE IT

You cannot believe all you hear, but when you are approaching a railroad crossing and hear the whistle of an approaching locomotive it is wise to believe that a train is not far distant.—Kitchener Record.

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HOG NOT HOGGISH

Contrary to public opinion, a pig won't make a hog of himself, and unlike humans, he will not overeat even when given an oversupply of food. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Reich Has Farm Labor Troubles

Shortage of Farm Workers Not Confined To Canada

If Ontario and Canada have trouble with the farm labor problem, there is some consolation that Hitler and Mussolini probably have even greater troubles, says the Woodstock Sentinel-Review. A first class glimpse into the European situation is offered in the August issue of the Economic Annalist, published by the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

Extraordinary effort was made in Germany to mobilize labor for farm work. All farmers are required to work longer hours, including Sundays and holidays. In January, the number of boys and girls, 14 years old and older, who were made subject to compulsory farm labor, was raised to 200,000. Farmers in the army were given furloughs to May 1st to work on farms. Later, all qualified women and girls, including domestic servants, in urban centres, were mobilized into farm labor battalions. Reports indicate that a large number of foreign "volunteer" workers and prisoners were also sent to work on farms. Possibly these numbered upwards of 2,000,000. They were regarded as "ersatz," a poor substitute. Despite all this, the German shortage of farm help was in excess of 600,000.

Labor Shortage Widespread

An order requiring all administrative officials and National Socialist Party officials in Alsace-Lorraine, during the planting season to spend three weeks on farms in lieu of annual leave, indicates a farm labor shortage in that region also.

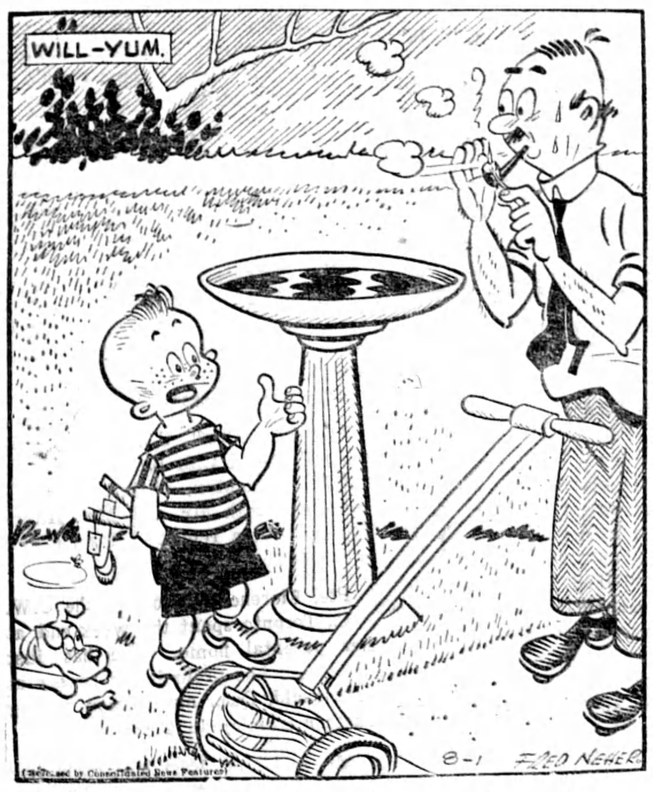
Reports from Norway indicate that al employers had to surrender one-third of their employes for at least three weeks for agricutural service. Slovakia reports a labor shortage. France's farms suffered much because some 700,000 French farmers are prisoners of war in Germany.

In March, Italy began a general civilian mobilization of men between 18 and 55 to work on farms. Farm labor conscription was subsequently extended to include men from 14 to 70 and women from 14 to 60. In April, troops were detailed to farm work. In Hungary, Sunday work is required. Troops helped here also. Rumanian farmers were required to work "unusually long hours." Apparently they had the assistance of 12,000 prisoners of war.

The European farm situation is summed up by the United States Department of Agriculture as follows: "Farming operations in many European countries have been seriously hampered this year by shortages of labor, equipment and draft animals."

India has the largest irrigation system in the world, 31,800,000 acres.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher



"How can a bird tell Saturday from any other night?"

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Germany Has Transport Problem; Air Strength Decisive Factor in East

Since Germany has already cut the Russian rail line north from Stalingrad and has reached the Volga, the current battle for the city itself is regarded by some military authorities as somewhat of an anti-climax. However, continued Russian resistance there significantly retards the timing of Nazi operations on other fronts. Thus, capture of Stalingrad would permit Hitler to concentrate his forces and make an all-out effort to capture Moscow before Winter, wherefore, the Russian defense is worthwhile. Control of the Caspian has become the key issue in the problem of supply as affecting problem of supply as affecting passage of oil and Allied supplies. The importance of the Persian-Caspian route, however, can be easily exaggerated. That route can be developed only very slowly. A glimpse at the map shows plainly enough the vast distances involved in supplying Russia from the South. She must be reinforced from the North, a situation which the Germans have in no sense neglected and which explains their devotion to strengthening of their position in Norway. Longer nights favor the convoy routes in the Arctic.

Have Transport Difficulties

The brilliancy of the German engineers and transport service cannot conceal one outstanding fact, which is that the weak link in the German armor is transport. The Allied publics have been hearing so much about their own enormous shipping problem that they have probably not given enough attention to the German dilemma. Hitler entered the war with a bad rail system and it has deteriorated rather than improved. His traffic by air has been remarkably successful, but it is a limited traffic and is no solution of his problem, which it merely ameliorates. He seized the rolling equipment of France and other occupied territory, but even this did not meet his requirements. Results may not show immediately, but bombings do cripple rail movement and may cripple it disastrously. Note that Allied bombings are also directed against submarine construction. They thus hit at transport in 2 ways: (a) by By reducing German ability to impeding German transport; (b) impede Allied transport.

The Libyan Position

Strategists regard Rommel's rebuff, after hard fighting and severe losses, as a satisfactory opening phase of the renewed struggle for North Africa. The Allies are profiting from previous lessons, especially in the use of artillery against tanks. Rommel may await further aerial reinforcements from the Russian front before again attempting to break through to Cairo. So far, Allied air strength has contributed chiefly to his undoing. It should be appreciated, however, that the Allies can also send reinforcements in the air and do not have to meet in that sphere the very burdensome problem of transport by sea. It is one thing to pay tribute to the Germans' genius for organization and the high quality of their staff work, but it is quite another to take it for granted that German generals will always be more brilliant than their opponents and that the Germans know better than any others how to plan a campaign. The talents of Rommel are not to be gainsaid, but he has not yet proved himself a Napoleon. Also, the most striking German successes in this war have not been due so much to superior strategy and tactics as to long and careful preparation. They had all the tools, but the Allies now also have some.

Russian Bombings of Germany

Russian bombing of East Prussia, although primarily intended to interrupt the eastward flow of German supplies, might be the opening gun in a two-front air offensive which, when fully developed, could have far-reaching effects. It possibly stems from the Churchill-Stalin talks.

Jap Government In Burma

Burma is a case in point for those Indians who look to Japan for deliverance from the British Empire now. A joint Japanese and Burmese administration under Dr. Ba Maw, Burma's first prime minister under the 1937 constitution, has been set up. The government is purely an administrative body. Policy is determined solely by the Japanese military administration. Finance an Defense portfolios are held by the Japanese. The Burma Parliament, of course, stands dissolved, and supreme power over the Government specifically is conferred on Japanese Commander-in-Chief Jida.

The War Week Through American Eyes

There is now reliable information that Rommel made an all-out effort to break through in Egypt and that he suffered such losses as to raise doubt as to his capacity to renew the attack. Indeed, Washington authorities are lavishing praise on the British for the job they did. Sixty days ago, Washington was extremely anxious as to Libya, the sea route to Australia, the ability of the Russian armies to hold together and the possibility of a Hitler attack through Turkey. All these situations have turned for the better, although conditions remain critical in the Caucasian area. China, too, is in much better shape. Altogether, the September position is much more favorable to the Allies than was anticipated. It is a "no-quarter" war in the Pacific. Japs have pretended to surrender in order to trick marines into traps and wounded Japs have turned on rescuing Americans with stabs in the back. It is kill or be killed and few prisoners are taken.

Canada To Send Wheat To Russia

A credit agreement under which Russia may draw up to approximately 9,000,000 bushels of hard spring wheat or flour has been signed at Canada House by representatives of the Canadian and Soviet governments.

Detailed terms of the agreement were not announced but a statement to the press said the British Ministry of food had undertaken to act as agent for the Dominion and that some deliveries had been made.

The credit was understood to approximate $10,000,000 and was believed to be in the nature of an interim loan which may be increased later if Russia is unable to feed its own people with its own supplies or with wheat delivered under the country's lease-lend agreement with the United States.

German troops, it was pointed out, have overrun some of the best Russian wheat growing provinces and authorities believed it would take years for the Soviet to restore them to full production in the post-war period.

Churchill Lauds Premier Stalin

The main purpose of his mission to Moscow, Prime Minister Churchill told the House of Commons, was "to establish the same relations of easy confidence and perfect openness I have built up with Mr. Roosevelt."

Of Stalin, he said:

"It is very fortunate for Russia to have this great, rugged war chief at her head. He is a man of inexhaustible courage and will power and he is even blunt in speech . . . I believe I have made him feel that we are good and faithful comrades in this war.

"But that, after all, is a matter which deeds, not words, will prove."

Churchill said he and Russian leaders shared the conviction that in the British Empire, the United States and the Soviet Union Hitler has forged an alliance "strong enough to beat him to the ground and steadfast enough to persevere not only until his wickedness has been punished but until some, at least, of the ruin he has wrought has been repaired."

REG'LAR FELLERS—Almost a Hero — By GENE BYRNES