## PUNTING ON THE THAMES

This American boy and girl find that punting as done on the Thames has nothing to do with football. The boy in the background is doing the punting—or paddling—of the boat while Pvt. Edward Correll of Reading, Pa., and Eleanor Shaw of San Francisco relax. Both are automobile drivers for U. S. forces in Britain.

## The Citizen's Army — INDIVIDUAL

By ALAN MAURICE IRWIN

### A Weekly Column About This and That in Our Canadian Army

Several young gentlemen of my acquaintance have dropped out of sight in local circles. No more are they seen at the sqare dances that have recently become very popular at a dance pavilion not far away. The local "hot doggery", where boys and girls who never have any appetite at meal times stuff themselves at odd hours to the detriment of pocket money that can't stay in pockets, will have to struggle along without them. No longer, will these particular young gentlemen—three of them English — three French speaking — strum their guitars and other musical instruments in my living-room.

No longer, that is, until their first "leaves" roll around and they turn up in uniform, heavier, more erect and bronzed, to earn—and deserve—the admiration of their dancing partners.

They have gone off in several directions, the Infantry, the Air Force, and to work on the construction of a strategic highway. The girls who have swum and bicycled and hiked and danced with them all summer set me right when I made some rather acid comments upon the boys who are apt to be paid almost as much per hour in highway construction at the soldiers and airmen get per day.

"They've been turned down for the Army", was chorussed at me, "and, anyway, by the time they pay for board and room and clothes there won't be much difference in their pay."

Another point mae by the young ladies in putting this old soldier to rights was that the road-makers, will probably be in almost as great danger as their pals in uniform.

It all goes to prove two things —that even an old soldier has no right to jump to conclusions—and that there is more than one way to be of service to the Dominion in this fight for self-preservation.

Probably the most illuminating feature of this sudden exodus—and six yung men fom a small comunity leaves a noticeable gap —is the tranquility that has rescened upon those who play the stellar roles.

We older people don't realize the problems with which we have faced our juniors. From our set ideas and politically muscle-bound brains, we evolve a series of mystifying regulations and conditions. Then we expect youngsters just out of school to understand what we haven't courage enough to tell them when their minds are busy trying to adjust themselves to a life that has none of the protection with which we surround their school days.

Put yourself in the position of a 'teen age boy. He suddenly becomes conscious of a world that is peopled mostly by contemporaries in uniform. He learns that a khaki uniform minus the word "Canada" is the badge of the "draftee".

Others in khaki but wearing "Canada" are volunteers. They will be accepted at the age of eighteen but will not go overseas until they are nineteen.

But if they do not volunteer they will not be called until they are twenty.

What shall he do? We can't tell him. We should be able to tell him what we want. We are the people, aren't we? We govern the country, don't we?

We've got to wake up. If we are going to ask our young gentlemen to enlist to save us from an enemy who will spare no one, the least we can do is to make quite clear what we expect of them.

That's why I say that the most illuminating feature of what has been happening in our village is the descent of tranquillity upon the young gentlemen. There are no perplexities left for them.

Now they are in uniform the Personnel Selection directorate will see to it that they are employed where they fit in best—which means they will have greater opportunities for advancement and promotion than was the lot of the private soldier before this war. They have no decisions of a major character to make. They are doing their duty and are in the hands of men trained to employ them to the best advantage, men who know that their own future, their own safety, their own lives will be in the hands of these youths they are training.

What about us? We are older. By now the perplexities of life, should not be as troublesome to us as they are to the 'teen age world.

We can't rely upon an Administrative and Training Staff to direct our activities into channels where we can be of the greatest service to our country and, therefore, to ourselves.

Which makes our duty all the more plainer!

## Most Needed Items Listed In Britain

Most needed clothing in Great Britain includes wool sweaters, undervests, underpants, overcoats, pajamas, socks, stockings and boys' shorts, for ages from six to sixteen. The need is greater for boys than for girls.

More than 50,000 babies have been born in the emergency homes for mothers established under Britain's evacuation program.

## VOICE OF THE PRESS

### "FORGETTING" ABOUT THE WAR

There are some people who say they do not want to see a film about the war, read a book about it, or do anything else that reminds them of it. They say they want to forget about the war. They even say they are tired of reading about it in the newspapers.

These are the people who are selfish, self-centred and indulgent; who hate to be reminded of anything that disturbs their peace of mind. That is not the mentality that will win the war. We can only win it by measuring up to our responsiblities to the utmost of our capacity, in the interest of others as well as of ourselves.

—Stratford Beacon-Herald

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### COULD LIFT BOOKS

Ottawa hints that the gas ration for pleasure motoring may be reduced soon. A good start might be made at the ration board if it would lift for a few weeks the coupon books of motorists convicted of exceeding federal speed limit of 40 miles an hour. That would compel these individuals to save gas and rubber by not using either at all, for a while.

—Edmonton Journal

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### ANY GERMAN A GOOD TARGET

Ideas of targets have changed vastly since the war began. At the first the British airmen were not permitted to bomb certain military targets, because they were so close to civilian centres of population, a number of civilians might be killed.

But, since Hitler started indiscriminate bombing, the British idea is that any German is a good target now.

—Windsor Star

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### COMMANDO MATERIAL

Wild disorder continues to mark local wrestling matches, with spectators battling each other here and there and storming the ring, while the odd contestant claps a hold on the referee. There seems to be plenty of Commanda material there.

—Montreal Gazette

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### FOR DOG-OWNERS

No normal person is happy about hitting a dog with his automobile, and sometimes it is very difficult to avoid some of the little rascals who haven't been taught not to chase cars and to keep out of the street. Can't dog owners think of the feelings of motorists, too?

—Christian Science Monitor

The Indian rupee is worth approximately 30.05 cents.

## Australia Meets War Emergency

An example of the remarkable progress made by the Australian munitions industry in speeding up production since the Japanese entered the war comes from Queensland.

When the Japanese launched their attack against Pearl Harbor, the biggest munition factory in Queensland was in course of erection. By the end of January it had begun the production of small arms ammunition on a small scale. Today the factory is producing all classes of ammunition in enormous quantities, and it is going direct to the firing line. Cartridges of all kinds and big shells are being turned out at this factory in an ever-growing stream and output will continue to increase day by day and week by week until maximum production is attained by the end of this year.

**Girls In War Plants**

In four months the staff has grown fourfold, from hundreds to thousands, and before the end of the year the present number will be doubled again. Hundreds of machines are being operated by girls who a few months ago were typists, clerks, factory hands, waitresses, daughters of farmers and graziers, and the like. Few of them had ever handled machinery before but, after a few weeks training, they are now doing a job which the factory executives cannot praise too highly. Some of them are on work that has never been done before by women. In munitions the greatest precision is necessary and had early production at this new factory been below the rigid standard demanded, it could have been excused. This was not the case. On the contrary, from the beginning of production in Queensland, the ammunition has been passed by inspectors of the three fighting services.

**Miracle of The Age**

This is only one example of what has been happening throughout Australia since war began. The change-over from civil to defence production by Australian industries has been described as one of the miracles of the age. With no previous experience to guide them, Australian industrialists are today turning out every type of armament and defence equipment in staggering quantities for a country that a few years ago was considered purely from a primary production point of view in the world economy. Today Australian industries are making things which, even as late as 1940, could not be made there.

A melting pot for optical glass instruments in a Canadian factory contains about 2,000 pounds of glass at each melt. After the various operations, about 500 pounds of usable glass is obtained.

## LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"You're moving into the nicest neighborhood. . . . We all have the best times—talking about one another."

## BRIEF WAR SUMMARY

On long-range, there's hopeful feeling: Russia shows signs of holding out, despite Stalingrad situation, keeping Nazi army busy on Eastern front. Bombings of Germany are slowing down the Nazi war production. The Nazis have a big reserve of finished war equipment, but the air raids on factories and communications will delay the replacements months hence. Japan has over-extended her supply lines. They are vulnerable, and Japanese shipping is faring badly. These factors add up to a plus for the Allies on the long pull, but the outlook in the next few months is probably not so good.

**Axis Campaign In Russia**

Hitler appears about to bring his campaign in southern Russia to a conclusion which may be satisfactory to him for the present. He has not annihilated the Russian armies, as he set out to do, but he has immobilized them in the south for the time being at least. And, since Russian territorial, material and manpower losses on other fronts have made large-scale, successful Russian offensives improbable, without strong Allied support, Hitler sensibly might be expected to offer the Russians peace so that he could consolidate and capitalize on his extensive gains while there is yet time. A Nazi peace is utterly unacceptable to Stalin, however, and Hitler is preparing Winter quarters for a holding army in Russia prior to turning elsewhere in a sink-or-swim effort to finish the war quickly by entrenching himself so firmly on the Continent that further fighting obviously would be impractical. If he is permitted the initiative, the focus of activity is expected to shift to the Middle East, where he presumably anticipates an Allied attempt to clear him out of North Africa, open the Mediterranean and launch an offensive against his relatively unprotected flank in Europe. There are increasingly definite and detailed indications, however, that the initiative is about to be taken away from him.

**Allied Naval Power**

It may now be stated authoritatively that British naval power is greater than when the war began, and that American naval power is considerably greater than it was December 6 last. Admiral King has intimated that the American two-ocean navy will be "ready" by June of next year. Some important seafare developments are wisely kept secret. As to failure to reveal fully certain losses, they are hardly in excess of the expected coast of operations. However, as somebody has put it, "whichever side pulls the fewer 'boners' will win the war." Censorship veils the actual situation in India. The Nazis put everything they have into attacks on convoys in aid of Russia. Talk of an Allied Generalissimo continues. The British inflationary threat is largely checked by strict rationing, in contrast to American reliance mainly on other controls. Excess purchasing-power becomes "forced savings" when allowable purchases are rigidly restricted. It should be repeated that the American tradition favors offense and it may be assumed that the high Allied decisions to which President Roosevelt recently referred are in accord therewith.

**Canada At Dieppe**

Canada's complaint that its part in the Dieppe raid and other fighting has been underrated, particularly in U.S. newsreels, is not to be minimized. Canada is not a large country, but its contribution to the war is a large one and its troops did shoulder the major burden at Dieppe. It would be wise for Canada, England, the U. S. and all of the other United Nations to remember that they are fighting the war collectively, that separately they might not be able to fight it at all.

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## Socialists In Italy Rising Against Fascism

The Socialist Party in Italy, which Benito Mussolini's followers in early days forcibly disbanded was reported today to be raising its head against Fascism.

A dispatch from Zurich quoted Swiss Socialist circles as declaring that the Italian Socialist Party in recent months had been reorganized with "illegal units" multiplying in factories in the greater part of Italian territory.

The Socialists recently helped in a strike at the Fiat works, where they suddenly quit their jobs and demanded an increase in pay. Six hours later, according to this account, company officials acceded to the demands and the strikers went back to work.

Although strikes are prohibited in Italy, the newspaper said, "not a policeman or soldier showed himself" during the strike.

## Flowers Forecast Mild Autumn

The veteran Johnny Thomas, well-known Fort Erie prognosticator, does not agree with several other old-time weather forecasters here that folk in the Niagara District are in for an early Fall. "It is my belief that we will have a mild October and November, too." Mr. Thomas commented.

"One reason is that the wild asters are just commencing to bloom, and as these flowers are sensitive to frost, it is my belief that old Dame Nature knows better than the average human does."

## Women Likely To Stay On Farm

Farm women are not likely to be directed into other occupations because the work they now are doing has a high priority rating, Mrs. Rex Eaton, assistant director of National Selective Service announced.

Farm women from 20 to 24 years of age, inclusive, are required to register with other women in the same age group. This registration is compulsory. Postmasters have been authorized to act as registrars in rural districts.

Women now working on farms will be registered as "farm women." But this does not mean that they will be "frozen" in their present jobs, Mrs. Eaton says. Farm work usually tapers off during the winter, and Mrs. Eaton urged that young women who are free to turn to other work in slack seasons do so.

## Killings In Greece Daily Occurrences

A high German official who escaped to Palestine informed the Greek government that 3,000 of the islanders have been executed by the Germans and that terrorism "of the most grave character continues.

Arrests and shootings occur daily on Crete, the big island south of Greece, this official whose name may not be disclosed reported. He said condemned persons were forced to dig their own graves and that the people were forced to witness executions of their townsmen.

## REG'LAR FELLERS—Slow Collections — By GENE BYRNES