# Silver Serves In Scientific War

**Costly Metal Replaces Copper, Zinc; Beats Babbitt for Bearings**

Solder—of silver. It will join metal pieces so strongly that the joint often is stronger than the original metal.

Suggestion to historians looking for a distinctive name for World War II: How about the Silver-Plated War? That's the kind of war we're fighting, and no kidding.

The metal that puts the 10 cents into a dime and the hallmarks on jewelry and tableware is today replacing such lowly metals as copper, nickel and zinc — and doing their jobs better than they do.

Millions of ounces of silver, with its alloys are helping build—and to make more efficient and deadly — battleships, tanks, airplanes, trucks, torpedoes, bombs, guns and shells. Expensive? Yes, but worth it.

**Strength Is Silver's Great Asset**

Take airplanes, this war's most deadly weapon. Engine bearings which are lined with silver can withstand the tremendous pressures of high-speed motors better than the babbitt metal bearings formerly used. Translated into performance, this means that American planes can fly farther, faster and carry greater bomb loads with silver-plated bearings than they could with babbitt metal.

Silver's greatest asset is its tremendous strength. Its resistance under shock makes it invaluable in the recoil mechanism of high-powered guns, adding length to their range.

The most dramatic uses of silver in this Silver-Plated War, however, are to be found in solder. Unlike lead, silver solder joins metal so strongly that the joint is often stronger than the original metal. Thus if a tank, for example, breaks down on the field, it often can be repaired with solder right on the spot.

**Use of Silver Frees Other Metals**

Miles of pipes in fighting ships and transports are now joined with silver solder, giving them added ability to withstand shock and strain. In the production of many kinds of bombs, silver solder is used to seal the joints.

Being an exceptionally efficient conductor of electricity, silver already is being used for wire of various sizes, and it has been proposed as a material for heavy cable and the massive, high-voltage bus bars in industrial plants. Since there would be no deterioration, it could be replaced after the war by the copper now needed elsewhere.

Silver also is making a major contribution to this Silver-Plated War by releasing quantities of precious other metals, like copper, nickel or zinc, for uses their special properties best fit them.

You can get an idea of how silver is helping to keep the war production ball rolling from comparative consumption figures. In 1941, 80,000,000 more ounces of silver were fabricated than in 1940, an increase of 95 per cent. The firm of Handy & Harman, the nation's oldest and largest bullion dealers, which was recently awarded the joint Army-Navy "E," reports increased production in some silver lines as much as 400 per cent within the past year.

# The Individual Citizen's Army

By Alan Maurice Irwin

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

A few weeks ago the question of age entered into this column. Age, to the aging, is an absorbing topic and one that must be thoroughly explored in time of war.

At a recent meeting of lawyers in Cleveland, Col. J. L. Ralston, Minister of National Defence (or do you prefer "Offence"), told his audience that he looks for a long war. A day or so before that address Rt. Hon. W.L. MacKenzie King told us of the country's plans for the proper use of every man and women in the prosecution of the war.

These, let us hope, are more than "straws in the wind." They are definite indications that we are coming to the realization that the suggestions made at the very start of the war by the Canadian Legion and other ex-service men are bearing fruit.

Evidence that they are is to be found in the recent recruiting campaign for the Veteran's Guard of Canada. Work has been found for the old soldiers to do.

That there is yet more work for old soldiers — in uniform and out — is indisputable, and it now looks as if the day is at hand when the great army of middle-aged Canadians will find itself considered qualified for something more than membership in the House of Commons.

Last night a battalion of the Reserve Army was undergoing training in a park in an Eastern Canadian city. The men were learning formation for different kinds of patrols. Some of the time they gathered round their instructor to watch demonstrations. Some of the time they practised the formations — a slow job.

It was a cool night and the men wore their cotton summer uniforms. Some of them, including the instructors, were chilly.

The Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the unit — he wears the D.S.O. and M.C., — passed from group to group observing the training. He observed more than that. He observed that his men were cold. He passed the word to the instructors to interrupt the training and give some warming-up exercises.

Now that is a little thing in itself. But it is a big thing when you look right into it. Any one of those instructors had the authority to break off from his work and lead in warming up exercises. Or, if he did not want to act on his own initiative, could have obtained permission.

Yet it took the old soldier, the seasoned veteran who is considered too old for active command, to think of his men's comfort.

The younger instructors are all for efficiency — for "hardening" their men. That's all very well. So is the old soldier, but he knows there is no gain in efficiency if time is lost from the next training night by men who contracted colds through lack of care.

As I have written earlier in The Individual Citizen's Army there are many jobs that can be filled in Canada, in England, at the bases and on the line of communication by veterans of the last war, by men who were too young last time and are called too old this time and by men whose catagories are lower than the "A" that is required of the fighting soldier.

To such jobs as organization, administration and supply such men take the more balanced thinking that goes with maturer years. Youth can, will and, in the final essence, must plan and execute attack but youth is less apt to worry about such important work as consolidation and — where the plan calls for it — evacuation.

The same thing applies to the work available for those who are not available for the armed forces. After years of telling married women who have raised families and are freed from domestic ties that they are too old, authorities in various lines of endeavour are now getting round to the realization that there are many spheres of useful activity in which older women will not merely "do" but for which they are much better fitted than young ones.

I have seen no announcement yet about the nursing service of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps so must assume that the age limit bars most veteran Nursing Sisters of the 1914-1919 war from serving again.

Most mothers of young men serving in the Army will agree with me that a Nursing Sister who, in addition to her training, has the advantage of being a mother who has raised children of her own, would be the ideal type for hospitals in this country to which wounded who face a long convalescence will undoubtedly be sent.

Yet — and here is a situation worthy of Gilbert and Sullivan — the only ex-Nursing Sisters who can qualify for such appointment are those who lied about their ages and were officially too young in the last war! No matter how you try to figure it 1914 subtracted from 1939 still leaves 25 and any nurse who is less than 45 today must have been less than 20 in 1914. She had to be 21 to enter a training school, three years were required for the course, leaving the minimum age on enlistment as 24. Twenty-four and 25 always add up to 49 — and 45 is the upper age limit!

That's by the way — what we are concerned with is the desire of older people to do something to help the fight along. Not only their desire — their undoubted capacity for service.

The time will come — it must — when all of us who are capable of helping will be drafted. Until the time comes let's do our share by helping to sae merchant commodities that come by sea, by carrying parcels form the store, by doing our own little bit to keep prices down and the wolf of inflation from the door.

## Self Heating Tins

British troops serving in cold climates are to be provided with self-heating tins of soup.

All they will have to do to prepare it is to punch two holes in the top of the tin and light a chemical heater running through the middle of it.

In two minutes they will have a pint of hot soup—even in temperatures as low as 30 below zero.

This is only one of the new features of balanced feeding which War Office scientists have developed.

There is the 'Mountain (Arctic)' iron ration. This contains enough food to keep a man going for 24 hours in a freezing temperature and includes pemmican, the stand-by of Arctic explorers.

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

# General Wavell Gives Optimistic Review Of War On All Fronts

Fresh from a long series of Allied conferences, Gen. Sir Archibald P. Wavell drew a broad and confident picture of the war's outcome with the assurance that the United States, Britain, Russia and China "are going to fight it out."

**Russia**

"The Russians are going to hold and we'll do our best to help them.

"Russia is the heart of the problem. The German objective doubtless was to do what they did in 1918—put the Russians out of business so there would be no question of fighting on two fronts.

"But the Russian Army still is intact and its Air Force is going strong—and it is getting toward the end of the campaigning season although there will be another five weeks before weather stops the campaign."

**The Atlantic**

"One of the biggest fights is going on in the Atlantic. Our losses are serious, not serious enough to prevent us winning the war but enough to hamper our strategy and delay our winning of it. I do not see the shipping situation getting worse, but better."

Wavell said successes were being scored against the submarine but added "what collapsed in the last war was not submarines but the supply of crews that will stick it out."

**R.A.F. Over Germany**

"The air offensive is causing Germany a great deal of damage both material and morale. We know of material damage from photographs. How much morale damage is a more difficult problem.

"But the attacks affect submarine and tank output and we are chucking more stuff at him (Hitler) than he ever chucked at England. He must think of propping up morale next winter."

**The Middle East**

"We've got Rommel held, but he is much too close to the delta of the Nile. The hope is that we push him a good way back again. . . . I'm sure Rommel won't get any farther."

Hitler wanted to knock out the Russian Army, Wavell said, in order to have his army in Egypt free to hit through into the Middle East and with another through the Caucasus or Turkey.

"But he is a long way off from the position he'd like to be in by the end of 1942. . . . He's behind his program.

"There may be some fighting up in the caucasus this winter but it wil not be easy for him to get through."

**Pacific Theatre**

"As to the Japanese, he's got his hands full. He's like a boa constrictor which has swallowed a big goat. He needs time to digest it in a corner.

"Japan is not likely to take on a job like an invasion of Australia or India.

"We don't know how his navy was hit in the Solomons, but we believe hard. He is not flush with shipping, nor with a navy to meet both the American Navy and the British Eastern Fleet.

"He is not strong in his air force. . . . I always believed it his weak point. . . .

"The Jap has two big tasks. He must take into account the Russian menace if he is to be able to digest what he already has. And sooner or later he must settle the Chinese business. It is beginning to look lately as if the Japs were too late for attacking Siberia."

**The Indian Front**

Turning to his own Indian front, Wavell asserted that "since the loss of Burma and before, I have been planning the reoccupation of it, not merely because it is a part of the British Empire but strategically because it means re-establishing communications with China."

Wavell declined to discuss the Indian political situation beyond commenting that despite internal troubles he still was getting 70,000 recruits a month.

**Second Front**

"Nobody is more anxious to start a second front than we are. It is quite certain that as soon as ever possible both American troops and ourselves will start a second front, but I can't tell you when or where.

"We've fought on six fronts already, at least. It's a biggish problem starting on the continent. We'll have some casualties—very considerable both American and ours—before we get back into the continent. But we'll get back."

Mr. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, reminded a British audience the other day that in the matter of a "second front" the decision must be taken by those in authority who have access to all the facts, that it would not help Russia "to take action which might lead to disaster of our own forces."

That needed to be said. Many of those who go all-out for immediate invasion of Western Europe by a British-American army base their demands on the need for "helping Russia." Precipitate action, in fact, might do Russia infinite harm. The invasion of German Europe, when it comes, will be a measure to help not only Russia, but Britain, the United States, China, and every country fighting the Axis or overrun by the Axis.

Russia, it is fair to point out, did not come into the war through an alliance with Britain or at Britain's request, but because she was attacked by Germany. Hitler, having brought Russia in on our side we then had a common cause, and Britain has met the natural obligation to a hard-pressed ally by diverting to the Soviet Union military supplies which would have brought the second front appreciably nearer if they could have been kept in the United Kingdom.

Britain and France went to war with Germany because they had given their word to fight if Poland were attacked. Every other country in the group of United Nations went to war because it was itself attacked by Germany, Italy or Japan.

**Plain Speaking**

The frank insistence now being made in Moscow that a second front be opened at whatever cost is viewed seriously by The New York Times. The Russian demands call for plain speaking. We are not in this war to save Russia. Russia is not in this war to save us. She did not try to save Norway, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands or France in 1940. She did not lift a finger when the invasion of Britain seemed imminent. Let it be admitted that she was no more selfish then than Britain and France were when they abandoned Czechoslovakia to the wolves, or than we were when, still clinging to an obsolete isolationism, we connived to that betrayal.

Now let us consider our actual relationship to Russia and her actual relationship to us. Self-preservation is her first law, and it is also ours. Self-preservation dictates to her that she shall not risk losing more than she gains by permitting us to use her Siberian bases against Japan, though by doing so we might save many thousands of American lives and many billions of American dollars. Self-preservation dictates to us and to Britain that we shall not vainly sacrifice half a million men just because we admire profoundly the gallant defenders of Stalingrad.

**Decision For Specialists**

We have no choice but to leave to the specialists in such matters the decision as to when we shall strike on the European Continent. It may be that a blow struck this fall, at great risk and with great losses, will contribute more to final victory than a heavier blow struck next spring. It may be that we have more chance for success if we wait. But this is not a question to be settled by acclamation in public meetings, or in the pages of newspapers an magazines, or on the floors of Congress. It is folly to attempt to settle it in that way.

## Jap Deviltry

The Opium Suppression Commission recently broadcast an official charge that 13,000,000 of 30,000,000 Chinese in Manchuria have become opium addicts as a result of the deliberate Japanese policy of poisoning the minds and bodies of inhabitants of occupied territories.

# VOICE OF THE PRESS

**JUST ANYONE**

Most any man can be an editor. All an editor has to do is to sit at a desk six days a week, four weeks to a month and twelve months a year and edit such stuff as this:

"Mrs. Jones, of Cactus Creek, let a can-opener slip last week and cut her in the pantry; John Doe climbed on the roof of his house last week, looking for a leak, and fell, landing on his back porch; While Harold Green was escorting Miss Violet Wise from the church social last Sunday night a savage dog attacked them and bit Mr. Green on the public square; Jim Frank, while harnessing a broncho last Saturday, was kicked just south of his corncrib." —Port Perry Star.

—o—

**CHANCE FOR THE SHEEP**

An increase of close to 10 per cent. in the number of sheep being kept in Wellington County is indicated in a recent survey. Once upon a time, before cars became common on our highways, sheep roamed unchecked along the roadsides and, judging by the prevalence of weeds this year, not only in fields but along the roadsides, it might be a good idea if they were allowed to do so again. Certainly we have not spare labor to keep the weeds properly cut and if they continue to spread crops are bound to suffer. Some sheep and schoolboy shepherds might do a fine clean-up job.

—Elora Express.

—o—

**AGAIN DENIED**

The Red Cross has again been obliged by rumor-mongers to deny that funds were ever used to purchase beer for Nazi prisoners in Canada. The pity is that such denials should ever have to be necessary. —Hamilton Spectator.

—o—

**BRAZIL'S SIZE**

Brazil, our newest Ally, is the fourth largest country in the world in area, being topped by Russia, China and Canada. Continental United States is slightly smaller.-Stratford Beacon-Herald.

**ITALIAN INVASION**

Thirteen Italians forming a commando landed on the North African coast, mined a railway line with explosives which failed to explode, and then got themselves arrested by British military police. How very Italian!

—Windsor Star.

—o—

**"BLIMEY, IT'S WINNIE!"**

It was as "Mr. Bullfinch" that Prime Minister Churchill started out to review the battlefields in Egypt incognito. But the troops soon recognized him. "Blimey, it's Winnie," one of them cried. "Winnie's come out into the bloomin' desert."

—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

—o—

**A HATEFUL WORD**

This new law making every able-bodied man work is going to be hard on some leisured, lazy men we know around town. They are like the man in an old English comedy who said: "I eats well, I sleeps well, but when I 'ears the word work I goes all of a tremble."

—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

## Women Workers

Women workers will take their places beside the men at Pictou, Nova Scotia, shipyards, starting September 8, it was announced recently. Only a few have been engaged so far, but more will be taken on later.


LISTEN TO

"COUNTRY NEWS"

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ONTARIO WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

EACH SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.

*CFRB - 860 On Your Dial*


REG'LAR FELLERS—On the Spot

By GENE BYRNES