Flew Over African Wastes

The following letter was received by Mr. Reuben Spence of Toronto from his son, Flight Sergt. Roy, Spence with the Canadian Air Force Roy is well known here, having visited Flesherton many times and his friends are pleased to hear from him again. He has been ferrying bombers to England and last fall went over in a Flying Fortress and ferried bombers from England to Egypt. As he was returning from one of these trips he wrote the following interest account of his trip:

Egypt, Jan. 25th, 1943

Hello Folks: Just at the moment I am flying from Cairo to Khartoum in a luxurious American air liner. It is really something. Big soft arm chairs and very little noise. As a matter of fact it is one of the very latest. We had a very good trip down to this country and have spent a very pleasant two weeks' vacation in and about Cairo. We are now

FLIGHT SERGT. ROY SPENCE

returning to England and are crossing Africa by air to a point in West Africa, where we will take a boat to finish the trip. We are flying down the Nile (or rather up the Nile) and the country, bar a few green oases along the river, is almost entirely desert and bare mountains. Not very interesting scenery. This trip is becoming rather monotonous. We have been four and a half hours in the air and should be at Khartoum in half an hour.

We intend crossing this continent somewhere around the equator and I expect it will be very interesting. So far we have followed or stayed near the Nile most of the time. There is not much to see except desert and bare rock mountains. Even an oasis is found interesting. We are coming down, so must be getting near. It is becoming very bumpy, so we must be low. The air over the desert is always rough below 3000 feet.

Well, here we are in Khartoum, well almost. We are at Wade Seidna and I am writing now from my quarters here, which consist of a bed on the roof. It is very warm, we are not far from the equator. We seem to be off the desert, as there are a lot of scrubby trees around, but as the Nile is visible half a mile away, perhaps it is just a fertile spot on the Nile. Anyway the desert is fading as we travel south. One of the lads just located a Coca Cola bottle, so we are off on a hunt for a full one.

January 26

Our departure has been delayed a few hours, and now after getting up at four o'clock, we are lying on our flying jackets in our bare skins beside the camp swimming pool, waiting for it to warm up before we go in for a swim. It is only 8.15, but the sun is well up. At home you are all snugly in bed, as it is only 2.15 in the morning.

We have been able to get some American cigarettes here and just at the moment I am enjoying Lucky Strikes. Last night I had several Coca Colas. It is odd to be able to get these things 1000 miles in the desert. There isn't a cloud in the sky, and it is just like a mid-summer day back home. There are many kinds of strange birds and they are very tame. In a little while we are going down to the orange groves and banana plantations. Some Arabs are just passing by on camels. I guess I am fortunate to have such a trip.

Afternoon:

We are flying westward across Africa now, and have been in the air more than five hours, getting away from the Sudan around 11.30, which means we have covered more than 1000 miles, as our speed is well over 200 m.p.h and is sometimes 250.

One thing that has surprised me, in view of the fact that we are more than 1100 miles south of the Mediterranean, is the fact that we are still over the desert. This Libyan desert is almost unbelievably large. Since leaving the Nile over 1000 miles back, we have seen no water, not even an oasis. What a country! We passed a large range of mountains, some of them 7000 feet high. They were just bald black rock. We are now passing large patches of mud, which look like dry lake beds. It is very hot, and we are in our bare feet and shirt sleeves, and still too warm.

Night:

Shortly after I had stopped writing this afternoon, we started to leave the desert. As we neared the ——— district, the country became more and more fertile. We came down to 1000 feet and could see very well. We passed over many native mud villages. Saw hippos and crocodiles, etc.; very interesting.

After landing, we drove by road about five miles to this camp. It isn't very prepossessing, very much like you see in the movies. However, we had a stewed chicken dinner, some made-in-Toronto Weston's biscuits and some Canadian beer. Not bad, eh? We are 500 miles from the nearest railroad. I am writing this on my stomach, as usual, and must get up at 4 o'clock, so away to bed.

January 27

Well, we are in the air again, after sleeping in and delaying our take-off until 6.15. Had a pretty good night's sleep, but it does get cool at night. We are now two-thirds of the way across Africa and seem to be well out of the desert. We see many rivers and swamps and bits of jungle. The natives around this part seem to be farmers. We are now heading for ——— and there we part company from this aircraft, which will carry on back to America, with this letter, while we wait for a boat to England.

URGENT!

Great Britain asks or seventy-five million dozen Eggs from Canada in 1943.

That is nearly one-third more Eggs than there were produced in Canada last year.

This task can be accomplished best by every producer striving to get more Eggs per Hen.

The average production per month in Canada last year was nine eggs from each hen. Two more eggs per bird per month will do the job.

YOU'LL BE PLEASED WITH YOUR RETURNS

Flesherton Creamery & Produce Co.

Phone 66 **Angus Avis, Manager**

CEYLON

Birthday greetigs are extended to Mrs. Jos. Oliver, who celebrates her 80th birthday on Monday, Feb. 15th. Mrs. Oliver is carrying on her household duties as usual. With a host of friends we join in extending best wishes for many more pleasant birthdays.

Mrs. George Cairns spent the past week visiting relatives in Toronto and Todmorden.

Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Piper and daughter, Mary Belle, of Markdale visited last Thursday with Mrs. H. Piper.

Mrs. Dalton Marshall and baby daughter, Dianne Yvonne, returned the latter part of the week to their home at Roderick.

Mrs. Edgar Doupe and two children, Joan and Murray, of Owen Sound are visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Luther Duckett.

Mrs. Anna McMillan is visiting her sister, Mrs. (Dr.) G. H. Holmes in Owen Sound.

Mr. Wallace McCormack of Swinton Park was a caller on Saturday at the home of Mrs. J. Knox.

Miss Isobel Weber spent the week end at her home at Vandeleur.

Mr. F. R. Oliver, M.L.A., left on Monday for Toronto to attend the opening of the Legislature Tuesday.

Misses Jean Collinson of Owen Sound and Frances Collinson of Markdale were week end visitors at their home here.

Mr. John A. Nichol and son, Harold, and Mr. Stewart Muir attended the short course in Flesherton on Friday and Saturday, sponsored by the Department of Agriculture. Markdale.

Gnr. Wm. Marshall of Newmarket was a recent visitor at the parental home.

Miss Grace Wright of Feversham is a visitor with her sister, Mrs. P. Hemphill.

The Holdfast Club packed two large boxes recently at the home of Mrs. Melville Hogarth for the Russian Relief, containing 60 articles of used clothing, including seven quilts. The following sent in donations: Mrs. Allie Muir, Mrs. John Stewart, Mrs. Chris Thomson, Mrs. Earl McLeod, Mrs. Knox, Mrs. A. Stewart, Mrs. Wm. Beaton, Mrs. H. Tucker and Mrs. M. Hogarth. It is expected that similar boxes will be packed, so that anyone having donations will please send them in and they will be gratefully received. Used clothing donated, were as follows: 7 quilts, 2 men's overcoats, 2 ladies' winter coats, 3 men's suit coats, 2 men's vests, baby shawl, 2 baby jackets, 2 binders, baby bonnet, pair baby's pullovers, pair wool boottees, pair stockings, child's coat and cap, child's cape, bed jacket, 10 handkerchiefs, girl's skirt and blouse, 3 girls' sweaters, pair pyjamas, 2 pair mitts, boy's v-neck sweater, lady's silk scarf, print dress, black silk jacket, pair lady's stockings, 5 pair boys' grey socks, pair ladies' shoes, pair men's oxfords.

STEPHEN'S CORNERS

(Intended for Last Week)

Mr. Bill Stephen of Toronto is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Stephen. Bill reports for duty in the Air Force on Feb. 11th.

The third regular meeting of the War Workers was held Wednesday, Jan. 27th, at the home of Mrs. Jack Broderick, with 15 members present. During the afternoon a box was packed for each of the three boys from our group who are serving overseas, and a quilt was completed. At the previous meeting held at the home of Mrs. Vern Wright, it was decided to donate $25 to the Canadian Aid to Russia Fund. A quilt was also completed and sold. The next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. John Lougheed on Feb. 10th.

In the annual report of Stephen's Corners War Workers, it was omitted that nineteen boxes had been packed for the boys. Boxes were packed for the boys serving overseas and at various times for those who are serving in Canada.

Miss Laureen Pedlar of Toronto spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Pedlar.

Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Porteous visited on Sunday with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Magee, Eugenia.

An effort for the happiness of others lifts us above ourselves.

VANDELEUR

Mrs. Geo. Shaw and son, Jamie, of Durham spent a few days with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Boland, and Dora.

Mrs. Alex. Gilray of Camp Borden visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Fawcett.

Miss Dora Boland spent a short time with her sister, Mrs. Geo. Shaw, at Durham.

Mrs. Geo. Buchanan was hostess to the Woman's Association for their February meeting on Wednesday afternoon of last week.

It was with deep regret that the people of this community received the news of the death of Mr. W. G. Hutchinson, who passed away in Toronto on Thursday of last week. Deceased was born and raised in this community and was highly respected. His wife and son, Beverley, have the sympathy of the entire neighborhood in their sorrow. The funeral was held on Saturday in Toronto.

A number from here attended the farm mechanics' short course in Flesherton last week.

S. S. No. 9, Osprey

Grade 9 — Laura Allison, 69.

Grade 8 — Verna Heron, 87; Margaret Bemrose, 69; Russell Seeley, 52; Reta Duckett, 46*.

Grade 7 — Wallace Long, 57*; Wesley Long, 56*; George Porteous, 43.

Grade 6 — Ross Allison, 86; Orville Broderick, 62*; Reg Allison, 39.

Grade 5 — Ivan Young, 92; Arthur Long, 82; Lois Coulter, 72; Ross Porteous, 61; Ronnie Wright, 60; Phillyis Davison (newly admitted).

Grade 3 — Jim Londry, Millie Duckett.

Grade 2 — Margaret Porteous, Glenn Wright, Vernon Long, Leslie Lougheed*.

Grade 1 — Marie Porteous, Raymond Young, Lloyd Lougheed*.

Primer — Carl Young, Deane Wright.

Numbers are percentages. Names in order of merit. * denotes irregular attendance or one or more exams missed. Number on the roll, 30; average attendance 21.

Mrs. Francis J. Seeley, Teacher.

ROADS AGAIN BLOCKED

Another heavy blizzard on Sunday blocked the Kimberley and Singhampton roads. Kimberley road was open at 1 a.m. Tuesday morning, but after the blow Wednesday morning it is closed again. The Feversham road had not been opened, and the plows have almost a hopeless job in getting through. Wednesday afternoon rain fell and thunder and lightning was observed.

KIMBERLEY

The worst storm in several years swept the Valley for most of the week. No mail from Tuesday was able to get through, nor bread, but no one suffered on that account. The housewives were equal to the occasion. The roads in the Valley were passable for teams. One day there were 12 pupils in the junior room and five in the upper room. It was impossible for mail to get through, so news could not either, two storms following each other so closely. Men, trucks and plows were all along the roads doing all possible to clear out the snow. One day Mr. J. Kirkpatrick went to Flesherton for the mail via Thornbury, Owen Sound to Flesherton and back the same way, accompanied by D. A. Graham.

The annual congregational meeting of the United Church was held Friday night, when there was a good attendance. Reports were received from all the departments and showed all obligations met and a balance on hand. It was decided to make improvements on the inside of the church this year. An improvement committee was appointed with Mrs. D. A. Graham as secretary-treasurer.

The W. A. met at the home of Mrs. D. A. Graham. There is now over $50 subscribed to the church improvement fund. Seventeen members were present.

A great number of our people have colds, especially among the children.

Mervyn Ellis reports for duty in the Air Force on Feb. 9th, having enlisted recently while in Toronto.

In Memoriam

TURNER — In loving memory of our dear Janie who passed away on Feb. 25, 1925.

O how oft she comes before us
Her dear face so sweet and true,
Resting now in peace with Jesus,
Loving hearts still long for you.

—Always remembered by her loved ones.

Department of Labour
National War Labour Board

GENERAL ORDER

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has found that the cost of living index number for January 2, 1943, is 117.1 (adjusted index 116.2) as compared with the cost of living index number for July 2, 1942, of 117.9 (adjusted index 117).

The Wartime Wages Control Order, P. C. 5963, provides in Section 48 (iv):

> "the amount of the bonus shall not be changed unless the cost of living index number has changed one whole point or more since the last general order of the Board requiring an increase or decrease in the amount thereof."

The index number not having changed by one whole point or more since July 2, 1942, pursuant to the provisions of P. C. 5963 as stated, the National War Labour Board orders that the terms of its General Order dated August 4, 1942, shall continue to apply for the period February 15, 1943, to May 15, 1943, subject to the right of employers or employees to apply to a War Labour Board for authorization of payment of such an amount of cost of living bonus as a Board may determine to be "fair and reasonable," under the provisions of the Order.

HUMPHREY MITCHELL
Chairman, National War Labour Board

Ottawa, Canada
February 4, 1943

HAPPINESS

Every heart belongs for happiness, yours and mine included. Every young creature looks on happiness as his or her birthright and, if they don't get it in the fullest measure, they feel defrauded or something which should have been theirs.

The older people, often disappoint, have decided that happiness is one of the unattainables of life, something that comes to others but never to them.

It is, actually, the most indefinite thing in the world, as elusive as the colours in a rainbow. It refuses to be bought, or chased, or caught, or held with might and main. But when you have said good-bye to it or decided wistfully that it is not for you, when you have turned to live your life minus that radiant thing, behold, it is there, nestling in your heart, and making a stay with you of its own free will.—The Blue Bell.

SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL.

OUR FAMILY went through hard times once. It taught us that you can't keep your independence without foresight and sacrifice. We learned what we could do without when we *had* to. So we know that a real nest-egg means more than just compulsory savings. It means all the War Savings Stamps and Certificates we can lay our hands on.

They're safe. And they're an investment every Canadian should make. Why? Because they help equip our fighting men to protect everything we've got. And because, too, they pay back $5.00 for every $4.00 we put aside now. We've got to win this war no matter what it costs — and we've got to prepare against the time when the boys come home.

Saving is Serving

Buy War Savings Stamps from druggists, banks, post offices, telephone offices, department stores, grocers, tobacconists and other retail stores. Certificates may be purchased for immediate delivery in denominations of $5, $10, $25 from Banks, Trust Companies and Post Offices.

61-S National War Finance Committee