THE
Flesherton Advance

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F. J. THURSTON, Editor

Week End With Canadian Bombers

PART 11

The first station of the RCAF group we visited was a permanent station. It was built before the war and built as a permanent station of the R.A.F. Consequently it is well built. The buildings are well constructed and comfortable. The quarters are good and there is central heating.

After we had seen the boys come back to this station from the Leipzig raid we had breakfast and left in our cars for a "dispersed" or "statelite" station. Here life was different.

These stations are temporary ones and the buildings are mere shells that do little more than keep out the rain. There was plenty of mud around and the buildings are scattered over a large area. The mess hall is frequently a mile from the living quarters. At one station, I was told, the conditions were so bad, and the distances so far, that the WD's had to be removed from that station.

The station commander made no bones about the fact that we would see little "spit and polish" there. He frankly said that "smartness" just could not be maintained under the conditions in which they lived. He did say, though, that the very hardships themselves made a much better spirit among the station personnel and many of the men preferred to live on dispersed stations. I wonder.

It was at this station that we saw the ground crew at work. And in the words of the station commander, "They deserve a helluva lot more credit than they get." Practically all the work on the planes is done outside. A bomber never goes into a hangar unless it needs major repairs The day we were there was raw and cold with a piercing wind blowing. But work was proceeding. Motors were being tuned; flak rips patched; adjustments made; bombs being loaded for that night's trip against Stuttgart.

We talked to several of the groundcrew and asked them about the cold. They said: "Oh, you get used to it."

We had a detailed inspection of one of the new Halifaxes. The aircrew was there to explain the thousand and one gadgets to us. It was an interesting hour.

We had lunch there and like all meals at service stations, it was a good one. But it was cold. I mean the temperature of the dining room and not the meal. The mess was cold and the dining room. Thanks, I had no desire to live in that temperature.

Later we inspected the station and on one occasion I was burned up. In the sergeant pilot's mess a score of chaps were huddled around two little stoves. As you walked across the room your breath almost became a solid mass in the air it was so cold. And yet we opened one door and the next room was so hot that one could hardly breathe. It was here that the men's flying suits were being dried out. Great care is taken to see all clothes worn by the men when they start on a trip are thoroughly dry. That is understandable, but, I wonder why could not just one pipe be run through the wall and that would be sufficient to raise the temperature of the messroom at least above the freezing point. It seems to me that something should be done....

Late in the afternoon we left this station and went to Group Headquarters to have tea there. The drive was again through attractive English countryside—the type of country I had always pictured as "English".

Group Headquarters is situated on an old estate. We were told that the estate is enclosed by a brick wall thirty miles long. That may or may not be, but certainly we saw about eight miles of it!

It seems that the chappie who owns the estate was far from happy about it being taken over by the services. In fact he refused to get out and was inclined to be a bit nasty. He lives in a house on the estate and is so happy about the whole thing that he objects to the WD's strolling down to his duck pond to watch the ducks swim around. Or so they told us.

Tea there and a most interesting hour in the group control room where the whole plan of the coming raid on Stuttgart was given us in. detail Then back through the early evening darkness to our base station for another evening in the mess with the chaps who were visiting Germany again that night.

None of our party had any desire to see the men return from their trip next morning and so we called that off. We left the station as the planes were circling the field preparing to land. We, each of us were wondering as we drove away how many would be missing when the final tally was made an hour or so later, but we were subsequently advised that "all our friends returned safely."

The record of the Canadian Bomber Group is impressive. During 1943 the group dropped over 13,000 tons of bombs on enemy targets, taking part in almost all major attacks during the year. In the "Battle of Berlin" which started as such on November 18th, 1943, Canadian bombers have taken part in every major assault on that city. This important phase of the war which is causing such havoc has, however been costly. Canadians have lost 64 bombers which represents a loss of 448 personnel, killed, missing or prisoners of war.

Considered from any angle the contribution of Canadian Bomber Group is great. At the present time one in every six bombers in major night attacks against the enemy is Canadian. It is expected that in the near future this creditable showing will become even greater with one in every five being Canadian. To this must be added, of course, the great number of Canadian personnel in the RAF and the RCAF who serve with the RAF bomber groups based in Britain. In addition one of the top "Pathfinder" squadrons, serving with an RAF group is Canadian.

Canadians serving on bombers are either attached to the RAF or to the RCAF. The former are located at practically every RAF bomber station in Britain and serve on mixed crews, often composed of Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans, Rhodesians, and, of course, English. Some crews are almost wholly composed of Canadians while others may have only one Canadian on an otherwise all-English crew. Those who serve with RCAF bomber squadron, serve with all-Canadian crews under the command of the Canadian bomber group.

The aircraft now being used by RCAF bomber squadrons are Lancasters and Halifaxes; both four-engine aircraft of proven efficiency.

MAXWELL

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Long and Mrs. L. Kerton attended the funeral of their cousin, Miss Mary Jacobs, in Toronto on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone Wilson and two sons of Toronto spent the week end with Rev. and Mrs. Holmes. Mrs. Wilson rendered a very lovely solo at church Sunday evening, which was very much enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert May of Collingwood spent Sunday with her mother, Mrs. Jane Seeley.

Mr. and Mrs Norman Brown and Mrs. Brown Sr. visited with Mr. Jesse Grummett and Mrs. Gertrude Seeley.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook of Shelburne spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Winters.

Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Wright and family visited with relatives here on Sunday.

Visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Pallister were: Pte. and Mrs. Thos. Pallister of Nova Scotia, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Pallister and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pallister of Toronto.

Mr. John Coutts is visiting his sister, Mrs. Sarah Guy, this week.

Miss Jean Ross of Toronto spent the week end at her home here.

Like Father Like Son

We know there is one young hand some farmer who is getting joy out of living as well as out of working. On Saturday we noticed this farmer with his three or four year old son dressed identically with blue overalls, red plaid shirt and a high-crowned peak cap in grey, hustling along. We have seen mothers and daughters, as well as sisters, dressed alike, but this is the first time we have had the thrill of seeing a tiny "little man" dressed like his daddy. Our thoughts turned to the young wife and mother at home who took such pride in making shirts for this father and their little son alike. Compliments to her—we do not know the name— but we are sure this little toddler was made very happy and no doubt he felt as big and strong as his daddy, being dressed like him.

OTTAWA NEWS LETTER

PRIME MINISTER MAKES TRIUMPHANT RETURN

Prime Minister King's return to Ottawa from the London onference of Commonwealth prime ministers was a triumph such as few public men have been priveleged to achieve in Canada. Members of Parliament of all political stripes met him at the airport on his return and gave him a rousing welcome. But it was the following day in Parliament that turned out to be one of the greatest occasion's in the life of the present Prime Minister, who has for 18 years headed the Government of the Dominion.

Members of all groups cheered and applauded Mr. King with a sincerity and spontanity unique in Canadian parliamentary history. There is no doubt that M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, expressed th views of all when he said: "We feel, as I think all the House feels, that the Prime Minister on his recent trip acted with distinction to himself and honor to his countr." It was a tribute in which the elected representatives of all Canadians joined wholeheartedly. The feeling that the Canadian prime minister spoke overseas for all Canada and carried great weight in the deliberations there, has heightened since his return.

In his statement to Parliament Mr. King declared he was never so sure of victory as now, but warned that the greatest conflict of arms in the history of the world is going to be harder and longer than most people think. As in all his planning during recent months, Mr. King looked ahead to post-war years, stressing that the United Nations must continue to work together to stamp out the forces of evil which brought on the present war. In this he declared his faith that Canada and the British Commonwealth will play their full part.

AGREEMENTS REACHED ON FARM LABOR

The dominion-provincial farm labor program for jointly locating and moving farm workers is well advanced. Six provinces have signed agreements for this year and will receive $375,000 from the Federal treasury as follows: Ontario, $180,000; Alberta, $60,000; Manitoba, $60,000; British Columbia, $60,000; New Brunswick, $15,000 and Nova Scotia, $20,000. The Dominion will also pay total cost of interprovincial farm labor transfers up to $300,000. It is expected agreements with the other three provinces will be signed shortly. It is expected the move, initiated by the Dominion authorities, will go a long way to meet farm labor needs.

RESTRICTIONS EASED ON TRAVEL TO U. S.

Another step toward return to normal conditions is the announcement by Hon. J. L. Ilsley that Canadians can get $150 United money a year to visit across the border. This is the first time in four years U. S. funds have been available except for trips necessitated by business or health. It illustrates the success of the government exchange system which, despite drain of heavy war buying by Canada in the United States, has provided a surplus of U. S. money in the Dominion. Governments of both countries are anxious that Canadians and United States citizens resume their friendly social contacts disrupted by war conditions.

MAXIMUM OF $15 SERVICEMEN'S FARE

An order in council published last Wednesday in Canadian War Orders and Regulations provides that members of the armed forces on annual leave, embarkation leave or disembarkation leave will pay no more than $15 for transportation. However, the arrangement will not become effective until negotiations are completed with the railways.

Under the present arrangement, the servicemen pay a third of the round trip cost, with the Defense Departmets assuming a third and the railways a third.

This means that some personnel pay considerably more than $15. Under the new plan the government will assume responsibility for payment of the amount in excess of $15.

The concession will cost the Navy partments assuming a third and the Air Force $125,000 annually, it has been estimated.

A free country is a way of living in which every man has his own opinion and says it, without having to consult all the opposing groups, and balance his opinion against his popularity at the ballot.

ROCK MILLS

Mrs. F. J. Seeley has been engaged as teacher for another term at an increase in salary.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Best of Toronto spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Russell.

Aircraftman Harold Clark of St. Thomas is home on furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Howard of Toonto spent the week end with relatives here.

Mr. Jas. Brown spent the week end at his home in Owen Sound.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pedlar visited recently with Mr. and Mrs. Norval Betts at Eugenia.

Mr. Mannie Dobson is able to be out and around again, we are pleased to report.

Pte. Fred Partridge of Victoria, B.C., is on furlough at his home here.

Mrs. E. Fisher of Flesherton is spending a week at the home of her brother-in-law, Mr. A. Partridge.

VANDELEUR

Our teacher, Miss, Dawn and their families at a "parents night" at the school on Wednesday evening, pupils entertained the parents and May 24th. The program commenced with a softball game in the Community Park, after which, in the school house, the pupils gave a practical demonstration of their ability in reading and spelling, interspersed with musical numbers. Miss Dawn gave a brief sketch of the year's work. There were writing and art exhibits work by the individual pupils. Mhch credit is due the teacher for this pleasant and profitable evening, which was an insight for the parents into the work and progress of the children.

Sergt. and Mrs. Cewe of the R.C.A.F. of London, formerly of Vancouver, B.C., were recent visitors with Mrs. Ethel Hutchinson, Miss Myrtle Fawcett and Mr. and Mrs. Andy Fawcett.

Miss Dawn and Miss Marie Johnston spent the week end at the former's parental home near Heathcote.

Arrangements are being made for the Annual Sunday School convention which is to be held in the church here on Thursday afternoon and evening, June 8th.

British inventors have designed a machine that will wash both clothes and dishes. This prompts the Ottawa Journal to remark that nature did that long, long ago.

This is the sign to look for

The familiar Martin-Senour sign is the one to look for when paint-plans are pending. It is the sign that says "*the* 100% Pure Paint is sold here". Paint of quality — beauty and with staying-power that endures longer! When you want these qualities in paint products — make *sure* and see the dealer whose sign reads . . . Martin-Senour. His experience and friendly advice backed by the highest quality products will assure you of complete satisfaction in your painting plans!

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VICTORIA CORNERS

With the sick this week, we are sorry to report the illness of Mr. Chas. Best, due to a heart condition. Mr. Ernie Russell is attending to his uncle's farm work. We hope for Mr. Best a speedy and early recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Copeland and little son, Kenneth, of Toronto spent the week end with the former's parents. Miss Hazel Copeland, who has spent the winter in Toronto, returned to her home on Monday.

On Tuesday night the friends and neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Batchelor, recently newly-weds, spent a social evening at their home. The honored couple were presented with a rug and a sum of money, with the best wishes of the neighborhood. The evening was spent in social chat and dancing.

Friends of Tpr. Joe Little, in this community, are sorry to hear of the injuries Joe sustained in battle in Italy. We trust Mrs. Little may promptly receive more favorable word from her husband.

The spring wildflowers are almost as pretty as the ones our youngsters color in kindergarten.

French railways plan to suspend or greatly curtail passenger service throughout the rountry. Allied bombers plan to do like-wise in Germany.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO PAINT!

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE RULES:-

Outside Painting

Be sure the surface is *dry*; let the sun or wind dry it out after a rain. Remove dirt from corners, putty up any cracks and holes. Don't lay the paint on too thickly—you'll get a better job if you brush it on sparingly. If you apply more than one coat, let the first coat dry thoroughly before putting on the second one.

Inside Painting

Make certain your surface is *clean*. Remove any film of grease or dirt from walls or furniture, especially in the kitchen, for instance. It's a good plan to wash surfaces with soap and water before painting; if you do this, be sure to let it dry first. Smooth your wall surface by plastering holes and cracks, and sandpaper rough places in furniture, before applying your paint.

Most Important of All:-

Let the whole family have a say in settling on your colour scheme. Ask your Sherwin-Williams Dealer to lend or show you his beautiful Paint & Colour Style Guide—it's full of good ideas on decoration and painting.

Use only the *best* paint, varnish or enamel. Good paint costs so little in relation to long-lasting results obtained; cheap paints only bring you disappointment eventually. Sherwin-Williams Products give you colours that really last and real protection against wear and weather.

Consult your Sherwin-Williams Dealer. He will gladly give you valuable assistance and advice and will supply you with the right Sherwin-Williams Paints for each purpose—the utmost value for your money.

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