

Personals

Miss Maimie Mainprize was home from Toronto for the week-end.

ACZ, Elmer Laaby of St. Thomas, spent the week-end at his home.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Harrison of Toronto, visited Acton friends yesterday.

Bruce Pargeter and Bert Allen are training at the Aircraft School in Galt.

Mrs. F. A. McLenn of Tilbury is visiting her mother, Mrs. Wm. Johnston.

Mr. and Mrs. John Brish of Hamilton visited Archie C. Currie and family over the week-end.

Sign Ivan G. Chalmers, R.C.S., of St. Thomas was a week-end visitor at the home of his sister, Mrs. A. W. Fosbury.

Rev. Mr. Sinclair and Mrs. Sinclair of Milton called on Mrs. Korras one day-last-week-at-the-home-of-Mrs. W. Thompson.

Miss Ethel Pritham, visited her brother in Toronto on Sunday, who recently underwent an operation for an eye affliction.

His many friends of Mr. Edwin Currie of Milton Heights are pleased to hear that he is doing nicely now after being very ill.

Miss Leona Saggade of Acton spent a few days with her great-grandmother Mrs. Robert Currie and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Currie and Bobby at Milton Heights.

Mrs. Angus McDonald, Messrs. Kenneth, Russell, Archie and Norman of Dolly Varden, spent Sunday with Mrs. Robert Currie and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Currie and Bobby at Milton Heights.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. McKown and Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Davidson attended the McMurtry-Robinson wedding at Brampton Presbyterian Church and later the reception at the home, Centre Road, on Saturday last.

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A Client wrote us on February 4th, 1942, as follows: "Received your cheque for which I am pleased to say I found money. Keep up the good work."
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W. E. BROCKON HEATH CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
Haltom exhibitors were prominent prize winners at the Provincial Winter Seed Fair held at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, during the week of February 9th to 13th. Brownridge, Georgetown, won first on Spring Wheat and 3rd on Red Clover, while W. O. Brownridge repeated his Chicago triumph by getting 1st on his exhibit of Alfalfa Woodlands Orchards, Bronte, were also prominent winning 1st in the Early Cut class and 3rd with their exhibit of Erban Oats.
Haltom Crop Improvement Association had a timely and attractive display on exhibit which attracted favorable comment. Haltom growers contributing samples of grain in this display included the following: T. Bird Son, T. J. and W. O. Brownridge, Frank Wilson and M. T. McNabb and Sons of Georgetown, J. E. Peerson, Hugh Reid and E. E. Griffin & Son of Acton; W. E. Brockon, Freeman; J. H. Willmott, Milton and Woodlands Orchards Ltd., Bronte.
At the annual meeting of the Ontario Crop Improvement Association one of the addresses which brought forth general favorable comment was that delivered by W. E. Brockon, well known farmer of Freeman. Mr. Brockon was later honored by being elected to the presidency of the Ontario association.

ERIN
The congregation of Erin United Church assembled in the basement of the Church on Monday evening, when the newbyweds, Mr. and Mrs. John Trimble Jr., were the guests of honor. Advocate

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GREGORY THEATRE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20
"WAGONS ROLL AT NIGHT"
Thrilling circus story with Humphrey Bogart, Sylvia Sydney, "Carnival of Rhythm," musical cartoon "Inky & The Lion," Chapter 2 "Adventures of Captain Marvel"
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
Matinee at 3:00
"FREE & EASY"
Robert Cummings, Ruth Hussey
"SUNSET IN WYOMING"
Gene Autry; Fox News
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23
"DISPATCH FROM REUTERS"
The story behind the man of a million headlines, Edward G. Robinson. Canada Carries On. "Wings Of The Continent" Gang Comedy "Helping Hand"

Weekly War Commentary

Specially Written For The Acton Free Press by
BY DON GILBERT
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The successful passage of the Strait of Dover by the German battleships Scheerhorst and Gneisenau and the heavy cruiser Prinz Eugen is capable of influencing strongly the balance of naval power.

The addition of these few ships to what the enemy already has in home waters gives Germany a sizeable battle squadron, a force which, until destroyed or crippled, will keep Britain's home fleet on its toes and prevent its dispersal for essential convoy work and reinforcement of the Far East or Mediterranean.

Until the German battle fleet is engaged, the British home fleet will have to play the role of guardian of the North Sea in a similar fashion to Earl Bontly's grand fleet after the Battle of Jutland bottled up the German navy.

Churchill's Task
The failure of the R.A.F. and the navy to prevent the escape of the Scheerhorst squadron from its refuge at Brest, coupled with the black-out look at Singapore, will bring Prime Minister Churchill face to face with serious criticism in parliament for the second time in as many weeks. It is questionable whether Mr. Churchill will be able to weather the storm this time as lightly as he did following the debate on the Malayan retreat and the loss of the Prince of Wales and the Repulse.

As setback follows setback it becomes increasingly difficult for the government to answer its critics without making some concessions to the opposition.

Call for New Blood
There seems to be considerable anxiety in many quarters in Britain and elsewhere for the Prime Minister, through loyalty to his cabinet, fails to get a cabinet team which will pull the country out of its present situation with a minimum of delay. Critics have called for new blood in the cabinet. Criticism has been directed at the Prime Minister's colleagues, rather than Mr. Churchill himself. There is one able man whose prestige now is higher than it has ever been before. That man is Sir Stafford Cripps, recently returned from the post of Ambassador in Russia. He was offered a post, but as it did not carry a salary, he was turned down. Perhaps the best way to assuage public feeling would be for the Prime Minister to give this erstwhile radical a full voice in the government.

At the week-end the Air Ministry news service declared the German battleships would not have got safely through the English Channel had it not been for thick weather which "was like a vast and persistent smoke screen." Sometimes, the statement said, there were three distinct layers of cloud screening the flotilla.

If the Gneisenau, Scheerhorst and the 10,000-ton cruiser Prinz Eugen managed to rough German lines with only minor damage, the Nazis may soon have a formidable force ready to go to sea. In addition to these warships, the two pocket battleships, Admiral Scheer and Luetzow, and the Hipper, a sister ship of the Prinz Eugen, are in German ports. A 19,250-ton aircraft carrier and the 35,000-ton Tirpitz, sister ship of the Sunkon Bismark, are also possible additions.

Against Great Odds
Imperial, Indian and Australian troops continued to defend Singapore at the week-end. They defied the Japanese invaders from positions, at some points not more than two miles from the city itself. It was reported reserves on Singapore Island were still in British hands. Failure of the water supply hastened the capitulation of Hong Kong's British and Canadian defenders and the reserves at Singapore are among the chief targets of the Nipponese attacker.

In their amazing defence, some 60,000 men making up the garrison of Singapore have survived terrific dive-bombing attacks and equally severe artillery bombardments. On the other hand Japanese troops on the island and the crossing Johore Strait have suffered terrible losses from massed British batteries which threw shells at a rate as high as 400 an hour.

Behind the lines Singapore's 750,000 citizens carried on, confident that the enemy would be stopped short of his objective. In the harbor some 30 rescue ships waited to remove the troops if evacuation became necessary and Tokyo reports declared that these were suffering heavily from Japanese air attacks.

To Defend Java
Good and bad news came from the Netherlands East Indies. An Australian radio broadcast Feb. 14, reported that Australian, British and other Empire troops had landed at Batavia for the defence of Java. Batavia dispatches told of the landing of Japanese parachute troops near Palembang on the big island of Sumatra as the enemy struck closer to the heart of the rich Dutch possessions.

In other areas of Japanese activity, Chinese forces are fighting side-by-

side with British units to repel attacks on Burma from Thailand and in the Philippines, United States and Filipino forces continue their heroic defence of the Bataan Peninsula.

On Other Fronts
Russian communications fail to mention specific points reached by their advances in the Eastern Front, counter-offensive because such information is of value to the enemy. They have, however, announced that armies between Leningrad and Moscow have made great gains and are now operating in white Russia. British armored forces in Libya have attacked German mobile columns in the An of Gazala area. It was reported Feb. 14 that the British troops operated over a wide front and drove the enemy back.

Intraced by air and land forces, the enemy withdrew reconnaissance patrols and on Feb. 17 largest concentrations of Rommel's troops were reported at El Mochil, 100 miles west of Tobruk. British and Australian forces in American-made Kittyhawk planes scored a great victory over Axis desert aircraft at the week-end. A squadron almost twice the strength of the Allies shot down 20 German and Italian planes and another was brought down by anti-aircraft guns.

While Russian authorities maintain secrecy regarding moves on the Eastern Front, a German communiqué issued Feb. 17 admitted a Soviet column had smashed through German lines 20 miles beyond Vyazma in the central sector. At the same time the Berlin radio conceded that Red armies had advanced 180 miles in some areas since the beginning of the winter offensive.

In the north, Soviet forces continued to gain ground around Leningrad, but severe fighting in the Donets Basin indicates the Nazis are making great efforts to regain their positions in the hope that an offensive against the Caucasus may be undertaken in the Spring.

Situation Eased
Prime Minister Churchill in the House of Commons Feb. 17 declared that blows inflicted on the German warships that escaped from Brest would keep them out of action for some time. He said that before they were ready for service again new British ships would be ready to do battle. Churchill emphasized that the naval position in the Atlantic had been definitely eased and the threat to British convoys by the ships at Brest was now removed.

British bombers were reported over Heligoland light early this week and it is evident the Royal Air Force has instituted a search for the Gneisenau, Scheerhorst and Prinz Eugen. At the week-end the warships were believed to have taken refuge at Heligoland.

Strike at Java
The long-treasured news that Singapore had fallen was given to the world by Prime Minister Churchill in a world broadcast Sunday afternoon. Although he referred to the surrender as a "heavy and far-reaching military defeat" he made it plain that Japan's mighty offensive had not clouded his faith in eventual Allied victory.

Now Java, headquarters of Sir Archibald Wavell's United Nations command, is threatened. It is exposed to Japanese assaults from Sumatra, Borneo and Celebes and a Netherlands Indies spokesman declared Java's defenders faced "zero hour" with burning resolution.

In withdrawing from the island of Sumatra, the Netherlands destroyed Palembang's great oil refineries valued at \$100,000,000 and that thwarted Japan's urgent need for oil.

On the North Burma front Chinese troops were reported February 18 to have started the first land offensive undertaken by the United Nations in the Far East. A Rangoon communique reported that according to "a report as yet unconfirmed" the Chinese crossed the Thailand border in a drive toward Cheingmai, 300 miles north of Bangkok. Chinese soldiers have been concentrating in the mountainous area on the Thailand frontier for some time.

The same day Lieutenant-Governor H. van Mook of the Netherlands East Indies appealed to the United Nations to take the offensive in the Far East, search out the enemy and fight, or risk losing the war.

Letters to the Editor
Tue., Oct. 7 '41
Mr. A. Mills
Editor and Publisher,
The Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ont.
After a 30 day voyage from the West Indies we arrived in the land of the Southern Cross, and don't you let anyone tell you about Africa's terrific heat. They may get terrific heat during their mid-summer which is around Christmas time, but their winters and their springs which are now very cold at times, especially at night.

This is a very nice city, some lovely buildings in it, but no sky scrapers. I believe that none of their buildings run over ten stories high, if that and their main streets are very wide and they are equipped with automatic stop lights.

The main part of the city is equipped with double-deck trolley buses and then there are taxis and rail-ways. Their railway locomotives and freight cars are between the American style and English, but not nearly as large as our big American and

Canadian locomotives.

There is a strict color line in this city. Blacks and whites must not mix. They even have separate buildings for each color. But that is not England's idea, it is the Dutch, who seem to be in the majority here, and of course the "schilt" South Africans, under the West Indies. There seems to be as many whites here as blacks. I have talked with some of the black men here, the better educated ones, and he showed me what he called his voting book. In the front is a notice that it is the will of Queen Victoria that all colors be equal, then in the back he showed me the South African government law passed later on, declaring that the two colors shall not mix, that separate places be had for them in cafes, pubs, post office and other buildings.

In this city there is a naval dog, a big Dane dog, and he is very clever. He is signed up in the navy and is, officially, a B.I. rating. He has a permanent pass on the train, bus and also in any taxi. He was married to the "Lady of his choice" some time ago. His bride's name is "Adinda." His name is "Nansance." When he gets on a train bus or in a taxi he has a seat all his own. He is entitled to it by his pass and he sure uses his privileges. I am sending you a book giving his life-story later on, also some Capetown newspapers I also discovered, while here, but what we really thought was a rubber really was one, and had sunk a ship in that vicinity either the day before we met her, or the day after, so after reading my story of our meeting you will know what category, and color you can class a lot of the German navy, O.K.

Well I certainly have done some travelling since leaving Halifax on June 30th, approximately 17,500 miles since leaving Halifax, been about 90 days at sea, which gives us nearly 200 miles of a daily average. Around the equator in the area known as the doldrums, the weather is hot, but lovely cool breezes always blowing. We are through the Indian Ocean now, and we also cross the Arabian Sea, and up the Gulf of Persia.

And now for this time I shall close, hoping this finds you enjoying the best of health and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is impossible for me to reach Canada if we go there soon even as we are at least from 65 to 70 days steady run from there, which would make it at least middle of January before we reached Canada even if we headed directly for there after landing.

H. V. DRON, A.B., G.L.,
1942

Save Waste for Victory
Call the Salvage Committee

Buy Victory Loan Bonds
FROM
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NOTICE!
HYDRO POWER
WILL BE SHUT OFF ON
Sunday, February 22
7.30 a.m. to 8 a.m.
AND
4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

This interruption is necessary to improve the power situation by installing new transformers at the Hydro substation.

Kindly Do Not Use Any More Electric power than is Necessary on Sunday

Sugar, too, enlists for Victory

Our government, through the medium of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, has issued an order restricting the use of sugar for all. Naturally, this regulation includes "Coca-Cola". Besides all bottlers of carbonated beverages, the restrictions affect bakers, confectioners, ice cream manufacturers and many other industrial users.

We, in the "Coca-Cola" business, accept this conservation order without question, as a necessary measure. As a result, our output has been reduced and patrons may not be able to get "Coca-Cola" at their favourite dealer's as often as they might wish. We count upon the patience and co-operation of dealers and consumers everywhere during these restrictions.

Although volume has been reduced, this one thing is certain — the quality of genuine goodness — the character of "Coca-Cola", the real thing — remains the same. The public can continue to trust its quality.

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