

# Canadian Headquarters Entertain Visiting Editors

This is the tenth in the series of articles describing a trip to Great Britain, written by Hugh Tompkins of the Pegasus News-Record, representing the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association. He was a guest of the British Council while in England.

The South of England is full of Canadian soldiers. One is not apt to see a Canadian military uniform in any part of the countryside south of London as in Trafalgar Square itself and Trafalgar Square is the meeting place for all Canadians on leave.

I was up early on the morning of Friday, September 26th. Breakfast in the Savoy consisted of tomato juice, excellent rolls, tea butter and marmalade. Breakfast was always a difficult meal. There were no eggs. The coffee didn't taste like coffee and probably wasn't. The butter was cut in pieces the diameter of a shilling but about half as thick. The water and the supply of marmalade was just about done. Next month, there wouldn't be any.

The Humber car was waiting at the door, with a Canadian flag over the radiator. The driver crossed Westminster bridge, skirted a road which crossed London where there was about one building destroyed in every block. The great Croydon aerodrome showed less damage than might have been expected, for it was one of the first targets in London to be bombed.

### Troops on the Move

It was not long till we were in the area where Canadian troops were on the move. That was the time when most of the Army in Britain was engaged in manoeuvres, trying out the plan to repel invasion. In theory, the Germans had landed in the Southeast but had been repelled. Then it was supposed that another landing had been accomplished south of Hull and the defenders were moving up to the East Coast.

In order to leave the life of the metropolis undisturbed, the Canadian Corps was working its way around behind London, crossing the Thames between London and Reading, and then heading northeast.

The day before, we had passed the artillery and the tanks, four after four, on the broad roads north of London. On this fine morning, we saw the infantry on the move, truck after truck.

The fine car in which I was riding developed lightning trouble in a little English village. A Chevrolet station wagon picked me up. The driver was a chap from Hamilton, Laurie Andean, official photographer, sat in the back seat, with his cameras and his light meters draped around his neck. He hoped to come back to Canada after the war and felt a weekly newspaper. I answered all his questions as well as I could.

Captain Gillis Purcell waved to us and we stopped at a little park. The other Canadian editors were there already.

Down the narrow street, a steady stream of Canadian-built motor trucks passed towards the coast. A soldier in uniform directed traffic, keeping it moving and motorists buzzed up and down the lanes, watching that everything was in order. Evidently the Canadian Army had done this kind of thing before, for there was never a hitch.

On the corner stood a little bakery, but there wasn't a sign of anything to eat in the windows or on the counters. Two girls stood inside the door and an occasional soldier, riding with his legs over the back of an army truck, saw them and waved.

### Lunch With Major General Odium

At noon, I was one of the six editors who climbed out of cars in front of the fine old house which was then the headquarters of the 2nd Canadian Division. I heard later that it was at one time a summer home of Queen Victoria. There I met Major General V. W. Odium, who has since gone to Australia as Canada's commissioner to that country. Many of his staff officers were with him in spite of the fact that they were more than busy with the manoeuvres. No doubt they liked to talk to a group just over from Canada.

The meal tasted good. After the exotic cooking at the big hotels, this was like Canada again. There was soup, followed by steak (the only beefsteak I saw in England), mashed potatoes, carrots, jam, cheese, crackers, rolls and apples. More marvelous, there was a half-pound of butter in each of the dishes. The officer beside me told me it was margarine but I wouldn't have known the difference. Later, there was a discussion about paint. Somebody said the English paint didn't last any more the oils were all being used for making margarine. Another remarked, "Oh well, you can't eat your paint and have it too."

To complete the homelike atmosphere, there was a white table cloth and a great bowl of lovely English roses, picked from the garden beside the house.

### Second Division Demonstrates

That afternoon I saw a demonstration of the work of the Canadian Corps in the Aldershot area. There was a formal inspection of the Royal

Canadian Regiment, drawn up with its motorized equipment in the back ground. In nearby fields, I saw the soldiers using trench mortars, a wide variety of weapons including tommy guns, once the favorite weapons of American gangsters, now useful in close-range fighting. There were portable wireless units, some small enough to be carried on a man's back, others mounted in trucks. The regiment had plenty of Bren guns and larger anti-tank weapons. Even the rifles, with their shorter bayonets, have several uses now.

About one quarter of the Canadian troops were living in houses in that time. Some of these were nearby. They seemed to be quite new, and were certainly modern. They were used for sleeping only and every room, except the bathrooms, had blankets and equipment neatly piled up where soldiers had slept.

There were other things I saw that day. The Canadians have been building roads to eliminate hazards and obstacles that might slow up an army speeding towards the coast. We drove along the wide Ridge Road with broad valleys and chalk hills on either side. There was no speed limit. Then we came to an ancient town with narrow, winding streets. The effects could be imagined.

To eliminate the worst of these, two sweeping by-pass roads have been built around English towns. They lack the picturesque quality of the old roads but they do speed up the through traffic.

Finally, Colonel Mann gave us a demonstration of the efficiency and speed of the Reconnaissance Battalion. He stepped over to one of the wireless units and said a few words. Inside of three minutes, a stream of universal carriers and armored cars was tearing down the road past the spot where we stood, slowing down for a corner and turning out of sight. I don't know how far it was when that wireless call went out, but that battalion must be trained to standards that would do credit to a city fire brigade.

### Conference With Gen. McNaughton

It was in the late afternoon that our cars filed up a driveway bordered with hedges clipped in fancy shapes and stopped in front of another large mansion, this time the headquarters of General McNaughton. Lieut. General A. G. I. McNaughton, to be more precise. The ensuing two hours were among our most interesting in England.

While we ate tea and sandwiches, standing around a table in a room whose windows looked out on what must have been wonderful gardens in peacetime, General McNaughton moved from one to another. He was particularly interested in relatives and friends in Ottawa, for he had been head of the National Research Council there. As a noted scientist, as well as a soldier, I believe that the General has a right to place almost the whole alphabet after his name to indicate degrees and decorations. He did not look well at that time, and since then has been forced to take a month off to rest and recuperate. I have never met anyone who knew him, who did not characterize him as "a fine fellow". After that day, I could understand.

Having fed us the customary English afternoon tea, General McNaughton took us upstairs to his own office. It was large and airy, cluttered with a few staff officers sat down at tables, with the General in the centre of the horseshoe, and he gave a short address and then answered every question. There was no hesitation and no evasion. Occasionally, having told us something, he would say that was not for publication but that was the only restriction. He kept no secrets from his visitors.

Of all the editors present, I seemed to be the only one taking notes. That afternoon, they were fairly complete. Looking over them now, some months later, I find that they are still timely and valuable. At the title, Moscow and Petrograd were both threatened by the enemy. Since then that situation has changed, but without altering what General McNaughton said of the Russians and of the war in general. It was in this talk he coined the famous phrase about the Canadian Corps being "a finger pointed at the heart of Berlin". More valuable, perhaps, were his remarks on equipment, training and reinforcements.

Feeling that the important message which he asked us to give Canadians should not be condensed, I will devote a separate article to the things which General McNaughton said that day. It will be the next in the series.

On other days during my visit in Britain, I met members of the Headquarters Staff in London. One evening, I had dinner with Major Charles Stacey, whose task is to write the official history of the part which the Canadian Corps took in the war. It is a nephew of Mr. Parris, formerly editor of the Elton Express. Before he lives over his present work, he was a professor of history. He will do a book for the photographic story of the Corps is also being well along, but there seems to be no Canadian painters on the job. That is a lack that should be remedied. I be-

lieve two young painters are with a unit in Canada, but apparently there are none in England or Scotland. Captain Gillis Purcell, our guide that day, is back in Canada. He met with an unfortunate accident a few weeks after our visit, losing a leg, when a casualty being dropped from a plane, broke away from its parachute and struck him below the knee.

### CHEERFULNESS

Cheerfulness is a duty we owe to others. There is an old tradition that a cup of gold to be found wherever a rainbow touches the earth, and there are some people whose smile, the sound of whose voice, whose very presence, seems like a ray of sunshine, to turn everything they touch into gold. Men never break down as long as they can keep themselves busy. A merry heart is a continual feast to others, besides itself. The shadow of Florence Nightingale came more than her medicine; and if we share the burden of others, we lighten our own. Lord Avebury

### FISH OFF DENMARK

STOCKHOLM, (C.P.). To secure supplies of fresh fish, despite the ice blockade that prevails along the coast, the Swedish Food Commission has organized a fleet of 160 Swedish fishing boats for a month's expedition off Denmark.

# War Brings Boom To Construction

## Ottawa Talks in Hundreds of Millions of Military and Plant Buildings

OTTAWA, (C.P.). War activity has sent construction in Canada soaring into astronomical figures and provided the Dominion with an industrial boom throughout the outbreak of the conflict. The totals leave no doubt that previous peak years have been multiplied many times by the war program.

In 1938, for instance, some \$383,000,000 was spent in Canada on construction of all types, including besides actual buildings, harbours, rail ways and civil developments. Compared with that, war activity figures show from the outbreak of war to Sept. 30 some \$1,600,000,000 was spent on straight defence projects for the armed forces and \$600,000,000 was allotted for capital assistance to 277 projects.

Most spectacular development has been in construction for the air force. In 1939 about \$24,000,000 was spent on hangars throughout Canada, the figures from the outbreak of war show a monthly average almost double that.

In all \$117,154,000 has been spent in 1,217 air projects and that does

not include another \$24,000,000 for land and lighting. Army projects accounted for \$23,987,000 of the defence total and \$5,812,000 has been spent for the navy, including some docks.

One war industry, entirely non-existent before the war, now occupies a floor space of 800,000 square feet, equal to a building 150 feet wide and a mile in length. Probably the largest heavy industry in Canada has been developed for the manufacture of 25-pounder guns and occupies 600,000 square feet.

## Sweden Crosses Rye and Wheat

STOCKHOLM, (C.P.). Announcement of the development of a cross of rye and wheat, allowing an unusual combination of various breeds into practically constant rye-wheat types, was made before the Academy of Agriculture by Prof. Arne Moberg, an expert on plant breeding. The new cross was developed at the plant breeding experimental station at Uvald of Southern Sweden. It was the Swedish Institute that developed the variety out and Hamilton, but by both of which are widely grown in South America.

# Danger! Liver Trouble is Serious

Are you nervous and irritable—can't sleep or eat—tired out all the time? If you're like that, a faulty liver is poisoning your whole system! Living ill health may be the cost!

Your liver is the largest organ in your body and most important to your health. It supplies energy to muscles, tissues and glands. If unhealthy, your body lacks this energy and becomes enervated—youthful vim disappears. Again your liver puts out bile to digest food, get rid of waste and allow proper assimilation to reach your blood. When your liver gets out of order proper digestion and assimilation stop. You're poisoned with the waste that decomposes in your intestines. Nervous troubles and headache, come arise from this poison. You become constipated, stomach and kidneys can't work properly. The whole system is affected and you feel "run-down", shaky, backache, dizzy, tired out—a steady ache for six weeks and disease.

Thousands of people never attack, and have won prompt relief from these miseries with "Improved Liver Action Tablets". The liver is toned up, the other organs function normally and lasting good health results. Today "Improved Liver Action" is Canada's largest selling liver tablet. They may be good by their results. Get "Liver Action" today and put you back on the road to lasting health. Feel like a new person. 25¢, 50¢.

### "Sam Down For Years, Has Perked Up"

I was badly run down and terribly nervous. My doctor told me I was a "run-down" case. "Vitality" was my only hope. I took a few boxes and I felt like a new man. I was glad to get rid of my liver trouble. After years of bad health, "Vitality" made me feel like a new man. Mr. Roy Davidson, Chatham, Ont.

### "Long Years of Suffering, Now Full of Life"

For a long time I suffered frequently from a low and I was told I could not live. I took "Vitality" and I felt like a new man. The pain in my back has completely gone. My stomach is so good. They stopped my stomach trouble. I feel like a new woman. Mrs. A. J. Schmitt, Coll., Ont.



## LET'S KEEP OUR CANADA a happy land for them

PINKY-WHITE DIMPLES; a button of a nose; wee, slender fingers clutching at your covert—what kind of a world is this to which you will awake? Your life, we hope, will be rich in love and laughter. God forbid that your Canada should ever come under the heel of a ruthless barbarism, where babies are born to be the future shock troops, or the mothers of a brutal, military race. We promise that you shall inherit a Canada blessed with the liberty our fathers bequeathed to us. You shall be free as we are free.

So we gladly lend our money to our country in this crisis. We will buy Victory Bonds to the very limit. We must and we will make sure that the threat of a brutal way of life is banished forever.

**HOW TO BUY**—Give your order to the Victory Loan salesman who calls on you. Or place it in the hands of any branch of any bank, or give it to any trust company. Or send it to your local Victory Loan Headquarters. Or you can authorize your employer to start a regular payroll savings plan for you. Bonds may be bought in denominations of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, and larger. Salesman, bank, trust company or your local Victory Loan Headquarters will be glad to give you every assistance in making out your order form.

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