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Weekly War Commentary

Specially Written for The Acton Free Press by
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Co-ordination of allied offensives in Africa and Russia, coupled with the increased intensity of air assaults from Britain upon the transportation facilities of Northern Europe, should do much to defeat the argument of those who have believed—or sought to make others believe—that differences exist between the United Nations which prevent them from seeing the war as a whole, rather than piecemeal.

Prime Minister Churchill has disclosed that the offensive in Northwest Africa which sent to the coasts of that land the greatest armadas of transports and warships ever assembled in world history was conceived in Washington. President Roosevelt told him of the plan, the Prime Minister said in his latest world-wide address, and he approved, leaving the leadership of the expedition to an American general, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The Prime Minister also disclosed that he and Joseph Stalin discussed the time when the Russians could launch an offensive on the eastern front. The time of the two offensives were arranged to coincide.

Offensive in Egypt

Further, Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery's offensive in the desert which shattered the forces of Germany's Marshal Rommel was planned to precede the landing of American and British forces in Morocco and Algeria. It probably played an important diversionary part in the plan of the general African offensive.

It was preceded by a devastating aerial preparation which diverted Axis aircraft from the Russian front. It was accompanied by arrangements for strengthening in part with new secret British warships the narrow seas of the Mediterranean through which the Axis must try to move the main column of its reinforcements and supplies to the forces at whom the allied sea-borne might was hurled from the west.

The whole plan resulted in a partial flight and at least a partial scuttling of the French home fleet at Toulon, the flight of Admiral Darlan and his line-up of fed-up French forces in Northwest Africa on the side of the Allies.

The physical offensive which included an intensification of the bombing of Italian ports and industrial cities was accompanied by a great propaganda campaign designed to weaken Italian morale and alienate the Italian people from their rulers.

The campaign brought Mussolini before the microphone with a speech in which he alternately cried to the Italian people that they were the stepchildren of Europe and boasted that their determination was such that they would fight forever for the renaissance of the old empire which partially conquered Britain 2,000 years ago.

Developments at the week-end indicated that the Allied expedition in North Africa is meeting strong opposition and tough battles will have to be fought before Axis forces are driven from the comparatively small strip of Tunisian territory they hold around Bizerte and Tunis.

Prime Minister Churchill, speaking at Bradford, emphasized the need of patience. He said the "hard core of Nazi resistance and villainy has not yet been broken in upon."

"I do not doubt the result, but I cannot lead you to suppose it will be easily achieved," he said.

Reports from various sources were in substantial agreement that the Anglo-American forces had met a wall of resistance in the Tunisian coastal area. Elements of Lt. Gen. Kenneth Anderson's forces had been driven from the key town of Tebourba and Meur, but still clung to the western edge of Djedida, 12 miles west of Tunis and 35 miles south of the big Bizerte naval base.

Lack of sufficient forward bases for their fighter airplane strength is proving a hardship for the Allies, but air attacks on Axis shipping in the Mediterranean are cutting down reinforcements for the enemy not only in Tunisia but also in Libya.

On the Libyan front, Sir Bernard Montgomery's army is preparing for action against Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's troops, entrenched between



The Hallman-Storey Wedding Saturday At Kitchener Manse

A quiet but pretty wedding took place at St. Andrew's Manse, Kitchener, on Thursday, December 3rd, at three-thirty o'clock, when Evelyn Jean, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Storey, Acton, was united in marriage to Rfm. Reginald A. Hallman of Kitchener. The Rev. Frank Lawson, formerly of Nasagaweya Presbyterian Church, officiated.

The bride was prettily attired in a street length dress of gold crepe, with corsage of pink roses and bouvardia with brown accessories. She was attended by Miss Jean Morrison of Kitchener in maroon crepe with wine roses and 'mums.

The groomsmen were Rfm. Howard Lantz, also of Kitchener. The groom's gift to the bride was a brown muskrat coat.

After a short honeymoon to Hamilton and Toronto the bridal couple visited her parents over the weekend. The groom left on Tuesday to re-join his unit at Prince George, B. C., after a two weeks' furlough.

Y. VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE HAS CREIGHTON TEAM LEADING THIS WEEK

The Volleyball League at the Y. M. C. A. last night saw the team with Jack Creighton as captain win four games in as many played. The team, with Charles Heard as captain slipped from four wins last week to one this week. Maybe when Captain Heard returns to the way they will be more consistent in their playing.

The other team which lost four games last week, improved some by winning one game out of four played.

Here are the scores of last night:

Creighton 21, Heard 10.
Creighton 21, MacArthur 19.
MacArthur 21, Heard 20.
Creighton 21, Heard 17.
Creighton 21, MacArthur 17.

The League standing is as follows:

Creighton	9	3
Heard	6	5
MacArthur	3	9

Election Results in Communities of the District

Close Vote in Georgetown As Mayor Gibbons Returned to Office

With no elections in Acton interest here at election time centred in nearby communities where contests were being held.

In Georgetown the keenest municipal battle that has been held in years resulted in Mayor Joseph Gibbons being returned by a margin of 18 votes over his opponent, Reeve Harold Cleave. It is said the largest vote in years was recorded this year.

Norm H. Brown won the Reeve ship over James Costigan with not a very wide margin.

Hedley Shaw and Clifford Bradley won as councillors in Ward Two and Kenneth R. McDonald and Thos. L. Lyon were elected in Ward Three for councillors.

In Guelph Beverley Robson, a former Mayor, won this year over the present Mayor Taylor, by over 1400 votes. Aldermen elected in the Royal City were: Gordon Rife, R. O. Barber, A. J. Brydson, Richard Gonyon, Phil Bennett, F. L. Freudeman, A. J. Frank, Col. L. E. Jones, C. W. Dempsey, Harry Mahoney, Harry Wortoff.

The Guelph School Board for 1943 will be: Dr. A. L. McKinnon, Dr. G. P. Britton, Harold Rife, Harry J. Jowitt, Mrs. G. C. Shutt, S. C. Evans, W. H. Berry, R. Mason, W. G. Howell.

Bridge Being Repaired Urge Public Health Nurse

Operation of Arena to Have Immediate Decision — Rink of Some Kind Assured — School Board and Y's Men's Club Endorse Council Engaging Public Health Nurse—Allowance Made on Street Lighting for Reduced Wattage.

Councillors C. Kirkness, W. J. O. Onkes, A. Mason and J. F. Davidson were present on Tuesday evening when Acton Council met and Reeve J. M. McDonald presided.

While the session was not a lengthy one it dealt with some of the most important matters of the year's work and brought up some new items of special interest to citizens.

Chief among these was the discussion regarding the engaging of a Public Health Nurse and the support given Council by other bodies of citizens. The information that the Maria Street bridge was being repaired and inconvenience to citizens in this section would soon be ended. The discussion on the operation of the arena.

Mr. W. R. E. Blair was present regarding business tax. Since his injury over a year ago he had not been able to conduct business. Council agreed that the request was reasonable and agreed to make an adjustment on this year's business tax.

Mr. D. Wilfong was present and reported that the Chief of Police and the Medical Officer of Health had visited his home and inspected the building he had erected. He desired information regarding this visit. A letter from the Medical Officer to the council stated this building was inadequate for a family of six members.

The Reeve explained to Mr. Wilfong that the power lay entirely with the Officer and Council had not authority to dictate any matters of procedure to him. He was advised to cooperate and make the building meet requirements.

Chairman V. B. Rumley and Principal G. MacKenzie were a delegation from the School Board, to convey the information that the Board approved of Acton engaging a Public Health nurse. Mr. Rumley also pointed out that there was available an extra room at the school which might be used as a headquarters for the nurse if the Council so decided. Mr. MacKenzie explained the record system that was used in other schools in the province and some of the advantages of having a Public Health Nurse. The delegation stressed that it was the desire of the school to cooperate in this matter in every way.

Reeve McDonald told, at a Board of Health meeting last week, the matter had been discussed with Miss Moore, Supervisor of Public Health Nurses, Inspector Skuce, Mayor Dawson and the Acton Board of Health. If a nurse were engaged the cost to the three municipalities would be approximately \$2,500. The matter was just in the preliminary stages and Reeve McDonald expressed pleasure that the School Board had come to Council to discuss the situation. The Reeve gave details that had been secured at this meeting. The matter would be further discussed with representatives from Georgetown.

A letter from the Acton Y's Men's Club, expressed approval of a Public Health Nurse for Acton and the hope that the Council would be able to make the necessary arrangements.

The representatives of the School Board also inquired as to what arrangements had been made for operating the arena and what could be arranged for school hockey and skating. The Reeve reported that no arrangements had yet been made with the Wool Controller regarding renting the arena for storage purposes but that he favored bringing an immediate decision. Council also favored providing some sort of skating for the young people and when definite word was received action would be taken. The Clerk was instructed to write and

advise the Wool Controller that a definite decision must be made at once. On the operation of the arena also hinged the question of the municipality providing part time employment for the Supervisor of the Cemetery, H. Fryer, during the winter months. Council agreed to furnish Mr. Rumley, Chairman of the Cemetery Board, with information just as soon as received, on what steps were to be taken.

A letter from the Beardmore Co. pointed out that it felt the Council could make some arrangements regarding the Maria Street bridge that would make for a satisfactory settlement without the necessity of having a vote of the people.

The letter also pointed out that they had instructed the Railway Co. to proceed with repairs of the bridge so that citizens would not be further inconvenienced. These repairs were, as in the past, being made under protest. The Clerk was instructed to send a copy of this letter to the Board of Transport Commissioners before whom the case now rests.

Collection of garbage was another subject brought up when it was necessary to call for tenders for the work next year. Many citizens are putting too much in containers and a notice was to be inserted in The Free Press drawing attention to this. Again citizens are not complying with the rule when their collection day falls on a holiday and the schedule is upset.

A wartime saving is being made as a result of the reduced wattage on street lighting. A letter from the Public Utilities Commission, informed Council that a reduction of \$54.24 applied on the current month's bill and would be applicable every two months until an analysis was made of the costs when the reduced consumption would be adjusted on the municipality's account.

(Continued on Page Four)

CHRISTMAS MEETING OF UNITED W. M. S. AT HOME OF MRS. PETER SMITH

The meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of the United Church was held at the home of Mrs. Peter Smith on Tuesday with Mrs. Caldwell presiding. The devotional period had Mrs. Caldwell, Mrs. R. L. Johnson, Mrs. S. Reid and Mrs. A. T. Brown taking part.

After the business was disposed of the meeting was in charge of Mrs. Fosbury. Several Christmas Carols were sung with Mrs. Fosbury, Mrs. B. Veljehus, Mrs. Gardiner, Mrs. J. R. Kennedy and Mrs. S. Reid as soloists.

Miss Dorothy Simmonds sang very sweetly "Once in David's Royal City." A candle lighting pageant of the seven fields of labor was represented by: North America, Mrs. Fosbury; Orient, Mrs. B. Veljehus; China, Mrs. J. Gardiner; Japan, Mrs. D. Richardson; India, Mrs. B. Mowat; Korea, Mrs. F. Cleave; Trinidad, Miss Bennett. Mrs. B. Veljehus dressed in the quaint costume of her country, sang in English, "Silent Night," then translated it into Dutch which was enjoyed by all. Mrs. Mowat gave a paper, "Keeping Christmas during wartime." This was one of the ways of keeping the morale of our own people and trying to make others happy during the holiday season. Christmas messages are being sent to Mrs. Dr. Agnew and Miss Ruth Nispen.

Mrs. Caldwell expressed her Christmas wish to every mother, father and friends, to those who have loved ones who are serving their king and country in any capacity and to all members of the society.

The meeting closed by singing the National Anthem and prayer by Rev. A. W. Fosbury. Lunch was served by Miss Smith and Mrs. Smith and a hearty vote of thanks was given to the hostesses for their very kind hospitality and home. This is a home where the Christmas meeting has been held for a number of years past.

ST. ALBAN'S GUILD FILL DITTY BAGS. REPORT ON ARTICLES

Last Monday night St. Alban's Guild held their monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. J. Kentner, Main Street. There were eighteen members present. Mrs. G. Currie, the treasurer, reported that the Guild cleared thirteen dollars and thirty-eight cents on the euchre held on November 19th. The members bought up some aprons and miscellaneous articles which had collected during the year. It was decided that the annual Christmas party be held at Mrs. W. Matlock's.

Mrs. W. Coon reported that the ditty bag for sailors, to which the members all contributed, was crammed to the top. Irene Marshall invited the Guild to hold their January meeting at her home. At this meeting the officers for 1943 will be elected.

Mrs. Nellis, the president, thanked all the members for their splendid co-operation throughout the past year. The meeting closed with the Mizpah Benediction.

Varied Interests Make Program at Acton Institute Meet

Mrs. E. F. Collier and Mrs. F. Anderson were hostesses to the December meeting of the Acton Women's Institute at their home. Mrs. J. F. Wilds presided. A sing song of Christmas-carols was enjoyed. The motto "Socialability," was given by Mrs. J. Dobbie. Current Events were reviewed by Mrs. R. W. Johnson and Roll Call was answered by "How we benefit by meeting together." A vote of thanks was tendered the three men who stung the Institute booth in the park.

The Institute are making quilts and packing a box for the Russian Relief Fund. The meeting at Mrs. J. F. Wilds on Tuesday started the quilts. Two minutes' silence was held for a member Mrs. A. H. Bishop who recently passed away.

The Layette Committee reported that a layette was ready for any emergency. It was arranged to send shut-ins a remembrance for Christmas. After the business Mrs. Fred Anderson gave the first half of her report of the convention in Kitchener which was very interesting. Mrs. Anderson will finish the report at the January meeting. Following the closing numbers Mrs. Anderson and her committee served a dainty lunch and a social half hour was spent.

The Dublin Women's Institute held their November meeting at the home of Mrs. John Black. The roll call was answered by your birth date. Mrs. Storey donated an apron and Mrs. G. Watson was the winner of this prize.

Mrs. Bracken was convener of a program and the following numbers were presented: community singing; Mrs. McLaughlin gave a reading entitled "The Birthday of Miss Sweeney"; Mrs. Barber read the report of the convention held at Kitchener; Mrs. vanGozen read an article from a Dutch magazine entitled "On-Convoy Duty." A dinner table contest was given by Mrs. Watkins. Mrs. Wm. McLaughlin won first prize and Mrs. Atkins was second.

Mrs. Anderson tendered a vote of thanks to those who took part on the program and also to the hostesses for the use of her home. The meeting closed with the National Anthem and lunch was served and a social time spent.

DINNER TABLE CONTEST ONE OF PROGRAM ITEMS AT DUBLIN INSTITUTE

LONDON (CP)—Norway's churches have been forbidden by the Nazi authorities to sing Luther's hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" because one of the verses refers to the "devil's dreaded prince" whose "doom is sure."

Soldier Killed on Highway No. 7 by Hit and Run Driver

Private Hector Dupont of Pembroke, was fatally injured early Saturday morning when struck by a hit-and-run motorist near the easterly limits of Georgetown. He suffered a fractured skull, broken arms and a broken leg. Police Chief W. G. Marshall said Dupont was hitch-hiking back to the basic training centre at Brampton when hit. He was found unconscious in the middle of the road, and died a short time later. His parents live in Temiskaming. An inquest will be held.

McUTCHEON BOWLERS BEAT REINHART TEAM IN GAME THIS WEEK

The McCutcheon bowlers were hitting on all six cylinders last Thursday night in the Guelph Major Bowling League as they took the all star Reinhart team into camp by a 5-2 score. Cam Leishman bowled the highest single score of the season when he hit for 373 in the second game.

The score:

N. Morton	218	172	271	661	
C. Leishman	230	373	201	801	
J. Masales	168	—	237	405	
A. Sheffield	217	153	—	370	
W. Corry	206	276	264	746	
O. Krull	—	—	177	173	350

McCutcheons 1039 1151 1146 3336
Reinharts 1105 1077 2232 3334
McCutcheons, 5; Reinharts, 2.

Treasurer Reports At Meeting of Acton Navy League

The Navy League of Canada Committee met on Tuesday evening and the treasurer presented the following report:

Receipts	
Donations previously reported	\$ 69.30
Beardmore & Co. Ltd. office staff	6.50
Mason Knitting Co. employees	4.00
E. Cripps	5.00
Mrs. K. Alger	1.00
Busy Bees S. S. No. 7, Nassau	10.00
United Church, Acton	14.00
B. D. Rachlin, Acton	5.00
Acton and Vicinity War Service League	50.00
N. L. of Canada, Acton Committee, re dance	61.75
N. L. of Canada, Acton Committee, hand concert	22.50
Advances from Navy League, Ontario Division	50.00
	\$294.53

Disbursements	
Navy League, Ontario Division, reimbursing amount advanced to Acton Committee	\$ 50.00
Wool Purchased	29.50
Items for filling Ditty Bags	67.47
Building Cupboard at Town Hall	19.10
Sundry Supplies Purchased	2.15
Across Excess Passes, advertising	5.25
	\$173.17

Balance in Bank \$121.36

Ladies from the Rockalong Institute brought three pairs of socks and two tuck-ins and took more wool to continue with their knitting.

The committee desires to thank everyone who contributed articles, material and work for the ditty bags. Five hundred pounds of magazines have been shipped and more are being prepared together with a further shipment of ditty bags. The call has come in for old clothes for the use of men of the Merchant Marine. If you will make known to any member of the committee what you have to donate it will be picked up immediately.

Also notice that year that Miss Josie Switzer came to Acton from (Continued on Page Five)

More Than The Old Gray Mare
Ain't What She Used To Be

Christmas shopping time draws around and I was just thinking that those under thirty-five are to be pitied this year. A lot of young folks under that age think present shortages of things they have always been used to are something of a hardship. A lot of folks over that age can easily recall the time when many of the things now commonplace were never heard of.

You know rattles have only been on Christmas shopping lists a little over twenty years. Lots of us can recall when the Christmas toys were topped with a bright tin horn. And to its credit it usually survived all of a whole day. Sometimes after it dried out it went on for two or three days after Christmas.

Electric toasters, tree lights, and electric gifts have been popular in the last twenty years and a lot of the things are still available in the stores yet this year.

Lots of us can recall when the Christmas candles were limited to candy canes, bull's eyes, hard mixed or creams and maybe chocolates or gum drops. Lines will be limited this year but we'll bet that Acton stores will offer a lot more variety than those listed above.

Sure Christmas isn't what it used to be. We'll have to eliminate a lot more things before we'd be back near the few attractions of thirty-five years ago.

Just for fun I got out the files of 1907 to see what was advertised for Christmas. A. T. Brown suggested perfumes, ebony goods and toilet cases, mirrors, Bibles and Hymn Books, and fancy inkstands.

R. B. Scott's suggestions were travelling cases, cuff and collar cases, purses, Japanese silk, initial handkerchiefs, Irish linen handkerchiefs, cushion tops.

Hunt's Drug Store had comb and brush sets, paper cutters, mouth organs, books, razors and safety razors, shaving mirrors, pocket knives, Bibles, perfume and metal-ions.

You'll notice none of the suggestions were expensive but believe me they carried out the Christmas spirit. Don't recall seeing an item listed in the ads above a dollar.

Noticed also in these files that it was thirty-five years ago the old G. T. H. freight shed was burned. The rink was down on Willow Street near the school grounds and adjoining the present Baxter Laboratories.

Also notice that year that Miss Josie Switzer came to Acton from (Continued on Page Five)

Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Concerts, or Other Events, under this heading, are charged, to cents per line, with a minimum charge for announcement of 25c.

Presbyterian Sunday School Christmas Concert, Monday, December 21st, at 7:30 p.m.

Lorne School Concert, Wednesday, December 16th, at 8 o'clock. Admission adults 20c.

Woodside Concert and Christmas Tree, Monday night, December 14th, 1942. Lucky Draw on quilt. Admission 20c.

Dublin School Christmas Concert, December 21st, adults 20c, children 15c, to commence at 8:30 sharp. Dance to follow.

Dance in the Town Hall, Acton, Saturday, December 12th, 1942. Doris Hull's Orchestra. Admission 25c. Proceeds for war work.

United Church Sunday School Christmas Concert, Wednesday, December 16th. Parents and friends are invited. Splendid program.

Come to the Christmas Concert at Bannockburn School on Monday evening, December 21st, at 9 p.m. Pupils' program and Dance. Adults 20c, Children 10c.

Come let us worship at the C. G. I. T. Trail Rangers Christmas Vesper Service, United Church, Dec. 13th, at 7:00 p.m. Carol singing and candle lighting ceremony. Mrs. C. Leishman will be guest soloist.

ACTON BOYS ENLISTED This Week's Register

AC2 George Harrgrave, R.C.A.F., is now stationed at No. Manning Pool, Toronto.