

Personals

Corp. Jack Hollinger was home from Trenton for the week-end. Miss Isabel Cowie of Guelph, visited in Acton over the week-end. Miss Ethel Pridham, is spending the holidays at her home in Mitchell. Miss Martha Orr of Burlington, visited Acton friends over the week-end. Miss Hazel Wilson is home from Toronto University for the Christmas holidays. Mr. Bev. Arnold is home from McGill University at Montreal for the Christmas holidays. Mrs. D. L. Jones, of Windsor, is visiting at the home of her brother, Mr. and Mrs. Neil McNabb. Johnny Gray of Acton Y.M.C.A. is home on leave from Y.M.C.A. Army Service in British Columbia where he is in camp. Mrs. Gordon McKay and Mr. Harold Wambrough and children of Toronto, visited their mother, Mrs. R. H. Wambrough. Mr. Harry Campbell of Toronto, spent a day with his sister Mrs. J. E. Gamble, who has been on the sick-list for the past three weeks. Pte. Edward Husband, M. T. C., R.C.O.C. of Claydon, Sask., now at Queen's Park, London, Ont., is spending Christmas holidays with his uncle, Messrs. R. N. and A. T. Brown.

KNOX LADIES' AID ELECTS OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR The last regular meeting of the Knox Presbyterian Church Ladies' Aid for the year 1942 was held at the home of Mrs. W. J. Gould. The main topic of the meeting was the election of officers for the coming year. Honorary President Mrs. W. MacArthur. 1st. Vice-President Mrs. W. MacArthur. 2nd. Vice-President Mrs. A. Smith. 3rd. Vice-President Mrs. G. Lantz. Treasurer Mrs. Grindell. Pianist Miss Wallace and Mrs. J. Massey. Auditors Mrs. H. McDonald and Mrs. McLenn. Kitchen Committee Mrs. Dron, Miss A. Thompson. The Mary R. Moore Society donated two ferns for the church and a mirror for the organ. The meeting was closed with prayer by Mrs. (Rev.) Thompson. Mrs. Gould served tea which was much appreciated by all present.

GEO. MUSSELLE IS PRESIDENT OF THE ACTON BRANCH LEGION Officers elected at the annual meeting of Acton Branch of the Canadian Legion were as follows: Hon. Presidents Col. A. O. T. Beaudry, The Regent of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter I.O.D.E., The Regent of Lakeside Chapter I.O.D.E., President Comrade Geo. Musselle, 1st. Vice-President Comrade J. Chapman, 2nd. Vice-President Comrade G. Smith, Adjustment Officer Comrade F. I. Wright, J.P., Chaplains Rev. E. A. Brooks, Acton, Rev. J. Ward, Rockwood, Rev. Mr. Pickersgill, Nassagaweya. Sgt. at Arms Comrade B. Bayless, Secretary Comrade W. Coles. Treasurer Comrade W. J. Gould, Executive Committee Comrades J. M. McDonald, G. Musselle, J. Chapman, J. B. Chalmers, E. Davidson, F. I. Wright and G. Smith. Refresherment Committee Comrades J. Adomson, N. Morton and J. B. Chalmers. Entertainment Committee Comrades E. Davidson, G. Smith, J. Ryder, W. Coles, L. Atkinson, J. Chapman and A. Gervais. Committee Comrades F. I. Wright, Dr. Young, F. Day, H. Boulton, J. B. Chalmers. Memorial Committee Comrades G. Kniesbury, W. Middleton and G. Musselle. Auditors H. Boulton and E. Harlow.

BALING WIRE SUPPLIES In connection with the shortage of baling wire the Dominion Department of Agriculture is advised by the Steel Controller, Department of Munitions and Supply, that arrangements have been made with the manufacturers of baling wire to ensure a limited supply of such wire to farmers. However, purchasers of baling wire must be kept down to a minimum so that the limited supply will go as far as possible. Some baling wire is now available at the wire mills and jobbers whose orders were recently cancelled are advised to lose no time in re-ordering on the mills. I pack my troubles in a little com' pass as I can for myself, and never let them annoy others. So'nb'y.

George Wallace CLOTHES SHOP 112 Yonge St. (2nd Floor) Toronto Take the Elevator and Save Money

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GREGORY THEATRE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 Matinee at 8.00 "SUN VALLEY SERENADE" Fun, music and winter sports with Sonja Henie, John Payne, March of Time "India at War," Cartoon "Blitz Wolf," Chapter 6 "Spy Smasher."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 Matinee at 8.00 "DOWN MEXICO WAY" Gene Autry. "MOONLIGHT MASQUERADE" Jane Frazee, Dennis O'Keefe, "Fox News."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 "IN THIS OUR LIFE" Dramatic with Belle Davis, George Brent, Comedy "All Work and No Play," Passing Parade "Magic Alphabet."

CHRISTMAS Dance Parade! RYAN Auditorium GUELPH CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC 24th 9.00 1.00 Special Wills Tipping's Orchestra Admission 60c Person CHRISTMAS NIGHT DEC. 25th 9.00 to 1.00 Jerry Harrison's Orchestra Admission 50c Person SATURDAY NIGHT, DEC. 26th 9.00 to 12.00 Gibson Boyd's Orchestra Admission 50c Person THE BIG FROLIC NEW YEAR'S EVE DECEMBER 31st Dancing from 10.00 to 1.00 Bob Donnell's Orchestra Ladies \$1.25 — Gentlemen \$1.50

Weekly War Commentary Specially Written for The Acton Free Press by GUY BHOADES Canadian Press Staff Writer



AGNES LOGAN GREEN This gifted young Canadian pianist made her debut in Toronto at the age of ten. Since that memorable afternoon she has gained the approval of concert audiences and music critics in England and the United States and continued to delight many admirers in her native land. An award in recognition of having won five other awards was among her early distinctions. She will be heard in recital over the CBC National Network Monday, December 13, at 7.45 p.m. EDT, 8.45 p.m. ADT.

The Allies appear to be establishing impressive air superiority in all the theatres of war except China and perhaps Russia and air superiority is essential to victory in modern warfare. Over Libya Allied airmen, British, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, South African and American have pounded the retreating forces of Field Marshal Rommel, destroyed their transport, smashed at their bases and driven them far westward of their former stronghold of El Aghalla towards the Italian stronghold of Tripoli.

Over Tunisia Allied air forces have been smashing such Axis bases as Tunis and Bizerte, bringing increasing difficulties to the 30,000 or so troops mustered for the defence of the Italian coveted French colony. In New Guinea Allied air power has proved a large factor in forcing the Japanese back to their beach-heads and preventing them on numerous occasions from reinforcing their death battalions. On Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, New Zealand air forces have joined their American allies to harass the enemy.

War in Asia In China the Japs appear still to have an edge in the air, although the American aerial task force is being strengthened and in Burma the Japs are learning the dread incursions of Allied bombers and fighters from Uglin.

Mussolini, faced with interruption of his war industries by frequent pounding of British-based aircraft, has sought through newspaper articles and Fascist party efforts to allay the confusion which has resulted in a disorganized and terrified population, even importing anti-aircraft artillery from Germany.

Over Northern Europe, too, the Allies have secured air mastery which enables them to smash German industries and those of Nazi-occupied countries as well as coastal and inland transportation facilities. Often the Allied raiders are met by no opposition other than that from ground defences.

The Russians have been inflicting heavy losses on the Axis air forces, but the score on the other side has not been disclosed by trustworthy sources.

Some pressure has been withdrawn from the Russian air force by the needs of the Axis armies in Tunisia and Libya and German pilots have been captured who came fresh from the Russian front.

The growth of the Allied air forces is inexorable, for the Allies have manufacturing raw-material resources which outmatch those of the Axis despite their conquests just as they have a preponderance of the other resources to win a long war.

Rommel's Bad Plight Although statements from British military quarters were cautious at the week-end in estimating the full extent of losses suffered by Axis forces west of El Aghalla, there was every indication that a considerable body of troops had been cut off in the Matruh pocket.

It was believed that possibly 10,000 men together with many heavy guns and tanks had been trapped in the area by Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery's surprise cut through enemy lines. British forces on Dec. 19 were reported near Sirte, 155 miles beyond El Aghalla, making it extremely unlikely that any great number of the trapped men would be able to rejoin their comrades even if they broke through the encircling British lines.

At Sirte, 24th Army advance forces were only 20 miles from Tripoli and had covered 800 miles in eight weeks. The advance had been marked by remarkable co-operation between land and air forces and Allied airmen could time to play havoc with enemy troops strung out along the coastal road to Tripoli.

In some quarters Field Marshal Erwin Rommel is reported to be directing Axis forces in Tunisia, leaving command of his forces in Libya to others. If this is true there is only the barest possibility that a stand will be made at Tripoli.

Weather conditions in Tunisia have hindered ground fighting and evidently Allied forces in the area have been withdrawn from advance positions to lines from which future attacks on Tunis and Bizerte can be pressed more efficiently. In the meantime Allied bombers are dealing damaging blows on docks and airfields in the coastal sector.

Russians Gain Ground Red armies in the Stalingrad sector are keeping Axis forces boxed up in the narrow corridor driven toward the Volga city. Reinforcements for the Germans are being sent in by air and the Russians claim they are destroying many of the big transports and the troops they carry. Bitter counter-attacks have been launched by the Nazis without success. In deed, the Russians state they are constantly tightening the noose around the enemy forces. There was no letup in the fighting.

on the central front, west of Rzhev and along the Rzhev-Vyazma railway. The Germans are attempting to halt the Russian offensive in this vital sector where loss of the key point of Rzhev would necessitate a German withdrawal over a considerable distance.

Move Into Burma Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell's promised move against Japanese-occupied Burma appears to have started with first attacks made northward at Akyab on the Bay of Bengal. British troops at the week-end had advanced some 40 miles. While these were nothing to indicate a general offensive the Allies were taking the initiative for the first time since the enemy occupied Akyab last May. The Japanese withdrew without offering opposition.

Early this week the British were reported within 35 miles of Akyab. In their drive through jungle territory they occupied Alenthang-Yow, 11 miles south of Hloinglaw, and gained control of a small airfield.

Informed quarters in New Delhi warned against undue optimism in connection with Wavell's move. They said the campaign was not a major effort to retake Burma, but could be considered as the start of a piecemeal strategy with the larger goal always in mind.

Thrust for Rostov Driving southwest from the Upper Don area, Russian forces this week were reported to have reached the vicinity of Millerovo, important German-held rail junction. On Tuesday the Red Army reported capture of "a large populated place" which very likely was Millerovo.

If the Russians succeed in reaching Rostov, some 120 miles to the south, the result would be disastrous for Germany. As it is the threat to the long salient reaching to Stalingrad and southeast to the foothills of the Caucasus is tremendous. German troops, estimated to number 1,000,000 men, are in the area which the Russians hope to encircle.

But the Germans are taking desperate steps to meet the situation. They are counter-attacking fiercely and rushing masses of reserves into the struggle which is likely to be long drawn out.

The Russian command said Red Army engineers removed more than 2,000 German mines before the main force struck in the Millerovo area. Four hundred Germans were reported killed in the attack.

In Tripolitania the British 8th Army continues its pursuit of Rommel's defeated Africa Corps, reported by the Morocco radio to have encircled Misurata, 100 miles east of Esphol. Location of the British forces is uncertain, but a Cairo communiqué of Dec. 21 said they had reached Sultan, 255 miles east of Tripoli.

City Y.W.C.A.'s Rooms Registry

Officials have Busy Time These Days of War Worker Migrations

TORONTO, (CP) The Y.W.C.A. "Rooms Registry" is not merely a war-time "mushroom" growth. Twenty-five years ago this service was offered to travellers and to women and girls, strangers coming to the big cities. Gradually it grew and was extended to 39 large centres throughout Canada. Consequently when war broke out the "Y" was well versed in housing problems.

"Not only do girls secure a room through us, but they get a good room," said Miss Louise Gates, general secretary of the National Y.W.C.A. "One of our most stringent rules is that all rooms must be clean, pleasing environment and reasonably priced." The most difficult person for whom to secure accommodation is the mother with a small child. Landladies just don't want children.

Engagements

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Douglas, Spy-side, announce the engagement of their niece, Nellie Katharine McPherson, to John Bishop Dawe, Toronto, in the fall. Mr. and Mrs. John Dawe of St. John's, Newfoundland, the marriage is to take place early in January.

Boxing Day Holiday Here—Reeve Presented

(Continued from Page One)

of Reeve McDonald's conduct of Council's proceedings during the year and the leadership he had given in municipal affairs. On behalf of the group he presented the Reeve with a box of fifty of his favorite cigars, as a mark of the appreciation of the community service Reeve McDonald had done this year. Other members of the Council extended this appreciation and expressed the wish that Mr. McDonald would be able to continue these duties not only this year but in many years to follow.

In replying Mr. McDonald said he appreciated council work. He was interested in Acton and was glad to be of some service. He felt it was the duty of any citizen to do a share of the community activity because such work is what maintains the community. In referring to Acton the Reeve said he had never lived in any community with better co-operative spirit than Acton. This was shown in all the activities undertaken. His one object in fulfilling the duties of Reeve was to give the greatest benefit to the town and ratepayers in general. He had wonderful co-operation from council during the year and he appreciated very much this expression of appreciation from those around the council table.

Clark C. F. Leatherland expressed a wish in which all concurred that Acton and Reeve McDonald would next year be honored with the county vanguardship.

War Marketing For B.C. Fruit — All American

Overseas Markets Out but Canada and United States Take-up Big Slice of 1942 Production

BY DAVE INNES KELOWNA, B. C. (CP) Increased buying power in the prairie provinces, the high price of citrus fruits and a market for 400,000 boxes in the United States are all helping the Okanagan valley's fruit growers sell this year's estimated crop of 5,000,000 boxes of apples.

The growers need all the markets they can get up for the war has cut off one of their biggest outlets in the United Kingdom which in 1940 took 1,400,000 boxes of the fruit. This year, not a single box has gone to the overseas market.

But the grower organization officials say the Canadian market is filling the hole and that the prairie provinces already have used about 80 per cent of the total they absorbed during the entire previous season. They say rural areas, where farmers have more money than they have had for some years, are taking more apples this year than ever before.

Another factor operating in favor of the fruit producers is the higher price of imported citrus fruits which has forced housewives to substitute apples.

Okanagan apples are also finding a ready market in the United States, where they are selling at much higher prices than in Canada. Under a quota arrangement reached with Washington 200,000 boxes were allowed to enter the United States before Nov. 1 and 100,000 boxes in each of the months of November and December. Jonathan, Delicious and McIntosh have been shipped to about 37 states, as far east as New York and as far south as Texas.

More than half the crop is now sold and fruit officials say they are not worrying about disposal of the balance. Most of the fruit still in grower hands is of the highest grades and best varieties and officials feel there will be no difficulty in finding markets.

Weather conditions in such demand this year they were sold entirely before the McIntosh came on the market. Crabapples were in unusual demand and were sold without difficulty.

Varied Conditions This year's apple season has varied in a number of respects from others. First, wet weather during the blossoming period resulted in a poor set of blossoms. Then the labor shortage which has affected most of Canada's industries outside of those directly in the war effort, played its part in cutting down the crop in the thinning and harvesting seasons. Considerable fruit was lost through damage to the fruit and slowness in picking.

Curtailment of sugar for use in canning apples hit the sale of cooking fruit when housewives found they couldn't stretch their sugar ration far enough, even with extra allowances.

Merry Christmas To All

Our Wish to One and All is that Your Christmas Will Be the Happiest Possible and the Year Ahead Bring Greater Joy and Happiness

Whitham's Garage YOUNG STREET, ACTON — JOE WHITHAM

Moving Pictures!

PLACES OF CURRENT INTEREST IN EUROPE Including Dieppe Prior to Outbreak of War BY MR. S. G. BENNETT

In St. Alban's Parish Hall Tuesday, Dec. 29th—at 8p.m.

ADMISSION 25c FOR WAR CHARITIES

Yuletide Greetings

May the Christmas season bring everyone in our community a good measure of happiness and may we give to one and all that old Christmas greeting.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS Store Closed All Day Saturday.

LOVELL BROS. MILL STREET — ACTON, ONTARIO

Greetings To All

That your Christmas may have as full a measure of Merriment as possible and that Everyone in Acton and District May Find Joy at this Festive Season in the Sincere Wish of

B. D. RACHLIN ACTON, ONTARIO

Store Will Be Closed All Day Friday and Saturday



The Staff and Management Wish to Extend to One and All Happy Christmas Greeting

As we gather around for the festive season—Let us pause long enough to write to someone in the Armed Forces—or a Friend Overseas. They will appreciate your Christmas thoughts. You will feel better for doing so.

BARR'S QUALITY GROCERY