

Old Inns of England

By Walter R. Lipp

Following the completion of the Bomber Press series of articles, some readers have enquired why there was not one article about the old Inns of the party visited.

Such an article really has little to do with the war effort, so that it could not properly belong in the Bomber Press series. However, the old Inns play a most important part in the life and history of England, and we naturally visited a number of them.

Nearly every settlement of any size in England possesses at least one ancient Inn worth a visit, with an interesting history and picturesque architecture.

Probably the most famous, in connection at least, is the Old Cheshire Cheese in Fleet Street, which dates back to 1307. It was a haunt of Dr. Johnson, Oliver Goldsmith, James Russell, and many other famous men. It has been badly battered in the battle on London, and its famous dish, beef-steak pudding, is out, probably for the duration. It was serving beverages when the Bomber Press was in London.

One of the first that we visited was "Skinnell's Head" at Maidenhead, which is not a very old Inn but is quite famous, and was very popular before the war as a meeting place for the "Upper Six" of the Thames. Our party can testify that an excellent meal is still being served there.

Our lunch for many days was the "Old Ship" hotel at Brighton, one of the best known of the numerous hotels of that seaside city. It was here that Dickens spent his days in 1837 when he was writing "Oliver Twist," and he described his quarters as "a beautiful big-windowed sitting-room, facing the sea." Our party have been the same room that was occupied by Dickens, Chambers and Lipp with these? This was far from the only time that Dickens stayed at the Old Ship, and the writer from this hotel to George Catlin who was illustrating the "Old Curiosity Shop." Dickens is known to have made many trips to Brighton and probably was often at this old hotel.

It did not take us long to discover that the best meals in England are the smaller and less famous than the best meals in this country. There were served at the "White Horse" at Leam, only a few miles from Brighton.

At this Inn, the evening is done in the dining room by Mrs. Walton, wife of the proprietor.

The building is a very old one, dating from the fourteenth century, and was the home of the Pelham family, from which family came the Duke of Newcastle and the Duke of Chichester. The mansion was burned in an Inn about 1777, and since then entertained many celebrities.

After our second meal there, Mr. Walton took the party through the wine cellar of the Inn. This cellar is reputed to have been used to conceal the prisoners during the French wars.

Another fine meal at a small Inn was enjoyed in the same district at the Blackbird Inn at Wych Cross, the junction of two old Roman roads. This Inn is not an old one, although it is made to look antiquated.

Grantham, in Lincolnshire, has two famous old Inns, the "Angel" and the "George." The latter, at which we had a delicious lunch, proudly displays a brass plate setting forth the phrase in Dickens' "Nicholas Nickleby" which reads, "Twenty miles further on, two of the front outside passengers wisely availing themselves of their arrival at one of the best Inns in England, turned in for the night at the George at Grantham."

The George dates from 1780, but does not look as interesting as the Angel and once lodged Richard III.

Bristol has many fascinating old Inns, probably the most interesting being the "Llandoger Trow" which was built in 1664, one of a block of half-timbered houses by the Welsh Back quay. The quay is cobble-stone, and the morning post on ancient "Hogs" comes. It was from here that the "Hippodrome" of St. George's "Treasure Island" set out and the Llandoger Trow was probably the "Sycamore." Bristol was one of the most famous pirate haunts in the world, and some of the most notorious pirates came from there, such as Capt. Edward Teach, (Blackbeard, as he was called), Capt. Bartholomew Roberts and the pirate woman, Mary Read.

The cellars of the Llandoger Trow were used as temporary prisons by the French garr, and also for rum running, and one passage leads to the Welsh Back quay, and another to the Theatre Royal.

Many famous people have been entertained at the Llandoger Trow, including Henry Irving, William Barry, Kate Terry, Mrs. Norton, and John Jefferys. In St. Defoe met Dr. Robert, the original of Robinson Crusoe.

The calling of the bar is now a shiny black, but it is said that or-

iginally, it was covered with excellent paintings of mostly dead horses and some 200 years ago a fascinating widow who kept the Inn had them painted over with black because the women admired the paintings instead of her.

Another British Inn which looks as if it might have a romantic past is the "Blackfriars." This was first painted out to us one moonlight night as we were returning from an evening at the "Sycamore" Club. By the dim light of the moon it appeared as if anything might happen there, but on a subsequent visit in the daytime, it seemed to be a large nothing more sinister than a quiet game.

These quiet hours are tremendously popular in England and may be found in almost every hotel.

An Inn which will be remembered by most Canadians who were in the last war is the Royal Anchor at Liverpool. One of the features of this hotel is that all the rooms are named after famous people who have occupied them. This Inn dates from 1715. It is famous for the luncheon and very old omelette that is made of it, and also because it was a haunt of Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton. It has to share this fame with a great many other places, because it is considered the scene of so many phases in English history. Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton sojourned, as there are phases in America where George Washington slept.

Salisbury, which some of us visited one Sunday had a number of famous old Inns. We were strongly recommended to get our lunch at the "Borough of Winton" but found that it did not serve meals on Sunday. This is believed to be the Inn described in Dickens' "Martin Chuzzlewit" where Tom Pinch went to meet Martin Chuzzlewit, and also where Tom returned after his dismissal from Mr. Pecksniff.

Another hotel in Salisbury which figured in the same book is the White Horse, where Ugg and James came on the night of their disastrous ride from London. The White Horse is quite a large hotel with the figure of a white horse on top of the front. This white horse can be seen from some distance down the street.

We were not able to get lunch at either of these hotels and went to the County Hotel.

Another interesting old Inn, at which we stayed was the Saracen's Head at Lincoln, but we could not find it had any special history.

The Inns mentioned above are some we visited or stayed at, but we passed large numbers of other picturesque ones. With the various restrictions now in force, most of them are closed for a good part of the day.

One other Inn was worthy of mention, the Martlets Arms, an old Inn which is in beautiful condition, and at which we were served a splendid meal. It is situated a few miles from Bath and stands entirely alone.

There are no end of Inns in England called "The Manx of Granby," but the Manx of Granby kept by Mrs. Widdowson, "Friedrich's Paper" was a very interesting mythical Inn. We passed a great number of them, one of the largest being in London on the Old Kent Road.

The other hotels we stayed in in England were more or less modern ones, and have been mentioned in other articles.

Service Wives In "Keep Fit"

R. C.'s Organized Recreation Centre Big Attraction for Lonely Folk

VANCOUVER (CP)—It could have been a jumping bed such as firmness or some sort of hammock. But it was neither.

"We call it a tramp-o-line," said Jerry Mathison, provincial chief instructor of British Columbia's recreational and Physical Education branch of the Department of Education, as he watched a couple of youngsters performing on the apparatus.

Service men's wives—many of them strangers to Vancouver and who cannot afford expensive recreation—are making friends in "Pro Rec" classes.

Industrial weightlifting has been introduced as a voluntary activity for women. Mrs. Hilda Krasley, provincial chief instructor, says "Many of our Pro Rec Women are workers. Often they are called upon to carry heavy objects. Our instructors teach them how to lift properly, thus avoiding strain and possible injury."

"Pro-Rec is now planning for expansion of the "Keep Fit" movement throughout British Columbia war plant area," said Mathison. "Only in this way can we offset the lowered vitality of the worker, caused by monotony, artificial light, shut-outs and general physical strain."

PROVED HER WORTH

ALGERS, (CP)—Exactly six months after she had been commissioned, H.M.S. Loyal, one of the Royal Navy's latest and largest destroyers, steamed and sank an Italian supply ship 10 miles off the Sicilian coast.

WAR 25 Years Ago

Germany's Last Offensive, Held at Meer Schone and Allied Counter-Attack, Fought May 16, 1918

BY H. H. GIBSON, Canadian Press Staff Writer

The Second Battle of the Marne—the fight that marked Germany's last offensive in the First Great War—was fought 25 years ago along a 30-mile front in the Champagne sector of the Western Front. While neither side was the surprise element was lacking. The attack was only partially successful and within a few days the Germans retreated under pressure of a great Allied counter-attack.

Although General Erich Ludendorff was aware of growing Allied strength due to the flood of American reinforcements the reverse came as a great shock. The German master strategist's failure paved the way for Marshal Ferdinand Foch's summer offensive that brought victory in less than four months.

Ludendorff intended the attack at the Marne as a diversion, making his

them to deliver a huge blow at British defenses in Flanders. His aim was to succeed that immediately after the assault in Champagne was launched German artillery and aircraft were sent to the Flanders front.

Using about 40 divisions the Germans attacked July 15th, 1918, on a front east and west of Reims. Against an elastic defense east of the city the enemy failed to make headway, but to the west the French were unable to hold lines that had been established only a month after the previous German drive in the area.

Called the Meuse

On this sector of the front German industry was centered across the Meuse under cover of darkness and in a single sweep and pushed forward to the attack. The enemy also accomplished its remarkable feat in building bridges under fire. The German troops advanced the railroad made in May and at some points shattered the French main line of defense.

But the success went of the Meuse was not sufficient. Unable by pressure elsewhere, the fighting deteriorated into local actions and French troops, by the middle of July, were in a position to attack the enemy's main supply line. On July 17 the German High Command ordered the attack-

ing force to withdraw behind the Meuse.

When it was that French launched his counter-attack with the 6th and 10th French armies, which included American divisions. The Germans had been forced to Allied troops counter-attacking in the sector and an event turned out their apprehension was justified. In a short time the German position was upped out and the great retreat underway.

Ludendorff's planned offensive on the Flanders front never materialized. So strong was the Allied counter-attack that German reinforcements were pulled from all parts of the front. Huge accumulations of material and supplies left by the Allies and German troops losses were also serious.

Commend Courage Of Service Girls

LONDON, (CP)—Seven women of the A.T.S. have been commended by Anti-Aircraft command chief for their bravery and courage in manning an anti-aircraft search light and other duties. They were cited for 25 valour points. They were cited for manning search light towers throughout the day and night that followed.

Maintaining the "Roof Over Britain"



Men and women of Britain's Anti-Aircraft Defenses, maintaining a protective "roof" over London and all the strategic points of the British home front, stood valiantly with the R.A.F. in the battle of Britain, 1940. During their unglorious jobs with quiet efficiency—often on isolated sites remote from the pleasures and comforts of urban life—they will see to it that enemy raiders never Britain have a "roof" over them. Picture shows: The high-ranking British Army officer who commands London's A.A. searchlight units, standing on a platform in the air control room, deep below ground in London, giving orders to the units through a microphone. Below him are women of the British A.T.S., plugging the course of aircraft. The officer instructs the women through the height of the roof and the type of shells to be used, with the aid of his set of colored "checks."

The Constructive Platform of the

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Approved in General Meeting at Toronto, July 3, 1943



George Drew as I know him

By George W. James

ON July 3rd, an all day organization meeting of Progressive Conservative Party candidates and officials from all over the Province, held at the Royal York Hotel, listened with rapt attention to a highly constructive and inspiring address from the Provincial Leader, George Drew.

"The programme which the Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario undertakes to put into effect is based upon the conviction that under a strong government the vast resources and producing capacity of this Province can assure employment and good wages for all who will work and security for those who find themselves unable to work because of sickness, unemployment, physical disability or old age. It is based upon the belief that the spiritual and material welfare of our people, now and in the future, can be best assured under British democratic institutions and within the British partnership.

Twenty-two Point Programme

1. We will maintain British institutions and strengthen the British partnership by every means within the constitutional power of the Government of Ontario.
2. We will do all that we can to assist the Government with the Dominion Government and with all other agencies in Canada in all matters which will assist in the promotion of the war as a national effort and in the establishment of a national basis of social justice, health insurance and protection in their old age for all our people. At the same time we will insist that the constitutional rights of the people of Ontario be preserved and that the Government of Ontario exercise full control of its own Provincial affairs.
3. The terms, the conditions, the terms, the benefits, and benefits service which we secure for our people through the Dominion Government will be improved by the Provincial Government in all matters which will assist in the promotion of the war as a national effort and in the establishment of a national basis of social justice, health insurance and protection in their old age for all our people. At the same time we will insist that the constitutional rights of the people of Ontario be preserved and that the Government of Ontario exercise full control of its own Provincial affairs.
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