

## Weekly War Commentary

*Specialty Written for The Acton Free Press*  
By JOHN C. SCOTT  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Hitler appears to have finally broken his back in Russia. In fact, the black mud spreading out from the banks of the Dnieper River may well bury the military ambitions of the little corporal who tried to out-Napoleon Napoleon—with near success.

However, the summer surge of the Red Army seems to have killed the last hope for success the German dictator may have had. Battered by the blows of the powerful Russians and rolled back to almost the last substantial barrier in the east between the fortress of Europe and Stalin's soldiers, the Nazi Army appears to be facing a new kind of Dunkerque—without an R.A.F. or Royal Navy to extricate it.

And, as the Russians battered at the defenses of the 300-mile Dnieper front, the Nazis admitted they had evacuated another great Russian army from the central front, 230 miles west of Moscow. Its fall meant the crushing Soviet armies had snapped the backbone of German defence at the central pivot of the 1,200-mile battle line.

No longer can German propagandists claim that the withdrawal from the heart of Russia was either planned or orderly. The dash of the Russian-led forces for the doubtful safety of the Dnieper River defence line seemed to be a rout.

The big question now is: How long can the Germans hold that line? On that probably hinges the course of the war's immediate future.

Should it break with the first Russian assault, only a few buffer states stand between the Red Army and a valley thoroughfare leading into the heart of Hitler's empire. The Nazis might be forced to retreat to their own boundaries, to carry the war on from there.

**Line May Hold**  
But the big possibility is that the line—built for just such an emergency with typical teutonic foresight and thoroughness—will hold, at least temporarily, giving the still powerful and war-wise German army a chance to get its second wind.

Combined with the rapidly approaching winter, sources say the Red Army drive and give Hitler a breather in which to stabilize the Eastern front, for a few months at least.

This would immediately have its effect on Allied operations in Italy. With the Russian front frozen, air power and perhaps even ground forces could be transferred to the Mediterranean theatre to face the British, Canadians and Americans.

Not only would that make the British infinitely tougher for the troops that are at present painfully struggling their way up the Italian boot but would also prolong the operations that are going so well.

The fall of Smolensk will make the holding of the Dnieper line much more difficult for the Nazis and besides, the road to the great timber and oil resources of the German-occupied Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia becomes much more vulnerable.

The great base's loss also threatens communications between the German armies to the north and the Nazis' troops in the south.

Smolensk is the hub for five rail lines and served as Hitler's headquarters in the ill-fated drive on Moscow in 1941. As a keystone citadel of defences which had been in Nazi hands since July 6, 1941, and once was termed by Hitler as one of the most strongly fortified cities in Europe.

Meanwhile, the onrushing Russians were fast approaching Kiev, German held key centre in the Ukraine, the fall of which was expected momentarily. Russian occupation of the Ukraine capital would provide the Soviets with a major base for their Dnieper River operations.

**Italy Battle Overshadowed**  
Momentarily overshadowed by the Red Army's spectacular victories, Allied armies in Italy were battling their way towards Naples. As the week began Lt.-Gen. Mark W. Clark's United States 5th Army was fighting its way onto hills looking down on the Plains of Naples. The Germans, entrenched in the mountains north of Salerno, were aided in defence by difficult terrain and demolitions.

Meanwhile the 12,000-man German garrison on the island of Corsica in the Mediterranean appeared doomed as French Army troops aided by patriots and some American Rangers continued to squeeze the Nazis into an ever-tightening corner in the northeast section of the island.

Nazi air fleets attempting to rescue the survivors of the beleaguered garrison. (Continued on Page Eight)

## Pretty September Wedding Saturday in Knox Church

Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton decorated with gladioli and asters was the scene of a lovely wedding on Saturday, September 26th, at three o'clock, when Donald Jean, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George A. McPhail was united in marriage to Howard Joseph, elder son of Mrs. Switzer and the late Mr. George Herbert Switzer. Reverend Forbes Thomson officiated, assisted by Reverend J. Guinn, of London.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a white floor length gown of triple sheer over taffeta. It was fashioned with a long waist, a full gathered skirt and a ruffled neckline. Her veil was finger tip, held by a sprig of white bouvardia. She carried a bouquet of red roses and white bouvardia and her only ornament was a gold locket and bracelet, the gift of the groom.

Miss Margaret McPhail was her sister's bridesmaid. Her dress was street length, of dusky pink silk jersey styled on the same pattern as the bride's. She carried a bouquet of yellow roses.

Little Misses Joyce Allan and Louise Scott, cousin of the bride, were ring-bearers. They wore blue silk jersey dresses trimmed with white lace fashioned similar to the bride's and carried the ring in a red velvet box on a white satin cushion. Both the ringbearers and the bridesmaid wore shoulder length veils the same shade as their dresses.

Petty Officer George Switzer, R. C. N. V. R. of Edmonton, was his brother's groomsmen. Kerwin McPhail, brother of the bride, and Edward Johnston, were ushers. Before the ceremony, Misses Doris and Hazel Wilson sang "O Perfect Love" and Neil McPhail, of Campbellville, sang "Through the Years," during the signing of the register. Ted Hansen, of the Royal Canadian Signal Corps, played the wedding music.

Following the ceremony a reception was held at the bride's home. Receiving with the wedding party were the bride's mother, wearing a navy two-piece street length dress with matching accessories and a corsage of red roses, and the groom's mother wearing a navy redingote dress with matching accessories and a corsage of tallman roses and bouvardia. Luncheon was served by seven of the bride's friends, Misses Doris and Hazel Wilson, Helen McPhail, Lois Eastbrook, Nancy McMillan, Frances Dills and Mrs. Geo. Wallace. After the reception Mr. and Mrs. Switzer left amid showers of confetti for a motor trip to eastern Ontario. For travelling the bride wore a crystal blue two-piece wool suit with chocolate brown accessories. On their return they will reside on the groom's farm at Acton.

**MAIN STREET GULLY ON BEARDMORE PROPERTY FILLED AND LEVELLED**  
That gully on Main Street on the Beardmore Co. property, just at the foot of the Cemetery Hill has been greatly improved by filling and leveling, the past few weeks. For some time the hole, which in the spring, had quite a surface of water, was being filled in but progress was slow. The past few weeks hundreds of trucks of good clean soil have been dumped in and the gully is now on the road level and a splendid improvement to this section.

—One Toronto consumer, convicted of hoarding sugar, coffee, tea and canned foods was given a month's prison sentence and fined \$100.

**SPECIAL ATTENTION OF CONTRIBUTORS AND CONTRIBUTORS**  
Owing to a help shortage and rationing of paper, which means curtailing space, this Free Press will not be able to publish present circulation addresses as has been the custom in the past.

Please do not misconstrue this change. We want in your correspondence and from contributors, reports of presentations, just as in the past. Only omit the address accompanying the presentation from the report.

This rule will be applicable after this issue. We regret that this is necessary, but know readers will understand the reason and in all fairness it must apply to all copy. Please send in your item regarding the presentations as usual, but omit the address in detail that usually accompanies the presentation.

## OH NO! THERE IS NO HUSTLE IN JUST ISSUING A WEEKLY

Newspapermen who work on daily papers are often heard to express the wish that some day they may acquire a weekly newspaper where they can get away from the speed and grind of issuing a paper on definite daily schedules. It's been our privilege to work on both daily and weekly newspapers but mostly on weeklies.

The newspaperman who hopes to leave behind the hustle and rush when he enters the weekly field has a mistaken conception of issuing a weekly newspaper under the present or any other circumstances.

Take last week for example at the Paces Plaza office there was the usual preparation of getting the typeset and the issue ready with all the fair news complete. There was the engraving for the front page due to arrive on Thursday morning at the latest. The small and express deliveries were all made and no engraving. A telephone call to the city gave the information that it had not been received in time to make delivery on Thursday.

Well, there's a story behind that too. When we received our fair pictures from the photo finishers on Monday night they had not all turned out well. They had necessary to be taking another picture on Tuesday morning and sending the negatives to the engravers and trusting that we had results this, second time. That had caused the delay to the engravers in the first instance.

But Thursday morning and no engraving and the mail trains all in for the day prevented another problem. In the telephone conversation in Hamilton at two o'clock, Fortunally not only the editor's wife but the editor's son can drive the family car and an early dinner and a rather bumpy ride over No. 25 landed the engraving in the office at 3:15 on Thursday afternoon. It fit in the space that had been estimated for it and the papers were on sale as usual shortly after four o'clock and all in the post office at 5:30 that evening.

And if the tranquillity of the weekly newspaper for his days of retirement we can tell him that this article and several in this issue were never written at all but were composed as the editor operated the Linotype machine. There's scope for versatility in the weekly field anyway.

We might also add that on Thursday there was a power interruption that delayed the type setting machine for an hour.

**MRS. GEO. WALLACE ENTERTAINS IN HONOR OF BRIDE**  
On Monday evening, September 20, Miss Donald McPhail, a bride of this week, was pleasantly surprised at the home of Mrs. Geo. Wallace by about twenty friends who tendered her a very lovely kitchen shower.

The evening was spent in contests and Bingo. The bride being winner of one of the Bingo games was then presented with a huge wedding cake, in the bottom layers of which were the gifts and a lovely corsage of sweetpeas. After the gifts had been opened a dainty lunch was served by the hostess.

Those in attendance included: Miss Elva Pearson, Mrs. E. J. Pearson, Mrs. Calva Aitken, Miss Edna Aitken, Mrs. Jessa Wardlaw, Mrs. Toht Stewart, Miss Mary Young, Miss Margaret McPhail, Mrs. Geo. A. McPhail, Mrs. G. H. Switzer, Mrs. A. Young, Mrs. Bing Ramsden, Miss Alice McCullum, Miss Annie Aitken, Mrs. B. Wilson, Mrs. Wallace, Mr. Geo. Wallace, Mr. Howard Switzer and Mr. Jessa Wardlaw.

## Community Sale Chief Topic of Service League

**Navy League Raised \$103 on Tag Day—Plan to Send 75 Ditty Bags**

Details of the Annual Community Auction Sale occupied much of the attention of the meeting of Acton and Vicinity War Service League last Thursday evening. Date of the sale was arranged for the second Thursday in October and a meeting of all friends and helpers from town and district for this evening was arranged.

The treasurer reported receipt of \$100 from Lakeside Chapter of the I.O.O.F. and Mrs. Alex. Mann, on behalf of the Victory Club turned in \$35.45, the proceeds from the sale of their quilt. Disbursements were \$174.08, largely for the monthly quota of cigarettes.

Mr. Boulton on behalf of the Acton Branch of the Navy League, reported that the local group planned to supply 75 ditty bags for the Merchant Marine. The approximate cost of each bag was \$4. The League had raised \$103 on their lucky draw, and were planning to hold a bingo and sacred concert.

Leut. Nursing Sister Jessie Young was reported as arriving overseas and her name was added to the overseas list to receive regular shipments.

The Secretary reported some difficulties encountered in securing supplies for the overseas boxes. Rationing and shortages on several items planned had required cancellation of some of the items. This applied to the two-b. cans of honey, which had been ordered, but were not delivered before the rationing order took effect.

**MRS. J. B. ADAMSON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF FRIENDLY CIRCLE**  
Meeting on Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. Ivan Harris the Young Ladies Friendly Circle elected officers for the year. Mrs. Adamson presided and the following officers were duly chosen:

President—Mrs. J. Adamson.  
Vice-President—Miss Frances Dills.  
Treasurer—Mrs. W. G. Cullen.  
Secretary—Miss Emma Wilderspin.  
Group Leaders—Mrs. Kinrend, Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Richardson, Miss Elsie Gordon, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Brent, Mrs. F. Keener, Miss Emma Wilderspin.  
Plaint—Miss Elsie Gordon.  
Assistant Plaint—Miss Doris Wilson.

Visiting Committee—Miss M. Z. Bennett, Mrs. Richardson, Miss Doris Lambert.  
Curtain Monitors—Miss Helen Simpson, Mrs. J. K. Gardiner.  
Plans were made for holding a bazaar and tea in October.

**FRIENDS GATHER AT BIRTHDAY PARTY OF ELDERLY COUPLE**  
The family of Mr. and Mrs. D. MacArthur entertained a few neighbors and friends at a party for them the other evening when they were celebrating their birthdays. Mrs. MacArthur is 85 and Mr. MacArthur is 85 years old. The evening was spent in playing euchre, after which a dainty lunch was served by the hostess, Mrs. C. MacArthur and her assistants. Many friends join with the family in wishing this fine old couple the best of health and many more birthdays together.

## More Than The Old Gray Mare

Ain't What She Used To Be

Looking back over the fall fairs of say forty years ago one can recall many changes in the fair of those days compared to the present day fairs. Of course newcomers to Acton may say Acton Fair is only thirty years old, how can you talk about the fairs of forty years or more ago.

Well, before Acton had an independent fair the Existing Agricultural Society held its annual fair two years in Acton and then for two years in Georgetown. Thirty years ago the membership at an annual meeting held in Georgetown decided it should be held in Georgetown every year. Well, to make a long story short, it is and there is also a fair held in Acton every year too. If you want the gossamer details of the story ask Mr. C. Woodruff same day. I think he is about the only original director of the first Acton Fair who attended that meeting in Georgetown and is still a director of Acton Fair to-day. But we won't relish any more details because after all there's a war still on in Europe.

But that wasn't the subject that I started on anyway. When I saw a War Exhibition advertised for the various midways this year I recalled Mr. C. Woodruff same day. I think he is about the only original director of the first Acton Fair who attended that meeting in Georgetown and is still a director of Acton Fair to-day. But we won't relish any more details because after all there's a war still on in Europe.

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Then there were the penny slot machines of the days when you dropped the coin in the box, glued your eyes to the eyepights and turned a handle and saw pictures that really moved—while you kept the handle turning. Sometimes very bold pictures too. They have them yet at Sunnyside Beach and some of the pictures have never been changed in the whole forty years—but then what can you expect for a cent.

But the midways have changed. You'll all remember when there were halton men and humans men and at the park entrance a regular line of trucks and wagons with peaches, pears, grapes and other fruit. Why nany a housewife never thought of buying her peaches or pears for canning until fall fair day. There wasn't a fruit truck at Acton or any other fair we attended this year, and the housewife who waited for that event just won't have any peach preserves this year—and certainly no fair bargain.

Maybe some of you will recall when the piano and sewing machine displays at the fair were the centre of attraction. The sewing machines used to run nice frilly edges of cloth around cardboard fans and the man at the piano would play request numbers such as "Comin' Thro' the Rye," or anything that showed up the exquisite tone of the instrument. They kept the hall a lively spot all day of the fair with their selections.

Farmers' wives used to compete in those days for the best buttermilk and in the poultry classes for the best cooks. Some of you folks will remember those live-lb. rocks of dairy butter and the ton-lb. rocks and the rolls and patties that used to go on display. Wouldn't have been safe this year to put such items before the public. And of course there were pickles and preserves. But, oh pawaw, let's speed the victory and maybe they'll be back again with the bananas, etc.

The other week a reader loaned me a program of a concert given in the Town Hall here on December 2nd 1887—that's just 56 years ago—by the Lorne Musical and Literary Society. It was apparently a top talent event with artists from Stratford, Guelph and Rockwood assisting on the program. I wasn't at the concert but here are some of the local artists. The orchestra had Miss Swan and Messrs. Stark, Hill, Brown and Lawson. The quartette were Messrs. Gibbons, Miss Lawson and Falkner, and Miss McLean and Mr. Hill gave a violin duet.

The concert numbers were "The Minute Gun at Sea," and "The Silvery Sea." Comic selections by Mr. Gallagher from Guelph were "McSweeney's Silver Wedding" and "Matters that Make Me Tired." The program was divided into two parts with ten numbers in each part and the admission price was 15c. The chairman was Rev. Mr. Rae. Incidentally the closing number was "God Save the Queen."

I certainly enjoyed looking over that program even if the event was before my time. I know many of my readers will recall some of these concerts and certainly some of the local talent and perhaps this concert in particular.

—By G. A. D.

## Milton Fair on Saturday Was Outstanding Success

Favored with an ideal autumn day and backed by the reputation for being among the leading agricultural fairs the Milton Fair on Saturday drew a fine crowd and an exceptionally fine showing of stock.

The exhibit of cattle, both in the Holstein and Jersey and in the beef breeds was one of the best. In the horse rings both light and heavy classes had fine exhibits. The poultry show was up to its usual high standard and there was a good showing of sheep and hogs. Like all halls the exhibit was most at large this year as has been seen many times.

The midway with the merry-go-round had a crowd all afternoon and a feature which drew much favorable comment not only from visitors but from Miltonians as well was the appearance on the grounds and the fine program supplied by the Lorne Scots Band. The Baby Show with over forty entries was an event that evoked much interest. The trotting races and the potato race were features that drew the crowd to the track. From the standpoint of attendance exhibits and general interest the fair was again a most successful one.

## UNITED CHURCH HERE MARKS ANNIVERSARY ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3rd

The nineteenth anniversary since the consecration of church union here on Sunday, the visiting preacher will be Rev. J. H. Moore, B. A., of Milton. The choir is also arranging a special service of song for this occasion and Pte. Ivan Chalmers, of St. Thomas will be the guest soloist. The services will be held at the usual hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

## PRETTY SEPTEMBER WEDDING SATURDAY AT ERIN TOWNSHIP HOME

A very pretty wedding was solemnized on Saturday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse McEnery, Sixth Line, Erin, when his sister, Alma Agnes, younger daughter of Mr. McEnery, Georgetown, and the late Wm. McEnery, was united in marriage to Mr. Norman Sinclair, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Sinclair, Glen Williams. The ceremony was performed by Rev. A. O. W. Foreman, before a setting of pink and white streamers and autumn flowers.

The bride, given in marriage by her only brother, Mr. Jesse McEnery, looked lovely in her wedding gown of white embossed satin, with short train, log o' mutton sleeves and sweetheart neckline. Her finger-tip veil was caught to her head by a halo of net and lace, and she carried a nosegay of red roses, white gladioli and gerbera.

The bride was attended by her only sister, Mrs. Stanley Sinclair, as matron of honor and her niece, little Miss Beth McEnery, as flower girl. The matron of honor wore a floor length gown of blue chiffon, with lace yoke and bishop sleeves. She wore blue flowers on her hair and carried a nosegay of pink roses and white gladioli.

The groom was attended by Mr. Ross Huxley of Hillsburg. During the signing of the register, Miss Joanna Shortall, cousin of the bride sang "O Perfect Love." Mrs. Annie Vanmatter supplied the wedding music.

After a reception for about fifty guests, the bride and groom left by motor for a trip through Muskoka. The bride travelled in a moss green two-piece wool dress with hat, to match and green tweed box coat with black accessories.

## ACTON BOWLERS BRING HOME TROPHY FROM MILTON GROUP

Last Friday a team of Acton Bowlers played in Milton for the Sheffield Trophy and brought home the silverware with a one point victory over the Milton quartette. The score was 36 to 35. Now the Milton bowlers will have to come to Acton to take back the challenging cup.

The Acton team were A. Buchanan, D. Richardson, A. Ralph and J. Greer. The Milton team was G. Dawson, F. Robinson, M. Telfer and J. Blaine.

—By G. A. D.

## THIS WEEK

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BY JOHN C. SCOTT  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

**TORONTO (CP)**—The annual winter weather prognostication series has opened and one of the first of the season comes from Bronte, where Naturalist Herbert Ingelhart says he is "looking for a mild winter."

Mr. Ingelhart bases his prediction on a survey he made of all field and woodlot signs—signs which, he says, show that nature has made little provision this fall for wild life.

"And nature always takes good care of her wild things when they need to be cared for," he said. "Nuts are scarce for squirrels and grass is sparse for deer."

He added that corn husks are thin this year, indicating a mild winter. Last year they were thick and plump and, well you remember last winter. So perhaps the fuel shortage will not be felt as acutely as expected.

Victory gardens in urban areas have a rival—backyard chicken coops. It is estimated that sales of baby chicks from hatcheries to owners of "backyard chicken farms" increased by 20 per cent. during the last year. Bradford hatcheries, especially, appear to have benefitted by the sudden yen of urban dwellers to raise chickens, one farm reporting it sold 125,000 more chicks this year than last and another stating its business was up 50 per cent. Many chicks were sold before the eggs went into incubation—counted before they were hatched.

It looks like a race between Victory gardens and Victory coops for popular support if the chick-raising craze keeps up.

While production of chickens appears to be on the up grade, turkey production seems to be falling off. From various turkey raising districts in the province comes word that fox raids and some scarcity of feed has affected adversely the supply of turkeys which will be available for Thanksgiving Day, October 11th.

C. M. Harvey, poultry field man for the provincial agriculture's marketing service, said all districts have valted recently completed lots of turkeys through marketing boxes. One turkey-raiser in Schomberg reported the most serious loss; more than 60 of his birds being killed in one night.

In the provincial stove, Premier Drew kept the pot simmering by his radio announcement that his Progressive Conservative government will introduce legislation "just as we would have done if we possessed a very large majority."

"We are quite prepared to face the consequences of standing by what we said we would do," he said. Premier Drew disclosed that Norman Urquhart of Toronto had been appointed chairman of a committee to investigate the mining industry. An inquiry into labor relations also would be instituted, but it was impossible to say whether the Dominion is or is not going to occupy the whole field of labor relations for the war."

**PRIZE WINNERS ON ACTON FAIR SPECIAL**  
Secretary C. B. Swackhamer of Acton Fall Fair has received this week the results of the judging for bacon hogs entered in the T. Eaton Co. special. Fred Coles won first prize, with S. Elliott second, R. N. Brown third and G. Robertson fourth.

**Coming Events**  
Announcements of Meetings, Cup contests or Other Events, under this heading, are charged, to cents per line, with a minimum charge for any announcement of 35c.

Dance Brookville Hall, October 4th sponsored by Women's Institute. At Watson's Orchestra.

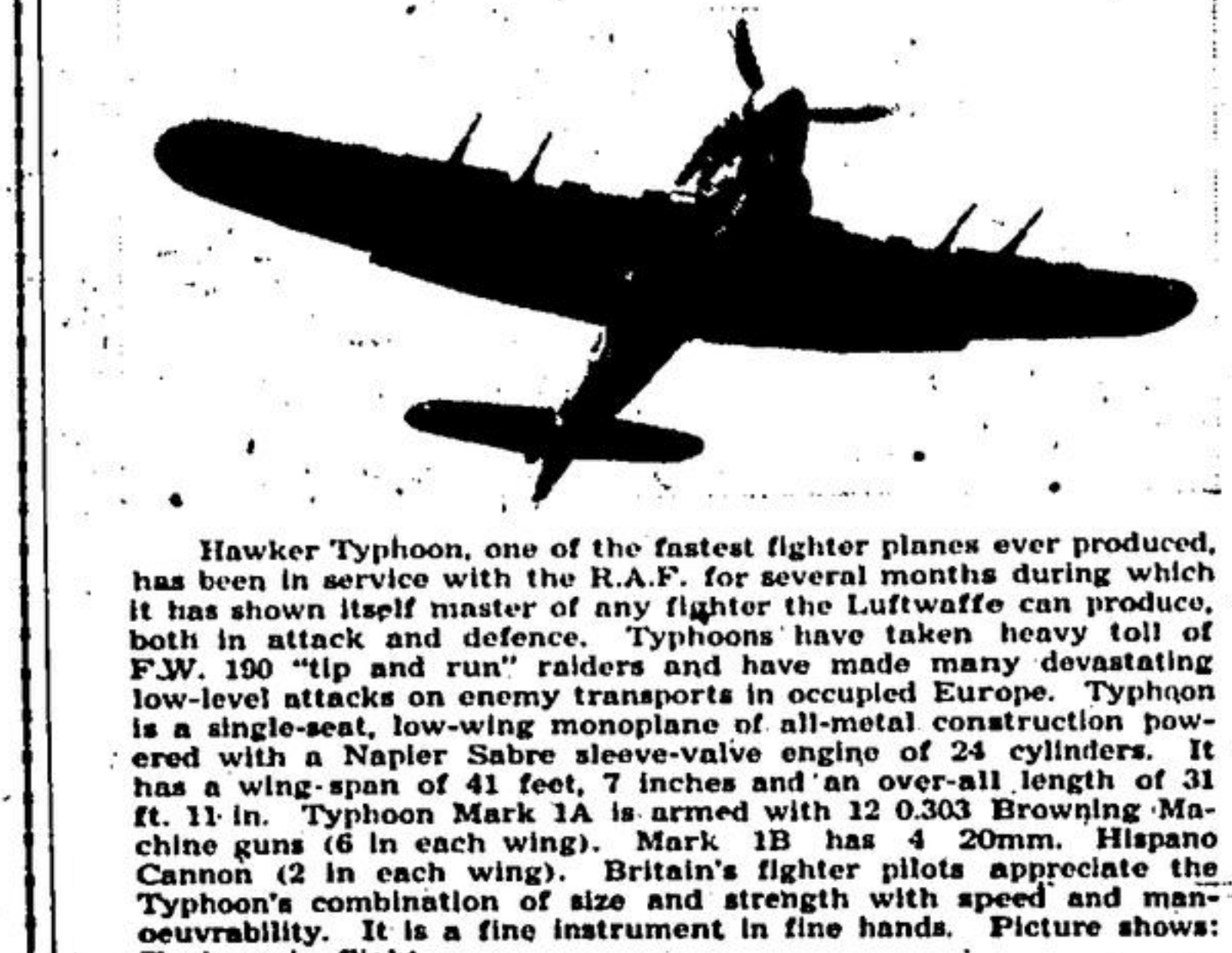
Concert by Acton Boys' Band in Town Hall, Acton, Wednesday, October 6th. For particulars see Ho Posters.

Harvey Fisher and his orchestra will hold a dance in Stanley Park, Erin, on Monday, October 4th. Proceeds for war work. Draw on quilt. Admission 35c.

Don't forget the Acton and District War Service League Community Auction Sale in the Town Hall, Acton, on Thursday, October 14, Watch for the canvassers in your district.

Red Cross Concert in Greenock School, Friday, October 8, at 8:30 p.m. Illustrated lecture and musical entertainment. Lucky draw for quilt. Proceeds for war work and soldier's boxes. Admission 25c. Pie and coffee.

## Typhoon--The R.A.F.'s New Demon Fighter



Hawker Typhoon, one of the fastest fighter planes ever produced, has been in service with the R.A.F. for several months during which it has shown itself master of any fighter the Luftwaffe can produce, both in attack and defence. Typhoons have taken heavy toll of F.W. 190 "tip and run" raiders and have made many devastating low-level attacks on enemy transports in occupied Europe. Typhoon is a single-seat, low-wing monoplane of all-metal construction powered with a Napier Sabre sleeve-valve engine of 24 cylinders. It has a wing-span of 41 feet, 7 inches and an over-all length of 31 ft. 11 in. Typhoon Mark 1A is armed with 12 0.303 Browning machine guns (6 in each wing). Mark 1B has 4 20mm Hispano Cannon (2 in each wing). Britain's fighter pilots appreciate the Typhoon's combination of size and strength with speed and manoeuvrability. It is a fine instrument in fine hands. Picture shows: Typhoon in flight.