

THE CHRISTMASTIDE VISITORS

Many Came to Acton to Spend the Holiday and Numbers of Actonians Visited at Other Centres

AC2 Samuel Brunelle is home on leave. AC2 Bill Kanis was home on furlough. F/O Joe Hurst was home on Christmas leave. Mrs. B. G. Arnold spent Christmas in Toronto. AC2 Roy Lambert spent Christmas at his home. LAC Hector Lambert was home over the holiday. Mrs. E. Huffman spent Christmas in Hamilton. Pte. Bus. Morton spent Christmas at his home here. Miss Etta Dills is visiting in Toronto this week. Sgt. Don Ryder of Deseronto was home for Christmas. Lt. Jack Graham of Kingston was home for Christmas. Mrs. R. M. McDonald is visiting in London and Detroit. Cpl. Geoffrey Boulton of Jarvis was home for Christmas. Cnr. B. D. Grischow, of Barriefield, was home for Christmas. Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Sly spent the holiday in Toronto. Miss Jean Beattie of Peterborough is home for the holidays. Miss Helen Mainprize of Fergus was home for Christmas. Christina Nicol, R. C. A. F., (W. D.) was home from Toronto. Seaman Bev. Arnold of Toronto was home over the week-end. WREN Helen Lamb was home from camp at St. Hyacinth, Que. LAC Ed. Hufnagel of Hagersville, was home over the holidays. Sgt. Harvey Hassard, of Hamilton, was home on leave last week. Miss Margaret Garvin visited in Toronto over the week-end. AC2 Don Ross of Regina, Alberta, was home over Christmas. Mr. Harold Kennedy was home from Detroit for Christmas. Miss Pearl Wallace of Toronto spent Christmas at her home. Miss Urana MacDonald was home from Toronto for the holiday. Miss Ethel Pargeter of Toronto spent Christmas at her home. Sgt. and Mrs. A. Lehmann spent the week-end at his home here. Mrs. D. Gibben of Sundridge is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. G. Mason. Seaman Ken Hassard of S.S. York Toronto was home for Christmas. Cpl. Jack Skilling, C.D.C., St. Thomas, was home for Christmas. Merle Overholt is spending a week with her cousin, Virena Johnstone. Miss Mamie Mainprize of Toronto is home for the Christmas vacation. Mr. John L. Mann of Grand Lake, Nova Scotia, is home for the holidays. Mr. George Jiggins of Aurora visited his parents here over the holiday. Mrs. George Mason is in Sundridge attending the wedding of her brother. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Symon of Toronto spent Christmas at his home here. Miss Mildred Hollinger of Toronto is spending the holiday at her home here. AC2 G. W. McKenzie was home from Hamilton over the Christmas holiday. Mrs. Caldwell had the pleasure of having all her family home for Christmas. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Little spent a recent week-end with relatives in Brantford. Miss Ruby and Mr. Boyd Clarke of Toronto, spent Christmas at their home here. Sgt. Jack Hollinger of Mountain View spent Christmas leave at his home here. AC2 Bill Wilson of Manning Depot of Toronto, spent Christmas at his home here. Miss Margaret Macdonald is spending the Christmas vacation at her home here. Mrs. H. Bolton and Miss Rita Bolton of Guelph were visitors in town on Monday. Brian Redfern of Brantford, who is now in uniform, spent a few days here last week. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Heveran, of Glenview, Ill., visited friends in Acton this week. Mr. and Mrs. Ewart Gay and Allan of Toronto visited with Mr. John Roganvaldson this week. LAC Joe Lasby of No. 3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Manitoba, was home for Christmas. Mr. Robert Kay of Toronto and Mr. Elgin Crispin of Brantford were home for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Brignall and Robert; Mr. and Mrs. Harold M. Reed and Wallace of Toronto spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. James Reed.

Cpl. Ivan G. Chalmers of London, and Mr. Lowrie Chalmers of Toronto were holiday visitors at the home of their sister, Mrs. A. W. Fosbury.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Coy and Sandra, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gordon and Nancy, Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Sutcliffe, Shirley and Bill, of Detroit; Miss Grace Lantz, of Guelph; Mrs. Wm. Sutcliffe, Chesley; A. C. I. Stuart Lantz, Dunnville, were home for Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Lantz.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Lindsay, Acton, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Madill, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Bennett, Mr. D. Cook, and Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Lindsay, Acton; Mrs. E. Price, Betty and Bill, of Campbellville, Mr. T. Kennedy, Campbellville, and Mr. E. Williams, Kitchener were guests at Christmas with Mrs. C. Miller in Guelph.

Visitors with Mr. and Mrs. T. Watson at Christmas and week-end were, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Watson of Grand Valley; Mrs. Herb Barber and Mr. Barber, R. C. N. V. R., Ottawa, and Pilot Officer Wm. D. Watson; Mr. and Mrs. Grant MacDonald and Miss Ruth of Creemore and Lieut. Allan G. MacDonald and Miss Mae McCarroll of Toronto.

LAW Kathleen Swackhamer of Jarvis spent her Christmas leave with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Swackhamer.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Symon and Mrs. Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Noble visited Mrs. J. Symon on Christmas Day.

Dr. and Mrs. Geo. Sharpe and family of Milverton spent the week-end with Dr. and Mrs. F. G. Oakes.

Mrs. J. R. Kennedy and Miss M. E. Nelson are visiting this week with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Russell, Unionville.

Miss Muriel Green of Hamilton is spending the Christmas holidays at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wes. Allen.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris. Swackhamer and Jimmie spent Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Swackhamer.

Mrs. Sibbett, Mary, Bill and Helen of Toronto spent Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. McDonald.

District Commission W. Geo. Mason was in Toronto this week attending a conference of the Boy Scout Leaders.

Master Walter Swanson, of Eramosa is spending a few days with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. O. Oakes.

Mr. and Mrs. A. McKinnon of Bracebridge are visiting this week at the home of their son, Mr. Ken McKinnon.

Master Leo McCristall is spending the Christmas holidays at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kelly.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon MackKay and Ronnie of Toronto, spent Wednesday with the grandmother, Mrs. R. H. Wansbrough.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bell and Wilma, of Toronto, spent the Christmas holidays at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Masalos.

Mrs. N. F. Moore spent Christmas with her family at the home of her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Wheeler, Orton.

Pte. Elwood Allen has returned to camp at Hamilton after spending five days leave for Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wes. Allen.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. O. Oakes and Dr. and Mrs. F. G. Oakes and family spent Christmas with Mrs. R. B. Froure at College Heights, Guelph.

Mr. W. G. Anderson, Mr. T. R. McDonald, Miss Ruby McDonald, Miss Agnes McIntyre of Toronto, spent Christmas at the home of Mrs. Everdell.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. McCristall and family; Pte. Anne Kelly of Newmarket spent Christmas at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kelly.

Miss Annie Wiggins of Hamilton, Vivian of Dundas and Jean of Toronto and Mr. Andrew Wiggins of Pickering spent the holidays with Mr. S. Wiggins.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gowdy and Miss Nettie Gowdy of Guelph, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Gowdy and Bruce of Toronto, spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gowdy.

Weekly War Commentary

By FRANK LOWE Canadian Press Staff Writer

Implications and inferences are not blueprints, but enough of these vague harbingers of action have come out recently to make it seem a certainty that this spring will see the long-awaited second front opened, tied together too nicely to be merely coincidental.

These guesses of big things to come began, of course, with the Teheran and Cairo conferences. In other meetings between Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt' auxiliary actions had resulted—the North Africa campaign, the Mediterranean push and others—so it was logical to presume that the plans were made for the final concentrated push against Germany.

Too, for the first time Premier Stalin attended a conference, and there is little doubt that he put up a strong case in favor of a second front. In fact, backed by a resurgent and victory bent Russia and bolstered by the knowledge that to date he has headed the bigger part of the fight, he could almost have demanded such action.

With this to go on, other signs sprang up—all pointing to a cross channel jump.

For instance, the old question of who would be supreme Allied commander for the big push reappeared. Only this time it wasn't just mulling the over—behind the stories speculated on the chances of Generals Marshall, Eisenhower and Alexander for the post was the feeling that the offensive was ready to roll. All that was needed, it seemed, was the working out of the last few details.

Too, there were stories, published in the United States and Canada but suppressed in Britain, of railroad traffic in the British Isles being tied up because rail lines were busy hauling "millions" of United States soldiers and supplies. Also in Britain areas from which an invasion would have to be launched were suddenly brought under military control, whole families and villages being evacuated, for "military practices."

Other signs also added up—like the unprecedented drubbing the French coast is receiving.

And from Washington has come the warning, issued by a source that is official but unnameable, that in the next 90 days great casualties may be expected by the Allies. The next three months will see spring here—and a push across the channel into France would certainly cause great casualties.

And, in connection with the drubbing the French coast is getting, reports come of British and American bombing attacks on "mysterious" targets in the Pas de Calais area—now termed the "rocket gun coast."

This came from the belief that the area harbors installations of the vaunted new German "secret weapon."

Nothing official is known but the London press, on the basis of neutral reports that the Germans were installing rocket guns in Axis territory close to England, informally named the area after the high powered rocket gun it is said to be sheltered for an assault on Britain.

Even so, the air attacks on the French coast must be destroying a lot of German installations which would greatly interfere with any Allied cross channel attempt.

The Nazis have threatened retaliation following Russia's famous Kharkov trial which resulted in the execution of three Germans and a Russian traitor after a trial on charges of committing atrocities.

But it appears the Nazis are going to take it out on British and American airmen in German prisoner-of-war camps. Evidently they have so ill-treated Russian prisoners of war that they find it necessary to turn to new fields for their illegal and atrocious actions.

In announcing the Nazi intentions, the German radio said that British and American airmen held as prisoners in Germany would be put on trial as "war criminals."

The German commentator—heard by the United States Federal Communications Commission—said that Germany would reply to what he termed Russia's "mock trial" at Kharkov and indicated that the primary Nazi objective was to mitigate Allied air raids on the Reich. The Germans appear to be intent on following the pattern of the Japanese who executed some of the American fliers who participated in the famous raid on Tokyo.

In the broadcast, directed to the British Isles, the German commentator—Edward Roderick Duetz—said:

"Coolly and objectively German judges will examine witnesses, both British and American pilots and mothers and children of Hamburg. In public trials the British and American pilots will be able to state what their orders were and in what manner they carried them out."

Such a statement makes one wonder if the mothers and children of Ham-

burg are any different from the mothers and children of Coventry, Warsaw, London and Stalingrad—to name a few spots where German airmen showed such disregard for purely military objectives. And, remember how the French peasants, fleeing before the 1940 Nazi attack on the homeland, were shot down by low-flying German airmen. Of course these poor peasants were definitely "military objectives"—their bodies and possessions cluttered the roads and impeded the movement of Allied troops to the front.

This was all just fun of course and the Nazis, evidently, just can't see any reason why objection should be taken to their own frightfulness.

The Nazis didn't need any so-called secret weapons, or trials of prisoners of-war when things were going right for them, so these latest developments in the Hitlerland suggest only one thing—the Germans may be cracking in the face of adversity.

On the world's major land fronts things appeared to be going well for the Allies this week, the Germans finally conceding Ortona, Adriatic port of 9,000 inhabitants, in the face of attacks by tenacious infantry from western Canada supported by tanks.

The Canadians first forced their way into Ortona, northern anchor of the German winter line in Italy, Dec. 20 and since then have pushed the stubbornly-resisting Nazis out of the town street by street and house by house.

Ortona is still 11 miles southwest of the important British 8th army objective of Pesera, whence a major highway runs across Italy to Rome.

And the 1st Russian army of the Ukraine was on the move again after having battled stubbornly for several months against massive Nazi tank attacks aimed at the important Ukraine base of Kiev. In a widening offensive General Nikolai Vatutin's forces reached ground which the Nazis had held since early in the war. They were sweeping toward Berdichev, a major German base on a railway which feeds huge German forces in the Dnieper bend from supply bases in Poland.

Aside from Ortona, Canadian interest centred on the extended leave of absence granted Lt.-Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Canada's No. 1 soldier since the start of the war. Gen. McNaughton left his post of overseas army commander and a general shifting of command in high Canadian army posts began to take shape.

Gen. McNaughton's leave was announced by Defence Minister Halston two days after the latter's return to Ottawa from an extended visit to Canadian troops overseas, and Prime Minister Mackenzie King issued a statement expressing regret that the soldier-scientist's health made it impossible for him to carry on.

Lt.-Gen. Kenneth Stewart, chief of the general staff at Ottawa, has been named temporary 1st army commander, and has been appointed permanently to the new post of chief of staff military headquarters in London. At the same time it was revealed that Maj.-Gen. H. D. G. Crerar is commander of the recently-formed Canadian corps in the Mediterranean, and Canadian Press Correspondent Ross Munro reported from London that Gen. Crerar was the likely choice to succeed Gen. McNaughton.

At a press conference the defence minister said arrangements were being made for the 1st Canadian Army to function as a distinct army in future operations. It probably would act as one of the British group of armies under Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery who would lead the British under Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower just named as Allied supreme commander in Europe.

Meanwhile, the British navy's campaign to destroy the last effective strength of the German fleet is in full stride.

Following the sinking of the Nazi battleship Scharnhorst in the Arctic last week-end, a mid-week joint communiqué from the Admiralty and Air Ministry told of the sinking of three destroyers and the crippling of others in southern waters off the coast of France. An Axis blockade runner was sent to the bottom in the same area by coastal command planes.

The latest losses brought to at least 42 the number of German destroyers and torpedo boats known sunk since the start of the war. This total is exclusive of ships known to have been hit and probably lost. Sinking of the Scharnhorst dealt a crippling if not a mortal wound to German capital ship power.

SUGGESTS AIR TRIPS AT 12 CENTS A MILE

LIVERPOOL, (CP)—F. W. Faroy Jones, pioneer of Britain's civil aviation, said secondary education for children in the post war world, "must envisage air trips to the Dominions and Colonies on a principle of holiday exchange, followed by at least one trip round the world."

"Why cannot we plan our air transport programs on a charge of sixpence a mile to anywhere in the Empire and half-price to children?" he asked in an address.

LONDON—The out-pour of brown bolt polish in Great Britain is the same as before the war, but hard for civilians to get, as the women of the A.T.S. and officers of the Canadian, American and British Services get priority.

Coal For the Poultry Brooders

In view of the special requirements of the poultry raising industry, the Coal Controller has made arrangements to import from the United States an additional quantity of anthracite coal for use exclusively in poultry brooders and hatcheries in those districts which customarily use anthracite coal. To obtain the coal for use in brooders and hatcheries, a form supplied by coal dealers must be filled out. The dealer is not permitted to deliver any quantity of anthracite greater than the quantity, which, added to the quantity on hand, will provide a poultryman with a 90-days supply of coal for use in brooders and hatcheries.

HANDSOME TOWNS

Handsome towns draw in new people for work and business. Industrious and prosperous folks like to settle in such a place, for they feel the work and business chances will be good, and there will be good opportunities and advantages for themselves and their children. It is a fine thing for a town to have beautiful and artistic homes and impressive business buildings, all which show prosperity. But a town may be made up mainly of simple business places and homes, and yet be handsome, because the people take good care of their dwellings and business centre. The smallest and simplest home can be handsome, if it is kept neat and in good repair, and beautified in summer with nicely kept grass and flowers and shrubbery.

J. Cadesky OPTOMETRIST WILL BE IN ACTON ON Monday, January 3rd Anyone suffering from Eye-strain, Defective Vision or Head-ache should not miss the opportunity of consulting this eye-sight specialist. Appointments may be made with Mr. A. T. Brown, Druggist. Office Hours: 10:30 a.m. till 6:45 p.m. (D.S.T.)

Season's Greetings May this holiday season bring happiness to all your homes. We thank all for past kindnesses and for the future pledge to continue to serve you in the best possible way. A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL F. L. Wright GENERAL INSURANCE and REALTOR

Thanks for 1943 Best Wishes for 1944 Your Friendships and loyalty have been Appreciated during the Past. To One and All we extend Our Best Wishes for a Full Measure of All the Good Things of Life in the New Year. LOVELL BROS. MILL STREET ACTON, ONTARIO

ADMIRAL HAROLD STARK Commander United States Naval Forces in Europe, giving a talk on Nelson at the British Broadcasting Corporation microphone. Sixty-two years old, genial and quiet-spoken, Admiral Stark has had an extensive experience at sea. The citation for his Distinguished Service Medal, won in the last war, noted his "efficient leadership in command of a Squadron of small and old destroyers hurriedly fitted out in the Philippines, and dispatched to the Mediterranean at a season when the south-west monsoon was at its height." He is of the firm opinion that Britain and the U.S.A. must work together to safeguard peace after the war.

FIND BIG DIAMOND IN SIERRA LEONE LONDON (CP)—The Imperial Institute has disclosed that the biggest diamond ever found in the colonial empire has been discovered in Sierra Leone. The stone, probably the eighth largest in the world weighs about 530 carats. No name has yet been given to the stone by Sierra Leone Selection Trust, Limited, from whose works it was taken.

Happiness in Spirit and Success to all Your Efforts for the New Year and the Years to Come MacDonald's Bakery

New Year's Eve Frolic RYAN AUDITORIUM GUELPH Dancing FROM 10 TO 3 O'CLOCK Dance the Old Year Out and the New Year in to the Captivating Rhythm of BILL HARRIS AND HIS ORCHESTRA Ladies \$1.25 - Gentlemen \$1.50 FAVORS GIVEN

GREGORY THEATRE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 "DUBARRY WAS A LADY" In Technicolor with Red Skelton, Lucille Ball, Disney "Der Fuehrer's Face", Sport "Mer-melons on Parade", Chapter 8 "Overland Mail." MIDNIGHT SHOW New Year's Eve at 12 o'clock "SON OF FURY" Tyrone, Power, Gene Tierney, George Sanders, Band, "Glen Gray and Band." Cartoon "Hop Skip and Champ." SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 Matinee at 3:00 "WRECKING CREW" Chester Morris, Arleen Judge. "THUMBS UP" Brenda Joyce, Richard Travis. "Fox News." MONDAY, JANUARY 3 "TRUE TO LIFE" Mary Martin, Franchoe Tone. World in Action "Yankee Doodle Swing Shift."