

With Our Weekly Newspaper Representatives Overseas

By Messrs. R. F. MacLean and C. J. Allen, Official Delegates of the C. W. N. A. with the Canadian Press Party who toured the United Kingdom

WEEK-END WITH CANADIAN BOMBER GROUP

The first station of the RCAF group we visited was a permanent station. It was built before the war and built as a permanent station of the RCAF. Consequently it is well built. The buildings are well constructed and comfortable. The quarters are good and there is central heating.

After we had seen the boys come back to this station from the Leipzig raid we had breakfast and left in our cars for a "dispenser" or "base" station. Here life was different.

These stations are temporary ones and the buildings are more shabby than do little more than keep out the rain. There was plenty of mud around and the buildings are scattered over a large area. The mess hall is frequently a mile from the living quarters. At one station, it was said, the conditions were so bad, that the W/D's had to be removed from that station.

The station commander made no bones about the fact that we would see little "spit and polish" there. He frankly said that "smartness" just could not be maintained under the conditions in which they lived. He did say, though, that the very hardships themselves made a much better spirit among the station personnel and many of the men preferred to live on dispersed stations. I wonder.

It was at this station that we saw the groundcrew at work. And in the words of the station commander, "They deserve a helluva lot more credit than they get." Practically all the work on the planes is done outside. A bomber never goes into a hangar unless it needs major repairs. The day we were there was raw and cold with a piercing wind blowing. But work was proceeding. Motors were being tuned; flak rips patched; adjustments made; bombs being loaded for that night's trip against Stuttgart.

We talked to several of the groundcrew and asked them about the cold. They said: "Oh, you get used to it."

We had a detailed inspection of one of the new Halifaxes. The aircrew was there to explain the thousand and one gadgets to us. It was an interesting hour.

We had lunch there and, like all meals at service stations, it was a good one, but it was cold. I mean the temperature of the dining-rooms and not the meal. The mess was cold and the dining-room. Thanks, I had no desire to live in that temperature.

Later we inspected the station and on one occasion I was burned up. In the sergeant pilot's mess a score of chaps were huddled around two little stoves. As you walked across the room your breath almost became a solid mass in the air. It was so cold. And yet we opened one door and the next room was so hot that one could hardly breathe. It was here that the men's flying suits were being dried out. Great care is taken to see that all clothes worn by the men when they start on a trip are thoroughly dry. That is understandable, but, I wonder, why could not just one pipe be run through the wall and that would be sufficient to raise the temperature of the messroom at least above the freezing point. It seems to me that something should be done.

Late in the afternoon we left this station and went to Group Headquarters to have tea there. The drive again through attractive English countryside—the type of country I had always pictured as "English."

Group Headquarters is situated on an old estate. We were told that the estate is enclosed by a brick wall 30 miles long. That may or may not be, but certainly we saw about eight miles of it!

It seems that the chapple who owns the estate was far from happy about it being taken over by the services. In fact he refused to get out and was inclined to be a bit nasty. He lives in a house on the estate and is so happy about the whole thing that he objects to the W/D's strolling down to his duck pond to watch the ducks swim around. Or so they told us.

Tea there, and a most interesting hour in the group control room where the whole plan of the coming raid on Stuttgart was given us in detail. Then back through the early evening darkness to our base station for another evening in the mess with the chaps who were visiting Germany again that night.

None of our party had any desire to see the men return from their trip the next morning and so we called that off. We left the station as the planes were circling the field preparing to land. We each of us were wondering as we drove away how many would be missing when the final tally was made an hour or so later, but we were subsequently advised that "all our friends returned safely."

The record of the Canadian Bom-

ber Group is impressive. During 1943 the group dropped over 13,000 tons of bombs on enemy targets, taking part in almost all major attacks during the year. In the "Battle of Berlin" which started on November 18th, 1943 Canadian bombers have taken part in every major assault on that city. This important phase of the war which is causing such havoc has, however, been costly. Canadians have lost 64 bombers, which represents a loss of 438 personnel, killed, missing or prisoners of war.

Considered from any angle the contribution of Canadian Bomber Group is great. At the present time one in every six bombers in major night attacks against the enemy is Canadian. It is expected that in the near future this creditable showing will become even greater with one in every five being Canadian. To this must be added, of course, the great number of Canadian personnel in the RCAF and RCAF who serve with the RAF bomber groups based in Britain. In addition one of the top "Pathfinder" squadrons, serving with an RAF group is Canadian.

Canadians serving on bombers are either attached to the RAF or to the RCAF. The former are based at practically every RAF bomber station in Britain and serve on mixed crews, often composed of Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans, Rhodesians and, of course, English. Some crews are almost wholly composed of Canadians while others have only one Canadian on an otherwise all-English crew. Those who serve with RCAF bomber squadrons serve with all-Canadian crews under the command of the Canadian bomber group.

The aircraft now being used by RCAF bomber squadrons are Lancasters and Halifaxes; both four-engine aircraft of proven efficiency.

The Week at OTTAWA

BY DOUGLAS GREEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—Before parliament as highlights of the 1944-45 budget presented to the House of Commons Monday night are the elimination of compulsory savings on personal income, removal of all duties on farm machinery and revision of excess profit taxation to encourage post-war development.

It was the first war budget that has been free of tax increases. Customs tariff changes and removal of the 10 per cent war exchange tax from farm implements are effective immediately. The suspension of compulsory savings becomes effective July 1 and the removal of import prohibitions under the War Exchange Conservation Act becomes effective August 1.

Mr. Mackenzie King in his budget address estimated that the government's total revenue for the fiscal year would reach a record of \$2,000,000,000—an increase of \$300,000,000 from the previous year. Added to this increase was the loss of some \$20,000,000 from compulsory savings but he expressed confidence that voluntary savings through purchase of Victory bonds and war savings certificates would make up the difference.

In connection with the removal of duties from farm implements, Mr. Mackenzie said the time had not yet come when Canada could present comprehensive tariff changes but the government wished to indicate the direction in which it was faced and to give agriculture some assurance of the condition it might experience in the post-war period.

If Canadian agriculture were to take full advantage of important opportunities in the post-war period its

costs of production should be at the lowest practical level.

Attention given by members of the House of Commons to the proposal to establish a federal department of reconstruction—outlined in a bill which has been passed through the second reading in committee—is an indication of the complexities involved in the setting up of the new department.

Other than the announcement that one of the ministers now in the cabinet would hold the reconstruction portfolio, there has been no indication as yet of the appointee's identity, though Ministers Mackenzie King, Brooke Claxton, and James Mackenzie King, said during the debate that Canadians could look forward to the maintenance of full employment after the war because of the development of her productive capacity, resources and skills during the war years.

He added, however, that it would take more than a "single over-all plan" to bring about full employment and that a "multitude of plans" would in fact be necessary.

The government's post-war reconstruction plan was to broaden markets for Canadian goods and increase consuming power and of this plan the social security program was a part. Mr. Claxton termed the family allowance bill "a great step forward in the equalization and fair distribution of income."

Outlines Maritime Needs
Members from various provinces are expected as debate continues to set forth what they consider the post-war needs of their localities. Col. J. Hanks, Progressive Conservative, has already mentioned the needs of farmers in the Maritime provinces, the necessity for the development of hydro-electric power resources and measures to assist Maritime fishermen to enlarge the market for their catches.

The view that financial considerations should not be allowed to restrict the work of post-war reconstruction

was put forward last week by Victor Quitch, Social Credit member for Acadia.

The suggestion of J. W. Newsworthy, C. C. F. member for York South, that the government grant \$5,000,000 to universities to enable them to reduce student fees and put their financial affairs in order as a part of the reconstruction program had directed attention to the estimate made by Dr. G. M. Weir, acting director of research for the Pension Department that between 30,000 and 50,000 personnel now in the forces would return to university after the war.

Pension Minister Mackenzie said in an interview that Dr. Weir had completed a survey of existing educational facilities, and that officials of the pension department were confident that Canadian universities and colleges would be able to accommodate service personnel returning to their studies after discharge.

Mr. Mackenzie said Dr. Weir had estimated that the "peak load" on universities probably would occur about two years after the war, and that this load would gradually ease and probably disappear in about four or five years.

Mr. Newsworthy said adult education should be assisted by grants for library facilities and other community services.

Punishment Demanded
Trial and punishment of those responsible for the Gestapo-executed murder of six R. C. A. F. officers and 44 other Allied prisoners was demanded by Prime Minister King in parliament Friday. The officers were shot after attempting to escape from a German prison camp on March 24.

Mr. King's report followed closely the lines of a similar report given in the British House of Commons by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

The Canadian prime minister said the government associated itself with the United Kingdom government in "their solemn protest against this cold-blooded act of violence and in giving notice of their firm resolve to ensure that those responsible for this

crime, whenever they may fall into Allied hands, are brought to trial and punished."

In the British house, Mr. Eden had disclosed the official Nazi report on the killings and branded the incident a mass murder. The Germans declared that all were shot resisting arrest or in trying to make a new break after their capture.

Mr. King told members of the Commons, who sat silent while he made his statement, that none of the men were wounded. "It is incredible that all 50 men should be killed outright in a raiding party," he said.

FOR WOMEN ONLY

Some fifteen years ago, one of our Canadian poetesses annoyed by an injury inflicted on her by one of her friends, wrote a barbed and witty little verse, which she entitled "To A Malicious Woman." Having written it, she felt avenged and put the verse away in her desk.

This spring, while tidying up some old papers during her housecleaning, she came across the verse again, and found it still readable. The incident that had inspired it was now faint in her own recollection and she was sure that it had been forgotten by her friends. So she sent it to a magazine, which published it.

A few weeks later, when she was attending a meeting of a club to which she belongs, six different women, at various times during the evening, took the opportunity of offering her their apologies and explanations for recent incidents that had been burdening their consciences ever since the publication of the verse.—The Printed Word.

STOMACH ACRES

"Crop failures?" asked the old farmer.

"Yes, I've seen a few of them in my day. Now in 1944 the corn crop was put' nigh nothing. We cooked some for dinner one day, and paw ate fourteen acres of corn at one meal!"

Conditions Good For Fruit Crops

Nova Scotia Expects Apple Yield of 1,750,000 Barrels—Maritime Prospects

HALIFAX (CP)—In Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley the apple crop is away to a good start. H. J. Leslie, head of the Nova Scotia Marketing Board, estimates a yield of 1,750,000 barrels. Weather has been "perfect" and conditions were said to be generally favorable.

Apple trees are reported to be in first class condition, with little or no winter damage noticeable, and prospects are for a fair bloom. Spore discharge was held down by the dry weather. Spraying in the valley district was said to be general, but A. Kelsall, superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Station at Kentville, said that wherever there has been a shortage of spraying it has been due to lack of labor.

Gravensteins are coming into bloom. Cherries have been in bloom for some time. Small fruits, strawberries, raspberries and gooseberries, are also in excellent shape.

In New Brunswick
The fruit branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture said that it was too early—by about two weeks—to say much about prospects in New Brunswick.

Apple trees are expected to have a "fairly good bloom." Last year the apple crop was a bumper one, but no estimates have as yet been made for this year.

Strawberries according to the Fruit Branch, wintered "only fairly" and raspberries normally. These are about the only fruits of particular interest in New Brunswick, with the exception of blueberries, classed as "wild." Their prospects will not be known for some time. This also goes for the tomato crop, classed as fruit in this province.

Prince Edward Island does not produce apples on a commercial scale, and it is too early to venture a prediction regarding other fruits. Trees in the province have wintered well and the outlook at the moment is good.

EXAMINATION DAY

In the old time district schools, the last day of a school year was frequently called "Examination Day." It was more or less customary for members of the school board or committee to attend this function, and perhaps do a little examining of the pupils themselves. Many pupils looked forward to this day with some apprehension but the committee and the assembled parents and friends were greatly pleased by their attainments, and congratulated teacher and pupils on the good work done.

The pupils sang lustily, they recited fluently, they put real enthusiasm into this demonstration, and it was generally agreed that the school and the youngsters were doing a fine job.

We did it at VINNY...and ORTONA-



WE'LL DO IT AGAIN - but we need YOUR HELP!

Yes, we need your help...and need it badly. This is the biggest job we have ever tackled! Everything depends upon Victory. Canada's Army needs volunteers NOW. And, that means you and you and you!

Wear Canada's Badge of Honour on your arm. You'll be proud of it, so will your friends.

Every man who is able has got to do his bit!

Maybe you don't think this means you... that it's a job for the other fellow.

If you do, you're wrong. It's your war, too... a war for every man who is a man... for everyone who has a stake in Canada.

Yes, this means you all right and we need you now for the months of intensive training to make you fighting-fit. We did it before and we can do it again... but we need your help.



VOLUNTEER TO-DAY

JOIN THE CANADIAN ARMY FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE