

The Acton Free Press

Seventieth Year—No. 3.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JULY 20th, 1944

Four Home-Print Pages—Five Cents

Boys of H. L. I. Write From the Invasion Front

First Mail in France Was from War Service League—Nine Mile Advance in 1st Day

The following letter was received by the Free Press from Acton boys with the H. L. I. in the Normandy invasion. With it was enclosed a copy of D-Day sailing orders which is shown in the Free Press window.

July 24th, 1944.
France.

Dear Arlof:
We, the boys of the H. L. I. wish to convey our thanks to you and the people who are responsible for the cigarettes and parcels. It gives us great pride to see the people of Acton have always gone over the top in every Victory Loan.

The town of Acton is well known in this regiment as we have a good per cent. of the personnel in the sports line. We see in the paper which we received in France dated 25th of May that the regiment the Nicol boys are in did not fear much of Acton. We have mentioned so much about our town, half the fellows in the regiment want to visit our community after the war and they come from all over Canada, so you see we have not been pulling our punches when we tell of Acton.

The cigarettes were the first mail we received in France from the Acton Comforts, the boys were sure pleased to receive them because the only smokes we had were the few English ones they have in our camp packs. This is the thirtieth day we have been in France and we have had no bread, so you can imagine how much we are going to enjoy it when it arrives.

As we have to spend most of our time in the trenches under fire, we find plenty of time to read the Free Press. The inhabitants have sure changed it seems after three years away but we still see the odd old boys getting a furlough every so often. Won't say that it doesn't make us jealous but we sure hope to be home next year at the most.

The landing was something that will always be remembered by those who took part. There were ships as far as we could see. As we moved up on the beaches, we could see the iron obstacles with mines attached. Some of the landing craft were blown up but it didn't stop the fighting troops from storming the beaches and taking out pill boxes. As we moved further inland, we came under constant fire from mortar, artillery and machine gun fire.

All along the road could be seen burned out Jerry vehicles which our heavy machine gun, and anti-tank guns knocked out. The first day we advanced nine miles and took up defensive positions for the big counter attacks which were beaten back repeatedly.

The people of France which we have come across do not seem to have done so badly under German rule. They were living in luxury to what we expected. The young girls have silk stockings and seem to have enough to eat. The fields are well looked after and orchards are bearing a heavy crop this year.

Every day, particularly at meal times Jerry opens up with a mortar barrage. He is answered with a hundred or more of our guns. His planes make a feeble attempt in the day time to sneak through the clouds to the beach to bomb our supplies. It is very rare when they get past our R. C. A. F. fighter patrols. We see some good dog fights that always end up in our favor.

Well, Arlof, we are all looking forward to the day when the train pulls in to Acton with the boys returning from overseas. We close now, thanking you all again for your gifts. The Boys

Herb, Cook, Rig, Cross, Leo, Close, Bill, Murphy, Bus, Chisholm, Frank, Holmes.
P. S. Best to J. J. Cooney.

BICYCLE SAFETY

Ten rules for safe bicycle riding. Obey all traffic regulations, such as red and green lights, one-way streets, stop signs, and hand signals. Ride in a straight line. Have a white light in front and a danger signal on rear, for night riding. Have satisfactory signaling device, such as bell, to warn of approach. Give pedestrians right-of-way. Look out for cars at crossings and pulling out of parking places. Don't hitch to other vehicles. Don't carry another person on a bicycle. Keep bicycle in good condition. —Health League of Canada News.

Street Lights Put Out by Storm Repairs Under Way

During the heavy electric storm last night the Street Lighting transformer was burned out. This put 145 street lights out of service. Temporary connections are being made on the main corners in order to light the street. The whole circuit will be changed over to multiple lights as soon as possible.

This was to have been a post-war job, as this is an obsolete system for street lighting, this transformer will not be repaired as the cost would be about \$500.00 and a new coil would have to be secured from the Fort Wayne plant of the General Electric Co. with three months delivery. This same trouble occurred in 1919 when the streets were dark for three months.

KNOX W. M. S. JULY MEETING HELD AT MANSE

A well attended meeting of Knox Presbyterian W. M. S. was held at the manse on Thursday, July 13, with the president, Mrs. F. Blow in charge. The devotional period was taken by Miss Isabelle Anderson and Mrs. F. Thomson. A paper was given by Miss Ruby Clark on "Christian Literature" which was very much enjoyed by all present. Mrs. Herb. Ritchie read a prayer taken from the Glad Tidings. The meeting was closed by all repeating the Mizpah Benediction. Mrs. Thomson, assisted by Miss Clark, served a dainty lunch and a social time was spent.

Award Made to Armaco Co. for Victory Loan Record

Final completion of returns recently showed that another Acton industry, the Armaco Co., were winners of the three-star flag for industry having less than fifty employees. This is the second firm to win this award in Acton.

It means that not only was the plant objective over-achieved, but that over 90 per cent. of the employees participated in the loan. Naturally this firm and the employees are proud of this achievement. The Canadian Wool Co., Ltd. was the other Acton industry to win this award.

Service League Plan for After War Aid to Forces

Will Form Local Committee to Advise Returned Men on Return to Civilian Life

Mr. Catto, of the Department of Pensions and National Health, addressed the meeting last Thursday evening of the Acton and Vicinity War Service League and urged that this organization carry on after the war in the rehabilitation of the armed forces in civil life.

A Citizens Advisory Committee had been set up in forty-two communities in this district and since the War Service League contained a cross section of the community, its organization was very suitable for the rehabilitation plans. The only difference would be a break-up into sub-committees for the rehabilitation plans.

Mr. Catto gave a full explanation of the program now available for the armed forces to facilitate their return to civil life. He touched on such points as discharge procedure, re-installment in former jobs, rate of grants, vocational training, university education, grants to pensioners, unemployment insurance benefits, employment preference, treatment of branch and veterans land act. It would appear every provision has been made but it was also explained that as conditions arose changes were being made to meet them.

The purpose of the local advisory committee would be to guide and help the returned man in securing the advantages due and best suited to him in getting settled in civilian life again.

Amounts of donations received since the last meeting and not previously acknowledged included W. R. Cripps, Regina, \$5; Bannockburn Women's Institute, \$10; Locals 20 and 26 of the Shbe and Leather Workers, \$10; Pupils of Acton Public School, \$40; Nassagaweya V. G. Institute, \$25; Lakeside Chapter I. O. O. F., \$36; Acton B. Y. P. U., \$10.53.

Four names were reported returned from overseas and four new names were added to the overseas list. The added names are J. Graham, R. J. Loutitt, W. L. Roche and Alfred Johnson.

Two More Acton Soldiers Wounded in France Invasion

Pte. Leo Close Wounded on July 9th — Rifleman C. A. Shullis Injured

Saturday morning, Mrs. Thomas Close received word that her son, Pte. Leo Close, had been severely wounded in action on July 9th. The nature of the wounds was not available when the message was sent.

Leo has been in the army for four years joining with the Highland Light Infantry. He has been overseas for three years and prior to enlistment was in the cut sole department of Beardmore and Co. here. He is a son of the late Thomas and Mrs. Close.

It is understood Pte. Close was in the invasion forces. A letter to the editor of the Free Press was written by a group of Acton boys just two days before Leo sustained his wounds and was signed by him. It appears this week in another column.

Many friends here are hoping with his mother and sister Elleen and brothers Ernest and Jack that further messages will be encouraging.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Shullis, R. R. No. 2, Rockwood, received word last week that their son, Rifleman Chas. A. Shullis, had been wounded from shrapnel in his lower left leg, while serving in France with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. Before enlisting, in July, 1943, he was an employee of Beardmore and Co., Ltd., Acton.

Friends here and former fellow employees hope that the injuries will not prove serious and that progress toward recovery will be steady.

THIS WEEK

By H. L. JONES
Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO (CP)—A brief political hubbub was stirred up during the week with appearance in the Toronto Evening Telegram of a report that Premier Drew and George McCullagh publisher of the Globe and Mail, were rumored planning to oust John Bracken as leader of the Progressive Conservative party.

The report brought a quick reply from Premier Drew, who said there was "not an atom of truth in the report." He declared further:

"The suggestion is so ridiculous that it would not call for a reply if it were not for the fact that malicious rumors are being spread by those who wish to undermine the growing strength of the party he (Bracken) leads.

"I have a job to do in Ontario and I intend to do that job to the very best of my ability. My one interest in the political picture of Ontario is that as a Canadian, I want to see a strong government at Ottawa and I will continue to do everything I can to help John Bracken to become the next Prime Minister of Canada."

All Mr. McCullagh had to say about the report was: "The story is too fantastic to call for any comment."

George A. Doble, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, believes any post-war surveys to be undertaken in Canada should be made at the municipal level, rather than by the Dominion or provincial governments. That was the suggestion he made in a radio address from Kitchener Sunday in reporting on favorable results gained in a recent Kitchener-Waterloo survey held last autumn at the invitation of the chamber.

The job now looming before Canadians, he said, is that of providing employment for all after the war. Out of the Kitchener-Waterloo experimental survey has come a method for evaluating that problem at the community level. It was his belief that other towns, cities and rural areas have an opportunity and a responsibility to conduct similar surveys as a contribution to community and national welfare.

A real community spirit was exhibited this week at the little town of Strathroy—and for a worthy cause. It was a gala street dance held in aid of the Middlesex wind disaster fund to help victims of the recent cyclone.

Thousands of people, young and not so young, thronged into the town, from a parts of the county.

LONDON—To all the countries for which Axis occupation has meant destruction, hunger and death, the Allied liberation will bring rebuilding, food and life.

WOUNDED IN INVASION



Pte. Leo Close, who was reported severely wounded while serving on the invasion front in France. Definite information of the extent of his injuries has not yet been received by his mother, Mrs. Thos. Close, Church Street.

Toronto Commandos Help Fifty Halton Farmers

Since June 27th, one of the Robert Simpson or T. Eaton Company trucks is to be seen almost daily in the County towns. From 15 to 30 Commandos from Toronto come out each day. Fifty odd farmers in this County have to date received this assistance for varying periods. We learned from the Agricultural office in Milton that up until the end of last week these men have given the equivalent of 343 days' work. In answer to our query as to the ability of these men to assist in haying, Mr. Whitlock answered by stating that, while the men went out all had good intentions, they naturally varied considerably by their experience, physical fitness, etc. He further stated that at least 80 per cent. of the farmers receiving this help had been well satisfied with the assistance received. We also learned that upwards of 20 Halton farmers had received holiday workers who remained anywhere from 3 to 4 days to two weeks.

We also inquired re Western Farm Hands and learned that to date 30 men had been received from Saskatchewan and these had been placed with as many different farmers.

Commandos from local centres have also been going out to a limited extent and now that wheat harvest is under way, it is anticipated that many professional and industrial workers will volunteer for two or three hours after supper to assist with stacking. If our reader is in a position to render such assistance, please local commando headquarters at once. Farmers requiring such help, should contact the same official.

Seed Growers To Meet the Federal Officials

Seed growers of Halton and Peel have made arrangements to meet Federal Seed Branch officials to discuss plans for the marketing of this year's crop of alfalfa, red clover, and alfalfa seed. Last year's plan reacted very disastrously in a monetary sense on Ontario Seed growers and needless to add, farm leaders are determined that the situation be rectified before the 1944 crop comes on the market. To this end, we learned from Agricultural Representative J. E. Whitlock that a meeting is to be held in the Court House, Brampton, on Monday, July 24th at 8:30 p.m. at which Federal and Ontario officials are to be in attendance. An invitation has been extended to all interested Halton seed growers to attend this meeting.

DATES OF FALL FAIRS ANNOUNCED FOR EVENTS OF DISTRICT

The Department of Agriculture has compiled a list of Ontario Fall Fairs for 1944 and the following are the dates of interest in this district:

Brampton—Sept. 2 and 4.
Elmira—Sept. 1, 2 and 4.
Fergus—Sept. 8 and 9.
Georgetown—Sept. 15 and 16.
Orangeville—Sept. 15 and 13.
Acton—Sept. 22 and 23.
Ancaster—Sept. 26 and 27.
Arthur—Sept. 26 and 27.
Caledon—Sept. 29 and 30.
Cooksville—Sept. 26 and 27.
Milton—Sept. 29 and 30.
Aberfoyle—Oct. 3 and 4.
Bolton—Oct. 13 and 14.
Erin—Oct. 7 and 8.
Grand Valley—Oct. 3 and 4.
Markham—Oct. 5 and 7.
Rockton—Oct. 7 and 8.
Stratford—Oct. 7.
Woodbridge—Oct. 7 and 8.

Acton Fair is Planning Big Program for 1944

At a meeting of the directors of Acton Fall Fair on Tuesday evening, it was decided to hold a grand concert in the Town Hall on the first evening of the Fair, with a dance to follow the concert. The committee were instructed to engage talent for one of the best concerts seen here in some time, as it was felt the splendid reputation of this first night performance must be maintained until the arena was available again for the big pre-war event.

Judges for the various departments were selected and this year a large tent has been secured and there will be a partial exhibit of hall entries. This will include the flower show, grain, roots and vegetable displays.

HAMILTON RE-UNION HELD IN GUELPH ON SATURDAY

The Hamilton Annual Re-union was held on July 15 at the Old Mill, Guelph. Time was spent in bathing, ball and the following sports:

Race under five years—Marie Lambert, Lorna Swanson.
Race five and six years—Betty MacLambert, Lois Hamilton, Kay Hamilton.

A candy scramble was enjoyed by the children. Tumbling, Joyce Lambert, Y. stunts, Joyce Lambert, Gussing contest, Mrs. E. Hamilton, Clothes pin race, children, Betty MacLambert, spot race, Mrs. E. Hamilton; foot and toe race, Elgin Hamilton and Jack Hamilton; clothes pin race, young people, Wallace Hamilton and Mrs. Fred Hamilton; kicking shoe, Thomas Eckit, Pearl Hamilton; kicking shoe, children, Joyce Lambert, Lois Hamilton; clothes pin race, men, George Hamilton, Jack Hamilton; clothes pin race, ladies, Mrs. Jack Hamilton, Mrs. Elgin Hamilton.

RUN FOR FIREMEN

TORONTO (CP)—A young woman office worker, finding herself locked up in the building where she is employed, pulled the fire alarm manual. After thanking her firemen rescuers she hurried off explaining: "My supper is waiting at home."

More Details of New Pump for Spring Supply

Installation of Water Meters Completed on All Services—Transfer of Funds Made

The regular meeting of Acton Public Utilities Commission was held on Monday evening. Those present were Commissioners C. M. Hanson and J. R. MacArthur.

The secretary was instructed to transfer \$500 from the waterworks account to the general account of the Corporation of Acton.

Superintendent Wilson reported that a few water meters were yet to be installed. A notice is to be run in the paper notifying each consumer that they were responsible for the protection of the water meters from frost and other damage. A copy of the ad is to be included in the bill sent out to the consumer.

Superintendent Wilson reported an electric fence was to be installed and other repairs to the present fence adjoining the spring property.

Mr. R. H. May and Mr. H. B. Edwards of the Consolidated Engine and Machinery Co. were present to discuss with the Commission the installation of a Peerless Pump at the spring. A number of details were discussed. No decision was to be made until a full Commission was present.

The secretary, Miss B. H. Speight, was instructed to pay the following accounts:

HYDRO DEPT.	
H.E.P.C. of Ont., power	\$3,813.78
Bell Telephone Co., services	6.40
H.E.P.C. of Ontario, climb-ers	11.00
Force Electric Products supplies	1.26
MacDonald Electric Ltd., supplies	18.51
Sangamo Co. Ltd., repairs	25.20
C.N.R. and Transport, ex-press & freight	2.70
Norman McEachern, gas	12.12
Canadian Line Materials, Ltd., supplies	24.52
Dept. of National Revenue, Sales Tax	79.01
WATERWORKS DEPT.	
Canadian Johns - Manville Co., packing	2.07
Canadian Brass Co., sup-plies	8.99
Hydro Dept. June operating	26.67
The Commission adjourned to meet again on July 21st at 8 p.m.	

Parcels From Home Reach Boys in French Invasion

Boys' Recollection of Grand Summer Nights in Acton and Hope to get Home Soon

Here are more extracts from letters received by Acton and Vicinity War Service League. Many of the boys are now in France but the parcels keep up with them regularly.

L. Cpl. R. Footitt says: Cigarettes received to-day and were more than welcome. I can hardly show my appreciation in pen and ink. You are all doing a grand job at home. Also received chocolate bars and they were luxurious, tasted swell to eat some good Canadian chocolate.

Pte. W. Horritt writes from France: "To-day we are lucky in receiving a good shipment of mail from home. Now that we are in France, a good Canadian cigarette means a lot. The children in England put up quite a squawk when they stopped putting airplane identifications on the back. This sure is a backward looking country now although they appear to have pretty good crops and livestock around. Recently I have met a lot of the boys from home, and they all mention the fact that they are receiving cigarettes and parcels from your League. Certainly would be great to be back in the old home town again. "Cookie" puts it: Enjoy the smokes immensely and they do come regularly. Haven't seen or heard of any Acton boys for some time. Would like to be in Acton this time of year, often think of the grand summer evenings we used to enjoy.

Pte. M. S. McLellan tells us: We are at present having a rest. It seems strange not to have the guns keeping us awake at night. I have had the pleasure of visiting Naples twice and have only seen a few of the sights. It is a clean city compared to some of the small towns we have been in. Naples has been well built-up, especially around the docks.

Johnny Goy writes from France: Have been kept rather busy this last month, but up to date it has been worth it as we have given those Jerries all they want. So far I have been very lucky and, considering the role our regiment has played, casualties have been moderate. I have received smokes from you regularly and so far have got 2 packages over here. Sorry I can't give you any front-line news but things are going pretty fair with us. I have been trying to find out how Cookie and the others got over the beaches but can't make any headway.

Pte. E. A. Moyse writes from Italy: I know that there are hundreds of boys from home like myself, that when they receive a gift of this nature, find it quite difficult to relay to you folks the wonderful satisfaction that it brings them. It is not only the cigarettes and the relaxation that they bring but for the thoughts of, and for us, that are back of sending the smokes.

Others who sent cards and letters recently are: LAC J. G. Hargrave, Pte. C. H. Lindsay, Pte. W. Wallace, Jack Smallman, Pte. Tom Curry, Cpl. F. Kelly, Pte. John D. Young, Cpl. J. E. Surbey, Sigmund L. A. Cripps, Pte. F. Kenny, F.O. Erwin McCowen, Pte. M. J. McMillan, Cpl. E. F. Waller, W. E. Matlock, Pte. O. Mulder, Pte. L. Cutting, L. Cpl. A. E. Perryman, Telford Feldt, Spr. J. L. Ellersby, Pte. H. Godfrey, Rfm. R. Robertson, Cpl. J. Bewley, Sgt. T. L. McCutcheon, Rfm. I. Bragg, Spr. J. Waterhouse, Cpl. J. G. Lamb, Cpl. E. F. Waller, P.O. R. G. Langford.

PAPER RATIONING MAKES SMALLER EDITION THIS WEEK

This week's edition of your home town paper is only four pages instead of the usual eight. A check-up of our paper allowance for the first six months reveals that a four page edition is necessary occasionally to keep within our allotment.

The smaller paper also helps during holiday time and gives an opportunity to arrange holidays for the staff. It is necessary to eliminate some of the features in these smaller editions but this is only temporary, we hope.

Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Concerts, or Other Events, under this heading, are charged, to cents per line, with a minimum charge for any announcement of 50c.

Dance in Brookville Hall under the auspices of the Brookville Women's Institute, on Monday, July 24th, 8:30 p.m. Tickets 50c. Advance booking for war work. Admission 50c.