

THESE LETTERS SOMEBODY DIDN'T WRITE

It ain't the heat nor the blistered feet. Nor the meals of SPAM in place of meat. Nor the butter like lard, nor our turn at guard. None of these is one-half as hard as the job we get, after all the sweat and a cheery voice says, "No mail yet."

And it ain't the breeze, like a drag on an aneurism. That peels the hide and weakens the knees. Nor the dirt in your gun, nor the broiling sun. These are forgotten when day is done but our voices fall and our faces pale if we draw a blank when it's time for mail.

We can stand the flies and the sand in your eyes, the rumors, the truth and the lies. The mosquitoes swarm and the water warms the wads that reek of chloroform. What takes our fight and makes throat tight. Are the letters somebody didn't write. (Cpl. M. K. Lynd in the India, China, Burma theatre)

Secret Mission Was Long Vigil In Deep Jungle

Young Australian For Six Months Kept Allies Informed of the Japanese Moves in New Guinea

CANBERRA (CP) — In the dark days of 1942 when the Japanese were advancing toward Australia, Port Moresby was the most bombed town in the Pacific. But every time the Japs came over they found something there to meet them, planes from the tiny air force stationed there or vigorous anti-aircraft fire, arguing for knowledge.

Today the Japanese are a long way from Moresby, and the story of the secret mission of a young Australian can safely be told.

Ten years ago applications were invited for cadets in the New Guinea Administration, 200 applied, 10 were chosen, including Leigh Vial, of Cambridge, Victoria. Soon after he was appointed district officer for Rabaul, Wewak, Madang, Wau and Lae. He is said to have been the first white man to cross the Finisterre Ranges and to climb Mount Wilhelm.

Vial was still at Salamaua when the Japs came and he led a large party of men of the Royal Australian Air Force to a secret emergency landing ground. They were flown to Australia. Vial enlisted in the Air Force. Pilot Officer Vial, on his own suggestion, set out from Port Moresby with two native boys, radio equipment and provisions for six months, on a secret mission.

Several days out, he dismissed these boys and engaged another boy, through whom there would be no danger of information leaking.

With his provisions and a radio set he took up a station in the hills overlooking Lae and Salamaua, where the Japanese were entrenched.

For the ensuing long, lonely months he spent most of his time in tree-tops peering down on those enemy strongholds, watching through binoculars to detect the least sign of Japanese aerial activity below.

When a flight of bombers took off from the aerodrome beneath, his voice, concise and clear, carried through the roar of the bombers' engines, giving details of the number of aircraft, the type, heights, time and direction of flying. At Port Moresby a man sitting in a hut with ear-phones clamped over his head, immediately picked up and delivered the message, and the defenses jumped into action.

Day and night Vial was "on the air."—Vial—"Golden Voice Vial" as he came to be called—became a by-word in the garrison town as Moresby then was. As the Japanese surged across the Owen Stanleys between him and his base, he still carried on. "The enemy was mystified by this voice, seemingly from heaven, which ruined their best-laid plans time and again. Once they flew over and took photographs of his position, but he immediately collected his gear and moved to another locality. He did that several times, and thwarted the Japs every time.

One day his boy took a peep through his binoculars. When Vial used them again he caught a tropical rash which almost blinded him. It covered his body and reduced his strength, until he was as weak as a baby. He could not climb trees, so he lay on the ground and watched the sky through his shaving mirror. The reports still went through.

At the end of his six months he reported back. In Australia he investigated equipment for airmen likely to be forced down in the jungle, and recommended a parachute which could be used as a tent, also a special bush knife. He was awarded the American D.S.C.

Now a flight lieutenant, he left on another secret mission. The plane in which he was travelling was shot down in New Guinea by Japanese anti-aircraft fire. Vial was killed.

The Week at OTTAWA

By DOUGLAS GREEN Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP) — The importance with which the outcome of the Grey North by-election February 5th is viewed by political parties was given emphasis last week with the appearance in the constituency of several outstanding speakers. One of them Roland Patterson, Liberal member of the Ontario legislature for the riding termed the campaign a "dress rehearsal" for a general election.

The by-election's outcome will have a bearing upon Prime Minister Mackenzie King's decision to call a general election. He has already appealed to electors of Grey North to put aside partisan considerations and elect the government's candidate, defence minister McNaughton, to a seat in the House of Commons.

Gen. McNaughton's election, the prime minister said, would enable parliament to function effectively in prosecuting the war effort. The defence minister's record has been questioned by W. Garfield Case, mayor of Owen Sound, Ont., and Progressive Conservative candidate.

Air Vice-Marshal A. E. Godfrey, retired RCAF officer who is the CCF candidate, said last week that servicemen now overseas were "worried" about the "sort of Canada they were returning to," and attacked the government's manpower policies.

The week-end brought new developments in Canada's overseas reinforcement situation. Gen. McNaughton announced from Ottawa the arrival overseas of 8,300 home defence troops in Britain, the first draftees to go overseas in this war. He added that the draftees were accompanied by the full normal quota of reinforcements presumably general service men.

At the same time the defence minister confirmed that about 6,300 home defence troops destined for overseas service are absent without leave in Canada. They failed to return from Christmas and New Year's leaves from camps in various parts of the Dominion. These men will be classed as deserters when they have been at large a total of 21 days. There was no indication in the defence minister's statement as from what day the 21-day count for desertion would be made. He did say, however, that up to last Saturday there were no men in the deserter classification.

Top Export Figures The view that the immediate post-war period will see a continuance of the demand for exports of the agricultural and animal products of Canadian farms and fisheries was expressed last week by Trade Minister MacKinnon when he announced that exports from Canada reached an all-time high during 1947, averaging \$290,000,000 for months more than in 1943.

Mr. MacKinnon said agricultural products exported in 1947 showed a "remarkable increase" of more than \$257,000,000 at \$741,265,000.

Exports in 1947, exclusive of new gold, had an aggregate value of \$3,429,853,000, compared with \$2,971,475,000 in 1943, an increase of \$458,378,000 or 16 per cent.

The belief that the sale of mining stock should be subject to strict restrictions as it affects the proportion of funds received by promoters to the amounts invested in enterprises was expressed by Mines Minister Jonathan Robinson of Quebec in an address before the Montreal branch of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

He predicted the enactment of uniform mining laws in Ontario and Quebec suitable alike to mining men and the investing public. In the past, mining interests have taken the view that too rigid control hinders exploration and development of mining properties and discourages prospectors, the backbone of the industry.

On the other hand, criticism has been expressed of Ontario's present mining laws, particularly those relating to the sale of stock as permitting practices by brokers and salesmen which are detrimental to the expansion of mineral development.

Canada's future as a source of vegetable seeds, now in good demand due to war conditions, depends upon strict adherence to quality and the maintenance of price levels which will permit growers to produce "on a reasonable margin of profit."

It is considered certain that as soon as the war in Europe ends, quantities of vegetable seeds of all kinds will again be imported into Canada, and it is doubtful if domestic growers can hope to compete with them in the home markets unless the quality of Canadian seeds is of the best.

-Twenty Years Ago

From the Issue of The Free Press, of Thursday, January 29th, 1918

"See the eclipse on Saturday? Monday night was the coldest of the winter to date. The mercury, dropped from 24 above at noon to 15 below during the night."

"Million girls have organized a hop by team and are now arranging games with outside teams."

A St. Charles's Senior Champions of the Toronto Industrial League played here on Friday evening and defeated the local puck chasers by a 4-2 score.

The Dominion Census has the following statistics for Halton: The population of the County is 24,900. In Acton there are 854 males and 864 females and there are 1,266 (Canadian born, 348 British and 70 Foreign born. Every town in Halton has more females than males and the townships more males than females.

DEATHS: ALBERT: At Mofat, on January 21, 1925 to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Alford, a son.

KENNEY: In Kitchener, on Thursday, January 22nd, 1926 to Mr. and Mrs. J. Linton Kenney, a daughter.

LESLIE: At her late residence, Lot 3 Concession 10, East Guelph, on Monday, January 19, 1925, Father Stauffer, beloved wife of J. Harvey Leslie, in her 52nd year.

WITTELY: At the home of her daughter, Mrs. John McGregor, Lot 24, Concession 7, Newmarket, on Saturday, January 24th, 1924, Annie McPhail, widow of the late William Witteley, in her 67th year.

PIGEON MENACE

BROCKVILLE, Ont. (CP) — Pigeons are all right in their place, say the Brockville citizens, but they have become such a nuisance here that at least one resident has been intimidated.

A housewife reported that she didn't dare open the back door for fear a flock of 100 pigeons, near starvation from storms, would fly in and take over.

U. S. Farmers Face Big Peace Problems

Marketing, Labor and Control Among Questions For Agriculturists

WASHINGTON (CP) — What will peace bring for American agriculture? Farmers and their leaders are thinking about the future, when big war markets have disappeared.

They realize that agriculture, like industry, faces "mighty" perplexing problems in adjusting to peacetime conditions.

Farmers are asking: Will we have a market for the quantity of food and fibre products we are producing now? Will the bottom fall out of prices? Will there be too many farmers when the farm boys return from the war? Will we have to resort again to crop control measures? Will there be a foreign market for part of our production? Have technical developments in agriculture deprived thousands of possible peacetime jobs in farming?

Export Depression Agricultural leaders say that the great majority of the nation's farmers are pessimistic about the future and expect a post-war depression.

The Agriculture Department substantiates the farm leaders. In a recent report the department said state planning committees "seem to expect, almost to a certainty, that a depression will be encountered in the post-war years."

Because he is apprehensive, the average farmer has taken advantage of the booming war market and high income to accumulate a reserve of savings for the possible rainy day.

But these savings are insufficient to carry through a long depression. The farmers hope peace can be made to do for him what war has done—restore his prosperity, raise his income and give him a feeling of pride in his work.

APPLIANCES SHORT IN 1945, PREDICTS OTTAWA OFFICIAL

TORONTO, Jan. 28 — Mark L. Lewis, vice president of the Electrical Manufacturers' Association, today predicted a shortage of electrical appliances in 1945. He said that the industry had not been able to produce enough to meet the demand of the war effort. He said that the industry was now producing at a rate of 100 per cent of capacity, but that the demand was still greater. He said that the industry was now producing at a rate of 100 per cent of capacity, but that the demand was still greater. He said that the industry was now producing at a rate of 100 per cent of capacity, but that the demand was still greater.

"Say, how about telephones?"

Here's the situation: Makers of telephone equipment have been busy on orders of all kinds for the armed services. For them, the time to start reconverting still lies ahead. Even after war needs have been met, these manufacturers must make a major change-over before they can resume normal production of supplies for civilian use. . . . Which means that we must continue to defer many requests for telephone service, awaiting the day (we hope it may not be too long delayed) when materials in adequate volume and skilled manpower again become available. The applications on our waiting list will be filled as promptly and fairly as possible, on a first-come-first-served basis.

On Active Service Giving Wages to War

MATCHES HAVE CAUSED SERIOUS FIRES IN OVERSEAS MAIL . . .

WARNING!

NEVER PACK ANY INFLAMMABLE MATERIALS IN PARCELS . . .

Matches and lighter fluid in overseas parcels have started serious fires. Think what this means. Thousands of bags containing letters and parcels lie deep down in a ship's hold, lurching in a rough sea.

If matches or lighter fluid take fire—AND THEY DO—that means that brave seamen must go into the smoke-filled hold and risk their lives. Thousands of parcels may be destroyed—thousands of men disappointed.

WON'T YOU HELP?

We know that you would not knowingly endanger lives and mail. So think—and then don't put matches or lighter fluid in Overseas Mail.

CANADA POST OFFICE

SANICH, B. C. (CP) — Arthur Redding doesn't have to buy his lemons—he just picks them from an eight-foot lemon tree growing in his greenhouse. He has harvested 100 lemons this season from the nine-year-old tree which has been bearing since the third year.

Picobac

THE PICK OF TOBACCO

It DOES taste good in a pipe