

# The Acton Free Press.

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## GERMANY AGAIN TAKES DEFEAT

### Parades and Services Make V-E Day in Acton

Tannery Whistle is Signal for the Start of Celebrating—Community Service in United Church had Audience that Packed the Edifice—Parade Pauses at the Monument in Tribute to War Dead.

Acton's celebration of the surrender of Germany seemed spontaneous with receipt of the word. The tannery whistle shrieked and there was no mistaking the message it was conveying. It was the real thing "Germany had surrendered." It came about 9:45 as the High School cadets were having their official inspection in the park.

A few minutes later the Free Press received a wire from the Canadian Press giving the official news release on the time and place of surrender and this was displayed in the window.

But the word finished the cadet inspection and it was only a matter of minutes until the boys' band was on the street headed by Reeve McDonald and Principal Stewart and the boys and girls were leading the victory parade. They headed for the Public School and were joined by teachers and all the classes and paraded the streets.

Flags broke out in business places and homes. This was the day. By noon proclamations were posted announcing a public holiday for Tuesday, May 8th over the signature of Reeve J. M. McDonald.

In the afternoon at 2:45 a parade of the Boys' Band with Reeve McDonald and the Council, Veterans of the last war and the Boer War and this present war, IODE chapters, Boy Scouts, Cadets and other organizations formed up at the Town Hall. The parade went by Flower Avenue to Frederick Street and Mill Street to the Soldiers' Monument. Here the parade formed up before the monument where Reeve McDonald paid tribute to those who had given their lives in the present war "Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by Mr. A. Mason and a brief silence observed. The band played the National Anthem.

Then the crowd filed into the United Church where the special service was held for the whole community. The church was packed to capacity with many standing and others unable to get into the service.

The order of service used was the one arranged by The Canadian Council of Churches for the occasion. Rev. Forbes Thomson, of Knox, Church was in charge, assisted by Rev. A. E. Pulker and Rev. A. W. Fashury was also on the platform but, just recovering from a recent operation was unable to take part in the service.

There were well-known hymns, prayers of thanksgiving and dedication and prayers for the "behave," the King and a prayer of remembrance. The address was given by Rev. Mr. Thomson and based on the first verse of Psalm 65, "Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion; and unto thee shall the vow be performed."

"This hour of destiny," said Mr. Thomson, "will be recalled in the days to come as the most significant hour of our lives. It is the defeat of a nation that defied everything decent and honorable. We rejoice in our deliverance from evil, the depth and intensity of which we are only beginning to understand."

This hour, he said, should be one of thanksgiving for the past and dedication for the future. He paid tribute to the sacrifice of those who gave that we might be free, every man and woman who fought and served, every mother, father, wife and child who paid in sacrifice and separation. But when we think of our weakness at times and the strength of the enemy, we must acknowledge that the battle was the Lord's.

Mr. Thomson urged that this day of thanksgiving also be one of dedication to God. "Thousands have suffered and died and it is that the end of it? Are we to return to the old life of selfishness and relax and dream and hope that everything will work out all right. Let it be our pledge that the tragedy of war that has un-

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### Large Congregations Attend Memorial Service on Sunday

Legionnaires, and members of the Chapters of the IODE attended in a body the Memorial Service in Knox Church on Sunday evening for Pte. John Gibbons and Cnr. Franklin W. Neal. A congregation that filled the church to capacity, joined in this service of tribute.

Rev. Mr. Thomson, chose his text for his discourse from the ninth verse of the tenth chapter of St. John: "Are there not twelve hours in the day?" During the service Mr. Jas. Donaldson, Toronto, sang very effectively the solo number "There is no death."

### MAY MEETING OF DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE CHAPTER OF I. O. D. E.

The monthly meeting of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter I. O. D. E. was held at the home of Mrs. J. W. Wolf, the regent Mrs. J. C. Matthews presiding. Mrs. Schroeder and Mrs. Matthews were chosen to be the representatives to the Children's Aid Society. The war convener's report was given. Several members offered to help at the Blood Donor Clinic.

A new member will be welcomed into the Chapter at the June meeting. Mrs. Salt gave a report about the war brides' reception committee.

A very interesting and unusual talk on the Quebec and Vermont lines was given by Miss Smith. Miss Joyce Deserault sang two delightful solos. Tea was served by the hostesses at the close of the evening.

### Five Winners Are Announced as Acton Reaches Half Way

Interest Now Centres on When the Objective will be Reached in Victory Loan

Acton and district reached half-way mark in the eighth Victory Loan on Thursday, May 3rd at 5:37 p.m. and the tannery whistle announced this achievement. It's a little later than in the lay loan and these last days will have to make up for the lost time and the time out for V-E day celebrating.

This year the local contest has five winners and the prizes are announced by Chairman J. H. Boulton and Mr. B. D. Rachlin of the publicity committee as follows:

First—Nino Braida with an estimate of 5:37 p.m. secured 35 Adult tickets to the Gregory Theatre.

Second—Frieda Harris with an estimate of 5:42 p.m. won a half ton of Anthracite coal.

Third—Wm Crofts' estimate of 5:39 p.m. won a \$5.00 merchandise voucher for him.

Fourth—Dan Lee with an estimate of 5:30 p.m. won a \$4.00 merchandise voucher.

Fifth—Dorothy Footitt with an estimate of 5:45 p.m. won a book of 25 child's admission tickets at the Gregory Theatre.

Acton bond buyers are getting to be close estimators on Victory Bond results and this year there were two ties for prizes. Miss Frieda Harris and Wm. Crofts tied for second place and drew with the above result.

Miss Dorothy Footitt and Mr. Fred Lambert were tied for fifth place. They drew and Mr. Lambert was eliminated.

There still is time for five more winners to be declared when the objective is reached here. In addition this year a service man's home is to be won by bond buyers in Halton or Wentworth counties. Get your nomination entries at Victory Loan headquarters at F. L. Wright's office at the corner of Mill and Main Streets.

### Through Dark Days They Led Us



### The Acton Bomber Came Through Just Battle Scared

Many in Acton have often wondered what became of the mosquito bomber named for Acton, Ontario after it went overseas and into the war.

The answer came in a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Salt this week from their nephew Sgt. Bill Westwood of the R. A. F. Sgt. Westwood visited in Acton while stationed in Canada with Mr. and Mrs. Salt.

The Acton bomber came through the war badly battle scared but still going strong. It was a coincidence that on its last flight Sgt. Westwood was one of its crew. But unlike the most burned out bombers the Acton is not consigned to the scrap heap. It is being mounted at one of the training depots in England and will be used from now on for training purposes.

The bomber carried the name Acton Ontario Canada on it just as was when it left Canada except for the scarring of battle.

### WOODSIDE VICTORY CLUB RAISE FUNDS BY QUILT DRAW

A pleasant evening was spent last Friday night at Bannockburn School when the Woodside Victory Club held their euchre and dance.

There were sixteen tables for euchre with Mrs. Fred McArthur and Mr. Bert Sinclair being the winners. The prizes were War Stamps. The lucky chair was held by Mr. Fred McArthur. Little Marjory McDonald drew the lucky ticket for the quilt with Mrs. Wilfred Harding being the winner. Irlene Gordon drew the door ticket with Miss Joan Matthews being the winner. Lunch was served and the rest of the evening was spent in dancing with music supplied by the Shortill Orchestra. The quilt brought the ladies a sum of \$43.50 and their euchre \$22.25. \$65.00 of this amount was given to the Acton War Service League and they are also sending \$75.00 to Hillsburg Red Cross.

Another quilt was completed at the home of Mrs. R. L. Davidson on Tuesday.

### WINNERS IN VICTORY LOAN.



Chairman J. H. Boulton and Chairman of Publicity, B. D. Rachlin hand out Prizes in the Acton and District Eighth Victory Loan Campaign. Winners of the first lot were: Nino Braida, Frieda Harris, Miss Dorothy Footitt and Wm. Crofts. Dan Lee, another winner was unable to be present at the presentation. More prizes go to five other winners if and when the objective here is reached. It now stands at 80%.

### Unconditional Surrender Ends Over 5 Years War

#### More Soldiers Return to Acton From Overseas

Families and friends are glad to welcome home more Acton soldiers during the week. After long years of overseas service.

Sgt. Bill Nicolak was informed last week that he had recently returned, although he hasn't had the opportunity of meeting him.

Pte. Geo. Hiddell, in the army five and a half years and overseas for five years, was one of the arrivals home this week and met by his wife (nee Frances Chisholm) who resides here. He was with the R.C.A.M.C. and served in the Dieppe Raid, France, Holland and Germany. Fortunately he came through without sustaining wounds. He was employed with the Weston Bread Co. before enlisting.

Returning to Canada with the same group was Pte. Jim Wilkins, who has been in the Canadian Army for a year and overseas since Christmas. He was greeted on arrival on Saturday by his wife, nee Jean Evans. Before enlisting he was employed with the Massey Harris Co. in Toronto. He too came back escaping wounds.

L/Cpl. John Drysdale was welcomed home from overseas by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Drysdale. He has been in the army for over three years and went overseas two years ago with the Perth Regiment. In February 1944 he was dangerously wounded in action, suffering injuries in the lower right abdomen by a high explosive motor shell before enlisting he was employed here with the Beardmore Co.

All are glad to see these men back in Canada and hope more will soon join them in being reunited in their homes here.

### Reported Killed While at Dieppe Now Coming Home

Pte. Bill Turner Freed From a German Prison Camp and is Back in England

News that has gladdened weary hearts at home has been received during the week. Last Friday morning Mr. and Mrs. Fred Turner, Sr., received word that their son, Pte. Bill Turner, was released as a German prisoner and was back in England and would soon arrive home.

Officially reported killed in action in the Dieppe Raid, Pte. Bill Turner was later reported a prisoner of war in Germany. Although badly wounded, he recovered and has been a prisoner of war in Germany. He has been heard from as regulations permitted and now it is hoped is on his way home again. Almost miraculous has been his experience and the parents, brother and sister are overjoyed at the prospect of seeing him again.

Further word has been received by his parents that Tpr. Harold Robson's wounds sustained in action were burns about the hands and face and that his progress is satisfactory.

### NEXT STEPS IN SEWERAGE SYSTEM UP TO CITIZENS

For years Acton citizens have talked about installation of a sewerage system. In many quarters it is a dire necessity. Council has taken the first steps. Plans have been prepared on Monday evening, a public meeting will be addressed by Dr. Barry and Mr. Anderson. Announcement is made in another column. The Town Hall should be packed to the doors. Whether you favor installation or not you should be at that meeting and hear the question discussed.

### End of Germany's Bid for World Conquest Came on Monday Morning—A Review of the Important Dates in a War that Shook the Foundations of Civilization.

REIMS, France, Monday, May 7th (C.T.) Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Western Allies and Russia at 2:41 a.m. French time today. The surrender took place at a school house, the headquarters of General Eisenhower.

That was the brief wire received on Monday morning by The Free Press from the Canadian Press Association. While formal details were not completed until the following day, it was this message on Monday which most people accepted as the finish of the war with Germany.

Prime Minister Churchill proclaimed the surrender Tuesday morning in a statement made simultaneously with one from President Truman in Washington, 24 hours after Edward Kennedy, Associated Press war correspondent, had broken the news of victory to the world. Mr. Churchill told of the German surrender at 2:41 a.m. Monday, European time, five years, eight months and six days after Hitler invaded Poland and started the most devastating war in history.

Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz announced the surrender to the German people in a broadcast ordering the High Command to cease fire on all fronts in accordance with the surrender terms imposed by the Allies. Allied radios flashed orders to all German and German-controlled ships as seen to go to the nearest port and wait further orders.

Doenitz declared in his announcement to the defeated Germans that the Nazi party had been severed from the German state and "has left the scene of its activities."

Wild Celebrations The victory flash Monday was the signal for a day of celebration throughout the Allied world. By Tuesday, officially V-E Day, celebrations had quieted down in most cities and churches were packed for thanksgiving services.

We present herewith a summary of the important dates in this five years and over eight months of world struggle. We suggest you clip them as a ready reference for the future. Our weekly feature of "War Commentary" has kept you posted as the war progressed and we know this reference feature will prove concise and interesting.

1939  
Sept. 1—Germany invaded Poland.  
Sept. 3—Britain and France declared war on Germany.  
Sept. 10—Canada declared war on Germany.  
Sept. 28—Germany and Russia partitioned Poland.

1940  
April 9—Germany invaded Norway and Denmark.  
April 15—British and French troops landed in Norway.  
May 2—British evacuated southern Norway.  
May 10—Germany invaded the Low Countries.  
May 30—British evacuated Dunkerque.

June 10—Canada declared war on Italy.  
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### Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Conventions, or Other Events, under this heading, are charged, to cover per line, with a minimum charge for any announcement of 25c.

Lakeside Chapter I. O. D. E. Mile of Money, Saturday, May 26.

Legion Dance in Acton Town Hall, Saturday, May 12. Harvey Fisher's Orchestra. Admission 50c. Come out and help build a memorial hall for the boys.

# SAY THANKS WITH BONDS