

Why British Churches Are Burned While Factory Buildings Escape

This is the fifth of a series of articles about conditions in Great Britain and other countries visited by a group of Canadian newspaper editors. It was written for the weekly newspapers of Canada by their special representative on the delegation, Hugh Temple, of the Fergus News-Record.

In a previous story, I told something about the bomb damage in London. The subject of bombing and its results on the people of England is too large to discuss in a few sentences. It is or has been, the most important feature of the war since Dunkirk.

London has been seriously bombed. The raids on the city began more than a year ago and continued until April or May, 1941. When daytime bombing became too costly for the Germans, the enemy turned to night bombing, which cannot be so effective in hitting particular targets. Since early summer, the night raids on London have stopped. Hitler no longer has the planes to spare; the R.A.F. has command of the air over Britain and around the coasts; island defences are more numerous and better organized. Air raids continue, but they are mostly along the eastern and southern coasts.

I think London looked much as I had expected to find it: I did not expect to see such a large area east of St. Paul's Cathedral so thoroughly laid waste. In two other areas, both south of the river, the damage struck me as terrible. In both these cases, it was little houses by the score that had suffered, which seemed to me worse than old office buildings or ancient landmarks. That was simply because there must have been so much loss of life, as for the houses themselves, some of them are better gone and the buildings in the places them will improve these districts.

Why Churches Are Burned

I have been asked hundreds of questions about bomb damage. Perhaps other readers would like to know a few of the answers. Is it true, for instance, that churches are almost invariably destroyed and important factories escape?

It is true. It is so obvious to a Canadian in England that it seems unnecessary until one knows the reasons.

In London and other badly bombed cities, it is obvious that most of the damage was done by incendiary bombs: They are small and light. I

brought parts of one home with me. It is cylindrical, not over two inches in diameter and about a foot long—something like a fat Roman candle. The head is flat, not pointed like the tip of a high explosive bomb. That is the heavy end. The tail has fins on it to keep the bomb upright as it falls. Dropped from a height of 10,000 feet or so, an incendiary bomb will penetrate through a slate roof or the fender of a car, leaving a small hole. It will not go through a brick wall. The bomb ignites two minutes after it strikes and develops a flame said to have a temperature of about 5,000 degrees. A large bomber might carry thousands of incendiaries and drop them out literally by the ton.

Nowadays, the British know how to fight the incendiary bomb. Volunteer fire waters are always on the look out for bombs. They have the simple equipment to render bombs harmless before they can develop heat. But even yet, the churches are not safe. The beautiful old buildings, designed by Christopher Wren and other great architects, have slate roofs. The slate being another false roof, often of lead. The incendiary goes through the slate, but hasn't force enough to penetrate the second roof. Before it can be reached, it has exploded and started a fire. Sometimes, there was an oak ceiling as well. No matter how faithful the workmen at the churches might be, it was impossible to rip off the slates and seal in time to reach the bombs.

It wasn't that churches were deliberately attacked. Everything was attacked. It was simply a matter of the way the churches were built.

Factories Have Really Escaped

The story of the factories and the production of war materials is something else again. It is literally true that many of the important ones have never been bombed. I saw a great aero engine factory in the Midlands, built since the war started. It was undoubtedly the finest factory I ever saw. It was built by a large automobile company solely for the production of radial engines of 1,500 h.p. or so. It is several miles from the nearest city. Every precaution has been taken to see that a bomb dropping nearby won't affect the people inside. If one makes a direct hit, a series of blast walls will minimize the damage. But there has never been a direct hit.

Twice I passed the original Hurricane factory. This is an older one and still makes the famous fighting planes which the R.C.A.S. uses. It was pointed out to me by a ferry pilot, who was going to the factory to take a new plane to a fighter station. Above the factory floated a group of barrage balloons, an unusual sight away from the large cities. I would have known it was an important factory. Yet the pilot told me that the Germans had never found it.

It sounds mystifying. Actually, it is simple. The cartons love to show a man or a building so camouflaged that it looks ludicrous. That is actually what happens. At night, these factories literally cannot be found.

Some of the Bomb Damage

It is impossible to mention many of the buildings that have been damaged, but I might list a few. By this time, the streets have all been repaired, railways are in full operation and there is little or no sign of bomb damage in the railway stations. The docks, which must have suffered, are in operation again. Barges, drawn by tugs, are continually going up and down the Thames at Westminster. I saw a convoy going out the mouth of the Thames one day that I visited the East Coast. As I said before, all the bridges over the Thames escaped damage.

On one of our first days in London, the editors were conducted through the Houses of Parliament by two interesting and humorous guides, Lord Snell, representing the House of Lords, and Sir Patrick Hamon, from the House of Commons. They took us even into the basement rooms where Guy Fawkes stored the gunpowder to blow up Parliament centuries ago, and into the underground chapels where Cromwell stabled his horses to show his contempt for the institution of parliament. The chapels are lovely. There is no longer any horse smell. Here and there, I saw the damage done by bombs. In the great Westminster Hall, where the bodies of the kings lie in state, workmen were repairing a broad hole in the roof where a bomb came through. Big Ben has almost escaped. One corner of the clock tower and one face were damaged but the clock still goes.

The worst damage is in the House of Commons chamber itself. It simply does not exist any longer. There is no roof, and only a small pile of rubble and twisted girders marks the spot where many a great debate has taken place. Yet, strangely enough, the rooms around it are almost untouched.

St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey. It seems impossible that St. Paul's Cathedral should have survived when all the area behind it is bare and dreary. I visited the cathedral and found only one large hole in the roof, made by a high explosive bomb that shattered the altar beneath. Again it was explained that the roof structure supplied the answer. The incendiaries bounced off the great dome and the arched roof. Fire engines and fire fighters are massed all the time in the square in front of the cathedral.

If Westminster Abbey was hit, the damage must have been repaired, although one portion was closed on the Sunday afternoon I visited it. Fleet street, with most of the daily newspaper offices grouped together, suffered much, yet not one daily paper ever missed a single edition. The editor of one of Lord Beaverbrook's papers told me that 775,000 had been spent to protect the two buildings in one in that area. I saw the results. The record of the newspapers is remarkable, but no more amazing than

the attitude of the people at large. It is said that it was a great help to morale when a householder came to this front door after a night of terror, and found both the daily paper and the bottle of milk on the doorstep.

At Buckingham Palace, only one small building has been hit, but the iron fence is being removed to be used to make munitions. Many stores on Oxford and Regent streets have suffered. Tenants in rich apartments in the West End have lost everything they owned just as thoroughly as the poor in the dock areas, though not such a large proportion, perhaps.

It surprised me to find many Londoners still sleeping in air raid shelters after four months of immunity from bombing. I visited the great "Underground" station at Piccadilly Circus twice during my stay. Some 300 people were still sleeping there, but they seemed to be mostly men and women who had been bombed out of their own homes and preferred the semi-independence of this life rather than being billeted with strangers.

Coventry Has Suffered Most

It wasn't until I visited Coventry that I realized how bad a concentrated bombing can be. Coventry was (and is) a large industrial city about the size of Hamilton, Ontario. Twice the Germans concentrated the full weight of their air force on Coventry in an attempt to demonstrate just what they could do. To some extent, they succeeded; but they did not stop production to such an extent as they had hoped, and they did not terrify the people. They did not even kill as many as one would expect.

We drove from London to Coventry one fine September morning. The British Council supplied us with cars that had Canadian ensigns on the radiators. I admired the beautiful English countryside and wondered at the patience of the British farmers, cutting their second crop of hay in fields dotted with plane trees.

Coventry's city hall remains almost untouched on the border of a wide road, the car in which I was riding was the last to drive up to the door. A curious crowd, mostly women with market baskets, had gathered. As I stepped out, I heard someone ask, "Who are they?" I answered, "Canadians." The nearest woman with a basket over her arm responded, "My surprise with 'God bless Canada!'"

Later, I understood. Mayor Mosley welcomed us in a room which had a model tank and a large vegetable marrow on the table, symbols of greater production. Mrs. Pearl Hyde, head of the Women's Voluntary Services, told me that many of the people of Coventry were clothed in Canadian garments, and they had been fed for days from fleets of mobile canteens, donated to cities around by various Canadian war funds. Canada ranks high in the estimation of Coventry.

A few minutes later, I stood amid the rubble in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral. On one side stood Mrs. Hyde and on the other, Captain S. A. Hector, Chief of Police. Both, I learned later, are members of the Order of the British Empire because of heroic services performed.

Major Christie of St. John, N.B., moved through the rubble with the Provost of the Cathedral and laid on an improvised altar a wreath which the editors had brought from London. My eyes were moist and I thought the Chief wiped away a tear. Two days later, Prime Minister Churchill visited Coventry and asked about the wreath. He thought it a splendid idea and the next day, two more arrived to place beside our own, one from Winston Churchill, the other from Mrs. Churchill.

The buildings in the heart of Coventry are literally wiped out in two great raids, done in November, 1940, and the other in April, 1941, 70,000 houses out of a total of 91,000 in Coventry were damaged. "It was a beautiful moonlight night," said Mayor Mosley, "the most beautiful I think I ever saw in my life."

A visit to Coventry now is depressing. Here, it would seem, the German Luftwaffe really succeeded. But they didn't, even though they sent over 600 planes to bomb for 11½ hours in the moonlight, and even though they had immense luck for the large water main was broken by high explosives and three lucky shots killed in both raids, and I saw with my own eyes the war factories going again at full speed.

The buildings which made up the business section are gone, and so are many of the houses. The hospital and the cathedral and the Roman Catholic church are still shells. But amazingly enough, only 1246 persons were killed in both raids, and I saw with my own eyes the war factories going again at full speed.

That afternoon, before we left to visit a bomber station, a dainty young lady served tea to a dozen editors. I asked if she lived in Coventry during the raids. She said, "I was in a shelter either." She was her turn that night to be on Air Raid Patrol. She travelled through those streets with flames and death all around and the sky full of enemies. She was terrified, she admitted, but she never thought of taking shelter. Anyway, she had no home to go to that night: one of the first bombs got it. You can't defeat people like that.

HELP CANADA'S SEAWARD DEFENCE
WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES



Final Meeting of Esquering Township Council Last Week

Esquering Township Council held their regular meeting on Monday, December 15th. Deputy-Reeve C. H. May, Councillors G. W. Murray, Edwin Harrop and George E. Cleave were present. Reeve Wm. A. Wilson presided at the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

Moved and seconded by Cleave and May, that the relief accounts as presented be paid by the Treasurer, \$192.91.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by Harrop and Murray, that the Treasurer pay: Town of Milton, Fifth Division Court fees \$4.80; Corporation of Georgetown, Municipal Division Court fees \$3.00; Acton Public Utilities, Commission, Crescent Street lights to Dec. 17th \$15.00; Bell Telephone Company, account \$3.06; Department of Game and Fisheries, special hunting license \$5.15; I. M. Bennett, supplies 60¢, stamps and registration \$2.24; J. W. T. Stations, relief account to date \$20.00, supplies 75¢, total \$20.75; Len Owen, account for charity \$17.98; Thomas Dear, account for charity \$7.55; Wm. J. Campbell, weed inspector account for 1941 \$12.00; Harry Robertson, stamps \$5.00.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by Harrop and May, that the Treasurer pay: Wm. A. Wilson, meetings \$36.00, mileage \$3.90, comm. \$98.00, total \$137.90; C. H. May, meetings \$39.00, mileage \$10.40, comm. \$80.00, total \$129.40; Edwin Harrop, meetings \$39.00, mileage \$13.00, comm. \$70.00, total \$122.00; G. E. Cleave, meetings \$39.00, mileage \$6.50, comm. \$70.00, total \$115.50.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by Murray and Harrop, that the Treasurer pay Board of Health accounts: H. C. McCune, removals \$18.00; G. W. Murray, General Hospital to Hospital for Incurables, Toronto, Oct. 22nd, \$18.00; Department of Health of Ontario, insulin supplied 2 indigents \$14.00; C. R. Turner, ambulance from Milton to St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton, re indigents, Sept. 29th \$10.00; Dr. R. T. Pridgen, attending M.O.H. convention at Toronto \$10.00; J. H. Bingham, meetings \$24.00, mileage \$2.70, total \$26.70; Wm. A. Wilson, meetings \$24.00, mileage \$1.80, total \$25.80; Dr. R. T. Paul, meetings \$24.00, mileage \$1.20, total \$25.20; I. M. Bennett, meetings \$24.00, total \$24.00; J. Sanford, account to date \$4.80.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by Cleave and Harrop, that Treasurer pay sheep claims: Mrs. Kathleen Y. Sutherland, 2 sheep killed \$19.00, 2 sheep injured \$13.00, total \$32.00; Harry Presswood, 3 sheep killed \$43.00; Ray McEneaney, 1 sheep killed \$15.00; Herbert Anderson, 1 sheep killed \$16.00; D. E. Kilgour, 1 purebred lamb killed \$25.00; Wm. A. Wilson, 1 sheep killed \$15.00; K. C. Lindsay, valuator \$12.00; Victor McCallum, 4 sheep killed \$54.00; Duncan Waldie, valuator \$2.00; Victor McCallum, shooting dog in act of killing sheep \$5.00.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by May and Cleave, that the Treasurer pay the road accounts as presented by the Road Superintendent, \$638.16.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by Murray and Harrop, that leave be granted to introduce a by-law to provide for holding Municipal Elections for the year 1942, and that said by-law be now read a first time.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by Cleave and May, that leave be granted to introduce a by-law to grant permission to the Reeve and Treasurer to borrow money to meet the current expenditure of the township, and that said by-law be now read a first time.—Carried.

GUARDING QUALITY



A woman worker in the Brownsburg P.Q. small arms ammunition plant is shown inspecting shells. Canada is now turning out shells and bombs of all sizes in large quantities.

read a second and third times and passed, and the blanks filled in with the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars, and the seal of the Corporation be attached thereto.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by May and Cleave, that leave be granted to introduce a by-law to issue debentures on behalf of School Section No. 2, Esquering, to apply on the building of a new school house, and that said by-law be now read a first time.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by Harrop and Murray, that by-law to issue debentures on behalf of School Section No. 2, Esquering, to apply on the building of a new school house, having been read a first time be now read a second time.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by Cleave and Harrop, that the Reeve do now vacate the chair and it be taken by the Deputy-Reeve.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by Murray and Cleave, that the thanks of this Council are hereby tendered to Reeve Wm. A. Wilson for the courteous and impartial manner in which he has presided over the meetings of the council during the past year.—Carried.

Moved and seconded by Harrop and Cleave, that this council do now adjourn.—Carried.

BALLINAFAD

(LAST WEEK)

Mrs. M. Smith had her hand badly crushed last week when a heavy stick of wood fell on it. It required hospital treatment for a few days.

Mr. Norman Sinclair attended the Ranger-Leafs hockey game in Toronto Saturday night.

Master Ross Shortill is at present in Guelph Hospital where he is recovering from a severe scalding. He accidentally fell into a pall of hot water last Tuesday morning. We all hope he will soon be able to return home.

The joint Christmas meeting of the W.M.S. and Mission Circle was held Wednesday evening at the Manse. The "Canadian Friendship Carol Service" as outlined in the Missionary Monthly was followed, with W.M.S. members taking the leaders part and Circle members lighting the Friendship candles, one for each of the nationalities which go to make up our New Canadians. The reports of the different departments will be given at the January meeting. The financial report was very encouraging. The report of the nominating committee was accepted as follows for the W.M.S.: President—Mrs. R. Warne. 1st Vice-president—Mrs. A. O. W. Foreman.

2nd Vice-president—Mrs. D. Russell. Recording and Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. F. W. Shortill. Treasurer—Mrs. Robert McEneaney. Christian Stewardship and Finance—Mrs. F. J. Shortill. Supply—Mrs. A. McKay. Community Friendship—Mrs. W. Wylie.

Literature—Miss B. Hills. Temperance—Miss B. Hills. Press—Mrs. J. Kirkwood. Organist—Mrs. B. Vannatter. Associate Helpers—Mrs. Jesse McEneaney. Mission Circle Leader—Mrs. A. O. W. Foreman. Mission Band—Ethel Swindlehurst. Baby Band—Mrs. F. J. Shortill.

During the business part of the meeting the Circle elected the following officers for 1942: President—Margaret Sinclair. 1st Vice-president—Ethel Swindlehurst. Treasurer—Marguerite Kentner. Corresponding Secretary—Florence Sinclair. Recording Secretary—Annie Snow. Supply—Betty Perryman. Christian Stewardship—Lena Perryman. Community Friendship—Betty Perryman.

Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting and a social time enjoyed.

Don't drive carelessly—unless you are not fussy about living in 1942.

NOTICE

GLEN TEXTILE INDUSTRIES, LIMITED, hereby gives public notice that it has passed and sanctioned a by-law for the purpose of changing the location of the Head Office of the Company, the following being a true copy thereof.

GLEN TEXTILE INDUSTRIES, LIMITED, BY-LAW NO. 3
WHEREAS the Head Office of Glen Textile Industries Limited, now is at the Village of Glen Williams, in the County of Halton and Province of Ontario.

AND WHEREAS it has been deemed expedient that the same should be changed to the Town of Mount Forest, in the County of Wellington, in the said Province of Ontario;

THEREFORE **GLEN TEXTILE INDUSTRIES, LIMITED**, enacts as follows:—

1. That the Head Office of Glen Textile Industries Limited, be and the same is hereby changed from the Village of Glen Williams to the Town of Mount Forest.

2. That this by-law be submitted with all due despatch for the sanction of the Shareholders of the Company at a general meeting thereof to be called for considering the same.

ENACTED this Eighth day of December, 1941.

GLEN TEXTILE INDUSTRIES, LIMITED,
M. A. STEINBERG, President,
A. A. STEINBERG, Secretary.

DATED at Glen Williams this 12th day of December, 1941.

Glen Textile Industries, Limited,
A. A. Steinberg, Secretary

Notice to Creditors

In the matter of the Estate of ANNIE LANE, late of the Town of Georgetown, in the County of Halton, widow, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having any claims or demands against the late Annie Lane, who died on or about the eighteenth day of November, 1941, at the Town of Georgetown, in the County of Halton and Province of Ontario, are required to send by post prepaid or to deliver to the undersigned Solicitors herein for Janet McDougall and William George Marshall, the Executors of the last Will and Testament of Annie Lane, widow, deceased, their names and addresses and full particulars in writing of their claims and statements of their accounts and the nature of the securities, if any, held by them.

AND TAKE NOTICE that after the tenth day of January, 1942, the said Janet McDougall and William George Marshall will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have had notice, and that the said Janet McDougall and William George Marshall will not be liable for the said assets or any part thereof to any person of whose claim they shall not then have received notice.

DATED at Georgetown, Ontario, this ninth day of December, AD. 1941.

DALE and BENNETT,
Solicitors for the said Janet McDougall and William George Marshall.

New Year's Eve FROLIC
Wednesday, Dec. 31st
Oddfellows Hall, Brampton
Gibson-Boyd ORCHESTRA
LUCKY DANCES, HATS, NOISEMAKERS
LUNCH BY BRAMPTON REBEKAH LODGE
Dancing 10 'till 2
\$2.00 a Couple Dress Optional
Regular Wednesday night dance will continue in the New Year.
G. HOCKLEY, Manager.