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Canadian Troops in England Have a Good Record and Make Many Friends

This is the ninth story in a series of articles written by Hugh Tompkins, editor of the Fortuna-News-Magazine, about conditions in England, after a trip there with other Canadian editors a few months ago.
It was natural that a Canadian on a visit to Britain should want to see as much as possible of the Canadian Army overseas. Some of the Canadian editors have sons or brothers in the service. Every one had lists of addresses of boys from home.
Actually it wasn't so easy to find any individual soldier. The Canadian units are scattered over much of the southern part of England, and while I was there they were taking part in large-scale manoeuvres, the bulk of the Canadian Corps moving around London and up towards the coast to meet a pretended invasion. It was interesting to see this large army on the move, but hard to locate any individual.

quaint old East India and Sporting Club in London. He gave me comparative figures. It might be expected that the record of the English Regiments living near their own homes would be better than that of the Canadians. Actually it isn't. Crime among the soldiers of the Canadian Corps is only one-third as prevalent in proportion to the number enlisted, as in the Imperial Forces. In spite of driving conditions that are strange to Canadians, the highway accident records of Canadians is better in proportion to the number of vehicles. Investigation of accidents showed that there was a tendency to blame the Canadians for more than their share. For instance a woman called up one day to say that a Canadian Army vehicle had damaged her fence. Asked how she knew it was Canadian, she said it had a hippopotamus painted on the side. It was explained to her that the hippopotamus was not a Canadian animal; the vehicle belonged to another Dominion.

A Few Actual Incidents
A few simple stories will illustrate the attitude of the English people to the Canadians. In London, a taxi driver met me at the railway station in the blackout. When the driver arrived and found I was a Canadian, he asked if I would mind if he went around by the house and brought his wife along. He would like to talk to a Canadian. When I left them at the station, he would not accept a penny from me.
Waiting for the train in that same station I talked to three English Air-Force men in the R.A.F. They were found in their place of the Canadians because of an accident that had just happened. They had missed lunch as the kitchen had broken down. A young man along with them stood with me and insisted on being served first. The girl at the counter refused. A bit of an argument followed. A higher rank who took the girl to the boys. He had with him the Major's bit of lecture. After all, he concluded, we are all fighting for the same King.
One night the London Standard had a cartoon. It showed an English soldier in a trench, across from him a young R.C.A.F. man to her parents with the girl. I picked him up on my way out. The next day I sat in the front of a bus. He told me that he had just returned to his country, some of the present Staff. About the road they had been on, he said, with the boys are very happy. They had just had a picnic. He was his first time to see his home and he was invited to get out the bus to have a picnic. Perhaps he would be welcomed. That was a good day. He offered to take the Canadian to his home but as the bus was full he had to get out.

girl got ready to go, she changed her mind. She wouldn't give him up, no matter what her parents said. So he went along with her.
I have already mentioned the warm reception given us at Coventry. When a large part of that city was wiped out, most families escaped with their lives, but little else. Canadian garments clothed the people; Canadian travelling kitchens fed them; Canadian medical supplies were used to ease their pain. Standing in the midst of the ruins of Coventry Cathedral, the Provost presented to each Canadian editor a priceless souvenir, a cross made of two ancient nails picked up among the ruins.
Actually every person I met had high praise for Canada and Canadian—and it was sincere, not merely a polite gesture. Many of them had visited Canada. There was Lord Riverdale, head of a great steel company, who knew my own town of Perth; Sir Harry Brittain, who asked particularly about Acton, Ontario, because he had visited there, his home being in Acton, England; Winston Churchill, who promised to visit Canada again as soon as he could, a promise since carried out; James Bone, London editor of the Manchester Guardian, who lost his clothes when his boat was torpedoed as he returned from Canada; and the taxi driver who used to work at Jasper Park and believed it was the most beautiful spot on earth.

Canadian Soldiers and English Girls
Many Canadian soldiers are marrying English girls. That is not surprising, but few in Canada realize how many weddings there have been. The commanding officer of a Western Ontario battalion told me that 100 of his men had married English and Scottish girls. He said they were good girls of the best type, for he insisted on interviewing every one before he gave his permission for the marriage to take place.
Now that is something that Canadian relatives of soldiers should particularly notice. Canadian girls should overlook B. K. Sandwell, who is with me, believes that a certain "plum" surrounds Canadians in Britain. He credits this in part to the movies and novels. Perhaps he is right. At a big aircraft factory I saw a girl sitting at a table reading a paper-covered novel, entitled "Love in the North." On the cover was a huge Canadian youth dressed in fur parka, carrying a beautiful girl, while the snow-belted mountains and a bear surrounded them. Behind them was a girl who had spent much of his life in the North was much amused.
I think there is a more practical side to it than that. The English believe we live in a land of plenty and wealth. Just look when we get home. A Canadian's consolation is a catch and from what I saw on the streets and elsewhere English girls are out to get their man in a hurry.
From the soldier's point of view, I believe loneliness plays a part. The boys don't get enough letters from home. Perhaps they get plenty at first, but the number falls off. Some don't get any. They want the news from home, but even more they want to think that they haven't been forgotten. They need letters even more than they need parcels—news, gossip, letters telling what people at home are doing. And they like the home town newspapers, which pass from hand to hand. Councils or service clubs would be doing good acts if they would subscribe for the local paper for all boys from their towns who are overseas.
Parcels are appreciated of course. The troops are adequately fed, but they get few luxuries. Remember that when you send parcels. Some things are luxuries in England that are plentiful here. Candies are most welcome. I saw candies only twice in England, and they were really confections, not real candies. I would have given much for some real ones. Send potted fancy meats and cheese, marmalade and jams in tins (not glasses), braces and garters and razor blades.
Illustrated magazines, such as Life, are heavy to send, but are most welcome. Send a few of them to your soldiers, or to A. Seward, Canadian Army Headquarters, Cockspur Street, London.
But remember, letters are best of all. There can't be too many of them.

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Passenger and Mail 6:43 p.m.
Passenger, Sunday only 8:31 p.m.
Toronto and beyond 9:41 p.m.
Going West
Passenger and Mail 8:34 a.m.
Passenger Saturday only 1:15 p.m.
Passenger daily except
Saturday and Sunday 6:00 p.m.
Passenger and Mail 6:43 p.m.
Passenger, Sundays only 11:30 p.m.
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Passenger and Mail 8:45 a.m.
Going South
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9:18 a.m. 6:08 p.m.
11:48 p.m. 9:13 p.m.
2:23 p.m.
Westbound to London
9:35 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
12:05 p.m. 7:50 p.m.
e 9:05 p.m.
3:05 p.m. dx10:35 p.m.
ay4:05 p.m. ex11:35 p.m.
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Lac Beauport, Quebec, Ski Paradise



"Ski to keep fit" has become something of a wartime slogan in the ranks of Canadian and American sports enthusiasts, many of whom are combining this timely impulse with the joys of unbounded ski sport on the hills of Lac Beauport, nine miles from Quebec City, or in the Ancient Capital itself where facilities for skiing, skating, tobogganing, sleigh riding and snow-shoeing are all contributing to the joys of Quebec's winter season.
Accompanied by heated bus from the Chateau Frontenac, popular headquarters for American and Canadian visitors, the gleaming "snow-bowl" with its facilities for every type of ski sport, has lately acquired front page prominence in the North American ski world. And this year, with skiing featuring so prominently in military manoeuvres, as well as in civilian sport life, Lac Beauport is expecting more ski action on its hills than ever before.
Briefly, the Lac Beauport lay-

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