

# "You'll get no promotion this side of the ocean"

"Comrades, comrades, Ever since we were boys Sharing each others pleasures, Sharing each others joys."

Every time I hear that old army song on the Ray Souin show, "Calling All Britons," I think of my third day in the army. I gave up strategic ground. A no-no.

My orders were to guard boxes of booze for the Officers Mess. No one came out and said it was booze but the boxes were clearly marked with familiar names like Seagrams, Walker, Corby, Labatts, Dow, Black Horse Ale and Canadian Breweries.

It was an important posting. The strange unfamiliar officer told me to watch this pile of boxes 'til the mess stewards arrived to set up the bar and under no circumstances was I to let my guard drop. I was so anxious to serve and obey I saluted with my left hand. A grave mistake in the army.

It certainly was a hectic day. We were moving into the old Standard Wire and Cable factory in Hamilton and it was to be known as Standard Barracks.

Everyone was assigned some duty and it happened I was the next guy to be given a specific job. That's how I was entrusted with the officers most important military stock.

Everyone seemed anxious to do what was necessary to get the Regiment settled in and naturally there were some of us who wanted to show leadership qualities and perhaps rise to the outstanding rank of a Lance Corporal, or even Corporal within a day or two.

Alas, my military career took a turn for the worse when it was discovered I had been fooled into giving up a few bottles of rye to



## Have You Got A Minute?

Stories by W. Steamer Emmerson

comrades who told me with a straight face, if questioned by any superior as to who got a bottle I was only to divulge my rank, name and number.

My instructions were to guard several boxes marked Seagrams, Walker, Corby, Labatts, Dow, Dawes Black Horse, Blue Tap, Frontenac and O'Keefe.

The moving dragged on and every so often an officer would show up to ask if everything was in order.

Then, poker-faced Charlie Boyle showed up and whispered in my ear. Lt. Richards had sent him over to get a bottle of rye and I was to say nothing. Charlie and I were in the same platoon, Charlie Company, he was a comrade, a few years older than me and a fine judge of rye whisky.

It never dawned on me the boys had sent Charlie to test my military resolve and as a buddy I willingly helped Charlie make sure he got the rye he told me Lt. Richard had specifically instructed him to get.

Charlie slipped away quietly nodding a silent thank you.

Gosh, I hadn't hardly had time to concentrate on my duties when sandy-haired, ruddy-faced Don McPhail was whispering in my ear with a slight odor of rye on his

breath. Lt. Webb had asked him to pick up a bottle. Once again, with dispatch, I made sure Don got the right crock for a deserving officer.

By this time Charlie and Don were two of the most popular guys in Standard Barracks. When the dust and fatigue had slowed the pace, they provided a quick pick-me-up to deserving comrades. They were kind enough to say to those thankful souls who paused for refreshment, that I was certainly to be thanked also.

My dereliction of duty certainly made me popular with the troops but a traitor as far as the officers were concerned.

There was hell to pay when the mess steward arrived to set up the officers mess and they discovered I had failed to guard the crown jewels.

By this time some of the officers arrived, whose names had been used by Charlie and Don to lift a bottle, and upon the threat of a firing squad were demanding the culprits names.

I was steadfast in my resolve not to tattle on buddies who enjoyed a drink.

You probably wonder what the outcome was of my failure. Well let's put it this way - every time I

heard the old army song "You'll get no promotion, this side of the ocean, so cheer up my lads, Bless 'em all, I figured the guy who

wrote it had me in mind. By the way, Charlie and Don never got promoted either that I know of. Pity.

## CARRIER OF THE WEEK BOYS - GIRLS

Maurice, a Grade 5 student at George Kennedy School in Georgetown, has been delivering papers for the Halton Hills Herald for seven months.

Maurice and his brother Philippe deliver 129 papers Wednesdays and Saturdays and the money he earns is safely deposited in his bank account.

Maurice is planning a career as an equine veterinarian.

For his efforts, Maurice will receive a large pizza courtesy of Pizza Hut in Georgetown.



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## Cross-border shopping hurts dairy industry

By ROB SAVAGE  
 Toronto Bureau  
 Thomson News Service

TORONTO - Cross border shopping may be seriously harming Ontario's dairy industry.

Delegates to the Ontario Milk Marketing Board's annual meeting in Toronto Wednesday heard that the federal government must act to reduce the number of people shopping in the U.S.

Grant Smith, a board member with the OMMB, said the dairy industry is among the food producers that suffer. There is a reduced demand for Canadian dairy products when people buy U.S. milk or dairy products, he said.

"Producers cannot tolerate market share quota reductions while milk or milk components slip in through the back door," he said.

Smith said the future of the supply management system (which sets quotas on the amount of production) will be in jeopardy if the government doesn't stop people from looking for bargains in the U.S. He said the government's recent efforts to enforce the collection of appropriate duties should be applauded.

However, it's uncertain how harmful the problem is to the dairy industry.

Smith said he didn't have numbers but suspected it was serious. Agriculture Canada recently studied the problems in Ontario, he said, but didn't release the results.

"We can only conclude that its results are even more dramatic than previous studies."

Adrian Rodenburg, a dairy farmer from Woodstock, said in an interview the problem is known to be serious in Alberta. Ontario dairy farmers are hoping the problem isn't as bad in this province, he said.

Rodenburg said the dairy industry has lobbied the government but he suspected there is only so much the government can do. He said he was worried the problem may get worse.

"This may just be the tip of the iceberg," he said.



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