

With Our Weekly Newspaper Representatives Overseas

First Releases Received by Mail from Messrs. R. P. MacLean and C. J. Albion, Official Delegates of the C.W.N.A., Now in England with the Canadian Press Party Sponsored by the United Kingdom Information Branch

OUR FIRST WEEK IN LONDON (By C. J. ALBION JR.)

The eight Canadian editors who came to England at the invitation of the British Ministry of Information have just completed their first week in London—a week during which there has been no rain, but at Southampton today we ran into a very brief snowstorm, lasting only a few minutes. During the week most of the party have suffered from colds as most people do who come to England. No one has been seriously affected by illness so far.

It has been a week packed full of interest, during which we have mingled with the High Commissioner for Canada, Generals of the services, high ranking naval personnel and privates. A week in which we have been photographed daily by official photographers, banquetted by the High Commissioner, the army, navy and air force; listened to addresses of welcome from all bodies and managed to get in a little work with the Canadian fighting forces. Through it all we came with flying colors and suffered from lack of rest.

Over the week-end we will have time to catch up on our sleep and get ready for a still tougher week to come before we complete our tour of the Islands to inspect the plants and meet the workmen and women who have played such a large part in providing the Allied armies with the equipment they will need to meet and overcome the enemy in the tense days that lie ahead.

On our arrival Saturday, January 29, we just missed an air raid. A few of the enemy planes managed to get through the barrage but little damage was reported. We are told that the barrage put up by the defenses is really something to hear. A few of the boys who were not with the party yesterday heard the barrage for the first time this morning. We had spent the night at Southampton, preparatory to visiting the navy, and so missed the show.

Sunday was a day of rest. Some of the members visited friends and relatives. At least one member spent some time in Hyde Park where the soap box orators still hold forth in all their glory in spite of the war and

restrictions. Free speech is still allowed.

Monday we had the pleasure of meeting the famous "Wolf" squadron. We looked over their Spitfires, by which the boys swear, and their administration offices. This squadron had just received its crest which had been signed by the King and they were very proud of it. This squadron has a very excellent record and is second in the number of planes shot down last year. They were a fine bunch of boys and really anxious to get the Hun into the air. Their chief complaint seemed to be that the Hun wouldn't come off the ground. We saw something of their machine guns and cannon and the servicing these planes need to keep them in the air. As we entered the Air Force mess for lunch we ran into Squadron Leader George Hill, D.F.C. and two bars, who recently returned from Canada and will soon be commanding a new squadron. We had a pleasant chat with this young Nova Scotian from Pictou whose work has been rather outstanding. We also had a word with Ralph Nickerson of Moncton, who is well known in Halifax having been with the Bank of Nova Scotia. "Buzz" Beurling, who has won fame in the air force, was formerly with this squadron, but is now with another station. The squadron is led by Squadron Leader Robert Buckham, D.F.C. and the United States D.F.C.

There were several other visits and late in the afternoon we met Air Marshal Bredner who had command of the Air Force, and other high ranking officers, including Air Vice-Marshal Brooks who will show us something of the Bomber Command next week.

On Tuesday we inspected the bombed areas of London and marvelled that St. Paul's Cathedral escaped total destruction while all around it was laid waste. Words fail one in describing the destruction. Where once famous buildings stood, nothing remained but the basements. Most of the debris has been cleared away and walls built along the sidewalks to prevent people from falling into the cellars. We were inside St. Paul's and saw the damage caused

by bomb hits, but these are not particularly serious and repairs can be effected. But Londoners do not stand surveying the damage; they carry on with that determination that ensures the future of the British Commonwealth of Nations. They have a job to do in beating Hitler and they are doing the job, come what may.

The Canadian High Commissioner's lunch gave us an opportunity to meet many of London's publishers and some members of parliament. Afterwards we were taken to Caxton Hall and provided with ration books and gas masks.

At Bethnal Green we witnessed some of the worst bomb destruction we had seen. The borough covers a square mile and had a population of 100,000 persons. Half of them moved away from the area and found work elsewhere. Bethnal Green suffered terribly. As many as 173 incidents happened there in one night. Here a terrible calamity happened in one of the air raid shelters when a mother and two children fell at the bottom of a stairway and in the crush to seek protection nearly 30 persons piled on them, 173 dying from suffocation as the bodies were crushed by the weight from behind. To-day Bethnal Green has a most up-to-date air raid shelter that will take care of 4,750 persons, providing them with a bed to sleep on. 8,000 can be packed into the shelters. They take their own bedding, and many of them leave it there for emergency. Some 1,500 have been killed in this area alone. The set-up they now have for handling raids is something to marvel at.

On Wednesday, with Capt. Austin as our guide, we visited Col. W. J. Brigger and looked over a B. C. Battery. Col. Brigger came from Hamilton and stands 6 feet 5½ inches. The Battery put on a good show for us and we had dinner at their mess. Major G. R. Flawn, of Dartmouth, is second in command.

That afternoon we were privileged to meet one of Canada's outstanding young Generals—one who is looked on as the possible leader of the Canadian forces in the coming battle. For security reasons we cannot mention his name, but he is of the type that inspires confidence. He had been in Italy and gave a very fine outline of action being carried on there. Questioned about the value of Rome to the Allies he thought it would be of more political than military value. The fighting was going well in Italy, he told the press representatives. He also expressed the opinion that Germany would crack this year.

In the evening the editors dined with Major-General Montague and his staff at Military Headquarters. The General outlined some of the

difficulties which his organization had to cope with now that the Canadian Army is divided into two sections. General Montague is the only Non-Permanent General still serving in Canada's overseas army. Discussing the matter of supplies, General Montague told the delegation that supplies were pooled and Canadian troops drew the same rations as the British troops.

Thursday, February 3, was spent with the troops at the No. 1 Base Ordnance Workshop, R.C.O.C., where Canadian army vehicles and equipment is repaired by Canadian workmen who are doing a job surpassed by none. In 1940 the repairing of Canadian equipment caused much concern in Canadian Army circles and Brigadier MacQueen, the D.Q.M.G., went to work to break the bottleneck. Through the energy and foresight of this officer the Canadians have a repair set-up to-day of which they must feel proud. It is true that a good many millions of dollars are represented in the many repair assembly buildings one sees for the equipment is all new and of the latest models. It is manned largely by a staff which carried on that type of work prior to the war, although here and there you will run into boys who are really learning a trade—something that will stand in good stead after the war is over. On the assembly line you will see men working as hard as if they were on piece work in a motor car plant and every hour the figure on the sign board change, showing the production for the hour and the total for the day. Later we will try to give you a full outline of the work of the Base Ordnance Workshop, which covers some 500,000 square feet of floor space.

Late Thursday afternoon we continued our journey to where on Saturday we spent a few hours with some of the Canadian Navy. Lt.-Cmdr. Wm. Slater conducting the party. Here we had an opportunity to look over the style of craft which may be used in the coming invasion of Europe. A little time was also spent on board one of England's warships which is used for training purposes. Most of our time was spent in one of the gun turrets and we marvelled at the ease with which the guns are handled, and, as the enemy knows they hit their target. Vision at sea is limited to about five miles at sea level.

We have also had the opportunity of seeing some of the bomb damage caused in Southampton by the big raids around November and December, 1940. One section of the city is completely wiped out. Some 700 persons were killed in these raids and thousands made homeless. In all areas we visited one cannot help but note the large number of churches which have been destroyed. To-day

the people of this district have resumed their normal activities and things go on much as usual. They seem to think nothing of the destruction that is all around them. Some, we were informed, have already had an adjustment made on their loss but they cannot rebuild to-day on account of the restrictions on materials.

Later Friday we spent a short time aboard Nelson's famous flagship the "Victory". Comparing the power of the 104 guns which Nelson's ship carried with modern day equipment, we were told that the weight of ammunition thrown by one broadside would barely equal that of one shell thrown by a modern 15-inch gun. German bombs have left their mark on the "Victory" as one went right through the ship leaving a large gap about ten feet square. The outward appearance, however, is such that one would never suspect it and the famous flagship still stands there as an inspiration to the men of the sea.

Thirty-six Children Are Killed

On Sunday, February 7, I paid a visit to Catford, where 36 school children lost their lives in one of the worst tragedies to strike England during the war. At play during recess the children were struck down by the Hun airmen who blew half of their school building away and machine gunned the children at play. "I was sitting here in my window," said an aged lady to the writer, "that day when the planes came over. I saw them break into three groups and one group turned towards the school. I heard the awful explosion of the bomb. Thirty-six children were killed and their grave is just a few streets down from here where they were all buried together."

We had heard there were military objectives in the locality of the school and we went there to see for ourselves. As far as our eyes could see there was no industry of any kind—just a district of homes. Only blood-

thirsty criminals could have been responsible for attack.

To-day workmen are busy reclaiming the portion of the school that was not blown down but the memory of that awful day will never fade from the minds of the residents of that district.

Pay Equalized For Farm Work

British Women Harvesters Win Campaign For Same Wages As Men

LONDON (CP)—British women campaigning against the inequality of sexes, have won one more victory with the equalizing of pay for workers at harvest camps.

Last year discontent raged among the volunteer workers when men were paid 25 cents and hour while women received only 20 cents for the same job. This year their salaries will be the same.

Every year more than 300,000 housewives, typists, factory girls, policewomen and members of the women's services volunteer along with many men to give up their summer holiday to working on farms. Many husbands and wives work together.

There are no married quarters at the camps, but workers live in Nissen huts and pay \$5 a week for their keep. Cooking the meals at most camps are Italian prisoners of war, many of whom were cooks and chefs at leading London restaurants before the war.

LOST IN DEEP SNOW

YORK, England (CP)—Hundreds of sheep were lost in huge snow drifts on the Yorkshire moors during a late February week-end when drifts from six to ten feet deep formed. The fall of snow was only four to six inches, but heavy winds piled it high on the open ground.

These days, when tea must yield the utmost in flavour, quality is of supreme importance. Ask for ..

"SALADA" TEA

On the Home Front too...



● When a gun goes into action every man has a job to do. Seconds count, and team work gets results.

Training . . . endless training . . . gets efficiency that makes each man part of a perfect machine.

But something more than efficiency is needed to make a top-rank fighting unit. There must be loyalty . . . that spirit of responsibility that each man feels toward his mates.

We've got efficiency on the farm front . . . we're producing more, and with less help to do it. Keep up the teamwork that will make each one of us go all out to support our men on the fighting fronts.

We too, are part of a fighting unit . . . citizens of a nation at war. We must not let our men on the fighting fronts down.

Invasion means high tension on the fighting fronts . . . combined operations . . . thorough team work in every detail. And that call for greater action comes back to us at home. We have a job to do here, too. We must all buy Victory Bonds. We have a responsibility to our mates on the firing line. We can't let them down.

And the job that we are asked to do is . . . save more, and lend more to our country. We are asked to let our country have the use of money that we do not need now. We will have the money later on to improve our farms and to buy stock and equipment; for new barns and silos; for new furnishings and conveniences for our homes.

Be ready to buy more Victory Bonds.
National War Finance Committee

EVERY ONE HAS A JOB TO DO