

Personals

Pilot Officer Stanley Marsh is home on furlough from Vancouver, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Penny are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. J. Mowatt for a few days.

Mrs. Boyd of Milton is spending the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Alex Gillies, Mount Forest.

Sgt. S. J. Wilson of Newmarket spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Wilson.

Signaller Allan Marcellus, R.C.N.V.R. is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Marcellus.

Mrs. George H. Dawson, who suffered an attack of pleurisy in 1941 in Milton Hospital and is improving nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Clements and Mrs. Ruth A. Clements are leaving for Chicago on the 27th of December to visit their son Frank.

Mr. T. G. Ramshaw who took ill on Wednesday evening was taken to Milton Hospital, where he underwent an operation on Thursday. We are pleased to hear that he is making a satisfactory recovery.

Weekly War Commentary

(Continued from Page Three)

German Counter-Attack

At the week-end the Germans launched their biggest and fiercest counter-attack in the west since D-Day and by mid-week had plunged more than 20 miles inside Belgium. A news blackout was clamped on this sector of the front but reports seeping through said that American First Army positions had been overrun for 20 miles northward from Luxembourg's northern tip and that little country also has been re-invaded by the Nazis. One dispatch said that the important Belgium town of Malmédy had fallen but there was no confirmation.

The Germans were said to be fighting with a new-weapon ferocity, throwing a new V-weapon of undisclosed nature against both the first and ninth American army sectors, and feeding heavy concentrations of armour into key points despite heavy losses.

A shortage of ammunition, admitted by both Gen. Eisenhower and President Roosevelt, may be a deciding factor in this battle.

Berlin propagandists meanwhile, were making the most of the situation. It was hinted that the Nazi counter offensive may be a peace drive designed—through attrition—to gain something better than unconditional surrender for Germany. German broadcasters also used the counter-attack as an answer to the question of Hitler's whereabouts. The German radio said: "We can tell you now why Hitler has been silent. He is not ill but has been busy preparing this new offensive down to the minutest detail."

Prime Minister Churchill told the Commons a great battle was going on along the western front but he refused to give details and supported Gen. Eisenhower's action in clamping a news blackout on the latest developments. Mr. Churchill also refused to give a general review of the war and the Greek issue until after Christmas, though he did say the situation in Greece, where British troops are fighting Greek resistance troops, had improved. He made it clear however, that if the Commons wanted an immediate review of the Greek picture, it would have to take a vote of censure and his government would stand or fall on the outcome of such a vote. Mr. Churchill's challenge was not accepted.

The Atlantic Mastered In Winter

Another war-time achievement of Britain's merchant airmen has been the conquest of the North Atlantic. This savage ocean had never been flown in winter until 1940. Then a small band of British Overseas Airways pilots helped to organize the first delivery flight of American bombers from Canada. In September 1941, British Overseas Airways started a two-way Atlantic service from Prestwick, Scotland, to Montreal Canada, which has completed more than one thousand flights. This service operates across the most difficult winter route in the world and has been one of the outstanding achievements of British civil aviation.

The air route to India has never been cut during the war. Today big British Overseas Airways flying boats travel from England via Gibraltar and through the Mediterranean to Cairo. From there, they cross the deserts of Transjordan and Iraq to the Persian Gulf on the way to Karachi. In June 1940, however, when Italy came into the war, the Mediterranean was closed and flying boats had to go from England to Lagos via the West Africa coast, linking up with Trans-African services, to form an air life line for the troops in the Middle East and India. The air line which runs right across Africa from Lagos on the West Coast to Khartoum, at this moment proved one of the most vital air routes of the war.

Church News

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th, 1944
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES
11.00 a.m.—Sermon, "The Christmas Message". Special music by the choir.

11.15 a.m.—Junior Sunday School.
12.15 a.m.—Senior Sunday School.
7.00 p.m.—Candlelight Service. "A New Star Shines" The beautiful Christmas story presented by the choir in Biblical costumes. Everyone welcome. Carol Singing. See other add for particulars.

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH REV. S. A. KIRK Rector

CHRISTMAS EVE—DEC. 24th
Sunday, December 24th
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School and Bible Classes.

11.00 a.m.—Mittins and Sermon. Preacher, Wing Commander, the Rev. W. B. Jennings, B.A., B.D.
11.00 p.m.—Christmas Eve—Midnight Choral Eucharist. Those enlisted from the Parish will be remembered by name in prayer. Let us welcome the dawn of Christmas Day in God's House. (No service will be held at 7.00 p.m. on this Sunday.)

CHRISTMAS DAY—DEC. 25th
10.00 a.m.—Shortened Mittins and Holy Communion and Christmas Message.
Special Christmas music will be rendered by the choir at all the above services.
"Come and Worship: Worship Christ the New-born King"

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH Ministers:

S/L Rev. G. W. Porter, M.A., B.D.
(Chaplain R. C. A. F.)
Rev. J. B. Moore, B.A.
Minister in Charge

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th, 1944
10.00 a.m.—Senior Sunday School.

11.00 a.m.—Christmas Sunday Morning service. Sacrament of Baptism. Sermon, "The Light Everlasting." Junior Sunday School will worship with the congregation.

7.00 p.m.—Joint Christmas Eve Musical service in Knox Church.
Wed. 8 p.m.—Y.P.U. in S.S. Room. Election of officers. Recreation.
Next Sunday—"Old Year" Services.

Thanks To All

For the support accorded me in the voting last Thursday and returning me for another year to Milton Council. I will strive to serve the community well.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
EVERYONE

J. W. HIGGINS

The SELRITE STORE

EXTENDS TO ONE AND ALL
A MERRY CHRISTMAS

This Store Will be Closed
Boxing Day, Dec. 26th

PILES Sufferers of bleeding and protruding piles should know Bunkers Herbal Pills treat the cause at its source. Money back if the first bottle does not satisfy. Buy at Pickett's Drug Store. 1M-6M

PRINCESS THEATRE

FRIDAY — SATURDAY
December 22 and 23

Jack Carson, Irene Manning in
"MAKE YOUR OWN BED"
Musical—"Lucky Cowboy."
Color Cartoon "Russian Rhapsody."

MONDAY — TUESDAY
December 25 and 26

Dorothy Lamour, Fred MacMurray, Betty Hutton in
"AND THE ANGELS SING"
Disney, "How to Fish."
Disney Occupations, "Occupations No. 2."
Sport, "Catchem and Eatem."

COMING

Claudette Colbert, Fred McMurray in
"NO TIME FOR LOVE"
Musical, "Mardi Gras."
Speaking, "In Winter Quarters."
"News."

Fri. and Sat. Pictures at 7.30
Other Nights 7.45

Halton Member Gave Address At Warden's Dinner

Told Complete Story of Developments of Re-enforcement Question

Speaking at the Warden's Dinner on Monday evening at the Estaminet in Burlington, Mr. Hughes Cleaver, member for Halton County gave a synopsis of developments regarding re-enforcements that will prove interesting not only to those who were permitted to attend the function but to residents of the entire County. Below we give the text of his address.

"We have recently had a crisis in this country arising out of the shortage of re-enforcements for the army. In addition to the open sessions which have been reported in the press we had a secret session. I cannot give you information which I heard at the secret session but I am at perfect liberty to give you all other information which I have learned.

In my remarks to-night I can give you a fairly complete picture and I know that you want to hear the story.

This is the tenth Warden's Dinner at which I have had the opportunity and responsibility of addressing you as your federal member. Politics are out of place at a meeting of this nature. While I will carefully endeavor to abide by this rule yet I should warn you at once that the subject which I am discussing to-night makes my position rather difficult. I know that you want to hear the full story about the lack of infantry re-enforcement an it may well be that as a member supporting the Government I may be prejudiced, however I will give the facts as I see them letting the chips fall where they may. I will say nothing intentionally to offend anyone and I am of course assured in advance that my Conservative friends in the audience will at least discount my remarks to their true proportions indeed I will be fortunate if they do not undertake them.

On October 18th Colonel Ralston returned from Overseas and immediately met the Prime Minister and reported that a serious shortage of infantry re-enforcements would develop before the end of the year and asked that a sufficient number of draftees should be conscripted. Cabinet Council was called immediately on the following day and a memorandum was received from Army headquarters accordingly. In the debate in the House of Commons much was said about a telegram from Overseas which Colonel Ralston saw early in August. The importance of this message was both emphasized and minimized but the fact remains that it was not shown to the Prime Minister nor the Cabinet and the first inkling of any shortage which was received by the Prime Minister or the Cabinet was late in October. No one disputes this fact.

To us ordinary individuals when we have a re-enforcement pool of fully trained men now Overseas which runs into many tens of thousands plus another 120,000 volunteers in Canada, of which at least one-half are physically fit for infantry service overseas, it is difficult for us to understand how a shortage could have occurred in any branch of the army. Our total army commitments is six divisions. Our total voluntary enlistments are over three times that amount. How could a shortage have occurred when these figures do not include the draftees. It is equally difficult to us to understand why it was necessary for Col. Ralston to go overseas to find out that a shortage was developing in one branch of the army re-enforcements. But notwithstanding all of these "ifs" an infantry shortage did occur and the only apparent source

A CARD OF THANKS

Considering the necessity of a fresh outlook on the town's affairs, and with judgment, apart from outside influence, I qualified as a candidate for council.

Though I was an unsuccessful candidate, I wish to convey my thanks to all who favoured me with their votes.

C. STUART HATELY

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



May Good Cheer, Happiness, Health and a Merry Christmas all be yours. This is our Christmas wish for Everyone

Elliott's Hairdressing
MILTON

from which the shortage could be made good in time was from 16,000 draftees in Canada whose infantry training was well advanced.

In order that you may fully understand the problem may I digress for a moment to explain the facts. In previous wars most of our army was infantry but in this war on account of its highly mechanized nature all nations were lead to stress the use of modern equipment. This time the infantry only represents one fifth of Canada's Army. The infantry represents a total front line personnel of less than 35,000 in the Canadian Army.

Canada is not fighting this war alone. We have Allies. We are only one small member of the allied team. Total war for Canada in these circumstances means that we should do what we can best do for the common cause. As a result of these facts it was decided that one half of our war effort, at least one half, if not more, would be war production. We have over a million workers in war industry. In addition to building and manning our own navy and our own air force we are giving away annually a billion dollars worth of tanks, planes, guns, shells, ships and food to our allies. We also decided as to what would be our maximum goal with respect to our naval force, our air force and our army and no criticism has been made with respect to these decisions. All of our commitments have been fully kept.

Now let us come to the army. We agreed as to what size it should be and we agreed unanimously. Our army headquarters forecast what our casualties would be and we made plans to provide for a steady flow of re-enforcements to meet these forecasted casualties. When manpower of a nation is being used right up to its full limit it would be prodigal to waste manpower to have re-enforcements trained and sitting around, kicking their heels, a long period of time in advance of the time when they would be required. The practical thing to do is to have a steady and ample flow of re-enforcements passing through the training camps. The forecasted army casualties as to the over-all picture have proved to be very accurate and to-day we have a total re-enforcement pool overseas quite as large as we planned and quite ample but as to infantry, which represents only one fifth of our army, a very serious error was made. Our infantry casualties have nearly doubled what we estimated they would be. It is futile at this time to blame anyone for this error but it is only common sense to state that the error should have been detected sooner and the Minister of National Defence should not have required to go overseas to learn of it.

On the 19th of October last, the Cabinet was faced with this urgent problem. No one suggested but what re-enforcements had to be found. The only difference of opinion was as to the best means of meeting the emergency. Whether we like it or not we have a large group in Canada who are opposed to conscription until it is absolutely necessary. This group are not all French Canadians. Seventy-two per cent of the draftees are English speaking. Of the group who are opposed to conscription until it is necessary a large majority of them will support conscription when it is necessary but the actual need must first arise.

From now on I speak only for myself. If I had been a member of the Cabinet and facing up to our actual conditions here I would first want to know if the re-enforcement problem could be solved by a transfer of men from branches of the army where we now have a surplus to the infantry where we have a shortage. If I found this could not be done in time I would want time to at once acquaint the general public of the facts. I would then discharge the officers who neglected to report the shortage which started to develop many months ago. All of this would take only a matter of weeks and I would then enforce conscription to the extent that it was necessary.

In substance this is practically what happened. The Minister of Defence was not content to have any delay and he resigned. The Prime Minister and the new Minister of Defence appealed to the 16,000 infantry trained draftees to enlist voluntarily. He is criticised for failing to threaten them that they would be conscripted if they did not enlist at once. He would have been equally criticised if he had threatened. The Prime Minister has reminded us that when we launch a Victory Loan campaign we do not threaten people that if they do not subscribe voluntarily we will conscript their wealth. He sees no good reason for threatening our soldiers in any way different to the way in which we treat wealth. The campaign for volunteers would have succeeded if everyone would have supported it. Instead of supporting the campaign for volunteers the Conservative Opposition, the Conservative press and even the officers commanding the draftees joined in a campaign to attack the voluntary system and to blame the Government.

When it became apparent that the appeal for volunteers could not succeed in getting the necessary re-enforcements in time then an Order-in-Council was passed on November 23rd, just one month and three days after the emergency occurred, conscripting for Overseas service 16,000 draftees.

(Continued on Page Eight)

MILTON BOARD OF TRADE Christmas Party and Tree

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 23rd AT 3 P.M.

IN PRINCESS THEATRE, MILTON

For Children Only of Public School Age and Younger

Owing to the fact that the seating capacity of the theatre is only 460, it is requested that parents arrange to send small children with an older child, as there will not be room for parents and children both. The theatre will be amply supervised by a Matron and by members of the Board of Trade. Parents are also requested to please see that their children are started for the theatre in plenty of time so that they will not be arriving after the lights are dimmed for the pictures.

Doors Open at 2.45 p.m.

Admission FREE

WE WISH ALL OUR PATRONS AND FRIENDS

Season's Greetings

WITH

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Milton Dept. Store

PHONE 112—MILTON

No Tree is Big Enough

TO HOLD THE HAPPINESS WE WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS FOR THIS CHRISTMAS AND THE YEARS TO COME



Milton Hardware

Another year has passed and again we come to you with the wish that's old but ever new

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOURS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

KERR'S PHARMACY

THE REXALL STORE—DRUGGIST AND STATIONER

PHONE 40

MILTON, ONT.

Christmas Suggestions

- Flashlights (Complete) \$1.75
- Defrosters \$3.00
- Tire Pumps, real heavy \$3.50
- Tire Chains \$5.50 up
- Car Batteries from \$8.50 up

All Kinds of Radio Batteries and Flashlight Batteries on hand

SPECIAL NOTICE

After waiting almost a year we have secured the very latest in Vulcanizing Equipment, especially designed to handle synthetic tires. The new machine is electrically controlled, leaving nothing to the guess work.

17 Years Experience in Tire Repair

H. A. Cavell

PHONE 245

MAIN ST.

MILTON, ONT.