

**"THE LIBERAL"**

Established 1878

Advertising Rates on Application. TELEPHONE 9  
 AN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY  
 PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT RICHMOND HILL  
 THE LIBERAL PRINTING CO., LTD.  
 J. Eachern Smith, Manager  
 Subscription \$1.50 per year — To the United States \$2.00  
 Member Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association  
 Covering Canada's Best Suburban District

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, 1942.

**OURS NOT TO DIE**

Striding bareheaded — his tin hat hanging from his wrist — with a streak of blood across the bridge of his nose, Lieut. Col. C. I. Merritt, Canada's first V.C. of the war, has become a symbol of the valor that was Dieppe. He is also a reminder of what lies ahead.

Merritt's background and rise to command of the South Saskatchewan Regiment at 33 make interesting reading, but for a story which really grips the imagination we must turn to the words of Wallace Reyburn, Canadian war correspondent. Reyburn took a notebook to Dieppe and with it survived six and a half hours on the beaches, ramparts and streets, and immersion in the English Channel. Yet in his notebook there is no mention of any of Merritt's heroic deeds that day at Dieppe.

"You don't need to make notes about things like that," said Reyburn. "Until the day I die I'll remember every single detail about Merritt at that bridge; Merritt in the street fighting; Merritt on the beaches..."

Reyburn first met Merritt on a ship steaming away from the coast of England and had supper with him shortly before zero-hour. He was impressed with Merritt's youth, his big build, his smile and his popularity with his men — men he would have died for. When he next saw Merritt it was ashore.

The excerpts which follow are from a talk given by Reyburn over the C.B.C.:

I was with a group of the troops and we came to a bridge that separated the suburb we'd landed in from the main part of Dieppe itself, recalled Reyburn. The bridge was about two hundred yards long...wide...very exposed.

High up on the hill across the river from us was a concrete fort. A huge thing. The Nazis' guns were... all trained down onto the bridge... a key point. The river was in flood and that was the only way to get across it— apart from swimming.

I stood behind a house abutting on the bridge... watched the first batch of men try to advance across it. As they stepped forward... they were mown down. Those who were still on their feet started dragging back the fallen, and I dashed out with the stretcher bearers...

As we stood there I caught sight of a figure coming up the road. He was striding with firm, unhurried steps, and his revolver was dangling from his hip. It was Merritt. As he reached us he took his tin hat off and wiped the sweat from his forehead. It was a hot, steamy day.

He asked what the trouble was... and walked back into the middle of the street. He kicked aside some long strands of telephone wire that were hanging from a battered pole.

"Now, men," he said, "we're going to get across this bridge. Follow me. Don't bunch up together, spread out. Here we go!" And he strode forward onto the bridge... bareheaded... his tin hat at his wrist.

As I watched him lead his men through that thundering barrage — not just once, but six times he went back and forth across that bridge — I felt a quiver run up and down my spine. I'd never seen anything like it before in my life — and I'll probably never see anything like it again. I just shook my head incredulously and said: "My God!"

Later... we were all collected near the beach — what was left of the South Saskatchewan and the Winnipeg Camerons... several hundred men. The enemy knew we were there and trained everything they could muster onto us... Colonel Merritt stood on the pathway directing operations... still bareheaded... a streak of blood across the top of his nose... absolutely erect... as mortar shells crashed down on the houses around us.

Focke-Wulfs came down on us... We could see the tips of their cannon and machine-guns blaze red and hear the whistle of the bullets and cannon shells. Merritt looked up, but didn't as much as duck. He's not afraid of anything... He wasn't being foolhardy. He was sticking to his post... directing his men...

We set off for the beach and as I went I heard Merritt shout: "Don't run, men, shoulder arms and march to the beach!" I saw the man ahead of me pull himself up and shoulder his rifle. I'd been crouching down and I stood up straight and marched with the man beside me.

As the last men were... preparing to board those last boats to leave, Colonel Merritt was with them... standing up... bullets flying round him and ricocheting off the rocks at his feet... He got his men off and as the last one or two left he took their Tommy-guns and Bren-guns from them... and headed back towards the town.

As he went he called: "I'm going to get even with these swine for what they've done to my Regiment!"

That was the last any of us who got back saw of Ces Merritt...

\*\*\*

It is hard to realize that a man like Merritt of Dieppe is now eating his heart out in a German prison camp; perhaps in chains. His courage was too great for death, but he would have accepted it, unflinchingly. We are not being asked to face death, or to be courageous — just to BUY VICTORY BONDS! Surely, our course is clear. Nothing matters now but victory!

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHERE DO THEY INTEND TO STOP?**

We are pleased to publish in this issue a letter from Reeve Frederick G. Gardiner of Forest Hill Village defending the York County Council attempt to make \$1500 per year jobs of Toronto and York Roads Commissionerships. Mr. Gardiner is an able lawyer, and one of the most active members of York County Council. He is chairman of the Roads Committee, chairman of the Police Committee, and if as Reeve W. E. McDonald says, there are "King Makers" down around the County Building, we suppose the Forest Hill Reeve would come in that category with top ranking honours.

Mr. Gardiner's letter raises many interesting points which we will discuss in future issues, but we hope our readers will not lose sight of the main point in question which is the proposal to provide an annual salary of \$1500 per year for Toronto and York Roads Commissioners.

Mr. Gardiner's letter falls short of justifying the proposal. We never have advocated that Commissioners should serve without remuneration. We do say that the

fault with the former commission was not that the members were inadequately paid. We do say that remuneration for the Toronto and York Roads Commissioners is high enough at the same rate paid County Councillors. Due to the war the program of the Toronto and York Roads Commission will be limited to necessary maintenance work. The work of commissioners for the duration will be less, not more than in the past years when there was extensive construction work. The Commission employs engineers, and an office staff to do the clerical work. The duties of the commissioners are to meet periodically and plan work, let contracts, pass accounts and inspect work. If they held fifty such meetings in a year a \$1500 per year salary would figure out at \$30 per day. In the past the Commission has not held fifty meetings a year.

We think when all our resources are needed in our war effort is no time to be creating salaried jobs. The Commissioners appointed have served for years on York County Council at the rate of pay formerly paid County representatives on the Toronto and York Roads Commission. We don't think it is asking much sacrifice of them if they receive the same rate of remuneration for their services as road commissioners.

The attempt by County Council to create salaried jobs for Toronto and York Roads Commissioners has struck several snags since it was made a few weeks ago at a special session of council following the resignation of the former commissioners. The move met with widespread disapproval throughout the County and the Minister of Highways frowned upon the suggestion. In the face of this opposition the County Council called a second special session and rescinded the by-law providing the \$1500 per annum salary, and the whole matter of remuneration for the members will be up for consideration at the November session. We hope that before that time the members of York County Council will talk over with their electors the proposal and if they heed their wishes we have no doubt as to the outcome.

If those who would foist this proposal on the taxpayers of York County are successful, who can say where they will call a halt?

**LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE**

**Forest Hill Reeve Writes in Support of Move to Pay \$1500 Yearly Salary to Toronto and York Roads Commissioners**

October 17th, 1942.

The Editor,  
 The Liberal,  
 Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Dear Sir:—

Your recent editorial entitled "Salary Grab" criticizing the York County Council and two County representatives appointed to the Toronto and York Roads Commission has been brought to my attention.

Your criticism is calculated to make farmers, business and professional men question the advisability of devoting the time they do to the management of public affairs. Their time, energy and experience could be spent with greater profit and appreciation on their farms and at their businesses and professions.

The Toronto and York Roads Commission has been severely criticized by the City of Toronto. In the course of the last few months a sincere attempt has been made to reestablish the Commission in the confidence of the Province, the County and the City. Those who are most familiar with the problems of the Commission recognize that the time and experience which is necessary to administer this system does not permit a man to fulfil his duties in his spare time. The Commission will spend in this year of retrenchment over \$300,000. In years of expansion it has expended over a million dollars.

I have no apologies to make for the recommendation that the two County representatives on the Toronto and York Roads Commission should be paid the sum of \$1500 per year to compensate them for the time, attention and ability which they will give to its administration. A farmer should not be asked to leave his farm or a business man to leave his business or a professional man to leave his practice for the time that is necessary to administer this Commission without compensation. It is true that in the past the representatives of the County of York were paid a small daily indemnity for each meeting attended. That system, which seems to meet with your approval, did not result in successful operation. The time has arrived when men who perform public duties should be honest with those who elect them and indicate clearly that there are few of us who can spend a substantial proportion of our time in the administration of public affairs without reasonable compensation.

Both of the men nominated by the County Council of the County of York were men of long municipal experience, men who are thoroughly familiar with the roads system and men who carried public confidence that the system would be operated honestly, fairly, economically, and equitably. Neither representative sought the job. Both were approached because they had the qualifications required. Neither of them suggested compensation. We should not ask men to perform public services without compensation and we should not permit those who seek such positions upon the theory that they will

give their services free to get hold of such jobs.

Your editorial has done injustice to two men who have given the County of York valuable municipal service. If newspaper editors are so philanthropically inclined that they suggest that public men should administer public affairs at their personal expense how is it that editors are so conspicuous by their absence from municipal councils and commissions. Either they are not honest in their suggestion that public services should be given without compensation or perhaps they do not possess the qualifications which would justify their fellow citizens in entrusting them with appointments of such importance.

Your editorial influence should be employed for the preservation of a system of highways which has been extraordinarily beneficial to your part of the County. The last thing you should do is suggest the abolition of the Toronto and York Roads Commission. Apparently you do not appreciate that the Commission operates 340 miles of roads of which 250 are arterial highways leading to the City of Toronto which are paid for by the City, the County, and the Province, and that correlated with this system are 80 miles of lateral county highways paid for by the County and the Province. This is a system which you should do everything in your power to preserve in the interest of the north half of the County. In your own selfish interest you should appreciate that over 70% of the cost paid by the County comes from municipalities south of No. 7 Highway.

Neither "dollar a year men" or people who suggest that they are willing to handle very large sums of the public's money without reasonable compensation have succeeded in convincing the people of this country that such activities can be carried on without direct or indirect compensation to the persons involved. To criticize fair compensation for honest men who will do an honest job is to contribute to the perpetuation of the conditions which led to the condemnation of the old commission and the resignation of all its members.

Yours very truly,  
 F. G. GARDINER, K.C.,  
 Chairman of the County of York Roads' Committee.

**Watkins Products**

High Quality Spices, Extracts and full line of Household Necessities. Also 100% open formula mineralized stock, hog and poultry tonics, Insecticides, fly spray. Sold under my personal guarantee. Help me and yourself to save gas by phoning or writing to

**ERNIE DURIE**  
 Richvale P.O.  
 Phone Maple 64r4

**Clothes for Fall**

The cooler weather calls for Fall Clothes, and we invite you to let us supply your needs. Clothes are not rationed yet, and we have a fine stock of goods to fit you out for fall and winter. We suggest that you do not delay in getting your normal supply of necessary clothing for fall and winter.

**R. J. CRAIGIE**

Men's, Boys' and Children's Shoes,  
 Rubbers and Goloshes  
 Yonge and Richmond Sts. Richmond Hill

**Cleaning and Pressing**

Expert workmanship and prompt dependable service.

Let us take care of your cleaning and pressing requirements and be assured of the best. You may send your finest clothes to us with the utmost confidence.

**RICHMOND TAILORS**

J. A. GREENE  
 HAND TAILORED CLOTHING  
 Phone 49J Richmond Hill

Senate Auto Heaters complete with fittings, regular price \$15.50, our price, Special ..... \$12.75

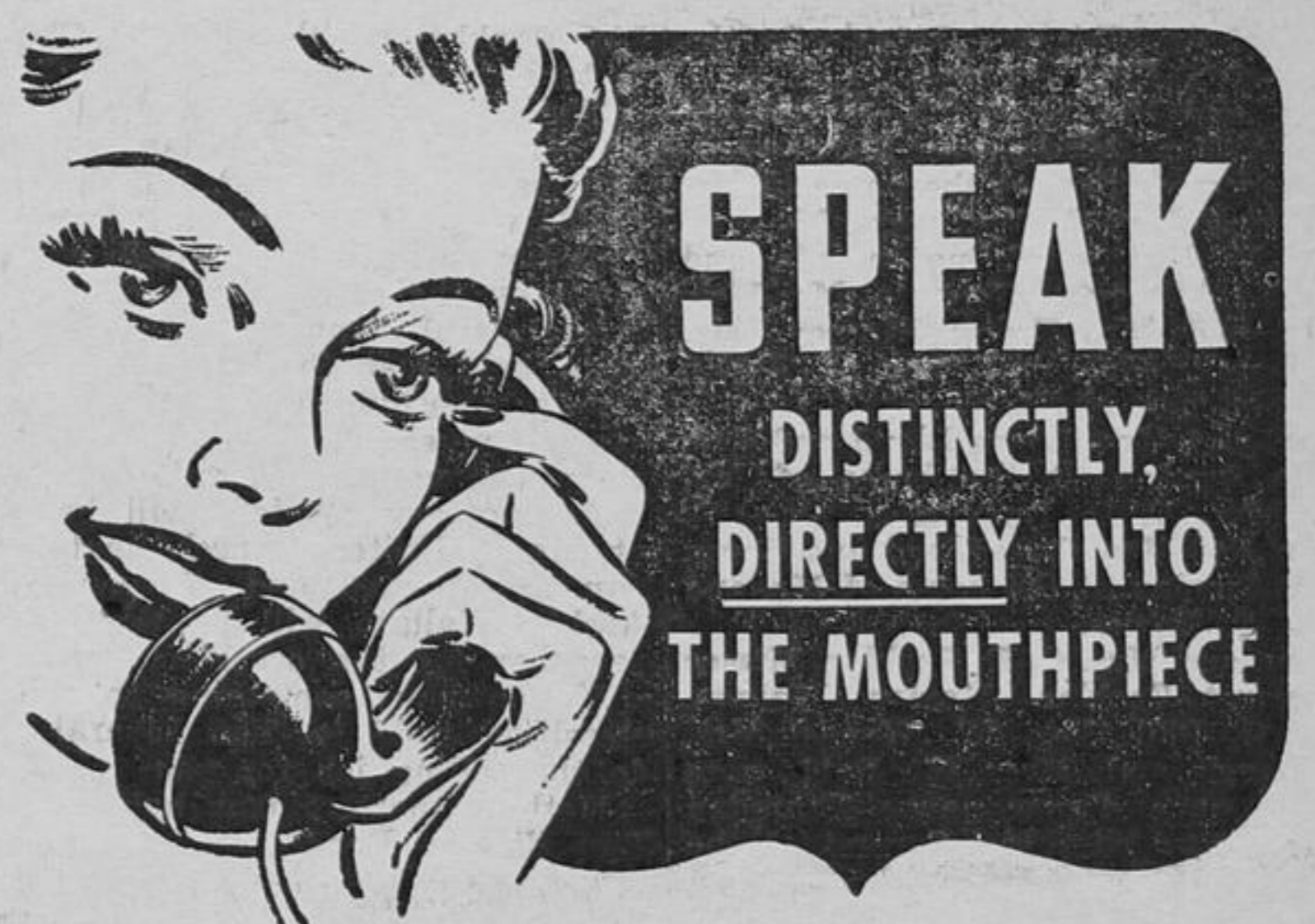
Heavy Duty Type Heaters, regular \$18.50, Special ..... 15.75

Stavalube Motor Oil, 6 qt. tins, Special, per tin 99c.

NATIONAL BATTERIES WHILE THEY LAST  
 \$4.95 and \$6.95 exchange — Only 25 left in stock for duration.

**PARIS AUTO SUPPLY  
 AUTO WRECKERS**

Phone 86 Richmond Hill



**Clear telephone lines for ALL-OUT PRODUCTION**

Your telephone is part of a vast interlocking system now carrying an abnormal wartime load. Don't let needless delays hold up messages on which production efficiency may depend.

**OTHER "WARTIME TELEPHONE TACTICS"**

- 1 BE SURE you have the right number... consult the directory.
- 2 ANSWER promptly when the bell rings.
- 3 BE BRIEF. Clear your line for the next call.
- 4 USE OFF-PEAK hours for your Long Distance Calls.



These things may look trifling, but on 6,500,000 daily telephone calls, they are very important.

On Active Service Giving Wings to Words

"I can't quite diagnose your case," said the doctor. "I think it must be drink." "All right, doctor," replied the patient. "I'll come back when you're sober."