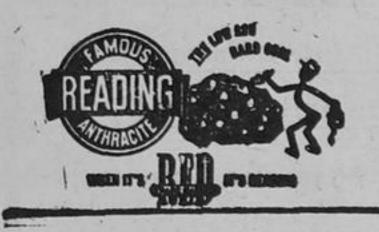
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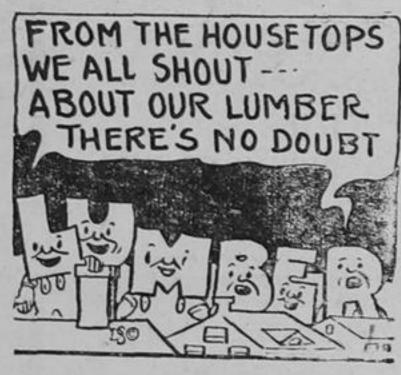
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LETTERS FROM OVERSEAS

Lieut. J. Koning Writes Description of His Impressions of Wartime Britain

J. Koning who recently arrived in what he had on. At first he arrang-England with Canadian Active Ser- ed a meeting with this chap's mother vice Forces:

Lieut. J. Koning, No. 1 C.A.S.C., Reinforcement Unit, Overseas.

mill pond and we saw nothing our whole trip over. Our first glimpse but short stretches of woods and then cultivated fields. What impressed me too was that as we got closer to shore, you could see flowers everywhere. We stayed on board over night and were the second lot off in the morning. The next source of enjoyment was the trains. They seemed so low, but actually all station platforms are built up so that you can hardly see the wheels the carriages run on. Each coach has bumpers which come in contact with those of the coach ahead. Then first class coaches are made up of compartments with a door opening into each. Joe and I had one to ourselves although they normally seat six. The engines seemed small but are really powerful and after loading our troops with a shrill blast of the whistle we were away. From then on our eyes drank in the countryside with its lovely scenery. Every backflower garden; every usable corner had its fresh vegetable garden. The train track seldom crossed main roads and when it did it had railway approaching. We seemed to be continually passing through stations, ing out of a station.

the manner in which this lum- get it. Things are high over here, ability to win the outcome. I are long. You no sooner step in the has only \$2 worth of buying power. front door than you step out the wonder why, because you see no stoves, only the odd fireplace.

> I was completely on my own all week-end because my friend had gone to see his cousin who had escaped from Holland just four weeks ago and was now going in the merchant marine. I would have certainly liked the English countryside. to have met him especially since he was Dutch and probably couldn't speak English. He had some horrible experiences to relate about conditions in occupied countries. For one thing his cousin whom he last saw when he was 17 and is now 21 was just skin and bones and when he, his mother and sister took him out to supper he ate 3 complete meals and 4 rolls, remarking when he broke open a roll "Oh look, white bread." He actually wolfed his meals. He told of two friends of his not guilty without sugar. We have sugar for of crime, being called for one day and being led away. He said they it works no hardship however. knew that they were being taken as hostages to be shot and he said their bicycle ride and went over roads I struggles, their desire to grab anything to impede their being lel away from 6.10 in the evening and arrived was pitiful. He never saw them home at 11.10 just after dark. again. Another weak-minded kid felt quite good and not at all stiff who had turned Nazi and was re- when I got up this morning. Rather ceiving threats tried escaping to Ger- amazing when I figure we covered many but was caught up with by about 25 miles and haven't cycled patrols and murdered. He said that for at least 15 years. I saw some he had waited 2 years to escape be- pretty country, one part was particause means being difficult they had cularly beautiful. There were fairly to work on a quota basis and many large houses on rather small estates who got away were never heard of along the road with beautiful flower again. Even so others followed in gardens and one straight stretch of

The following interesting extracts | cause he said among other effects are from recent letters received by when he set out he had 1200 guilders Mrs. J. Koning, Roseview Ave., Rich- (Dutch dollars) and he lost everymond Hill, from her husband, Lieut. thing and landed in England with in England by finding out where they lived. Not knowing his way around the country he had the mother come to a hotel in London he knew the location of. So much had fear been instilled in him that he wouldn't July 30th, 1943. talk in the hotel lobby, but insisted "We had a marvellously calm trip on going outside and walking up and over, no sea sickness, and although down the street and then he conwe were somewhat crowded we were tinually looked over his shoulder. ered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. happy. The meals on the boat were Thus did this pitiful example, by no the best we ever had. The trip was means the worst, escape from Holmade in record time. I left Windsor land, filled with hatred even at his foundland where he has been stajust 5 days after coming back from young age and completely astonished tioned since January. leave. The ocean was as calm as a that his cousins were not so inclined.

So far I see no scarcity of things of this country was a majestic one, over here. Sure there is a rigid con everything looked so green and ord- trol on things but this country is erly. The towns from a distance really at war. My trip on the train attending Loretto Abbey and Hyndlooked as though they were made of from the boat really opened my eyes. toy houses all neatly and methodi- I saw factories at many points along cally arranged. The grass is green- the way, really busy with smoke all a highly successful school year. er and the fields are laid out in pouring from their chimneys, many squares. There are no miles of bush, women busily employed at various H. Cunningham, C. B. Boynton and duties in railway yards, women busy along the way helping men who were cutting down timber in some of the woods which could be seen from the winning many prizes. railway carriage windows. There was activity everywhere and many rather young fellows were noticed in the cabs of railway locomotives acting as firemen. But behind it all Mrs. David Millen and Mrs. Frank was the peace and quiet of the coun- Pratt had dinner on Monday night tryside, the orderliness of every- with Mr. and Mrs. George Barrett thing, be it railway stations, private at Oak Ridges. homes and gardens or farms. Roads are narrow and winding with hedges growing along all the country roads. visitors here recently. Many parts of the country are divided with low stone walls instead of fences as we are accustomed to at home. It's amazing and differ-

Last night after blackout (due to double daylight saving time it's not dark until somewhere after 11) we watched the searchlights probing the they picked up an airplane. It was nigh up but was plainly visible in the searchlight beam. It apparently was friendly because the searchgates closed to protect any traffic lights went out immediately. But it looked like a small butterfly. You know we are in the war zone over through tunnels and overhead road- here, nearer than you may realize. ways and through cuttings and over Balloon barrages over vital areas, bridges. There seemed to be trains anti-aircraft defences, searchlights everywhere. The only time the train searching out hostile aircraft, the whistle blew was when we were a- blackout, all make this war strike bout to enter a tunnel or when pull- home to you. But it's as safe and secure over here as you are in Can-Tell mother and dad I like their ada. There is no hysteria, no hurrycountry and Lou and I intend to ing about in confusion, just a despend our leave up there when we termined, sure confidence in our ber business is conducted. We We are advised to avoid London ex- and am rather shocked at the price cept to sight see. A meal and show of things over here as I mentioned cost anywhere up to \$7 or \$8 Our previously. But on further dealing quarters are peacetime married quar- I find that the pound which is worth ters. They are as narrow as they \$4.;7 of Canadian money actually

Incidentally you can't get a cold back. Our camp is an old one and drink over here. There seems to be the buildings are made entirely of no ice. Nothing is served ice cold stone with slate roofs, low slung, be it water or the very scarce soft with many chimneys sticking out of drink you occasionally can get. Oh the roofs. When you get inside you dear, my kingdom for a cold drink. But I shall get used to it, I shall soon adjust myself to the ways of my English friends. I have met a great number of my Canadian army acquaintances and they are friendly and help to pass the evenings. Monday we are beginning our refresher course and shall see a great deal of

I have been travelling a fair amount around the countryside in lorries and although we have never been very far from camp yet the roads are so numerous that we seem to be continually taking a different route. We went out this evening after supper and after arriving back in camp about 10 o'clock we went into the mess and all had some toast, peanut butter (which contains soy beans and few peanuts but taste fairly good) and cheese, tea and milk breakfast and supper. The lack of

Last night I went out for my first had not covered before. We cycled their attempts at escape. He must road which was downhill for about have had a close call himself, be- 1/2 mile was lined on both sides with

cyprus trees. These trees formed a perfect line on either side of the road. They have boun al cone shaped trees, about as tall as our own elm and as green as grass. They looked somewhat like our Spruce trees. We wanted to stop for a bite to eat but could get nothing. Things to eat are hard to get between meal times and impossible at night.

DOLLAR

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd B. Gohn and, son Invid and Miss Ruth Gon 1 spent Sunday with Mr and Mrs. Wesley

A number of friends and relatives of Gunner David Millen, R.C.A. gath-Robert Giles Saturday evening to wish him a safe return trip to New-

With the opening of the high schools Misses Betty Delf, Lois Sherman and Betty Hamilton have returned to Earl Haig Collegiate. Misses Phyllis and Joan Lanthier are man Russell returns to the Toronto University on Friday. We wish them

Messrs. Alec Fletcher, E. Sherman, Alvin Robinson attended Lindsay Fair. Mr. Boynton and Leitchcroft Farms are to be congratulated on

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ward have left our community and taken up residence in Leaside.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Giles, Gnr. and

Miss June Fligg of Willowdale and Miss June Ellcombe of Toronto were

The five things most wanted as gifts by Canadian so'dier; overseas, according to an office; just returned, are: Cigarettes, toi'c' soap (rationed in England), shaving scap, chocolates and candies and more cigarettes.

Training films created by Walt yard, every station had its roses, its sky, crossing and criss-crossing until Disney, "father" of Mickey Mouse, are used by the Canadian Army.

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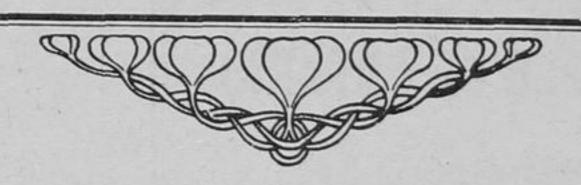
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