

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO
 Members Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec Newspaper Association; Class "A" Weekly Group
 TWO PHONES—26 and 2020
 Published Every Monday and Thursday by
 GEO. LAKE, Owner and Publisher
 Subscription Rates:
 Canada—\$3.00 Per Year. United States—\$3.50 Per Year

Timmins, Ont., Thursday, Sept. 19th, 1940

SALUTE TO GRACIE FIELDS

Of the four or five thousand people who crowded into the McIntyre arena on Tuesday night to hear and see the famous English screen and stage star, Gracie Fields, there were few indeed to be found who did not feel that they had enjoyed a wonderful evening—an evening that meant more than simply an amusing entertainment. There were many things that seemed to make the evening different. First there was the winning personality of the remarkable lady herself. As one man remarked, "Surely, the entertainer who could delight an audience of old soldiers would have no difficulty in dealing with the gathering on Tuesday night." As a matter of fact, the knowledge that Gracie Fields had added to the happiness of the gallant men overseas in this war and in the last war was a material factor in giving her a popularity and affection all ready for her to accept. The secret of her success is not far to seek. Indeed, there are many very evident reasons for the acclaim with which she was received on Tuesday night and the regular ovation that closed the meeting. A local gentleman who has outstanding musical knowledge and appreciation of artistry in music commented on the remarkably fine voice she possessed and the skill with which she used it. He pointed out that in serious work as a singer she had musical gifts. Talent, alone, however is not enough. Gracie Fields has the other things that make for popular affection. In her own words of thanks to the audience at the close of the evening she gave a hint of the secret. "I thank you very much for your kindness and the nice way you have kept on showing your appreciation and enjoyment," she said. "Because you have been enjoying it all, I have enjoyed it, too, for I am always joyful when others are enjoying themselves."

The fact that the event was one of a series being held from coast to coast in Canada for the benefit of the Navy League—the one organization that devotes all its energy and money and influence to the care of the sailors and their dependents—also had its effect on the feelings of the audience. It is known that like her singing for the soldiers overseas, this work is a labour of love. It is the contribution of this great artist—for she is a great artist—to the cause of Britain and the British people whom she loves, as one of them.

One incident in the evening also deserves mention for its illuminating illustration of the hold of Gracie Fields on the popular approval. There was in the audience a veteran of the Boer war and of the last war. In failing health he had to be carried to a special chair where he sat propped up with pillows and feeling an enjoyment that touched the hearts of his many friends. Of course, Gracie Fields noted him and seemed to know at once what it was all about. Often, she appeared to be singing specially to this brave old soldier. And when she was showered with flowers, it was to this gallant old warrior that she tossed the finest of the bouquets. To those who noticed the incident, it was the human touch that set the artist on a new pedestal.

Yes, all enjoyed the event on Tuesday night. But there was more than entertainment to it all. There was a something else—a something deeper. It is difficult to put it into mere cold words, for it is a thing of the heart—the understanding heart. There is something of the spirit of Britain in the notable work of Gracie Fields—fun and frolic and humour and melody on the surface—but beneath it all the love of country and the love of the people.

Salute to Gracie Fields.

HAIL! LIEUTENANT DAVIES!

It was the melancholy Macaulay who over a hundred years ago visualized the possibility of a traveller from New Zealand standing on a broken arch of London bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Paul's.

It remained for the gayer journalists of this year of grace 1940 to tell the true story, without any call upon the imagination, of a young Canadian soldier who risked his life to save St. Paul's cathedral from the dire danger of destruction. London bridge still stands and St. Paul's is saved by the sons from Canada. It is a story to thrill all in the Empire with mutual pride and mutual affection.

Lieut. Davies is a young engineer, whose home is at St. Catharines, Ontario. He is one of the Canadians in London, England, who count themselves fortunate because they were allowed to organize what they flippantly term "the Suicide Squad for bomb removal." Their duty is to remove and make harmless the delayed-action bombs that the Huns toss on British soil. They go about their dangerous work coolly and quietly, yet with a rare pride and satisfaction. They have the knowledge and the skill, the daring and the

coolness that make success possible. To the Suicide Squad it is all in the day's work. To the people of Britain it is a wonderful saver of property and of life. To Canada it is a pride and a glory.

One of these delayed-action bombs was dropped near St. Paul's last week. The area was at once roped off, and for the first time in centuries service at St. Paul's had to be deferred. The bomb was an immense one, weighing over 1100 pounds. It was deep in the ground. There was no way of knowing when it might explode with disastrous results for the famous cathedral and with death and injury for all in the vicinity. To the Suicide Squad was given the task of removing the danger. A gang, under the charge of Lieut. Davies went to work, as if the handling of half-ton bombs was a mere question of routine. In the preliminary work of removal of the bomb, it was found that the missile had broken a gas main. The way this became evident was from the fact that some of the workers were overcome with the gas. Then the gas ignited, creating a still greater danger. But all this to the Suicide Squad was nothing more than another matter of routine. The gas was ordered shut off at its source, and the work proceeded. The dangerous bomb was eventually removed, placed on a truck, and the truck driven rapidly to the Hackney marshes not far from London. The men in the truck sang rollicking songs as they passed along with their dangerous burden. In a safe spot in the marshes the bomb was exploded. "It was all in the day's work!" said Lieut. Davies. It was a noble day's work for the Canadian Engineers, for Canada and for the Empire.

"Dash the bomb on the dome of St. Paul's
 "Deem ye the plan of the Admiral fairs?
 "Pry the stone from the chancel floor
 "Dream ye that Shakespeare lives no more?"
 "Alone against the world stands Britain now!" said a writer some months ago. But not alone stands Britain, and will stand. Her sons and daughters from the far-flung quarters of the globe stand now with Britain, and will stand.

There is a peculiar significance in the fact that Canada esteems it high honour that her sons were the ones to save St. Paul's cathedral from the Vandal and the Hun.

THE INVASION OF BRITAIN

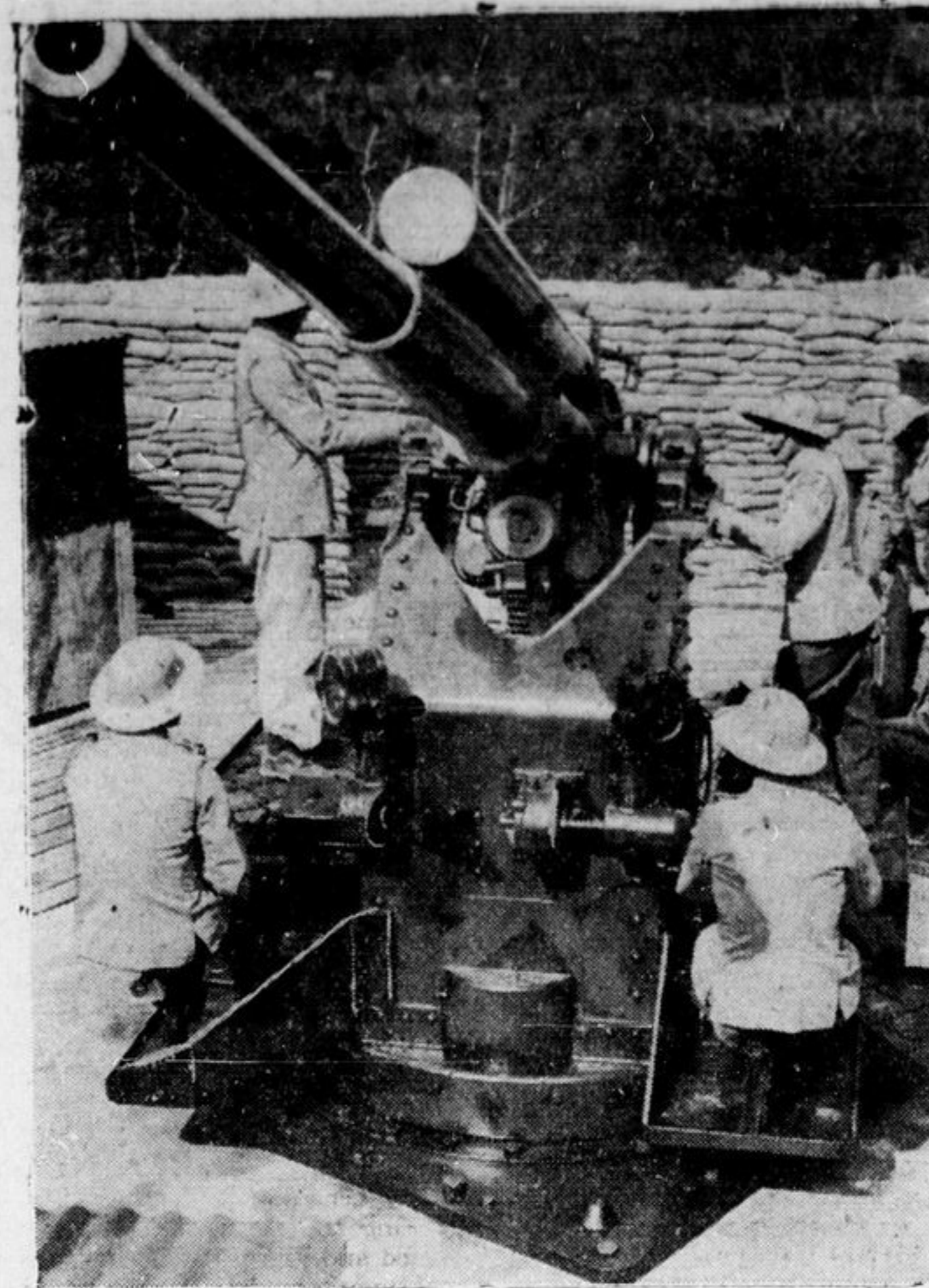
There are many people who keep asking the question, "When is Hitler's invasion of Britain to occur?" There are some who suggest that the Austrian paperhanger has more or less reluctantly decided that an actual invasion is very impractical at the present moment and must be delayed until spring. Others believe that there will be no invasion at any time. As a matter of fact, Germany must make invasion of Britain or admit the war is wholly lost. All the death and destruction that may be wrought by bombing from the air is utterly worthless unless it can be followed by actual invasion to destroy the resistance that remains. No people can be conquered from the air alone. In all the other countries attacked by the gangsters this fact was clearly recognized. The cold truth appears to be that the maniac of Munich and his minions have already commenced their invasion of Britain. It would appear that there have been no less than three distinct attempts at actual invasion. The first was on July 9th of this year—the date set by the perverted paperhanger. The British navy and the Royal Air Force on the preceding night, however, attacked the ports across the channel, smashed docks, destroyed barges, put troops to flight. Information from neutral sources indicates that all preparations were again complete before the middle of August. When Hitler boasted that he would eat his dinner in London, England, on August 15th, he thought that there were sure grounds for such a belief. But again the Navy and the Air Force of Britain disrupted all his plans. There is reason for believing that a third attempt at invasion was attempted in the past ten days. The sinking of three Nazi ships off Holland this week also has its significance, and once more the wholesale bombing of the German-held coast across the English channel tells its own story.

It would appear that Germany will make more than one attempt in the coming days to actually invade the British Isles. The Huns have actually forced themselves into a situation where no other tactics are practical without the tacit admission of defeat.

Britain is in no doubt as to the continued danger of attempted invasion. But Britain is ready and prepared. Indeed, many in Britain appear to be desirous that the attempted invasion should be allowed to proceed further along its course, so confident are they of their ability to defend the shores of the gallant isles, and so anxious are they to come to grips with the foe. They take much the attitude of the fireman in Timmins some years ago, who complained that Chief Borland was too anxious to put out a fire in its earliest stages. "Why not let the house burn up a bit," he said, "so that we can see what we are doing?"

It seems probable that British towns and cities are yet to suffer further harm from the bombings from the air that have been the invariable prelude to attempts at invasion. In other countries the bombings had the effect of killing morale and making the way easy for actual invasion. The German plan has failed utterly in the case of Britain. Morale was never higher, never were the people more united and resolute. The internment of Fifth Columnists literally by the thousands was

READY FOR ACTION



The camera catches an anti-aircraft crew in action during a practice drill at one of the guns of the battery many of which are strategically placed along the east coast. This business like 3.7" A-A gun can fire a death-dealing shell every five seconds. It will travel two or three miles varying with the trajectory.

Legion Continues to Combat Work of Fifth Column

Monthly Publication to Assist Educational Program

Members of Canada's armed forces, at home and overseas, who have enrolled for study under the Canadian Legion War Services' education programme, are now being supplied with a monthly publication dealing with the progress and meaning of the war and the contributions the Dominion is making at sea, on land, and in the air. Entitled "The War in Review," the new periodical is being published by the Legion's Education Committee under authority of the Department of National Defence and is for free distribution to serving members of Canada's naval, military and air forces.

Designed to keep the men informed of the changing military and political situation month by month, as well as to provide authoritative information regarding activities of the three services, "The War in Review" has among its regular contributors Lieut.-Col. R. R. Thompson, M.C., V.D., chairman, committee on military education, McGill University, Montreal; Lieut. John Farrow, R.C.N.V.R., controller of naval information; Major Thomas Wayling, chief press liaison officer, Department of National Defence; and J. W. G. Clark, D.F.C., director of public relations, Department of National Defence for Air. Captain John Humeved, chief press liaison officer of the Canadian Legion War Services, is chairman of the editorial committee and honorary editor of the publication.

Since "The War in Review" is not a commercial enterprise and costs of publication are borne entirely by the Legion's education division it is impossible to make it available to other than those on active service who have become registered students.

Widespread commendation is being received by the Legion for its foresight in making such a publication available and it is believed that the information it contains, as well as the articles dealing with "Fifth Columnism" and Nazi propaganda, will play a large part in helping to maintain the morale and fighting spirit of the men under arms. The Legion's education programme, which offers opportunities to the men to take up or to continue studies with a view to their civil re-establishment, and

at the same time improve their military efficiency is headed, in an honorary capacity, by Lieut.-Col. Wilfrid Bovey, O.B.E., LL.B., D.Litt., director of extramural relations, McGill University, with Robert England, M.C., M.A., as full-time director of education services.

"German For Servicemen" When Canadian troops eventually arrive in Germany to start "mopping-up" operations, a good many of them will be able to converse in words the Nazis understand.

So great has been the demand of men on active service to study conversational and military German under the Canadian Legion War Services' education programme that the Legion has published a pocket sized handbook on that language. Entitled "German for Servicemen," the 93 page handbook has been made available free to sailors, soldiers and airmen enrolled as students with the Legion.

Object of the book is not only to assist the men in studying German for general education purposes, but also to help them to master a subject which, the Legion feels confident, will be of considerable value from a military standpoint. It is realized that, apart from being of great future value when the time comes for a victorious march into Germany, occasions will occur when Germans will be picked up as prisoners and at such times a working knowledge of their language may prove of vital importance, especially if an intelligence officer cannot be found quickly.

Robert England, M.C., M.A., director of the Legion's education services, who returned to Canada after several months with the C.A.S.F. in Great Britain as overseas director, made a study of German propaganda methods and states that the German army has been provided with a great deal of instruction in the languages of the people whom they intend to attack. "The Legion education division is now helping our own men to get ready for the day when we can turn this technique to the disadvantage of the enemy," he said.

Similar in appearance and contents to the handbooks already published and distributed by the Legion on French and Icelandic, "German for Servicemen" was written and edited by A. O. Jacob, Ph.D., professor of German at McGill University, Montreal, with the assistance of J. P. Muller, B.Paed., inspector of schools for the Saskatchewan Department of Education, and Rev. A. P. Salemba, B.D., Weyburn, Sask., minister. Publication

the first master stroke of Britain. The work of the Royal Air Force and the Navy added to the ineffectiveness of the German methods. They will continue to do so. Britain is not safe from further bombings or from additional attempts at invasion. But Britain does seem more secure from any real danger of invasion meeting anything but disaster. It does appear that Germany can hope for no favourable outcome from the most ambitious attempt at invasion, at least until the spring. And in the spring, it will be Britain that will take the offensive and carry the real battle to the lands held by the Hun.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

To-day the Italian Navy outclasses all other navies in the world in one particular—speed.

Another reason for quickly oversubscribing that second war loan, is the necessity for soon turning attention to making a success of the Red Cross drive.

The perverted paperhanger should harp his head in despair. Despatches from London tell about a Nazi air raid over one English town that was without the slightest military value and that did not even have a war factory or supply house.

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was carried out under the supervision of Dr. A. E. Chatwin, administrative officer of the Legion's education division.

Soldiers situated at points where the Legion's classes in German are not yet available may obtain copies of the handbook by writing to Dr. A. E. Chatwin, administrative officer, Canadian Legion War Services, Ottawa.

Free-Will Money Gifts Now Totalling \$756,000

Ottawa—The latest list of free-will money gifts to be issued by the Department of Finance brought the total of contributions to the Dominion Treasury for war purposes to \$756,000. This total is largely made up of contributions from thousands of individuals in Canada and in the United States. Large donations from organizations and firms helped to boost the total to its present proportions.

Generosity and patriotism is the underlying motive of all these gifts, as is attested by the comments which frequently accompany them.

The only casualty reported was that of a visiting soldier on leave who had to go to hospital to be treated for a dislocated jaw—suffered when he yawned too strenuously.

The Edmonton Journal notes the fact that every young Canadian in a military camp is taught to make up his own bunk. It's different in Germany. There the young soldiers may be allowed to make up their own beds—if they have beds—but Hitler and Goering and Goebbels make up all the bunk for all.

Have you bought all the war bonds possible for you? If not, you have a day or two more. By the end of the week the second war loan should be oversubscribed. That is one of the neatest ways to "tell off" the perverted paperhanger.

"My father was an Italian, my mother was German, and I was born in Russia," says a local man. "What would you say I am!" This being a family newspaper, there is no answer to that one.

In the last war no Canadian soldier could get far in the army if he had flat feet. In this war he appears to be expected to have good thumbs, or he doesn't get far on leave.

"I am a widow and have no children," writes a woman of Belle Anse P. Q. "As I cannot knit I would like to help in the only way possible for me to do so." The letter was accompanied by a \$25.00 cheque. Contributions come from persons of various races and creeds. Recently, for instance, the colored members of the Highland African Methodist Episcopal Church of Amherst, N.S., sent in a modest sum with a desire to express their "loyalty to our King and country."

The most recent list issued was closed by a donation of \$12,500 to be used for the construction of an army hut. The contributor wishes to remain anonymous.

Toronto Telegram: The man who is wrapped up in himself is usually hot for No. 1.

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