

Head of Canadian Corps in Britain Discusses Problems with Editors

Better Equipment the Great Need General McNaughton Told Editors. New Equipment Perfect. Canadian Army Being Well Mechanized. Shipping Conditions Improve.

(This is the eleventh in the series of articles written exclusively for the weekly newspapers of Canada by Hugh Tompkin of the Fergus News-Record. He flew to Great Britain as a guest of the British Council and was given an opportunity to see what is being done in Britain, Ireland and Portugal in wartime.)

Twelve Canadian editors sat around the outside edge of a horseshoe-shaped table in an upper room of a large mansion in the south of England. Around the walls were military maps, nearly all of them showing portions of England and Scotland on a large scale, though some were of the Continent of Europe. There were charts on the wall, too, showing types of aircraft, British and enemy craft. Such charts are common in England now. Sometimes, they're handy to have around.

Outside the window, I could see the slate roof of a garage, now housing military cars. On the roof was a dove-cote with a weathervane on top. The pigeons came and went. Beyond that, there were clipped hedges around a formal garden. There was no sign of bomb damage here.

This was the Headquarters of the Canadian Corps in England. The lean, alert man with the closely clipped moustache, who sat in the centre of the room, facing us all, was Lieut.-General A. G. L. McNaughton, leader of the Canadian Forces Overseas. He was talking frankly to his fellow Canadians. He answered all our questions, even when military secrets were involved, adding a caution when something was not for publication.

With those few exceptions, this is what he said: I hope you will return to Canada and tell the people there the things you have seen and heard, he said. Talk freely to the officers and men and give your impressions when you return home. I welcome the Press as colleagues who help to form public opinion and have never attempted to do work for the Press, as they are capable of writing their own story and have shown discretion. We are all in the game together to subdue the menace from Central Europe. I do not object to criticism.

Better Equipment the Great Need
Asked what is the most urgent need at present, General McNaughton replied: Put every emphasis on the production of weapons and equipment. We need technical improvements such as can be worked out under the direction of the National Research Institute and others who work under Mr. Howe. Then these improvements must be put into production quickly.

(This will be a long war and we must use our wits and the ingenuity for which Canadians are noted. There must be full steam ahead on the production of machines and arms and new weapons. So far there hasn't been much necessity for a heavier flow of reinforcements, as we have had few casualties. It is hard on the troops not to let them see more action, but Canadians are overseas not just to fight, but to win the war. It is hard to keep up morale in reinforcement depots than in the units themselves.)

The men in Canada are being well trained now, General McNaughton declared. They need not feel they are second class troops because they are still in Canada. The First Division was gathered in almost record time. Basic training of that Division was dropped because fighting was still going on in France. That was a disadvantage which has never been overcome. Word has been passed back to complete all basic training in Canada, including the learning of trades. The new Divisions, particularly the Third concentrated on basic training first and now they are learning rapidly in England. It is much more difficult to take basic training after advanced training has been completed.

New Equipment Perfect

More and more skilled tradesmen are needed by the Army and they cannot be taken out of industry. The trade schools are therefore worth their weight in gold. Repair shops are vitally necessary. None of the mechanical equipment was actually defective, but there were some faults in design at first; because of the sudden jump into production, instead of having the usual two years of testing. The manufacturers sent experts over and corrected the faults. The new stuff is exactly as we wish it.

For the past year, Canadian troops have been arriving in Britain fully equipped. Our Air Force, Navy and industrial development have enlarged. General McNaughton would not say how many should go into the Army and how many into industry. We should survey our man power first. We want no flash in the pan. We must plan for a war of long duration and not put all our goods in the show window now. No one wants to break up a Division which has been once formed. Someone must decide what is to be our maximum war effort. The General believed there would have to be an invasion of the Continent. (That was one of the favourite topics for debate in England at that time.) He said there was no doubt about it. A well organized nation cannot be brought to its knees by missiles and bombs alone. The Air Training Scheme is still Canada's greatest effort, but bombing from the air has its limitations. In a week at the end of the last war, over 200,000 tons of missiles were used in 2500 yards on the front and more could have been used. Air power cannot drop enough bombs and infantry cannot get there fast enough after the bombs are dropped to be of the maximum use.

One of the editors asked whether the young man with a good education should go into the Air Force rather than the Army. General McNaughton said educated men were needed in all branches of the service. Even if they enlist as privates in the Infantry, they will be found by a card index system and put at the work where they are most needed.

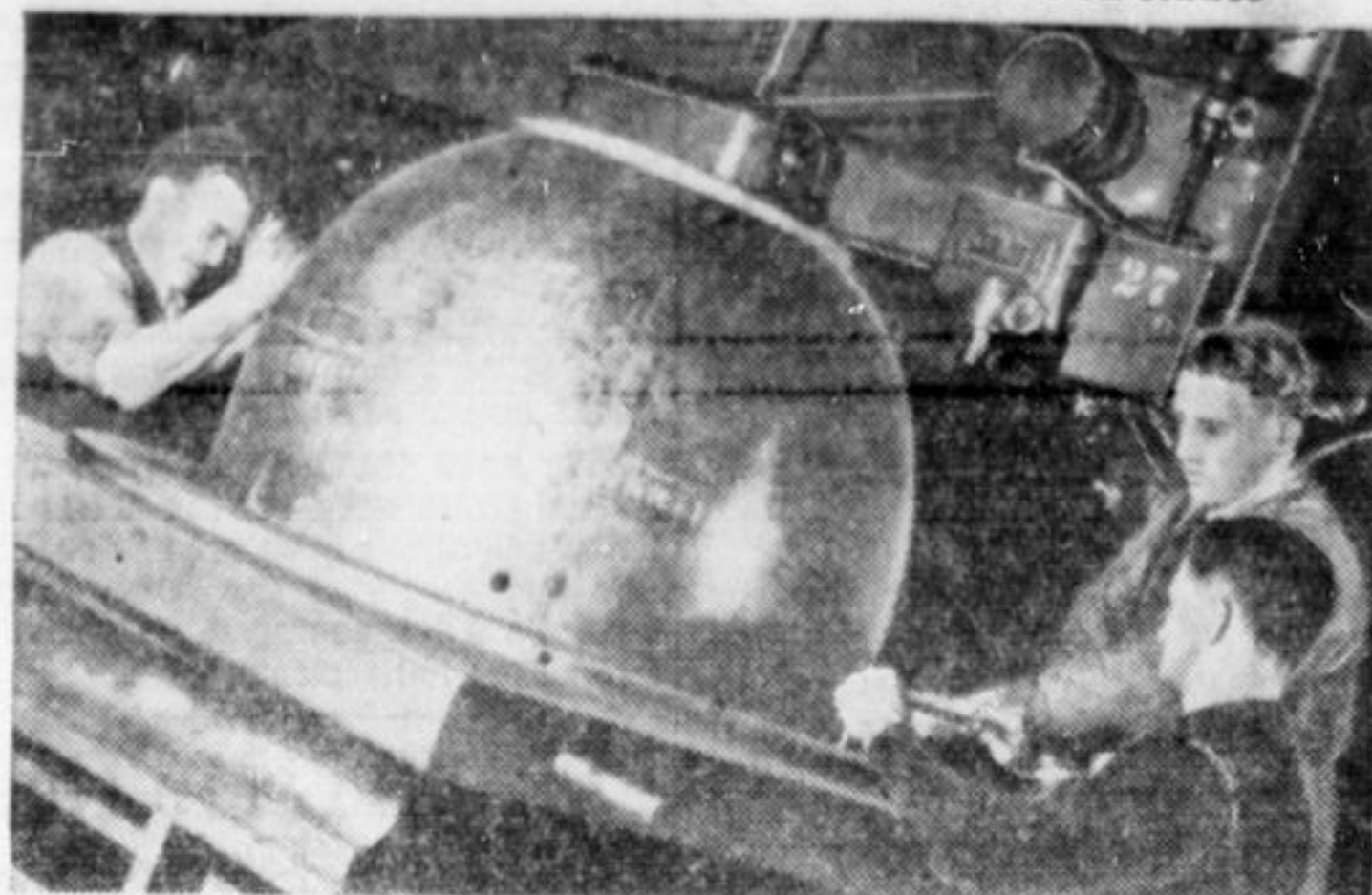
Most Mechanized Army
The Canadian Corps has a sufficient supply of mechanical transport, and has two R.C.A.P. squadrons attached to it, which is more than the average. There are twice as many Engineers as in the last war. There are five regiments of long range guns, an armor division, survey and meteorological sections and a thoroughly balanced force. The Canadians have far more mechanization than the British and Engineers to keep the roads open.

We are now on interior lines with a water barrier and can take the offensive in any direction. An invasion of the Continent is easier than an invasion of England. The Germans may yet attempt an invasion of England and it may be that the best time to strike back will be after that—but not necessarily.

The Germans have 25 times as much coastline to guard as we have, which gives them an impossible task. The Russian campaign has been as gold, frankincense and myrrh for us. There is no need for Canadians to tell Americans what to do; they know their own show, and we need not tell them.

At that time, the Russian armies were still in retreat, Petrograd was surrounded and Moscow was threatened. But even at that, the General did not believe that Russia was going to be knocked out of the war. He was so heartened by their performance, even in those days, that he was willing to base plans for the future on that fact that they would continue to fight. We can give them mechanical assistance to what they are producing in the Urals. Official reports from Russia were meagre but the Russians must have been prepared with enormous mechanization and there was no need to be greatly surprised at their stand. They are careful not to let even their

Ford Makes Mines in Australia



MORE than ever, marine mines are important to the defence of Australia's long seaboard. Production is being speeded to the limit in the industrial plants of the Commonwealth where these war weapons are manufactured. Above, expert die-makers work on one of the huge dies which are used to shape mine cases

from flat sheets of steel. The photo was taken in the plant of Ford of Australia which, in addition to producing wheeled and tracked military vehicles, is making mines in volume, completing components for howitzers, and is supplying machine tools to other industries.

allies know any more than possible.

Shipping Conditions Improve

It is a scarcity of shipping alone which has held back Canada's Army overseas. Every possible ship has been used. Ships are now getting across the Atlantic much more quickly. The change is amazing. The North Atlantic is rapidly becoming a corridor for the safe transit of troops and supplies.

The General felt no anxiety about the morale of the Canadian troops during the coming winter. They had much more interesting training ahead of them. The men have an extraordinarily high standard of intelligence and crime is far less than in the last war, only a small fraction. He was not anxious about the troops this winter. The scheme of education helps to put in their spare time and proves beneficial as well.

Not only before that, there had been an expedition to Spitzbergen Island in the Arctic. The inhabitants had been taken off and the coal mines destroyed so that the enemy could not use them. The Canadians ran that expedition. It was useful in many ways. Britain, Norway and Russia all asked for it.

A Dagger at the Heart of Berlin

In the end, the Canadian Corps is a dagger pointed at the heart of Berlin. In fighting value and range of action, we have an edge on the German panzer divisions. The 5th Canadian Armoured Division is stronger than any the Germans have. The first Canadian tanks were then being received. They would be severely tested before going into action. There was no need to doubt their quality, nor the quality of any other Canadian-made equipment. Bren guns from Canada are as nearly perfect as any gun ever turned out and they came through their trials with flying colours.

Summing up, the General said that Canada's great problem was the development of its manpower to the best advantage. It might be that the recent census would help. There is a big job to be done.

As the editors rose to leave after spending nearly two hours at the Corps Headquarters, General McNaughton shook us each by the hand again. We departed, feeling that we had met one of the greatest of all Canadians and one who had been perfectly frank and outspoken. Under his direction, the Canadian Corps can be depended upon to give a good account of itself.

Since then, the General has taken a rest because of ill-health due to overwork. Now he has recovered and has come to Canada to confer with the Government and Army officials here about plans for the future.

GOOD ENOUGH

Herbert—Who was the smallest man in history?
Jasper—I'm ignorant, who?
Herbert—The Roman soldier who went to sleep on his watch—Globe and Mail.

TO BE SURE

"Step up here, O'Brien, and let me have a good look at ye." "What's the idea?" "I've got some insultin' things to say to ye, an' I want to be able later on to identify ye positively as the man who struck me."—St. Mary's Journal-Argus.



MISS LAURA PEPPER
Director of the Consumer Section,
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Kirkland Lake is Winner of Patton Cup on Saturday

North Bay Drops Round to Maroons by 72-53.

Kirkland Lake Collegiate won the Northern Ontario Secondary Schools Association senior basketball championship on Saturday night in Kirkland Lake as they swept to a 43-23 victory in the second of the two-game total-point series with North Bay. The Kirkland Maroons squad won the first game on Friday night by a score of 29-25.

It was the eleventh win for the maroon-clad Kirkland Lake team in twelve starts and it gave them the round by a score of 72-53 and also gave them possession of the Patton Cup for the season. Jimmy McNiven sparked the winners with a total of seventeen points while Dick Yeandle was the best for the losers with twelve points.

Princess Alice Inspects Girls' War Work

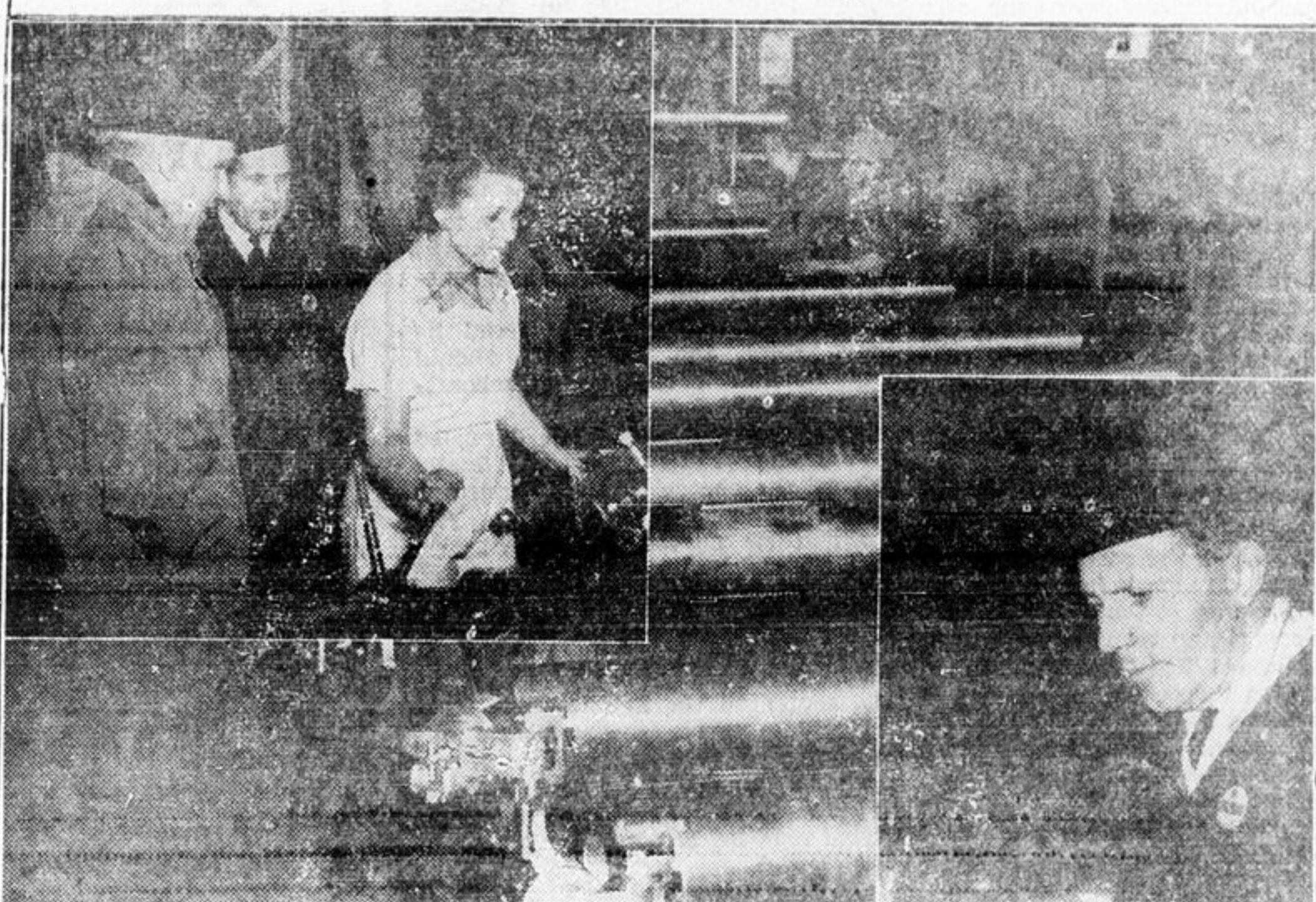


HER Royal Highness Princess Alice paid an informal visit recently to the offices of the Canadian National Telegraphs in Montreal to inspect children's outfits made for the Royal Sailors Rest at Portsmouth, England, in their own time by members of the Canadian National Telegraphs Girls Service Group. The Portsmouth institution provides for the care of dependents of seafaring men. Large consignments of these outfits, which are for infants and children up to six years of

age, have been sent by the telegraph girls during the past year. The members of the group were presented to Her Royal Highness after she had inspected their work and expressed her appreciation of their aid to the British war sufferers. Upper picture shows one of the girls being presented by Miss B. Tilley, president of the group. At right, Princess Alice receiving a presentation bouquet from little Eleanor Margaret Ross, daughter of the Montreal Manager of the C. N. Telegraphs.



War Ministers Inspect New Railway Munitions Plant



A BIG WAR PLANT, the existence of which had been unknown to the general public, was given national recognition when three members of the Federal Cabinet officially inspected the National Railways Munitions shops at Montreal, operated by the Canadian National Railways. The Ministers were Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Munitions and Supplies; Hon. Angus Macdonald, Minister of Naval Services; and Hon. W. P. Mulock, Postmaster General. They were welcomed to the plant by R. C. Vaughan, President of the Canadian National Railways. Upper left—Mr. Howe watches Miss Josephine Skull, instructor of women workers, operating a turret lathe. Centre—Finished guns assembled for government inspection. Right—Mr. Macdonald examines the breech of one of the finished guns.

Lieut.-Gen. McNaughton Inspects C.P.R. Tanks



THE stepped-up tempo of tank production at Angus Shops, Montreal, was evident everywhere when Lieut.-Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton made a detailed inspection of the big Canadian Pacific plant, whose machinery is turning out increasing numbers of medium weight "Valentines" for the armed forces. Accompanied by ranking officials of the Canadian Army and senior officers of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Canada's No. 1 soldier received a first hand picture of tank construction from the smallest parts to the finished product. He displayed keen interest in the construction of the speedy war machines, a type that has been highly praised by the Russians on the field of battle. Highlight of General McNaughton's visit followed the shops inspection when six of the khaki-painted "Valentine" tanks, fresh from the Angus shops assembly line, raced out on the shops Midway, where they wheeled, plunged, and went through various other tactics to show their maneuverability. Above scene shows a group of Angus-built tanks awaiting shipment for "active service". Inset: Gen. McNaughton comments on some detail of tank construction. Others in the group include (left to right) H. B. Bowen, chief of motive power and rolling stock; Brig.-Gen. E. de R. Faneau, Officer-Commanding, M.D. 4 J. H. Berry, director general of automobile and tank production; Lt.-Gen. Kenneth Stuart, chief of the Canadian General Staff; D. C. Coleman, vice-president, Canadian Pacific Railway.

Crash Action As Canadian Gunners Get Down To It



A few seconds after this picture shot was taken the trail was on the ground, the rubber tired wheels up on their platform, the gun traversed to line and the first round was on its way.