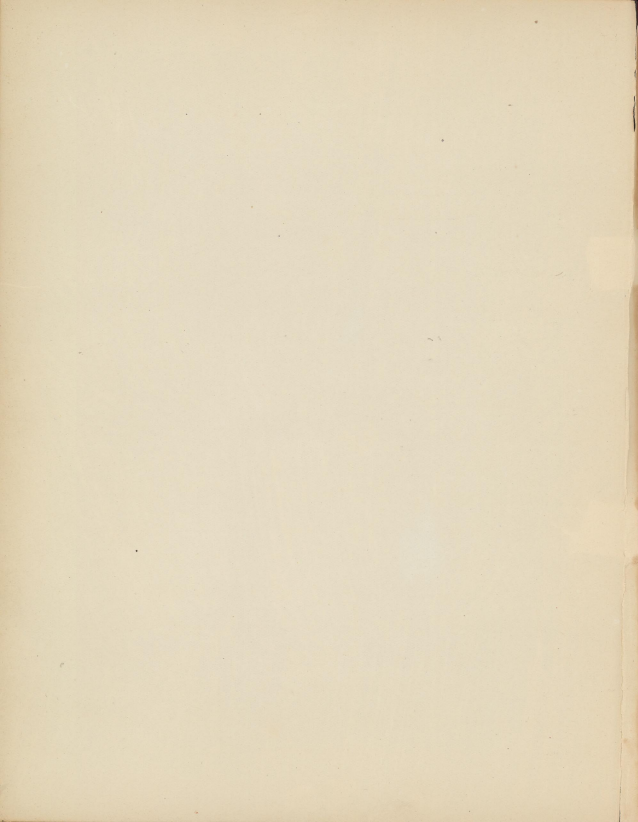


May 1, 1943

DIARY

— Oct. 31/43



Diary

Thomas H. Raddall II

May 1, 1943 to Oct. 30, 1943.

**Infants' Gas  
Masks Available**

Gas masks for infants of 1½ to 5 years of age have just arrived in the city and can be secured at the T. Eaton Company, Maritimes Limited and the Robert Simpson Eastern Limited stores.

← from "Halifax Herald"  
May 1, 1943.

(Gas masks for the civil population of coastal towns & cities have been stored in the said towns & cities by local A.R.P. committees since early last winter. The public is encouraged to buy them but sales have been small. Most of us feel it is terrific waste of money (not to mention good rubber & other scarce materials) but time will tell.

MAY 1, 1943 (CONTINUED) "Dannie" Mackay's govt (Employment & Selective Service) office on Main St., presided over by a sturdy little W.A.C. corporal. Mr. Beach (Wartime Prices & Trade Board) has his office over the Royal Bank. Commander Hall (senior naval officer Liverpool) has an office with a staff of 4 or 5 over Thompson Bros. office on Water St. The govt-paid organizer of Victory Loan for Queens, Mrs. Clark, has an office in the Telephone Building.

"B" Coy. (2nd Bn Princess Louise Fusiliers), Capt. R. H. Murray, still has its office & drill hall in the old Congregational church on Lorkham St. 36 d. Field Coy, Royal Canadian Engineers (Reserve Army) Capt. J. H. M. Jones, still holds forth in the Curling Rink. The ladies of the D.O.D.C. still run their popular club for service men in the assembly room of Town Hall. The Red Cross ladies still meet <sup>on Tues</sup> afternoons & evenings in a room in the old Liverpool school to make bandages etc.

The proposed Sea Cadet corps seems to have fallen through; an R.C.A.F. officer is now in town to organize an Air Cadet corps at the high school, he promises uniforms & a permanent instructor. (The high school already has a uniformed cadet corps affiliated with the local Reserve Army units) What with Harry Paterson's A.R.P. & the various boy scout & girl guide groups, & the Junior Red Cross in the schools, the home population is pretty thoroughly organized. (Not to mention the busy Salvage Committee, the Soldiers Aid (parcels to Queens Co. boys overseas) & other groups.)

SUNDAY, MAY 2/43

Sunny but cold. Drove to Hfx this afternoon.

Tea at Kilda's with Mum. Freezing cold tonight.

MONDAY, MAY 3/43

My family ~~sailed for~~ sailed for Canada from England exactly 30 years ago. Cold & raining today. Spent the morning on various errands downtown, the afternoon at the Archives.

Was: U.S. troops have driven Germans out of Mateur in Tunisia. The striking U.S. miners are going back to work.

TUESDAY - FRIDAY, MAY 7/43

Hard at work in the Archives digging material for my current novel "Roger Budden". A bleak place of stone badly designed, (by architect Andrew Cobb) its roof leaks at every skylight & the damp comes thru the walls. Took 2 evenings off, one to see the film "Desert Victory" the official movie of the 8th Army's late campaign. Another evening at Jim Martell's where I met 3 Dalhousie professors, all very keen about "Her Majesty's Yankees" - Mowatt (Education), Bennett (English), Bell (Biology).

Great news tonight (May 7) the Axis front in Tunisia has broken, American troops are in Bizerte, British in Tunis, pockets of Germans holding out still, especially at Cape Bon.

SATURDAY, MAY 8/43

Lovely day. (It has rained every day this week so far). I did some shopping this morning & got some photostats made of the short points of Halifax @ 50¢ each. (Maritime Photo Engravers). Drove home this afternoon. Felt ill towards midnight.

SUNDAY, MAY 9/43

Ill all day with fever & splitting headache.

MONDAY, MAY 10/43

A nasty race riot at Sussex Camp this week-end, between an Ontario regt (The Buffers & Haldimand) and a regt. of

See May 28/43

French bandits (Les Voltigeurs de Quebec). It spilled over into the town on Saturday & officers had a job getting their men back to camp. Finally it came to side-arms & rifles for 15 minutes in which 1 man of the D. & H. was fatally wounded & altogether 15 were wounded on both sides.

War news: 50,000 prisoners in Tunisia; believed to be 80,000 others cut off along Cape Bon & in isolated posts still holding out.

Toronto Star asks me to do an article on Sid "Lord", whose promotion to wing-commander at the age of 23 is occupying the public mind.

This has been the worst winter & spring of my life, nothing but continuous colds, all severe, since Christmas; the first break in the blessed good health I have enjoyed all my days so far.

Tuesday May 11/43 Ill in bed.

Wednesday May 12/43 German commander in Tunisia, Von Arnim, has surrendered with his entire army - about 100,000 survivors. They got a terrible licking. Altogether in the Tunisian drive our forces have taken about 150,000 prisoners. Our casualties comparatively light. R.A.F. dropped 4500 tons of bombs on Duisburg tonight. Churchill has turned up in Washington on one of his flying visits - but a later report says he came by sea most of the way.

Thursday May 13/43 My indisposition (chiefly due to the week I spent in the tomblike atmosphere of the Archives) developed a queer quick look light-hemorrhage of the nose. This morning Doc Wickwariched to come & plug it. All this has ruined my long-planned fishing trip with Parker, Russel & Bain, who left for Lake Rossignol yesterday.

FRIDAY, MAY 14/43.

Fine but cool. This afternoon heard Mr. Churchill giving a talk to the British Home Guard from Washington. He said the hour approached when the U.S. must assume the whole responsibility for Britain's defence while the Active Army assaulted the Germans on the continent. War news: U.S. troops have landed on Attu, one of the Jap-held Aleutians & are fighting with the Jap garrison. This afternoon I dug a little in Drew's field, beyond our garden wall, where Edith proposes a little war garden. I am still very weak & couldn't do much.

SATURDAY, MAY 15/43

R.A.F. & U.S.A.F. are hitting hard. Last night the R.A.F. dropped its biggest load yet - 3000 tons, on Berlin and 2 or 3 other German objectives including Essen. 37 bombers lost. The U.S.A.F. has made big daylight attacks on Kiel, Bremen, Antwerp. From the Tunis air fields heavy air raids are in progress against Italy. Germans have been comforting themselves (per Dr. Goebbels) about the Tunisian affair by much rhapsody about German armies "fighting to the last cartridge" etc. War correspondents say the Germans quit gladly when the Allies broke through & describe the huge dumps of German supplies surrendered intact. Latest figures show 193,000 prisoners taken in Tunisia altogether, including 27 generals. 150,000 were Germans. Also 1000 cannon & great numbers of trucks, rifles, m.g.'s, etc.



FRIAY, MAY 21/43

Up today for the first time since the 15<sup>th</sup>, when Doctor Wickwire pronounced my illness to have relapsed from 'flu to pneumonia, ordered me to bed, ~~say~~ sulfa pills every 4 hours etc. Little war news during this period except the destruction of 2 big water storage dams in the Ruhr by R.A.F. Weather continues bad, cold, almost incessant rains, furnace going day & night.

SATURDAY, MAY 22/43

Rain. Tommy down with measles. Today I am up & fully dressed, still taking sulfa pills every 4 hours.

A flagrant bit of war profiteering which has attracted the attention of the whole town is the residence built on Park St. 2 doors north of mine during the past 8 months by Charles Smith, manager of Thompson Bros. Workmen from Thompson's Plant did most of the work, Thompson's trucks have been used constantly; nothing but the best of materials, many of them - such as brass pipe for all plumbing - scarce and obtained under Thompson's war priority rating. It must have cost at least \$10,000 if built by an ordinary citizen - assuming he could have obtained the labour & materials. The workmen call it cynically "the Park Street corvette".

SUNDAY, MAY 23/43.

Lovely sunny day. All my shrubs breaking into leaf. Premier Aberhart of Alberta, who set all Canada by the ears with his Social Credit schemes and repudiated

He left an estate of about \$15,000 at \$20,000, much of it in life insurance, several thousand in Dominion bonds, only \$500 in Province of Alberta bonds.

the provincial debt, died in a Vancouver hospital today.

Today Moscow announced the dissolution of the famous (or infamous) Comintern - the International Communist Party, apparently as a gesture of goodwill towards the democratic nations which have always held the Comintern illegal. Heavy air raids continue against Germany & Italy, with the Germans making savage hit-&-run raids across the channel in daylight.

MONDAY, MAY 24/43 Glorious hot weather at last, I was outdoors all day. Still pretty weak. Had an X-ray of my lungs at Doc. Wickwire's. He prescribes rest & careful exposure.

War: last night R.A.F. & RCAF dropped more than 2000 tons of bombs on Dortmund. 38 planes lost.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26/43 Fog. Cold. Temp. at 9 p.m. 40° Fahrenheit.

R.A.F. gave a drubbing to Dusseldorf last night, 28 planes lost.

Sporadic fighting along the Russian front; both sides seem ready for the summer offensive. Our airmen continue to bomb Sicily & Sardinia day & night. So far in this war the R.A.F. has dropped 100,000 tons of bombs on Germany.

FRIDAY, MAY 28/43 Busy digging out "Victory garden" this afternoon.

Weather unsettled, rain, fog, spasms of hot sunshine. National Light & Power Co (Moosejaw) has redeemed its bonds (6%) nominally due in 1949, @ 102. I had \$1,000, bought in 1930. The new issue pays

4%; I did not buy, took the cash. The fatal riot at Sussex Camp still being investigated, although the Dufferin & Haldimand Regt. was rushed over to England immediately after the row. Evidence shows that a drunken brawl between Ontario & Quebec men resulted in some of the French-Canadians being badly beaten; one or two of the beaten men fled into a hut of the Voltigeurs, armed themselves with rifles & bayonets, & fired on the D. & H. men. R.A.F. raided Essen last night & gave it a heavy pasting. 23 of our bombers lost. Mosquito bombers made a dawn raid on the Zeiss optical works in Jena. Our Tunisian forces continue heavy bombing of Sicily & Sardinia. Russians are fighting hard to drive the Germans from Novo Rossisk, the last Hun foothold on the Caucasus.

In Liverpool, the Wartime Prices & Trade Board office has been removed to Bridgewater; it was located here because it covered Lünenburg, Queens & Shelburne, & L'pool was central; but the B'water merchants succeeded in getting it moved to their midst.

SUNDAY, May 30/43 Temp. 40° at 9 a.m. Bleak, foggy or dull weather. Indian pear in full bloom. War: the U-boat war has taken a turn in our favour: ship sinkings this month fairly light, while a large number of U-boats have been sunk. Our air was continuous day & night against Germany, Italy & occupied France & Belgium. Japs admit Americans have captured Attu island in the Aleutians. In Liverpool a week or two ago the volunteer Fire Dept. (Chief, Armand Winters) presented an ultimatum

to the town — more & better equipment or they would quit. The town was unable to get war priority for new equipment so the rebels quit. The V. D. is now being completely reorganised under one of the faithful veterans, George Page, a barber. Most serious lack in the V. D. is hose and ladders; also they need a new ladder truck. They have an excellent La France motor engine, bought new some years before the war; and the A.R.P. organisation has fixed up the old Liverpool steam fire-engine, which is now kept in a special shed built for it in the shipyard at the N.W. end of Town Bridge. Other auxiliary fire equipment is stored in the old Parade School; and of course stirrup-pumps are distributed through the town in case of wardens, each house so equipped being marked with a card in the window (white card, red print) saying "A.R.P. STIRRUP PUMP". (This is true also of Baledonia, Port Morton, Port Medway, Greenfield & other centres in the countryside, as regards auxiliary equipment.)

The R.A.F. dropped 1500 tons of bombs on the twin Ruhr towns of Elberfeld-Barmen last night. 33 of our bombers lost. Free French general De Gaulle & Gen. Henri Giraud are meeting in Algeria in an attempt to unite the French forces, hitherto divided by petty bickering, professional jealousy, etc, a disgusting spectacle. The U.S. shipbuilding program is now averaging 4 ships a day. Meat rationing went into effect in Canada on May 27th; there were amazing scenes in the larger towns & cities the day before, long

queues outside the butcher shops, some shops literally stormed; a sad reflection on our city-dwellers' "patriotism".

MONDAY, MAY 31/43. Again rain, cold & miserable. Temp. at 8 AM., 34° Fahr. Surely the longest, wettest, coldest spring of all time. Temp. did not rise above 44° all day. War. A pleasure to tune in on the German & Italian broadcasts these days; they are squealing about the bombing of their towns & cities; very different from their psalms of triumph when they were doing the bombing. We expect another terrific blow by Hitler, probably on the Russian front; he has been taking our bombing & saving his own air force for many months.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1/43. Temp. at 8 AM., 40° Fahr.; but sunshine after many dreary days. Probably the last square-rigged vessel to sail out of Nova Scotia has been shelled & sunk by a U-boat near Bermuda. She was the barquentine "Angelus", a French (Vichy) fishing vessel discovered on the Banks in 1941 and confiscated, and chartered to a Montreal shipping firm. She sailed from N.S. to the West Indies with a cargo of lumber & was on her way north with a cargo of much-needed molasses when sunk. Of the crew of 10, 8 perished of exhaustion & exposure. The 2 survivors were 8 days in a lifeboat which upset several times in a storm. Captain was E. P. Jensen, a Dane married in Lunenburg & resident there many years. Digging & hoeing the "Victory Garden" today. Fertilizer can't be had from the stores - the rush to grow backyard vegetables has cleaned out all stocks, & even the fish-meal plant at Pickerson Bros. is broken down & idle for lack of a part. However our friends the Johnsons are lending us some fertilizer.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 2/43 Rain, east wind. Temp. at noon  $44^{\circ}$  Fahrt. There is a lull on all the war fronts except for air bombing. On Attu Island the U.S. troops have counted 1500 dead Japs. They took  $\frac{1}{2}$  prisoners.

Half a million U.S. coal miners are on strike again; the Canadian fuel controller (J. McE. Stewart) has ordered all stocks of coal in Canada "frozen".

THURSDAY JUNE 3/43 Warm - but still raining at intervals. Farmers throughout N.S. complain that the long cold & wet spring has set back planting 3 weeks or a month. A bad accident at Prince's Lodge, Nfx, when a navy truck ran into a bus. One of the killed was George Barratt, another was Andrew Cobb, architect. I knew Barratt quite well, a brilliant but erratic Englishman of 35 or so, employed as chemist by N.S. Light & Power Co, he was an expert of on American colonial furniture, an author (radio plays; he wanted to dramatise some of my historical short stories but never got around to it), and a leader of the labour movement in Nfx.

War: Germans are intensifying the air war on the Russian front. The Japs have made one of their periodical stabs towards Chungking along the Yang-tze valley, with the usual withdrawal after devastating the rice fields & villages, & the Chinese are making their usual wild claims of victory - 39,000 Japs killed & wounded, etc. German aircraft shot down a transport plane bound from Lisbon to Britain; famous British film actor Leslie Howard was on board & is reported missing. Tonight Edith took the kids to see "Bambi", the story of a deer, Walt Disney's latest "animated-drawing" film, over which all America is agog.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5/43 Yesterday was warm & sunny. This morning rain again. Temp 45°.

To stimulate collection of household fats, our Salvage Committee (chairman, Ogilvie) has arranged a matinee at the Astor Theatre, free to any child bringing 1 lb. of fat. Our kids much worried until Edick managed to scrape up 2 lbs. for them, in coffee tins. A Lunenburg fishing schooner, the "Caroline Rose", has brought into port 40-odd survivors of a British steamer torpedoed off the N.S. coast (LATER HEARD SHE WAS SUNK BY ACQUETIC MINE). A military revolt in Argentina has deposed the unpopular government of President Castillo, who had insisted on maintaining diplomatic relations with Germany & Italy. Edsel Ford, only son of Henry Ford, died this week & left \$200 millions to the Ford Foundation, a benevolent institution, thus escaping the U.S. death duties tax which would have taken about 75% of it. John L. Lewis, the beetle-browed czar of the U.S. coal miners, has ordered his men back to work, on the demand of President Roosevelt. Production in the Nova Scotia mines is falling steadily; partly due to the number of young & energetic miners who have gone into the armed services, but mostly due to the succession of small strikes & walk outs arising over petty grievances almost every two weeks. Absentee-ism is chronic; according to a gov't. labour official, absentee-ism in the Springhill mine is over 25%.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6/43 A fine hot day. Took the family & Dougie Parker to Carters Beach for a picnic. Glorious. The kids had a fine time in the sand after a year's absence.

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1943

Overcast & cool. Got my wee "Victory Garden" planted today, with expert advice from Grace Johnson & a contribution of tomato plants from A. Parker. Hear that Charles Dodge has sold to the govt. his big house in Bristol Avenue, for use as a hostel for service men. Sid Ford is posted "missing" after air operations over France on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Only last month he was promoted wing commander, at 23. Heavy air fighting along Russian front continues - an evident struggle for mastery before big ground operations. Russians claim to ~~have~~<sup>have</sup> shot down 2,500 German planes in 5 weeks - fantastic!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9/43 To Caledonia early this morning with Ralph Johnson, to help him cruise a couple of timber lots on the Broham Road, S.W. of Caledonia. There are 4 farms on the road, the 2nd. being Will Douglas' old place. The 3rd. (Coles) and last (Shea's) are abandoned & falling into ruin, a melancholy sight. But the view from these hilltop farms is magnificent, miles of forest (mostly hardwood) and lakes & streams shining in every hollow. We cruised a timber lot S.E. of Shea's farm in the angle between Whitburn Brook & Russell Lake. I acted as compass man with a 2-chain steel tape fastened to the back of my belt, axe in hand. Blazing hot sun with no breeze in the woods, sweating work, swarms of mosquitoes but surprisingly few blackflies. The lot proved worthless for pulpwood, all the pine & hemlock logged years ago & a fine stand of hardwood in its place. We stayed the night in Caledonia at the Parker House, plain but comfortable,



with good food & service, \$2 a day. I spent evening talking with old George Parker the proprietor, a bright roundfaced old boy (he's 80) as deaf as a shad but with an excellent memory & a ready talker about old times in Caledonia. His mother was born in 1824 & he could recount many of her tales of pioneering days.

Caledonia quiet as ever (the Alton House, leading hostelry, is closed, apparently for duration of war, due to lack of travel) though the new power development at Harmony is creating some stir. The job has been undertaken by N.S. Power Commission, & the turbines etc. are old stuff, first used at Carlton, Harcourt Co., then shifted to our Millon (the temporary plant at Rapid Falls, dismantled when Bowie Falls was developed) & the electricity goes by a pole line to the big naval training base at Deep Brook, Anna. Co.

The Navy Minister (MacDonald) recently revealed that the Deep Brook training station cost so far \$12,000,000. Officially it is "H. M. C. V. Cornwallis". He also revealed that this school had been planned for Shelburne but the land there was found unsuitable.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10/43 Another torrid day. We cruised a timber lot at the SW end of Russell Lake, extending through to Third Christopher Lake, a beautiful stand of second growth hardwood but again worthless for pulpwood. The woods are in full blossom now, and lovely — star-flower, lady's slipper, bunchberry, false Solomon seal.

blueberry, huckleberry, blue-eyed grass, sarsaparilla, & in places we had tramp ruthlessly over a carpet of blue violets. We lunched by the shore of Russel Lake beside a spring & wound up our job about 2 pm. Inspecting the ruined barns & outbuildings of the Shea (usually spelled here as pronounced, Shay) place, we came upon two complete spool beds dismantled & flung into a corner with parts of another old fashioned wooden bed. In a stable we found a Boston rocker, damaged, but not beyond repair; Ralph carried it off in the car. Arrived in Liverpool about 4:30; weather much cooler near the sea shore.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11/43. Again rain & cold. This morning the Italian island fortress of Pantelleria in the Sicilian Strait surrendered after a final terrific air bombardment. In accordance with an ultimatum dropped from a U.S. plane, the Italians laid out a large white cross on their air-drome & British troops went ashore from the waiting ships & took possession. The Italian garrison was 10,000. We lost 40 - all airmen. An example of air & sea power.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12/43 Dull, cool, wisps of fog. Hear that gov't. intends erecting 20 or 30 pre-fabricated houses in Whynot Town, near Mrs. McKeil's private hospital, for use of workmen employed at Thompson's. The gov't. marine slip at Thompson's is finished at last; the first ship was hauled out last week. Gov't officials still trying to find a suitably large home to convert into a hostel for service men

in L'pool. Two are available - at fat prices. Charles Dodge's big house in Bristol, cost \$5,000, price to govt. \$12,000. The Elmwood Hotel (Mrs. C. Gordon Jones) which was offered for sale to a private buyer some months ago at \$8,000 - and refused; price to govt. - \$15,000. Patriots! War news: Italian island of Lampedusa, near Malta, surrendered after a brief air bombardment. U.S. air force bombed Wilhelmshaven in daylight yesterday; 8 "flying fortresses" lost. R.A.F. attacked Susseldorf & Münster last night, dropped over 2000 tons of bombs; 43 bombers lost. Heavy air fighting continues on Russian front.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13/43. Cold & raw. Temp. 42°. Furnace fires are necessary in day time, a fire in the grate in evening. Oil stove going all day long in my study. War: - another Italian outpost, a small rocky island near Pantelleria, has hung out the white flag. Last night R.A.F. bombed Bochum in the Ruhr. 24 planes lost. U.S. planes made a big daylight raid on Bremen. <sup>(26 planes lost)</sup> Gasoline supply in eastern States again sharply cut; rumours of a similar cut in Canada soon.

I bought from Roy Gordon a Krag-Jorgensen (Springfield .30) sporting rifle, formerly owned by Jim Bartling. Price \$55.00

Also 71 cartridges - \$8.30. A beautiful gun in first-rate condition. Carl & Jean Conrad called tonight. He thinks of going to Labrador to work on the huge new airfield at Hamilton Inlet - called "Goose Field" in opposition to the war-built airrome at Gander River, Nfld. ("Goose" is comparatively free from fog.)

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 1943

Still overcast & cool. My barometer has not moved out of the "changeable" section for 6 weeks, hovering between 29.5 and 30. Valley orchardists report the finest bloom in years is now falling from the trees & they expect a big crop. Sunny this afternoon with cool N.W. wind.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15/43. Temp. 32° at 5:30 AM. I fancy there will be damage to the gardens from frost. R.A.F. last night attacked the Ruhr towns, 13 bombers lost. German bombers continue light quick raids on England, day & night, from French bases; they hit London's outskirts last night. On the Russian front both sides are feeling each other out with small trench raids while fighting a severe battle for mastery of the air. Rain tonight.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16/43. Heavy rain last night & today, with a sharp thunder storm at 4 A.M. Several places struck <sup>by lightning</sup> in Lpool & Brooklyn; nearest was Paul King's house, 250 yards from mine. War: the air war goes on. King George is in Tunisia, flew there 5 days ago for a visit to the troops. Madame Chiang Kai Shek spoke today in the Canadian parliament at Ottawa; her thesis is the same as when she spoke in Washington — the Pacific war theatre is more vital than the European, we must concentrate on Japan. Allied propaganda is waging a "war of nerves" on Germany & Italy re the coming attack on Axis Europe; the newspapers are full of reports of Allied troops & ships concentrating everywhere from Scotland to Syria, & Admiral Cunningham, C-in-C. Mediterranean fleet, is holding a

## mysterious conference with President Inonui of Turkey.

OTTAWA, June 15 — (CP) — From 44,539 men found physically unfit for military service on examination by private physicians, 19,182 have been found fit on re-examination since Oct. 31, 1942, Labor Minister Mitchell said in a written reply tabled yesterday in the Commons.

The information was given in reply to questions by J. G. Diefenbaker (Prog. Con., Lake Centre). Included in those re-examined and found fit were 5,676 men previously found fit but re-examined because of doubt of their medical category.

Those subsequently found fit were called for service, except for those granted postponements.

The number rejected in Quebec and the Maritimes, with number re-examined by medical boards and found fit in brackets were: "E" (Montreal) 12,661 (5,906); "F" (Quebec) 8,787 (2,235); "G" (Halifax) 967 (453); "H" (Saint John) 683 (285); "I" (Charlottetown) 160 (51).

These clippings are a striking comment on the relative patriotism of the Canadian provinces.

Significant is the large number of defaulters in Quebec, also the large number of Quebecois

sworn to be unfit for military service by local physicians & later found to be fit.

In Algeria the fantastic squabble between De Gaulle and Giraud over leadership of the Fighting French continues. De Gaulle, for all his idealism seems a megalomaniac; while Giraud for all his former leaning towards the Vichy gov't seems to be a more solid man.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17/43

Sunny but chilly. Temp at noon 55°. The "kiack" (alewife) season is now over. A Halifax fish company bought most of the catch at Port Medway, salted & barrelled them on the spot & shipped them off, total 2,000 barrels. Price to the "kiack dippers" was 60¢ per 100 fish. Anglers above Rossignol have been taking great numbers of trout, especially in Shelburne River and Kejumkujik River. Salmon fishing excellent on the Medway.

OTTAWA, June 15—(CP)—A total of 7,143 defaulters who had failed to answer calls for compulsory military service took advantage of an offer of immunity made some three months ago and reported voluntarily, the Labor Department said in a Commons return today.

Giving information asked by J. G. Diefenbaker (Prog. Con., Lake Centre), the Department also reported there have been 1,351 prosecutions of defaulters to date.

By administrative districts the number of defaulters who reported voluntarily and the number of prosecutions, bracketed, was:

"A" (London, Ont.) 462 (49); "B" (Toronto) 315 (64); "C" (Kingston, Ont.) 87 (17); "D" (Port Arthur) 6 (9); "E" (Montreal) 3,805 (374); "F" (Quebec) 594 (220); "G" (Halifax) nil (18); "H" (Saint John) nil (26); "I" (Charlottetown) nil (nil); "J" (Winnipeg) 425 (142); "K" (Vancouver) 929 (70); "M" (Regina) 75 (61); "N" (Edmonton) 445 (101).

SATURDAY, JUNE 19/43

Pouring rain yesterday, dull & overcast ~~today~~ <sup>Today</sup>; a miserable May & June!  
War: U.S. airmen claim to have shot down 97 Jap. planes over the  
Samoan island of Guadalcanal 2 days ago for a loss of 6.

Yesterday they claimed 39 Italian & German planes shot down  
over Sicily & Sardinia for a loss of 8. These were U.S. bombers  
against fighters & the claims are absurd in the light of all  
experience in this war. Sir Archibald Wavell has been made  
viceroy of India in place of Lord Linlithgow. General  
Auchinleck succeeds Wavell as C-in-C, ~~India~~ Middle East.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20/43. Rain all day. Fire-place & stove going. Temp. 45°; the  
interminable wet & cold getting on everybody's nerves. War: still  
ominously quiet everywhere except the air bombing of Sicily &  
Sardinia. Last night R.A.F. raided the Schneider armament works  
at La Cressat,  
170 miles S.E. of  
~~near~~ Paris. Making up my income tax papers. In 1942 my gross  
income was \$5158.25, of which the U.S. gov't took \$616.50 and  
my New York agent \$436.00. Now the Canadian income tax takes  
another \$197.44 ~~241.00~~, (of which \$52.57 is refundable after the war.)

MONDAY, JUNE 20/43. Fine, with a strong N. breeze. Walked around Western  
Head this morning, potted about the lawn & garden all afternoon, the  
first real exercise in 9 miserable days. Glorious! Mr. John Bracken,  
new leader of the newly re-named Progressive-Conservative party  
in Liverpool this week-end on his Dominion tour. Local Tories  
arranged a reception for him at the Masonic Hall this a.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28/43

Misty morning. Temp. 45°. War: R.A.F. bombed Bresfeld last night, 44 planes lost. Moscow says Russian casualties are 4,200,000 in this war to date; declares German casualties over 6 million; asks for an Allied attack on the West Front this summer. Race riots in Detroit, 20 negroes & 3 whites killed, 700 injured, martial law proclaimed. Half a million U.S. coal miners on strike again. In Liverpool, the fish merchants, Nickerson Bros, have "imported" a staff of Newfoundlanders for their cold storage & fish processing plants; all their local men had drifted away to Thompsons & other plants doing war work, where the wages are much higher. Rain tonight.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29/43

Fine. Yesterday U.S. planes bombed a German rubber factory & the former General Motors plant at Antwerp, escorted by R.A.F. & U.S. fighters; cost, 20 bombers, 4 fighters. Last night R.A.F. bombed one of the smaller Ruhr towns; cost

MOHLHEIM

Our air bombardment of Italian ports goes on day & night. Germans make small raids day & night on England, sometimes reaching London; these raids are increasing in size & frequency but nothing like ours so far.

In Liverpool, the corvettes, minesweepers & armed yachts continue to come for a few weeks' overhaul & sail again. We note a curious variation in the quality of the men. Some crews are decent, sensible fellows whom it is a pleasure to entertain. Other crews are composed largely of roughnecks of the lowest type, drinking & wenching & fighting - usually amongst themselves - and not above burglary and

"assault with intent to rob" when funds get low. Last week a number of them staged a drunken brawl in Fort Park at night, with beer bottles for weapons; ~~many~~ badly gashed and battered. All this has had its inevitable effect upon the morals of the town, particularly girls of the poorer class. Each night Main Street is thronged with young whores, mostly from "Whynot Town" (some from Milton) hunting in twos & threes. Parsons who blamed liquor for this sort of thing entirely are now a little astonished. The liquor ration is 1 quart of spirits per month or 1 ~~quart~~<sup>gallon</sup> of wine per week or 'ndozen of beer per week; the alcoholic content of wine & beer has been so sharply reduced that a week's ration will produce only one "drunk". But the wenching goes on seven days (or nights) a week. Nevertheless I see one good thing here out of the war. Plentiful work & high wages have resulted in our poor being better clothed & probably better fed than ever in their lives. This seems true everywhere. And because Canadian troops have not yet seen heavy battle & there have been few casualties, the bitter side of this prosperity has not yet come home to them.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24/43 Fine. R.A.F.'s big bombers from England struck the Italian naval base of Spezia last night. Rumour that U boats laid magnetic mines off Halifax lately & sank 2 naval craft; the first word of German mines off our coast so far in this war. (Note: the above R.A.F. raid was made by bombers which blitzed Treidrichshaven a night or two ago. Instead of returning to England by the usual route, where German night fighters were waiting for them, they flew on to Tunisia. This



looks like a smart move which will be used more as the air war grows. Prime minister Curtin announces that there are now more U.S. troops in Australasia than Australian forces. U.S. miners have gone back to work under threat of compulsory military service. Our local Reserve infantry (now C Coy, 2nd Bn. P.L.F.) is drilling tonight with its own band - 20 pieces - under Ned Hunt. They have been practising all winter & spring and can tootle very bravely. Hector MacLeod is resigning his commission in the Coy due to pressure of work. There is a general feeling in the Reserve that it's all a waste of time & money now that the possibility of German landings has become so remote, & the Govt. had better disband the whole force. This would be a sad blow to the Reserve Army staff - a top-heavy group, mostly dug-outs from the last war, all of field <sup>rank</sup>, all on full pay & allowances & having a very happy time. But the Reserve Army is costing a tremendous sum for its doubtful value.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25/43 Burning hot day, 84° in the shade at noon. Spent the afternoon at Beach Meadows on the sand & had picnic tea. Carl, Jean & little Rose Conrad came along. R.A.F. bombed Ruhr Valley town of Wuppertal last night, cost 33 planes. The daylight blitz of occupied France & Belgium, & of Sicily & Sardinia, continues daily; yesterday between 400 & 500 of Allied planes were over France alone. No ground fighting; each side waiting for the other to move. Quiet also in China, Burma & Australasia.

SATURDAY, JUNE 26/43

Overcast but warm. One light shower. Replanted my cucumbers, beet, carrot & some of the beans; the other seed rotted in the long rains. Many other gardeners have had to do the same. R.A.F. bombed the Ruhr last night; Bochum & Lelsenkirchen this time; cost 30 planes. U.S. air force (which pins its faith on daylight bombing) lost 18 "flying fortresses" in a raid on Germany yesterday. One U.S. radio speaker estimates 1500 British & U.S. airmen lost this month over Germany & occupied countries. In Halifax the old Gosselook estate, one time home of rich old Enos Collins, later a Uniacke residence & home of F. B. McCurdy when he was a member of the Dominion (Borden) cabinet, has been sold to the Roman Catholic corporation of Hfx., who intend to transfer St. Mary's college there after the war. The estate owners, descendants of the Collins & Uniacke families, have lived in England several decades.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27/43

Warm, overcast, light showers. Went to Greenfield with Irving Bain, he to fish, I to watch. Many anglers - I counted 18 rods at the Lake Pool. Dined at the Freeman House, which was full of guests, mostly from eastern Canada & all anglers & wives or daughters. Bain had no luck. Blackflies thick - the "second crop" says Greenfield. Bain, who is President of the Liberal Association in Queens, telling me some of his political troubles. Says Ross Byrne, local lawyer, is a crook & a black eye to the party, always trying to wangle something for himself. (Byrne is now in Ottawa, trying to wangle a judgeship) Says "Honest John" Cameron, our Tory lawyer, isn't much better; they work in collusion (the crown prosecutor post goes to one or the other as elections swing) and together they have "pulled off" many queer deals, any one of which would cost

them their gowns if made public.

MONDAY JUNE 28/43 Rain. R.A.F. bombed Cologne heavily last night, 25 planes lost. Heavy raids on Italian ports continue.

TUESDAY JUNE 29/43 Rain. Went to Hfx this afternoon with Dr. Rein, he to meet the Ocean Limited, his son Rose, R.C.A.F., coming home on embarkation leave. Had tea with Mother. Train was late, Rein picked me up at 11.15, went over to home of CHAS. Fowler, architect, where we had lime rickups & Mrs Fowler tried to persuade me to address the Fortnightly Club, of which she is president. Left there  $\frac{1}{2}$  past midnight, home at 4 A.M.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 30/43 Rain. Temp 45° at noon; obliged to light a fire in the furnace. Mr. Churchill in a speech at the Guildhall today, said more than 30 U-boats were sunk in May & the U-boats had "recoiled to lick their wounds" so that hardly a ship was torpedoed in the North Atlantic in the month of June. He also declared that there will be "heavy fighting in the Mediterranean" & elsewhere before the leaves fall this autumn. Forgot to mention yesterday that the Foundation Co. is building a large plant for the manufacture of landing barges, <sup>near Holthill</sup> a mile or two west of Bridgewater between the main highway & Vaney Lake. Construction is well along, buildings (all of wood & tar paper) cover several acres. The Norwegian training camp at Lunenburg, where for nearly 3 years Norwegian naval ratings & merchant marine gunners have been trained, is being closed, its staff & activities transferred to Britain. The Norwegians have been highly popular, many have married local girls, & their departure will leave

quite a gap in Lunenburg life. 40 or 50 Norwegian civilians, mostly men from the whaling fleet past military age, remain in Liverpool, where they are employed as shipwrights at Thompson's.

The continual rains keep the rivers up & salmon are thronging in all the south shore rivers; old men on the Madway say there has never been such good fishing in their time.

Summary of June weather: { Rain - 14 days  
Overcast and cold - 8 "  
Warm - 8 " } 30.

THURSDAY, JULY 1/43. A fine breezy day for Dominion Day. The parade at 10 AM. was a service affair - the Legion, crews of corvettes in port, <sup>army</sup> <sup>navy</sup> <sup>volunteers</sup> <sup>St. John's</sup> Field Co's, R.C.C. (Reserve), "C" Coy. Princess Louise Fusiliers (Reserve), all led by "C" Co's band. All marched without arms or equipment & so made a poor show. The Legion had a program for the day, girls selling tags, hot-dog stands, water sports at the town bridge, a ball game this afternoon, Navy vs. Air Force. A dance tonight.

U.S. troops have made new landings in the Solomon Islands near the Jap base of Munda. The two chief boarding houses in Liverpool (Drew's, and the Zwicker House) are going out of business due to ration difficulties and the scarcity of maids. The proprietress at Drew's had to juggle 25 ration books to make her purchases & even then had to shop all over town to get food for a day, owing to the shortage of supplies at the stores. All this adds to the chronic shortage of accommodation in L'pool. The expected construction of gov't. "wartime houses" has not yet begun.

SATURDAY, JULY 3/43

'Still fine weather praise God.' The uneasy calm on the Russian front continues & in the west the allies still content themselves with the ceaseless air bombing of Sicily, Sardinia, western Germany & the coasts of France, Belgium & Holland. In the Solomon Islands, U.S. troops have made contact with Australian forces & are moving on the Jap bases of Munda & Salamaua. Here in L'Pool the old swimming hole just above the railway bridge on the town side is a lovely spot these days. It is Whynot-town's bathing place & on hot days boys & girls troop there to swim & sun themselves on the pulpwood booms. The boys are lean & sallow & the young women are inclined to be long & spindly or short & fat, but some of the girls have fine figures & plump breasts which show to advantage in the modern bathing suit. They have free & easy manners too, & it's not surprising that airmen from the Radar station at Happy Landing, & seamen from the corvettes & minesweepers in port find the railway bridge a fine place to bathe. The navy men usually come up river in small grey gigs & jolly boats. There are clumps of bushes between the highway & the river, convenient for undressing & dressing etc. & there is a good deal of unabashed lovemaking going on, & moon bathing seems as popular as sun bathing. The navy men have fine physique, while the air force men are mostly of poor physique, (relegated to "radar" duties for that reason) & so the navy has a distinct edge with the girls. The sailors wear little more than breech cloths; those who have been long in port are brown Apollons; those just in from the convoys for a refit are white-skinned & look anaemic by comparison, but that is a delusion. By the irony of war the lowly girls of "Whynot-town" have some of the finest males of Canada for partners in their love affairs. One hopes it will improve the breed.

MONDAY, JULY 5, 1943

A petty officer, R.C.N., one of the shore establishment at Liverpool was drowned while bathing on the shore yesterday <sup>(old bathing in the cove)</sup> <sup>(found at White Point)</sup>. A detachment of U.V. troops is quartered at ~~Shelburne~~ Barracks, Halifax, the first U.V. soldiers to be stationed in N.S. to my knowledge in this war. The premier of Poland, General Sikorski, was killed in a plane crash at Gibraltar yesterday. Two notable Canadian politicians died during the past 3 days: R. J. "Fighting Bob" Manion, former leader of the conservative party in the Dominion, & Gordon V. Harrington, former premier of Nova Scotia. Harrington was able, witty & personally honest; but the government he led (conservative) was one of the most corrupt in the history of the province, swept out of office by the Liberals under Angus Macdonald.

R.A.F. bombed Cologne & Hamburg last night, cost 32 planes. U.V. bombers lost 8 in daylight raids over France. Italians say Allied bombing has reduced Palermo to ruins. The whole west coast of Italy is now under aerial attack & bombs were dropped yesterday on airdromes near Rome. A glider loaded with war supplies has been towed across the Atlantic <sup>from Canada</sup> by a twin-engined "Dakota" bomber, 3500 miles in 28 hours. Madame Chiang Kai Shek has reached Chungking by air after her visit to America. Queen Wilhelmina has returned to England after a visit to her daughter Juliana in Ottawa.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7/43

Went by car at 6 AM. with Bill (Anglican parson's son) Nelson, & Esmond Horne (a lieutenant of the corvette "Halifax" now in for a refit) to Chester. There we found Bill's yacht "Ripple" anchored in the cove off Heisler's boat yard, where she had been stored & re-painted during the winter. Transferred sundry light stores by dinghy & lost an hour or so by Bill's insistence on installing a bracket for the patent log. Got away at 9:30 AM. with a light air just enough to take us out of the cove. Tacked our way

out cautiously, I coming the shoals from the bow & outside Peninsula Point got a N.E. breeze. We took in the working jib and hoisted the Genoa & scudded out past Quaker Island & Tancook. The islands, the blue water (there were millions of jelly fish in the shoal water of Cheater) the long low mainland, all lovely in the sunshine. But as we passed inside Big Duck & Cross Islands the wind dropped & a haze began to climb the sky from the southward. From there on the "Ripple" ghosted along on an air that came in uneasy puffs; the Genoa flapped & the mainsail flogged & jerked at its boom monotonously. The sea ran quite high with a peculiar lumpy chop, especially off Indian Island. As we looped past the mottled red & green shoulder of Cape Lahave we began to watch for the Mersey mill smoke & saw it soon after, in fact saw more than we bargained for; at 6 p.m. the faint wisp of brownish smoke gave way to a huge volcano of black oil smoke rising a couple of miles into the sky. We were alarmed & began to whistle for wind. Wind was on the way, however; by this time the sky was overhung with whitish-grey clouds, strangely twisted & unmoving - like the convoluted ribbon candy we used to buy at Christmas time. We got a stiff squall off Coffin Island & came up harbor at a great rate with the first rain falling on our backs. In passing we saw the conveyor shed at Mersey mill gutted by fire & hose-parties still busy in the ruins. Got "Ripple" moored after a struggle in the wind & rain & Rolfe Seaborn came down to the Yacht club with his car & ran us home with our gear about 9.30. No incident on the voyage except that off Lahave we heard much gunfire to seaward & later saw a warship (Horne identified her as H.M.C.S. "Sharny") blazing away at something, probably a target. Horne is a tall dark British Columbian, a former medical student, a yachtsman from childhood, a good type.

THURSDAY, JULY 8/43.

Southerly gale & floods of rain all last night and today.

War:- The Germans have launched a great attack on the Russians aiming to trap the whole group of armies in the big Kursk salient. Both Berlin & Moscow say it is the biggest battle of this war. Moscow issues the usual claims of huge enemy losses & says the Russians are holding nearly everywhere. Allied planes continue the steady bombardment of Italy, Sicily & Sardinia. In the Pacific there has been a clash in the Solomons between U.S. & Jap naval forces. Washington claims 9 or 10 Jap cruisers & destroyers <sup>SUNK</sup> in this action & admits the loss of the cruiser "Helena" & destroyer "Strong".

FRIDAY, JULY 9/43

Fine & hot. Yesterdays rainstorm caused floods & great damage throughout the province; the heaviest rainfall for a single day in July in 65 years.

War: Cologne bombed again last night, cost 8 planes. Raids on Italy continue. Russians & Germans locked in battle, both claiming success. In Canada, Ottawa announces income tax concessions to coal miners in the hope of increasing production; this will disgust every other tax-paying worker in the country. A week or two ago 7,000 <sup>Cap. Britton</sup> miners went on strike for several days in sympathy with a few waitresses who "walked out" of a Chinese cafe in Glace Bay.

Harry Oakes, the gold miner who struck it rich at Kirkland Lake in the 1920's & carried his \$200,000,000 off to the Bahamas in order to avoid Canadian taxation, was found murdered in his palatial home at Nassau yesterday. No one in Canada will weep. The Bahamas & Bermuda are full of wealthy tax-dodgers, many of them Canadians. Col. J. L. Miller of Chester, N.S. is one.



SATURDAY, JULY 10/43

A radio news flash says U.S., British & Canadian troops began landing on Sicily early this morning under cover of a bombardment from sea & air. R.A.F. bombed Gelsenkirchen in the Ruhr last night, cost 10 planes; they dropped 2,000 tons of bombs.

Great excitement in Canada & the U.S. There was no further news, but for once the Canadian Broadcasting Corp cancelled the inane "soap operas" before & after the regular news, & substituted martial & orchestral music. In the evenings there was much radio pontificating by "commentators"; one of the radio phenomena of this war, on the significance of the news. Canada's chief commentators are Wilson Woodside, a self-made military and political expert of Toronto, & the garrulous Professor H. L. Stewart of Mfr.

Much scandal in Lpool over a wild party at White Point Hotel, July 4th, involving a number of married men, local & naval, with local girls. The party was given apparently by Capt. Wallace Ogilvie, who does not drink but suffers no other restraints, & in the course of it there was a moonlight bathing party in the nude, in the lake, & in the course of which a petty officer named Jeacock was drowned. Ogilvie was obliged to testify before a coroner's jury & looked pretty sheepish. The booze apparently came from corvettes in port; officers & petty officers of these ships seem to be able to get all the rum they want. The seamen content themselves with stealing & selling sugar, butter, coffee & other scarce commodities, & great quantities of cigarettes. The workmen at Thompson's plant supply the market for all these things, & their wives boast openly that rationing is the last of their worries.

MONDAY JULY 12/43

Left for Louisburg to do the final research for my novel. Drove at 35 M.P.H. for the sake of my old tyres but had a blow-out near Chester regardless. Slept the night at the Royal George, Antigonish, very hot & uncomfortable. Visited the

armoury of the local company of 2nd Br. Pictou Highlanders (they called it the Gun Shed) & renewed acquaintance with Donald Peter Chisholm (Municipal Clerk), Mac Gillivray (manages the Basket Printing Company) & other officers I met at Aldershot camp last summer. Mac G. wanted to throw a little party but I felt the need of sleep & an early start in the morning, so begged off. They are now in a different brigade & this summer go to camp at Charlottetown. The hotel clerk told me Harry Oakes, (see July 9) did quite a bit of gold prospecting in Guysborough County in the early 1920's & was quite well known in Goldenville.

TUESDAY, JULY 13/43. Pushed on for Louisburg. Mine was the only car on the ferry across the ~~Strait~~ Strait. Mulgrave still garrisoned with very bored-looking troops. Hot weather. Ran over & killed a dog while passing through Big Pond, he dived right under my front wheels from the roadside. I was sorry; the first living thing I have ever struck with my car. Wandered about Sydney for some time (following the Esplanade merely took me onto an army camp on the waterfront) & noticed many naval craft at wharves & in the harbour. Louisburg, which I reached about 4 p.m., proved to be the same dirty, straggling, down-at-heel town I remembered from 1920. Even the holes in the main street were the same. Fortunately the mayor, M. S. Huntington, had secured a room for me in the home of the museum caretaker, 3 miles around the harbour.

I stayed a week with the Mackinnons. Mack, a lazy good-natured veteran of the last war, a member of the Veterans

Guard in this was also sergeant in the local reserve company of the Cape Breton Highlanders. His wife an unsmiling woman with a voice like a steamer siren, good hearted but a scold. Billy, the older son, a gentle, girlish boy of 17, whose hobby was knitting, he walked & talked & acted like a woman. Marguerite, the older daughter, home on leave from the C.W.A.C., a fine full-breasted, round-sterned wench with a pretty face & handsome legs. But chiefly Wilfred, the 2-year old tyrant of the household, a spoiled brat who kept the place in an uproar 24 hours a day - or so it seemed to me. Fortunately I was able to escape into the museum, where I pored over books and maps and the various relics, & slugged away at my typewriter 8 morning, noon & night. The only breaks in this orgy of indoor labour (apart from an evening stroll along the ancient ramparts) came on 3 fine afternoons when Huntingdon guided me over the scenes of the 1758 campaign. He is an elderly man, active as a goat, who has made a life-long study of Louisburg history, & knows the site of every redoubt & post of the besiegers as well as the besieged. One day I got Bill MacKinnon to drive my car to Kennagton Cove. H. & I got out there & followed the path of Wolfe's men along the shore to Louisburg - 4 or 5 miles, very rough going, rock & swamp & thick scrub forest. Another day we scrambled along the eastern shore from Lighthouse Point to Big Landing Cove, following Wolfe's route, finding traces of the old French earthworks, & of Wolfe's camp & its defensive redoubts & "fleches" - including "Ross's Post".

The old British regulars had been very methodical, covering their camps & roads with defensive works still marked by the parapets of boulders & stones. The coastal scenery is wild & rugged & beautiful, but what a desolate country to live in, or to fight in!

We waded through swamps (knee-deep in blue iris, & Indian Pinks underfoot, & pitcher plant blossoms, & lake-apples in the blossom & in the green berry, & bog-berries ripe) to the various siege battery positions & tried to picture thousands of red-coats sweating the guns into place.

Louisburg (the old French town) is now a national park; the walls, tumbled by British demolitions in 1760, are green with grass & wild strawberry. Authorities in the 1930's built the museum & dug out the basements of the old French barracks in the Citadel; they found many rusty & fire-warped bayonets, sword-hilts, etc. — very few musket parts, strange to say. Deer wander over the whole park area from dusk to dawn & one evening in the twilight M. shot a small spike-horn buck in the moat of Queen's Bastion, with one shot from his service 30/06 — a welcome addition to the meat ration.

The Hon. Curator & tutelary genius of the museum is Miss Katherine MacLennan, daughter of the late Senator, (whose book on ancient "Louisburg" is by far the best) and a woman of parts. The museum has no library proper, like Fort Beauséjour; but there is a case of books (many of them rare) & a file full of papers, the property of Miss M., who keeps them under lock & key. Fortunately for me she came to the museum on my second day & I borrowed the key. She is about 50, walks & talks like a man, wears her hair very short — a little grey bush; she is of medium height, rather slender, & looks at you very straight with eyes of an indescribable

colour, neither yellow nor grey. Has travelled much & spent a good deal of time in England & on the continent. Speaks with an English (probably acquired at Ottawa in the days of his father's senatorship) accent.

She made a beautiful model of old Louisburg about 10' x 5', which is the chief item of interest in the museum, & is engaged on a larger model.

Much of the time here was foggy or overcast, so I had small regret about working indoors. The swordfishing fleet was gathering for the short season, & 1 or 2 corvettes were refitting at the pier, otherwise the big harbour was deserted.

Wed. July 21/43 Left Louisburg about 10 AM in pouring rain. Had lunch with Miss M. in her house on Whitney Avenue in Sydney. She had invited Miss Pat McCall, daughter of the manager of the steel works, an admirer of "His Majesty's Yankees"; & as I was rather in awe of Miss Katherine, & Miss McCall (18 or so) was rather in awe of me, we made a queer little party. We sat down to a beautifully prepared lunch, served by the most silent & deft servants I ever saw, & Miss Katherine wore over her street dress an old blue denim jacket, part of a ~~set~~ suit of overalls, the sort you see on any labourer, which apparently served her as a house-coat. We talked literature & history & Miss Katherine talked about art (of which I confessed my ignorance) & at 2:30 I took my leave.

Intended to sleep at St. Peter's but found it in pouring rain with a bleak wind coming in from the sea. Had a light tea in Port Hawkesbury & pushed on to Antigonish. I was aching for a good night's sleep so I hunted up a quiet little tourist hotel in St. Ninian Street - the Cornish Arms - & went to bed at 10 p.m. to make the most of it. At 3 am. a woman down the

hall had a miscarriage, uproar for 2 solid hours, phones ringing, much banging on the neighbour's window (to borrow a car to fetch a doctor, apparently) & no sleep for me. Lay in bed smoking & reading & wishing for daylight. Hit the road for Wfx about 8 a.m. of —

THURSDAY, JULY 22/43 — slept at Mother's flat that night.

FRIDAY, JULY 23/43 Drove Mother into town for some shopping. At Zwickler's art store I bought a ~~print~~<sup>COLLOTYPE</sup> ~~print~~<sup>PROOF</sup> of one of Montague Dawson's marine paintings — proof, \$10.00; frame, \$7.00. We lunched at Russell's, by the Willow Tree (Mother sniffed & said the place smelt "mousy") & set out for L'pool at 1.30. Home at 4.45.

SATURDAY, JULY 24/43 Loaded my car with family, goods, chattels & provisions, & took them to a bungalow at Summerville Beach for two weeks. Persuaded a farmer (Kuphman) to sell me some firewood for them. (His barn is an old farmhouse on the hill, with cattle in the parlour & hay in the bedrooms, a quaint spectacle.)

I returned to town where I shall keep bachelor's hall.

SUNDAY, JULY 25/43 The town has asked me to prepare a brief on post-war rehabilitation for submission to a Royal Commission here on the 27th. I spent a hot afternoon in conference with town fathers & the evening discussing the fishing industry with Jerry Nickerson. At 6.30 p.m. the radio made a dramatic announcement — Mussolini has resigned his leadership of the Italian people to Marshal Badoglio & the King. They declare their intention to go on with the war but it is clear that Italy is finished. The rats begin to leave the ship. Our troops are now in possession of all Sicily except the N.E. corner, where the Canadians & British troops are engaged in a bitter struggle with German divisions.

The bombing of Rome by U.S. planes last week drew a sharp protest from the Pope, but he also criticised the Italian government for failure to declare Rome an "open city". Rome had been regarded as safe from air attack due to the Vatican's proximity & the bombing seems to have shaken Mussolini's nerve. The Russians, having defeated a German offensive begun July 8th, are now attacking in force on several sectors of the long front.

Last night the R.A.F. dropped 2300 tons of bombs on Hamburg, cost 12 planes. Today U.S. planes made daylight raids on Hamburg also.

MONDAY, JULY 26/43 Heavy rain all day. Working on the brief. Last night R.A.F. dropped 2,000 tons of bombs on Essen, cost 26 planes. Daylight air sorties as usual all over occupied France & the coast generally from Norway to Sicily. Canadians in Sicily still fighting their way forward from Enna.

TUESDAY, JULY 27/43 The Royal Commission on Post-war Development and Rehabilitation sat in the high school auditorium this morning & heard spokesmen for various business firms. The irrepressible Amos Washington Broughton popped up for North Queens & ran in full spate for an hour, the years since 1929 have not perceptibly slowed his agile tongue & mind.

I presented the brief for Liverpool. The chairman (R. McGregor Dawson, native of Bridgewater, professor in an Ontario university) was kind enough to congratulate the town on "this very able brief", & Madden bobbed up & presented him with a copy of "His Majesty's Yankees" through His Honour, Mayor More. — all very irregular but it seemed to amuse the commission. War: — martial law throughout Italy where crowds are nevertheless demonstrating for peace, tearing down pictures of Mussolini & other Fascist insignia, & beating German soldiers. Churchill said

in Commons today "we shall continue to rain fire & steel upon Italy until she surrenders unconditionally". <sup>Forgot to mention</sup> last week that a Trans-Canada Airways plane, starting the new Canadian trans-Atlantic service, flew from Canada to Britain in 12 hours 26 minutes.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28/43

Roger Innes, local grocer & one of the most popular men in town, has gone into bankruptcy with liabilities of \$25,000 over his assets, a shock to the town. War: last night R.A.F. dropped 2000 tons of bombs on Hamburg, still burning from the raids of Saturday night & Sunday. Disorders increase in Italy. Whereabouts of Mussolini & his cabinet a mystery.

FRIDAY, JULY 30/43

Drove to the cottage at Summerville & spent last night. They have had mostly dull foggy weather but the kids have a good time. Last night R.A.F. dropped another 2000 tons of bombs on Hamburg, the 7th raid on that city in 5 days. Canadian & other 8th Army troops are still fighting their way forward inch by inch against crack German troops in Sicily. Russians still hammering away at Orel.

The shipping situation is so far improved that U.S. has abolished rationing of coffee as from Wednesday night & predicts free sale of sugar shortly. A general election in South Africa has given Jan Smuts & his pro-British party a sweeping victory. Chief opposition party, under Doctor Malan, had advocated the Union's withdrawal from the war. Pres. Roosevelt at a press conference warned neutral nations that the U.S. would take a very grave view of any country providing shelter to Fascist or Nazi leaders.

SATURDAY, JULY 31/43

Last night R.A.F. bombers plastered Remscheid in the Ruhr - their first stroke at this town. U.S. bombers continue



their daylight raids on German targets, in increasing strength. Allied radio station at Algiers today warned that the respite from bombing of Italian cities, now 6 days old, would be ended if Italy's new gov't. did not surrender unconditionally. In Sicily the U.S. forces, after a quick sweep through the indifferent Italian troops in the west of the island, have now linked with the Canadians on the left flank of Montgomery's 8th Army; the whole line from Mount Etna to Patte seems to be held by German troops. At home, the Canadian railway unions have handed the gov't. a demand for increased wages.

R.C.A.F. announce that enlistments are now seriously short of needs. The army is saying nothing, presumably because it can tap the big reservoir of "home defence" conscripts if need be. The navy has always been able to obtain all the men it wants.

MONDAY, AUG. 2/43

Hot weather. Payzant is making hay in the field behind my garden. U.S. airmen bombed the Rumanian oil fields at Ploesti, a daring low-level attack by 200 Flying Forts & 2000 airmen. More than 20 were shot down but damage to the oil refineries is heavy. Swedish newspapers report Hamburg a shambles with refugees pouring into the countryside by rail and road; the city (Germany's largest after Berlin) is still burning. In Sicily, combined U.S., Canadian & British forces are now attacking the Germans. U.S. planes raided Naples, & British warships bombarded several Italian coastal towns. West Nova Scotia Regt. has been mentioned several times in the Sicilian fighting but no details so far, nor casualty lists.

WEDNESDAY, AUG 3/43

R.C.A.F. dropped another 1500 tons of bombs on Hamburg last night, cost 30 planes. News of the Sicilian fighting is still very

scanty. Best Canadian despatches have come from Ross Munro but even these give no real picture of the battle! It is revealed that the forces comprised 5 U.S. & 5 British divisions (one of which is the Canadian 1st Divn.) Opposing them are 3 German div's. & 2 Italian div's, with remnants of other Italian units shattered in the earlier fighting. Prime minister King says Canada now has over 750,000 men in her fighting services.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4/43 In Sicily, West Nova Scotia Regt has stormed village of Catena-Nuovo. Our troops pushing forward along the whole line in difficult hilly country. In Three Rivers, 20,000 aircraft workers have struck for more wages & gov't. has closed the plants until they decide to go back. The Russians have taken the city of Orel, after a terrific battle of 24 days in which the losses on both sides were very heavy. The Badoglio gov't in Italy seems determined to continue the fight against the Allies. In Canada, much interest in the provincial election<sup>in Ontario</sup>, as showing the trend of political thought in this 4th year of the war. Results tonight show the Liberal gov't badly defeated, great gains made by the socialist C.C.F. party, no party with a clear majority. Standing now is Conservative, 58; Liberal, 14; C.C.F., 33; other parties, 5.

THURSDAY, AUG. 5/43 Our 8th Army has taken Catania after the toughest battle of the Sicilian campaign & is fighting around the slopes of the volcano Mt. Etna. In the Solomon Islands U.S. troops have taken the air field at Munda after a bitter struggle. Russians have taken the city of Byelgorod, below Orel, & Germans are in retreat westward. Great rejoicings in Moscow, where Stalin has pointed out in a special order of the day that these victories were part of a summer offensive, when the Germans usually did the attacking.

Sweden has apparently decided that the Allies are winning the war; she has notified Berlin that passage of troops & stores to Norway across Swedish territory must cease after August 20th.

SATURDAY, AUG. 7/43

My family's last day at the beach, where they have had a rather damp fortnight. A fine hot day, & I spent it with them. Had a talk with Rev. C. N. Brown & wife, on a brief vacation at Summerville.

Hired a boat from Bill Wigglesworth & spent the afternoon rowing the kids down Broad River & about the barachois, fishing for rock cod.

Strange to see the big beach almost deserted on a fine Saturday afternoon.

Brought the family in to Liverpool with their goods & chattels piled about them & lashed on to the running-boards etc., like a gypsy caravan, tonight.

Delivered my mother & Grandma Freeman at Milton, where Grandma Raddall will visit for a week or two.

War: British, Canadian & U.S. troops still fighting their way towards Messina. R.A.F. has bombed Milan & Turin heavily again, & Messina is under constant bombing.

In the Pacific, U.S. aircraft have sunk 1 Jap cruiser, 2 destroyers.

A fine "flap" in Halifax, where by some stupidity 50,000 gals of high-test gasoline were pumped into the harbour by a tanker, menacing the whole harbour & waterfront. Troops & police threw guards along the wharves & shores, to prevent a casual cigarette etc. which might have set the whole thing ablaze; & all harbour traffic, in & out, was stopped for 24 hours. An investigation is to be made. Hfx. civic officials are furious.

SUNDAY, AUG. 8/43.

Naval Week in Liverpool begins today. Main Street is a mass of hunting & this morning the fine band from Stadacona Barracks (naval) at Hfx, headed a parade of crews from corvettes in port, local reserve units, etc., to a drum-head service at Fort Park.

This "Navy Week" was an idea of Lt. Com. Hall, the N.O.I.C. at Liverpool, to raise funds for war charities. An elaborate program of sports, dances, etc., has been arranged for the next six days.

Monday, Aug. 9/43 Rain last night, overcast all day, fog tonight. Our troops in Sicily are still crowding Germans toward Messina. Russians have outflanked Kharkov on the north-west & are still fighting along the road to Briansk; their strength after all the bloody fighting for 2 years continues to amaze both Germans & ourselves. The first Lancaster bomber made in Canada has arrived - by air - in Britain; also the first Canada-made "Mosquito" bombers have flown to Britain. First "Mosquito" factory in Canada began operations a year ago but to date its product has been used in Canada for training "Mosquito" crews. U.S. military plane production for July was 7,373 aircraft.

High price of fish has sent a number of local fishermen back to their old trade. They have been doing war work at Thompson's plant for 2 years. One man (cook) who operates a "trap" off Moose Harbour will clear \$4,000 this year at current prices.

CHURCHILL ARRIVED AT  
HALIFAX TODAY IN "QUEEN  
MARY"  
- REVEALED SEP. 28

Tuesday, Aug. 10/43 Four by-elections (2 in Quebec, 1 in Manitoba, 1 in Sask.) yesterday resulted in the loss of 4 formerly Liberal seats, won by: - C.C.F. 2, Labour 1, "Bloc Populaire" 1. Winston Churchill, his wife & daughter, & some members of his staff have arrived in Canada today. Reports from Switzerland & Sweden suggest a heavy drop in German morale; one Swiss newspaper predicts the end of the war "in 6 to 8 months". R.A.F. dropped 1000 tons of bombs on the twin cities of Mannheim & Ludwigshafen on the Rhine last night, cost 6 planes. Russians claim Germans are in disorderly retreat from Kharkov, abandoning great quantities of supplies and equipment.

WEDNESDAY, AUG 11/43. Every day for several months we have been visited at intervals between dawn & dusk by "swordfish" aircraft, slow old biplanes, which circle over the town & return west whence they come. From Shelburne some say. These in addition to the big twin-engined monoplane bombers which have been a familiar sight over Liverpool for 2 years. This afternoon 7 aircraft of these kinds were over the town at once - an unusual foregathering. I had my car greased & oil changed at Whynot's service station, the work being done very briskly by 3 boys, the oldest of whom was 13. The man-power problem has given place to the boy-power problem. All local groceries have ceased making deliveries; after the gas-and-tire situation became acute some tried boys with bikes, but now they can't get boys except those too young to "savour" the collection of coupons for meat, sugar, & butter. Cash-and-carry is the rule. Our steam laundry, overcome by the extra work of ships in port & the scarcity of help, now takes 2 weeks to deliver a small household wash. Kitchen utensils & other tin & enamelware are impossible to obtain - aluminum vanished long ago. Powderpuffs & dishcloths are amongst the other scarcities which worry the women. Children's clothes; underwear of all kinds - apparently don't exist any more. Madden's, the leading drug store in our town of 3000 (plus 500 to 1000 naval ratings in port & war workers at Thompson's) is able to obtain only 1 gross of razor blades per month. Camera films are almost unobtainable. I quote these at random - the list of wants is endless. We have plenty of staple food within ration limits - little or no canned stuff - potatoes have been unobtainable for a week but the new crop is coming along. On the whole we fare remarkably well for a nation 4 years at war & there is no complaint except among the coal miners of Cape Breton; but they complain of everything. (They struck in one district last week

because 7 local doctors, members of Reserve units, were going to camp for a fortnight with their regiments).  
War: - R.A.F. dropped 1500 tons of bombs on Nuremberg last night, cost 16 planes; this involved a round trip of 1000 miles.  
Stiff fighting continues <sup>in Italy</sup>. The colonel & 2 s/c. of the Royal Canadian Regt. (Terence Freeman's unit) have been killed in successive actions there. At Quebec, Mr. Churchill & staff are installed in Chateau Frontenac, which has been taken over entire for the conference & is now full of W.A.C. typists, army telephonists and telegraphers, a growing stream of British, Canadian & U.S. officers of army, navy & air services, etc.

Tonight in connection with our local Navy Week the Kiwanis Club held a street fair & dance on the section of Main Street between Mercury Hotel and Col. Jones' house "Hillcrest". The street was overhung with signal flags from the corvettes in port & with strings of coloured electric lights also provided by the ships. In fact the Navy's magic wand produced remarkable results in all directions; the Kiwanis committee was able to get large quantities of ice cream, "hot dogs", prizes of dolls, blankets etc. for the Bingo game & various try-your-skill booths, and a huge crowd bursting with money (the town has never been so prosperous) thronged the street to a late hour, indulging itself to the full. Proceeds are to go to naval & local charities.

THURSDAY, AUG 12/43  
Howland White is making Edith a preserve closet in our cellar. She is now preserving raspberries, some wild, some "tame". Wild raspberries from Milton at 30¢ quart. Field crops look well this rainy summer. Apart from moistening the ground after seeding, I have not watered my garden once. It has flourished on

the rain which fell regularly every 2nd. or 3rd day. My cellar floor has been wet all summer, a thing that never happened before. Tonight's "torchlight parade," with decorated floats" proved rather a fizzle - three trucks decked with flags, one of them with a ship's boat aboard, & filled with sailors bearing "torches" of dried cat-tail rushes soaked in oil. No music, no marching. They passed along Main St. to the Fort & back, & that was all. Some of our amateur equestrians (Dr. Vickins, Madden's girl & some other young people) accompanied the "parade" on horseback but the nags were frightened by the torches.

War: U.S. airmen bombed Eilenkirchen & other Rhine towns in daylight, cost 25 planes. One U.S. bomber contained the movie star Clark Gable, a captain in the U.S.A.A.F., making his second or third trip by daylight over Germany. All Hollywood, male & female, rushed into uniform as soon as the U.S. entered the war (most of them belong to fantastic local "defense" units) but so far as I know Gable is the only one who has seen some fighting.

Moscow says the Russians "were not invited to Quebec owing to the nature of the conference" - meaning, doubtless, that Russia will be no party to operations against Japan.

Germans are evacuating their battered forces from Sicily across the 2 mile Messina Strait under cover of hundreds of "flat" guns & stiff sacrifice actions by rearguards. Altogether they have fought admirably in a difficult situation & against heavy odds & we must give them full marks. There is no sign of weakening in the German fighting man & all this hopeful talk of an early end to the war is poppycock.

FRIDAY, AUG. 13, 1943.

Today I finished the pressure closet which White put up yesterday, & moved Edith's modest store of home-made jam into it, together with a weird collection of empty bottles & jars which she has been accumulating for years & not using & which she insists must not be destroyed. (But I sneaked several sacks full over to the town dump last spring!)

Young Randolph Day, a capt in the West N. S. Regt., has been <sup>injured</sup> ~~wounded~~ in Sicily. No other L pool casualties reported so far from that field.

Quebec is still agog over its sudden world importance, though censorship is like a Bank fog there; it is known that Mr. Churchill has made a visit to the U. S. & stopped to look at Niagara Falls en route.

Last night R. A. F. dropped 1000 tons of bombs on Milan, dropped a few on Turin, sent "mosquito" bombers on a visit to Berlin. This morning U. S. airmen bombed Rome for the second time. The Russians have all but surrounded Kharkov & have launched a new drive farther north towards Smolensk.

Tonight our little Navy Week wound up with a big dance in the high school auditorium under the auspices of the V. O. D. C., music by the fine "Stadacona" band, who came down from Hqs. for the occasion.

SATURDAY, AUG. 14/43.

"L" Co'y, P. L. I., left Liverpool by train at 6 a.m. for Aldershot Camp via Bridgwater & Middleton. Sorry I can't go. An "August gale" today, pouring rain & trees tossing in a furious south wind. In Sicily the important base of Randazzo fell to the U. S. 7th Army yesterday. Rome has been declared an "open city" by Italian govt; London not satisfied, since Germans are using Rome for rail traffic to their Sicilian army. Canadian troops apparently withdrawn from Sicilian fighting but by radio we heard General Simmonds, C.O. of our 1st Div'n, talking to a C. B. C. reporter about the recent actions & conversation showed that Div'n. H. Q. was



within sight of Mount Etna. The first casualty list was issued yesterday about 75 names, mostly wounded. U.S. planes from the Middle East Command have made another long flight into Axis territory, this time to bomb the big aircraft factory at Wiener Neustadt, 50 km. south of Vienna, built by the Germans in 1940.

SUNDAY, AUG. 15/43. Lovely hot day after the storm although we could hear the Western Head fog-horn blowing all day. This evening I brought my mother down from Milton, where she has stayed a week with the Freemans.

The clipping opposite, from last night's Herald, marks one more phase in the curious career of "Captain" Wallace Ogilvie, our local war profiteer. (Huge profits in shipping since the war began.) This phase began about a year ago when he imported 2 or 3 riding horses. Later he bought the old Millard <sup>ski factory</sup> ~~factory~~ on <sup>Union Street</sup> ~~Street~~ <sup>adjoining land,</sup> ~~land~~, imported the items listed opposite & under the name & style of "Mount Pleasant Farm" went back to the land in a big way. He is a creature of sudden & most violent enthusiasms (last year it was photography, & before that gardening, & before that the re-modelling of the old Mersey Hotel annex into "the finest home in town.") Some say his wealth has made him completely crazy.

Nat. R.A.F. bombed Milan last night. N.S. gov't announces 1 destroyer & 3 smaller craft lost in Sicilian operations, 1 gunboat torpedoed or mined off Carolina coast, 1 submarine lost in Pacific

## CLOSING OUT

our Mt. Pleasant Farm, and offer the following stock and equipment, subject to prior sale:

1 PAIR HORSES, YOUNG, WELL-BROKEN, WORKED ALL SUMMER ON FARM WORK; SINGLE OR DOUBLE; WEIGHT 3400 LBS. (PAIR); ALSO

1 SINGLE HORSE, YOUNG, WELL-BROKEN, WORK SINGLE OR DOUBLE, WEIGHT 1500 LBS.; ALSO

4 HIGH GRADE SADDLE HORSES, ALL WELL-MANNERED, YOUNG, SOUND.

2 SETS DOUBLE WORK HARNESS, 1 LIGHT, 1 HEAVY.

1 RUBBER-TIRED FARM OR WOODS WAGON, ALMOST NEW.

1 TRACTOR, WITH 2 FURROW PLOWS, DOUBLE FOUR-GANG DISC HARROW, 1 DRAG TOOTH FOR SAME.

ALSO VARIOUS FARM IMPLEMENTS INCLUDING PLOWS, HARROWS, HAY RIG, POTATO PLANTER, 2 SETS WOOD SLEDS, 1 SINGLE, 1 DOUBLE.

30 PURE BRED SHORTHORN COWS AND HEIFERS, ALSO PURE BRED BULL 2 YEARS OLD.

ALSO YOUNG PIGS.

30 HEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER CATTLE FOR SALE.

SADDLES AND OTHER GEAR. WRITE, PHONE OR CALL AT

MT. PLEASANT FARMS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA. TELEPHONE 315.

Monday, Aug. 16/43

Wonderful day. Walked around Western Head this afternoon. I make this hike whenever I am free & the day is fine — unfortunately a too-rare combination in this wet & busy summer. Farmers struggling to get their hay in hampered by rains & lack of help. Vegetable patches are large. This year, especially potatoes, around the homes of the fishermen. Saturday's big wind & rain played

hot with the Reserve troops in camp at Aldershot, but the Valley apple crop was undamaged. This year, for the first time in many years, a certain quantity of N.S. apples is to be allowed free entry into the U.S. Thieving by Hqs. Stevedores, long a scandal, especially in the matter of liquor shipments, has at last stirred the authorities into some sort of action. Last straw was the R.C.M.P. discovery that a "narcotic ring" had been organised in Nova Scotia to market morphine (contained in "cigarettes" ready to use) stolen from hospital supplies in transit to the war zone.

War: R.A.F. "mosquitoes" raided Berlin last night, & Lancasters dropped another 100 2-ton "block busters" on Milan. U.S. & British air forces continue attacks on German air fields in France every day. U.S. forces in the Solomons & New Guinea have found the key to the intricate Jap earthworks — flame-throwers, which are proving a great success.

Mr. Churchill has returned to Quebec from New York, where he spent 3 days with Mr. Roosevelt. N.S. Liquor Commission has increased the ration of spirits to 2 quarts per customer per month. Wine remains at 2 quarts per month, beer (& very weak stuff it is) at 12 quarts per week.

TUESDAY, AUG. 17/43

Rain. War: U.S. troops entered Messina last night, our 8th Army went in from the other side this morning, & at last all Sicily is conquered. The Germans got most of their troops & equipment away in spite of all we could do by land, sea & air. R.A.F. bombed the Fiat works (planes & tanks) at

Jarin last night. President Roosevelt arrived in Quebec by special train today accompanied by a large military & naval staff. The U.S. secretary of state, Cordell Hull, is on his way to the conference, & so are Mr. Anthony Eden & Brendan Bracken the British minister of information. Sir John Dill, British chief of staff, is in Quebec.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 18/43 Recent rain-floods have polluted the Halifax water supply & health authorities there have ordered the boiling of all drinking water for at least 10 days. Rome reports a large Allied "invasion fleet" sighted off Catania. Allied & German artillery are now exchanging shots across Messina Strait. Fresh unrest in Norway; the Germans have executed Norway's chief of police for "refusal to obey orders." Italian troops occupying Greece, Albania, Jugoslavia started to withdraw on news of the Badoglio coup d'etat but their movement towards home has now been stopped by German troops sent in. Peace demonstrations continue in Italian cities. In Montreal today there was a triple launching — 3 freighters of 10,000 tons each. They were finished within 39 days of the keel-laying, a record for Canada. This makes 200 freighters of 10,000 tons each, turned out by Canadian shipyards in this war. Another launching today — the destroyer (Tribal class) "Huron", built in Canada for the R.C.N.P. This afternoon in Liverpool, young Doctor Murray ("Mike") Smith was married to pretty Eleanor Rudderham, a big wedding, a popular couple. "Mike" graduated last year & took over his father's practice — old Doc J. W. Smith has hobbled around for the past 5 years keeping the practice "alive" for him. Young Francis Supper, <sup>of the West Nova Scotia Regiment</sup> ~~of the West Nova Scotia Regiment~~ (a Milton boy) is reported missing in Sicily.

THURSDAY, AUG. 19/43. Anthony Eden & Brendan Bracken arrived in Quebec by plane from Britain. All the world seems agog over this great conference at Quebec. From New Guinea the fulsome MacArthur reports that his planes caught a Jap air fleet on the ground at Newak & destroyed 170 out of 225 aircraft.

Russian investment of Rhar'kov has been battered by heavy German counter-attacks, but fighting continues with Russians pressing at various points from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Canadian casualties in Sicily totalled 1895 killed, wounded & missing - all in the 1st. Division. Total allied casualties there were 25,000; Italian casualties - mostly prisoners - 130,000; German casualties 35,000. The Axis armies also lost 230 tanks, 500 cannon & about 1800 planes. (CANADIAN CASUALTY LISTS FOR SICILIAN CAMPAIGN APPROX. IN NEWSPAPERS IN SMALL LOTS FOR A MONTH, TOTALLED 2387 AS PUBLISHED)

SATURDAY, AUG. 21/43 Allied warships & aircraft are plastering the toe of Italy with shells & bombs. In New Guinea, Japs have evacuated their big air base at Salamaua. Berlin visited again by nocturnal Mosquitoes. Here at home life goes its little round; the lawn is green after the rainy summer, the rambler roses have passed their bloom & hang in brown rags, the after-grass is showing green above the hay stubble; for some time we've been eating spinach, chard, lettuce & beet greens from our wee garden & the tomatoes, carrots, beans & cucumbers are flourishing. Edith paid 45¢ for a small cabbage the other day but the new crop is coming into the market & the vegetable prices are due for a drop. Meat & fish supplies are still uncertain, though we had a dinner of halibut lately, the fish in a year. Even the milk supply fails sometimes but that is rare; more often we are "rationed" by the dealer in a rough & ready fashion.

SATURDAY, AUG. 21/43

Four fine hot days in a row - a miracle! This afternoon with the Maurice Russells we drove to the Mill Village - Port Medway road to pick blueberries. Found one fine patch & after some exploring found another just behind the Port Medway cemetery which held us till 6 p.m. Picnic tea at West Berlin beach (to get away from the mosquitoes, a pest this wet summer; haymakers in the Tantramar Marshes have almost been unable to work on account of them) where we found a chill wind blowing in from the sea, ruffling the bay in white chops, & were glad to shelter behind the dune.

War: Russia has recalled Litvinoff, her ambassador at Washington, precisely as suddenly & inexplicably as she recalled Maisky from London some weeks ago. Both men were strong advocates of a Russia-Britain-U.S. alliance in peacetime after this war. The Quebec conference plies its mysterious course. It is announced that on Aug. 15 a force of U.S. & Canadian troops landed on Kiska Island & found it empty; the Japs have flitted from the Aleutians as suddenly as they came. Tokio seems to be drawing in its horns. Canadian tea & coffee rations are being increased by one-third. The casualty lists from Sicily are still appearing in the newspapers in lots of about 100.

SUNDAY, AUG. 22/43

The 5th fine day. Shortage of gasoline compels us to give up our frequent beach picnics of peace time & content ourselves with tea on the lawn. Today after supper we drove to Milton & walked to Hollow Log Brook, where Edith gathered snake-berry vines & Tommy tried to learn the bread stroke in the lovely little pool. War: Germans admit the loss of Kharkov tonight. Russians claim

They have killed 300,000 & wounded 700,000 Germans in this summer's campaign. This brings the German casualties in Russia to seven million by Moscow's count - a fantastic figure believed by no one but the Russians. About half might be right.

Southern Italy, especially the rail centres of Naples & Foggia, is getting a terrific pounding from sea & air. Air forays by our bombers & fighters over northern France, Belgium, Holland have been a daily routine for many months. Mosquitos visit Berlin frequently at night. German fighter production seems to be increased.

The Australian election was a landslide for John Curtin & his Labour party - at least 50 seats out of 74. He has held power by a narrow margin since 1940. In Canada, jam & honey are to be rationed from Sep. 2. Tonight at 9:45 we heard a radio talk about the C. V. A. C. by Mary Churchill, daughter of the P. M., who is a lieut. in the A. T. S. & came to Quebec with him as an aide. She spoke in English for a time & then in fluent French.

MONDAY, AUG. 23/43. The 6th fine day. Walked to Gull Island via Western Head & had a fine feed of wild raspberries in the woods. Doc. Lord has word from International Red Cross that Sid's body was found 6 miles off the Dutch coast & presumably buried in Holland. Chinese foreign minister T. T. Soong has arrived in Quebec for the big conference. The capture of Kiska seems to have been rather an anticlimax; Jap forces there had been estimated at 10,000 & the attacking force & its fleet were in proportion. Casualties, 1 Canadian officer killed by a booby trap. The Japs had apparently left in great haste & had not dared to blow up or burn much of their installations lest the Allies suspect what was up.

TUESDAY, AUG. 24, 1943

The 7th fine day. Perfect weather, hot sun with a refreshing west breeze. War: R.A.F. made a heavy raid on Berlin last night, lost 58 bombers. Serious unrest reported in Denmark & Norway. Russians, having occupied Kharkov, are pushing across the Donetz to the south. Reports from New Guinea show that while the Jap air force has abandoned the use of Salamaua their ground forces are still in occupation of the big air field itself. Young Gordon Horte, a pilot officer, R.C.A.F., has been killed in action overseas. As "Schoolboy Horte" he was well-known throughout the province as a star pitcher on the Liverpool baseball team, the "Larrupers", & is the third Liverpool airman to die in the war.

The Quebec Conference ended today in a brief non-committal statement made public by Roosevelt & Churchill; but Brendan Bracken says Quebec will be famous for all time for the military & political decisions made there. By a staff shuffle at Berlin, Hitler's chief butcher Heinrich Himmler, head of the infamous Gestapo, has been made in name what he has long been in fact — Minister of the Interior. Canadian authorities in London estimate that 10,000 Canadian service men have married British girls since the war began.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 25/43

The C.B.C. broke its usual <sup>cast time</sup> silence on weather matters & broadcast warning of a hurricane which would probably pass east of Nova Scotia tonight. The day began with a dull sky, then came a thunderstorm, then fog, then sunshine at tea-time.

Between 12:30 & 1 p.m. I heard the radio broadcast of President Roosevelt's reception at Ottawa, where he was greeted by great cheering crowds. Premier King introduced him longwindedly in English & briefly in French. President Roosevelt replied, referring to his old friendship for

Mr. King, & his long liking for Canada & Canadians, & referred to his meeting at Quebec with "that great & wise & gallant gentleman, Winston Churchill", the important decisions taken, the determination to see them through. He added a message in careful schoolboy French. He was followed by the speakers of the commons & senate, one in English the other in flowery oratorical French. Churchill is on a fishing trip in Quebec province.

THURSDAY, AUG. 26/43 The expected hurricane did not materialise & I wonder whose face is redder, the Dominion Meteorologist's or Thompson Bros., who disconnected all welding & other electric lines to naval craft under repair at their wharf, & rigged extra hawsers, anchors, etc. The night & today were flat calm. I left L'pool by car at 8.15 a.m. to take Mother back to Hfx. A light rain began about 9 & fell all day. My sister Hilda has given up her job in the Dockyard & now devotes her time to being a housewife. Etch shopped. I had a couple of hours with Jim & Margaret. Halifax, always in a stew over something, is now boiling all its drinking water due to a sudden inadequacy of the city chlorinating equipment, made worse by a series of bad breaks in the mains. Population of Halifax including troops is estimated unofficially at 140,000, & still growing. Many houses being built, & the bush country along all roads leading out of the city has broken into a rash of shacks & bungalows. Drove back in the evening under a black canopy of rain-clouds lit all round the western horizon by a golden blaze of sunshine, producing lovely effects on the hills & the sea. War: Lord Louis Mountbatten has been named C. in C. of all military, & naval operations in "south-east Asia" - meaning chiefly



India & Burma. He was one of the Prince of Wales' play-boys in the 20's & early 30's but since the war began has performed gallant & useful service in destroyers & later as chief of the Commandos.

Today's front page of our "Liverpool Advance" is covered with pictures of Queens County boys killed or wounded in the past few weeks, most of them with the West N.Y. Reg't in Sicily.

FRIDAY, AUG. 27/43

Had a fine walk around Western Head - 2 hours 15 mins. Our neighbour across the street, Mrs. Penty, passed away last night. She has been dying slowly & painfully of cancer for several months.

The only child, an adopted boy, is with the Canadian troops overseas & has not written home for months. War: Mosquitoes were over Berlin again last night & 500,000 Berliners are said to have left the city for towns in East Prussia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria.

Germans have sent 40,000 troops into Denmark to quell the unrest there. Sweden has sent a sharp protest against the sinking of 2 Swedish trawlers in the Baltic by German warships. Our sea & air bombardment of southern Italy continues with fury.

SATURDAY, AUG. 28/43

Fine & cool, a fall day. War: R.A.F. struck hard at Nuremberg last night, cost 36 bombers. Allied forces are steadily inching ahead in New Guinea & the Solomons. 28 German prisoners escaped from an old fort at Kingston, Ont. 2 days ago; most have been rounded up.

King Boris of Bulgaria died last night shortly after returning from a visit to Hitler. Sofia says "a heart attack" but these are rumours of foul play and of suicide. Boris was a shifty opportunist like his father & perhaps what killed him was the knowledge that he had repeated his father's blunder of fighting on the wrong side.

SUNDAY, AUG. 29/1940 A chilly night. Temp. 40° this morning. But a lovely warm day later. German proclaim martial law in Denmark, which has been allowed to run its own affairs pretty much since German occupation. Rumour that King Christian is under German arrest. Several small Danish warships have slipped away to neutral Sweden, taking with them numbers of civilians who were presumably involved in the sabotage campaign against factories making war material for the Germans; the rest of the Danish navy scuttled their ships in Copenhagen harbour at 6 o'clock this morning.

Attended the funeral of Mrs. Pentz this afternoon; had a wreath of chrysanthemums & roses sent from Coolen's at Milton. A long-winded service, sermon & all; the dead woman, all gone to skin & bone, lying like a mummy in an expensive coffin with the lid raised; the undertaker's artful cosmetics on the face, & the hair carefully marcelled after death, gave her the look of a ZOMBIE, quite horrible — all in a parlour full of flowers. After the service, the distance being short, the cortege walked up the hill to the United Church cemetery, led by the parson, & the undertaker's assistant in a claw-hammer coat (the undertaker driving the hearse); Pentz walked with a female relative behind the coffin & the rest of us followed.

MONDAY, AUG. 30/40 Germans along the Black Sea coast, threatened by the Russian advance beyond Kharkov, have begun to draw in their horns. The port of Taganrog was abandoned today. Danish refugees now in Sweden say there was stiff fighting near Copenhagen between Danish sailors & marines and German troops. Tonight Liverpool was visited by the "precision squad" of the C. W. A. C., a platoon of girls specially trained for fancy drills. They marched up Main St. behind "C" Co's band & then went through a number of drill movements on the high-school grounds, all swinging little gilt-painted canes.

What any of this has to do with a war now ending its 4th year, no one seems to know. This squad travels at great expense up & down the land giving "demonstrations". And there is an army "precision squad", and an R.C.A.F. "precision" squad; and there is an elaborately staged variety-concert troupe of soldiers & W.A.A.F.'s travelling up & down the Dominion, known as the "Army Show" - which spends half its time entertaining civilians in city theatres at popular prices. The Navy alone seems to confine its attention to the war. THE NAVY CAME OUT WITH A TRAVELLING VARIETY TROUPE SEPTEMBER, '45!

TUESDAY, AUG. 31/45

cool nights & sunny days. Gov't spokesmen continue to issue dire warnings about a fuel shortage next winter & urge us all to stock up now. The joker is the scarcity of fuel now. Coal is scarce. Firewood is \$11.50 per cord & unobtainable except by those who put in orders for it last winter & spring.

We have our new ration books (issued by dreamy little "Jammy" Watson & a staff of women volunteers in the Masonic Hall) & find them gaudy as an autumn forest: - red tickets for sugar, <sup>green for tea or coffee</sup> blue for butter, brown for meat; there are also (for the new ration on jams, canned fruit & possibly clothing, shoes etc. later on) black tickets, bright orange tickets, pale yellow, baby blue tickets.

War: R.A.F. bombed towns in the Ruhr last night. Berlin claims an attempted British landing on the "toe" of Italy near Reggio Calabria was defeated & 400 prisoners taken. Winston Churchill spoke over the radio this afternoon; a thank-you to Canada, a re-affirming of the principles of the United ~~States~~ Nations, much praise for Russia; remarkable for an old Tory was his statement, speaking of Stalin & Russian fighting power, that no other form of government could have survived, & enabled Russia to survive, the German onslaught.

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 1, 1943

Rain. R.A.F. last night gave Berlin another heavy plastering, cost 47 planes. Pope Pius made a broadcast today, couched in the usual ambiguous terms of the Vatican but including a pointed protest against the growing violence of the war & the bombing of cities. The world will ask why this voice was not raised when Amsterdam, Warsaw & London were being bombed - or, say, <sup>when</sup> the town of Guernica <sup>was</sup> utterly destroyed by Franco's bombers in the Spanish civil war. It makes a difference, apparently, where the bombs fall. Nevertheless there were some pointed references to the Axis rulers & the mess they had made. In Liverpool construction has begun on 75 of the so-called "wartime houses" under gov't. contract. Two new streets are being laid out on the old Cowie tannery property opposite the railway bridge & a steam shovel is digging a trench for the sewer.

The burning hulk of a large U.S. steamer has been towed into Halifax harbor where it is still smoking & explosions of small arms ammunition are heard from time to time. Censorship reveals only that she caught fire in a collision 300 miles off Nova Scotia. Only 3 of her crew of 70 escaped alive; 35 charred bodies were found on board when the ship reached port, the rest are missing.

Russians say they smashed a German army caught in Taganrog, killed 30,000, captured 5,000, with great booty in tanks, guns & stores. Elsewhere they are pushing towards Smolensk & are well to the west of Kharkov.

Mr. Churchill is in Washington.

FRIDAY, SEP. 3/43

Lovely fall day, walked around Western Head; overtaken on the homeward leg by the funeral of Mr. Wilbert Coolen proceeding towards L'pool; Edgar Wright slowed down the hearse & offered me a ride to town, I refused with thanks, thus missed a chance that comes to few - to ride in a hearse & smell the flowers. Edgar's smug pink face under the glossy top-hat made me smile. I hope the mourners in the 4 cars behind

were not shocked. George Foster phoned from Yarmouth last night, said he was starting the round of his territory ~~with~~ taking orders for the Fall books, including the Canadian edition of "The Pied Piper of Disput Creek" now coming off the presses. War: Canadian & British troops landed on the "toe" of Italy before daylight & are fighting to make a bridge-head on Messina Strait. London warns that this is not the long-awaited "second front"; merely a logical extension of the Tunisian & Sicilian campaigns.

SATURDAY, SEP. 4/43

We begin our fifth year of war. Last night R.A.F. dropped 1000 tons of bombs on Berlin, shot 26 planes. Our 8th Army troops are firmly established on the Calabrian tip of Italy, with San Giovanni & Reggio Calabria in their hands. Ross Munro says the Canadians met little opposition, a few Italian soldiers near the beaches promptly surrendered & said the German troops had withdrawn. Tonight the censor again permitted a storm warning over the radio - a hurricane moving towards Sable Island, expected to be at full force Sunday night or Monday.

No more old rubber is to be salvaged. Artificial rubber is now in full production in U.S. & Canada, & those who can prove they are engaged (with car) in essential work can now buy a.R. tires. Warning: the new rubber has less tensile strength than natural rubber & should be driven at low speeds.

SUNDAY, SEP. 5/43

A national day of prayer. At the I.O.D.C. canteen Edith a few days ago asked a couple of sailors to come to our home for Sunday dinner. (They belong to a Royal Navy vessel now refitting here.) They failed to show up. Not the first time this has happened, with the result that hospitality in our seaports has lost its first fine rapture.

In the afternoon we picked up Grandma Freeman & Marie, & had a picnic tea at Ten Mile Lake. Lovely there in the warm sun with a light breeze across the water. The kids bathed, & picked leeches off their bodies with great interest, & Tommy chopped down 2 or 3 dead spruce trees with my axe & was much pleased with himself.

MONDAY, SEP. 6/43 Labour Day. All shops shut but many workers are not taking the holiday. War: R.A.F. pounded the twin Rhine cities of Mannheim & Ludwigshafen last night, cost 35 bombers. Our troops now hold 45 miles of Italian coast & are slowly moving inland over mined & demolished roads. They have taken 3000 prisoners, including a battalion of Bersaglieri who surrendered on one beach without firing a shot. Canadian officers are mystified at the feeble defence. One correspondent says our troops found in the railway yards at Reggio Calabria 300 locomotives of recent German make, & many hundreds of railway cars. On the southern Russian front the Germans are still withdrawing slowly westward.

1:15 pm. heard Winston Churchill's address at Harvard University on the occasion of his investiture as honorary doctor of laws. Churchill at his eloquent best, a masterpiece of English prose, pleading for cooperation of the British & American peoples after the war for the sake of world peace.

TUESDAY, SEP. 7/43 Fine hot weather with fog at morning & evening. The forecast hurricane apparently passed to the east of us, for last night & all today we could hear the dim roar of a big sea breaking along the shore. The F.O.N. committee held a tag day last Saturday - proceeds over \$600. War: R.A.F. bombed Munich last night, cost 16 planes. In daylight U.S. bombers had a crack at Stuttgart. I note here only the big

raids; every day & night France, Belgium & Holland are covered by Allied aircraft on small particular missions. The Luftwaffe seems to be pulling up a huge force of night fighters in its efforts to defend German cities against R.A.F.; but elsewhere German aircraft are conspicuous by their absence. So are their submarines, or most of them. Naval men say there's no more excitement in the North Atlantic convoy. But it is believed that success of our aircraft against subs. has compelled the Hun to call in his "unterseeboots" & equip them with better anti-aircraft guns & listening devices. In Russia the Hun is still in slow retreat towards the Dnieper, sowing land mines with his usual profusion & skill. In Italy our 8th Army has taken Palmi, & Canadian forward patrols are in contact with German forces covering demotition parties. Italians are doing little or no fighting & yesterday Rome radio in a vaguely addressed harangue, asked the Allies if Italy could keep her 1919 frontiers if she surrendered.

Potato crop in Nova Scotia this year is badly affected with blight. We had corn on the cob today, our first this year - 40¢ a dozen. Stevedores in Halifax, always an aggressive union, have now demanded and got a guaranteed minimum wage of \$45<sup>00</sup> per week, whether there is work for them or not.

WEDNESDAY, SEP 8/43 A foggy, showery & rather sultry morning. At about 12:30, just as we were listening to the "American News Letter" on short wave, an announcer broke in suddenly with the dramatic announcement, "General Eisenhower's headquarters advise that all the Italian armed forces have surrendered unconditionally."

As I write this, Premier King has just made a brief statement urging that there be no slackening of our war effort, & the radio, still tuned to Ottawa, is pealing out the notes of the peace tower carillon, playing "God Save the King", "O Canada", "Star Spangled Banner" & other tunes which I know not, presumably the national anthems of our allies. Later: details of the Italian surrender. It was signed at Allied H.Q. in Sicily on the very day our troops landed on the Italian mainland. <sup>SEP 3</sup> General Badoglio led the negotiations & agreed that the surrender should not be announced "until a moment favourable to the Allies". The Italians have advised their forces to "cease resistance" to Allied troops but to "resist attack from any other quarter". The Germans were not advised by Badoglio regarding Italy's intention to surrender, & the big question is, what will they do? The U.S. 7th Army is believed to be in transports bound for Naples or Rome.

In Russia the Germans evacuated the big steel centre of Stalino & the whole industrial basin of the Donetz Basin & continue their slow retreat towards the west.

6 P.M. — To celebrate the victory over Italy there was a long blowing of whistles at the paper mill, at Thompsons, on board one or two corvettes in the harbour that had steam up; the church bells rang, the air raid sirens wailed. This was the opening day at school. Tommy moves into Grade 3, Francie into 1-B. All the school was dismissed early in the afternoon because, as Tommy said, "We've beat Italy."

8 P.M. Badoglio has broadcast instructions to the Italian army, telling them to stop all German troop movements whether by rail or road.



Italian garrisons in Jugoslavia & Greece are to stand fast, avoid conflict with the civil population, refuse to be disarmed by German troops or to obey any German orders. Admiral Cunningham, C. in C. Mediterranean fleet, has broadcast from Algiers an appeal to Italian naval and merchant-seamen to save their ships if Germans attempt seizure. Sir Henry M. Wilson, C. in C. our 9th Army in Palestine, has broadcast to the Greek people asking them to remain calm, refrain from attacks on Italian occupation troops "who are now under my orders," & promising that "the hour of deliverance is near."

Apart from the whistle-bell-siren noise at 6 p.m., which lasted about 10 minutes, our town took the news quietly. The stores closed as usual on Wednesdays & Main St. had its usual semi-deserted Wed. p.m. look, except that Madden had set up at the edge of the sidewalk outside his store the union jack he keeps for festive occasions.

The radio announced a dominion-wide celebration to take place at 5 p.m. but this was later cancelled. However the cancellation came too late to stop Halifax (which is, <sup>like us</sup> on Atlantic Daylight Time) & there great crowds gathered, bells rang, whistles blew, bands played up & down Gottingen & Barrington streets, etc.

THURSDAY, SEP. 9/43 Lovely day after heavy rain in the night.  
8 A.M. Canadian & U.S. troops have landed at Naples. This is official; and there are unofficial reports that allied troops are landing along the whole west coast of Italy as far up as Genoa, & that they are already at grips with strong German forces. D.N.B., the official German news agency, in announcing the falling away of Italy says "This act of treachery has been foreseen, ever since the removal of Signor Mussolini on July 25th, & the German govt. has taken

all necessary military precautions." No doubt they have.  
This day was very hot (temp. 80° in the shade at 1 p.m.) with a spotless blue sky. I walked around Western Head. A heavy sea, aftermath of the forecast hurricane which passed well to the east of us, has been beating on the shore for the past 4 days.

FRIDAY, SEP. 10/43 Another hot day. The kids are picking quantities of blackberries in the big thicket next the "School Woods".  
Was: Russians occupied Black Sea port of Mariupol. In Italy the situation is generally obscure, but the Germans claim to have occupied the whole peninsula down to & including Naples, where the U.S. 5th Army under Gen. Mark Clark is at grips with them. British troops have occupied the Taranto naval base. Germans claim that Rome fell to their forces under Gen. Kesselring after a brief resistance in the outskirts by Italian troops. They also claim to have sunk by air attack several Italian warships fleeing from Genoa. For the past 7 days British & U.S. forces have been staging in the English Channel a huge full dress rehearsal of the invasion of France, accompanied by a terrific air assault on German air fields, barracks, shore batteries, etc. — all apparently, intended to prevent Rundstedt, the German commander in France, from sending troops to Italy.

Italian troops in Greece, Albania & Jugoslavia have yielded up their arms to German motorised forces after some sharp fighting. Today Hitler, after six months' silence, broadcast to the German people, explained the Italian debacle as a thing long foreseen, created not by Allied blows but by traitors within; declared Mussolini was the greatest Italian since Julius Caesar and his people had

now treated him like a criminal; said that Germany would go on to victory. All of which sounds very much like whistling in the dark.

SATURDAY, SEP. 11/43 Fine & sultry. Our navy minister, MacDonald, talks of adding 2 cruisers to the R.C.N. "to balance it a bit". He says there were few or no sinkings by U-boats in the North Atlantic during August. Much of the Italian fleet escaped from the Germans; 4 battleships, 7 cruisers, 10 destroyers are now anchored in Malta harbours; some of these came from Spezia, some from Taranto. The big new battleship "Roma" was sunk by German bombers on the way from Spezia. 7 other Italian warcraft (presumably submarines) are at Gibraltar, & a number of other craft have taken refuge at Malorca. "Thus" says a reporter at Malta, "our fleet sees at last the ships it has been seeking more than 3 years." The situation in Italy is still confused. Clark's 5th Army seems to be firmly established at Salerno, just south of Naples. The whereabouts of Badoglio and the Italian royal family, as of Mussolini, remain a mystery.

The German fleet, or part of it, has made a raid - very daring for them - on Spitzbergen, killing or capturing the small Norwegian garrison & destroying the wireless & meteorological stations.

This evening my sister Hilda arrived with her husband, for the week-end. "Kibbie", who is in the R.C.N. Fleet Air Com establishment at Hfx., tells me that close to 100 U-boats were sunk in the North Atlantic during the past 3 months, chiefly by or with the aid of aircraft flying from converted banana ships & tankers in the convoys.

SUNDAY, SEP. 12, 1943. Warm, overcast, very calm. We picnicked at Carter's Beach in the afternoon. Lovely there.

"Kibbie" & Hilda left for Hfx. at 9 pm.

War: Berlin announces the release of Mussolini, by German troops, from arrest, apparently in Rome; also announces the setting up of a new Mussolini gov't. in Italy. Clark's 5th Army at Salerno is still heavily engaged with German forces. British have occupied Brindisi. Germans had evidently foreseen Italy's collapse, & had between 10 & 20 divisions distributed through the country.

MONDAY, SEP. 13/43. Hot. More Italian warships have arrived at Malta. British troops are in Bari. Anglo-American troops of Clark's army at Salerno are still struggling to widen their foothold. I learn (from good authority) that the battleship "Renown" & cruiser "Kent" are in Hfx., in connection with the return of Mr. Churchill to Britain.

TUESDAY, SEP. 14/43 Wonderful weather. Russians have taken the city of Briansk & German retreat continues. About 80 Italian warships of all types have arrived in Malta & other Allied ports, including 5 battleships, 1 seaplane carrier, more than 20 destroyers, at least 14 submarines. At Salerno the 5th Army's position is serious, with the town itself again in German hands & our troops practically driven back to the beaches. The 8th Army is still 100 miles away, slowed down by German rearwards & demolitions.

In New Guinea our forces have gained full possession of the town and airport of Salamaua after a long & bitter battle.

WINSTON CHURCHILL ~~ARRIVED~~ SAILED FROM HALIFAX TODAY IN "RENOUN" - REVEALED SEP. 21.

WEDNESDAY, SEP 15/43

Col. Kalston, Canadian minister of defence, has announced that owing to "improved conditions" (such as the ousting of Japs from the Aleutians), part of Canada's home defence force will be disbanded. All of the 7th & 8th divisions & part of the 6th are to be broken up; men eligible for active service overseas will be sent to reinforcement units, the rest will be discharged. As these divisions were never at full strength, only about 20,000 men will return to civil life. This may ease the industrial man-power problem a jot or two, but its psychological effect is bad. Soldiers of the Canadian army overseas, some of them 4 years from home, are bound to take a sour view. The Quebecois will seize upon it as another proof that conscription is not necessary. In the U.S. congress, where a bitter debate is raging on the drafting of married men, several voices were promptly raised, crying that Canada had begun a partial demobilisation and why not the U.S.A.?

According to a "Gallup poll" taken recently, the average Canadian guesses that Germany will be totally defeated by January, 1945; Japan by September, 1945.

War: the 5th Army has improved its position near Salerno.

THURSDAY, SEP 16/43

Lovely day after a night of wind & rain. The provincial election in P.C.I. has resulted in a return of the Liberal gov't with a reduced majority. The 6 C.C.F. candidates all lost their deposits. The Canadian Congress of Labour has adopted the C.C.F. as the political arm of Labour; a Judas kiss for the C.C.F., which started out as a farmers' party in the West. Tonight I was called to donate blood

under the "Red Cross Blood Donor Service", having put in my name  
some time ago. This organization provides blood plasma for  
transfusions on the battlefield etc. Locally it is looked after  
by the women of the auxiliary hospital set up as an emergency  
precaution 2 years ago. The ward is in the basement of the  
high school, & as you mount a cot & gaze up at rough floor  
joists & naked electric lights making a white glare, & cement  
walls all about you, & a row of silent recumbent figures  
to your right & left, you have a droll notion that you've  
got into a morgue by mistake. The nurses, all young matrons  
with hospital training, prepare a spot on the front of your left  
forearm near the "hinge", the doctor inserts a needle, from which  
a tube goes to a glass jar on a stand at the bedside. You are  
given a chunk of rubber to hold in your left hand & squeeze from  
time to time, to stimulate the flow, & you lie there & talk to  
the nurse & watch the jar fill up with a thick red stuff  
that does not seem to belong to you at all. The donation is  
400 c.c. - roughly  $\frac{3}{4}$  pint. The doctor removes the needle, the  
nurse swabs the little puncture & covers it with a bit of gauze & sticking  
plaster. You get up & go to another part of the ward where you  
are seated & handed a cup of hot coffee & a couple of doughnuts.  
You receive a little booklet of instructions (for they will call on you again  
in 8 weeks) & a box of large brown pills (ferrous sulphate, 3 grs.)  
to be taken 3 times a day, apparently for the duration. And  
that's that. All very efficient, nurses in starched white gowns & caps,  
young doctor "Mike" Smith looking very serious in glasses, two  
young ladies at a desk, registering donors, blood types, etc..

My type is A. My little booklet says: "The population is made up of:

Blood type	O	-	46%
"	A	-	41%
"	B	-	10%
"	AB	-	3%

War: the 5th Army at Salerno has taken the offensive, Montgomery's 8th Army is racing up the coast to join battle.

The Russians have retaken their Black Sea naval port of Novorossisk, where the Germans have maintained a precarious bridgehead from the Crimea. Still many rumours of Italian troops fighting Germans not only in Italy but throughout the western & southern Balkans. Mussolini has assumed the reins in Rome, according to the Germans; has deposed the Royal House of Savoy & proclaimed the rule of "The Republican Fascist Party."

FRIDAY SEP 17/43.

The Atlantic Construction Co has 2 steam shovels & a large crew of men preparing the site of the gov't housing project opposite the railway bridge in L'pool.

War: Montgomery's 8th Army has made a quick march up the west Italian coast & joined hands with the 5th under Clark at Salerno. Other British forces are moving up the Adriatic coast from Brindisi & Bari. The continued failure of the Luftwaffe to defend German ground forces is arousing much speculation. My guess is that Germany's plane industry is re-tooling for mass production of a new type aircraft & in the meantime a reserve supply of existing types is being cautiously expended. Our airmen say the Germans seem to avoid battle, as if under orders. Only exceptions are German night fighters defending Ruhr & big German cities.

SATURDAY, SEP. 18, 1940.

Getting very cool at night & the house is chill in the mornings. Yesterday we had the first ripe tomato from our small garden. Today in various Canadian ports 12 ships were launched, ranging in size from a "Fairmile" motor patrol boat to the big Tribal class destroyer built at the Hfx. shipyards. She was christened "MicMac." Canada is now launching 15 to 20 cargo steamers every month, mostly 10,000-ton ships. In New Guinea, Australians have taken the port of Lae & destroyed the Jap garrison. Mussolini broadcast from Rome radio today, declaring that King Victor had "betrayed" Italy to the Allies; & proclaiming a "Fascist Republic." Maclean's Magazine has asked me by wire to join a party of journalists going out on a minesweeper from Hfx. on Monday; the govt. has decided to reveal what the whole coast has known for months — that beginning last May or June, German submarines have been mining the approaches to Hfx. Harbour. It was first known when the leading merchantman of an in-bound convoy was blown up by a mine about 9 miles outside the boom defence. { THE HARBOUR ENTRANCE WAS SOWN WITH 56 MINES IN JUNE; ONE OR TWO WERE MISLAD & WERE VISIBLE NEXT MORNING; THE WHOLE FIELD WAS SWAPT UP QUICKLY BY CANADIAN & R.N. SWEEPERS

Psychological sidelight on the war: for a month now, there has raged in the small provincial newspapers' correspondence columns a lively controversy on "who's got the highest hollyhocks?" The matter has spread to other flora, & today somebody in the Valley boasts of a sunflower "13' high, with a flower 13½ inches across, not including the petals!" I suppose it's the logical outcome of the Victory Garden hobby in what old Simeon Perkins would have called "a very growing season."



SUNDAY, SEP. 19, 1943

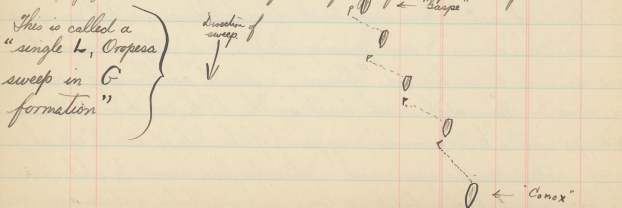
Lovely weather. Drove to Kfx this afternoon. Tea at the Ribbles' new bungalow in Armdale.  
Turned in early to try & get some sleep.

MONDAY, SEP. 20/43.

A naval car called for me at 5 AM. The office of the Public Relations Officer, R.C.N. Kfx, is in a shabby grey wooden house N° 17 North St. There I found about a dozen newsmen & cameramen including stout old Penny of the Quebec "Chronicle"; tall, shapeless, grey haired, bulgy-grey-eyed, long-nosed, fat-checked Joan Logan of the Ottawa "Citizen"; dissipated loud-mouthed Bertor Robinson of the Kfx "Chronicle"; young eager curly-red-haired Eric Dennis of the Kfx "Herald"; a slight, round-shouldered red-haired amusing cynic named Thomas - a newsreel man. The chief P.R.O. (Lt.-Com. Lawrence) couldn't bother to get up so early, apparently, & our affairs were looked after by Lt. Dunn, a young short carrot-haired glum officer, the junior P.R.O. Dunn said we would board H.M.C.S. "Comox", leader of a minesweeping flotilla, & proceed to sea with the flotilla on a routine sweep which would take all day; we could see everything & on return the Port Minesweeping Officer would tell us anything we wanted to know. The cars took us to the Dockyard (where large brick office buildings are still going up to house the enormous & ever-growing staff) & a jetty, where in the pre-dawn dark we boarded "Comox", a small coalburning, worn, & none too-clean steel vessel built on the B.C. coast in 1938. Skipper was Lt. Commander Suggan (of the Isle of Man) 50-ish, soft spoken, muddy-eyed, with a shapeless face marred by what seems to have been a broken bottle, a long nose embellished with a wen on

the port side near the tip; N<sup>o</sup> 1. was Lieut. Joseph Vejina, a stocky, lively French-Canadian invariably addressed by the Old Man with a hail of "Joe!"; sub-Lieut. Fry, a Bluenose of about 28, tall, gangling, blond, broad pink face, pleasant blue eyes; another sub-boat, 20-ish, short, slim, dapper, whose name escapes me. Chief engineer was Veener, a Milton man. Crew of 42 in all, mostly active youngsters of 18 or 20 in worn dungaree trousers & a variety of shirts & sweaters - one wore a red & black checkered mackinaw wind-breaker.

We sailed out of harbour just as dawn was breaking, "Comox" leading 4 others, amongst them a diesel minesweeper, the rest coalburners; one was the grandly named "Sainte Michelle de Bellechasse", another the slow, plugging old "Gaspé". Much winking of signal lamps from a post on the roof of the Federal Building, from other ships coming in, from the guardships at the boom gate & finally from my old post of Camperdown. Up went a flutter of tunting on "Comox" as she passed the Halifax lightship & an *Croquesa* float & kite were lowered over the starboard quarter. The others took up their positions & did the same, each steaming just behind the float-flag of the preceding vessel, thus:



Everyone on board wore a lifebelt - we were issued with nice clean ones, simple affairs like a collapsed inner tube for a car tyre, which you slung about your waist; there was a rubber tube & a valve, & straps to go around your waist and the back of the neck. The crew had a drab look of men wearing badly soiled female girdles, the tube & straps hanging down like garters from the waist.

Several of our party borrowed warm grey Navy duffle-coats against the morning cold. The sun rose & the day was beautiful. There was a choppy sea, not rough, but the dish-bottomed sweepers rolled like barrels in it & Joan ~~Lozar~~<sup>Lozar</sup> soon fell victim to mal de mer, retired to a couch in the Old Man's cabin. Two others of our party were quite sick. The sweep went straight out to sea past the Sambre lightship, very red & very lonely; about 30 miles outside the flotilla turned at right angles westward for a 5 mile leg, then about ships and dead east for 10 miles, west again 5 miles, then back to port on the edge of our outgoing course, thus doubling the swept channel. Near the Halifax lightship a Fairmile launch came out to drop depth charges for our benefit, & "Cosmo" fell out of line & let her 4 dingy sisters carry on the sweep.

The Fairmile kept station abeam & down-sun from us, let go 4 depth charges while our movie-man whizzed away on the "monkey's island". The first was a dud, the rest went off with fine bangs & upheavals; the 4th was a spectacular thing, the Fairmile slowed down deliberately & let the charge go off not much more than a length or so astern, & the camera man rejoiced. The flung spray made beautiful rainbow effects in the sunset light. At once "Cosmo" lowered a boat to pick up some of the dead fish which came to the top, white bellies uppermost.

The Fairmile rushed in to get a share of the fish; also a Western Islands trawler, manned by R.N. people, which came tearing up to the sound of the explosions & lowered a fishing boat at once. Since depth charges cost \$50 apiece the fish were expensive! All the time we were out there was a constant traffic of armed craft in & out, mostly corvettes, one or two destroyers - the "Assiniboine" was one - a few merchantmen including one of the new Canadian-built 10,000 tonners, the "Fort Romaine", armed with machine guns, a 4 inch gun astern, a multiple pompom on a platform nearby, & queer anti-torpedo nets held up by long booms, ready to be dropped in a few moments. We had lunch in relays, sitting 4 at a time in the stuffy little wardroom; tomato soup, huge T-bone steaks, peas, carrots, mashed potatoes, peach pie, coffee. There was plenty of rum, too, & the Old Man stayed down there drinking with his guests & getting pretty red in the face. Arrived back at the Dockyard about 6 p.m. The Old Man miscalculated the outgoing tide & in turning towards our jetty we fouled the stems of 3 destroyers moored abreast - their crews turned out & hated us in silence - seeing the lady. There was some gorgeous grinding & thumping & "Comox" wandered serenely along with several badly bent stanchions.

We were now taken up to the Port Minesweeping Officer's office in one of the new brick warrens. There we found the P.M.O. (Barkhouse) an Intelligence officer - Lt. Com. Mitchell, with a sad horse face and large serious eyes & the voice of a

enough. Also the chief Public Relations Officer, Lt. Com. Lawrence, 30-ish, bald with luxuriant side pieces, handsome features, white teeth, a pleasant smile, an obsequious manner. Glum young Lieut. Dunn, whose cheeks had worn a red stubble all day, & who now appeared miraculously shaven in a clean shirt & collar. Last but not least the Director of Naval Information, the great Howard himself, a square built sharp featured man in mufti, with thick greying hair sleeked back over his head. He had come down from Ottawa for the "MacMac" launching on Saturday & stayed over to see the press properly nursed for the big Hfx minefield story.

Questions were invited by Barkhouse in an unhappy voice. We questioned with gusto. It became apparent at once that the T.M.O. was mortally afraid to give us any sort of answer. When he did make one or two quibbling replies, Intelligence promptly stepped in & said we mustn't use this & we mustn't say that. We were continually referred to the press release on the mine-field, issued by Ottawa. It was plain that the Hfx officials intended to give us nothing more, in fact forbade anything more.

All the world knows that the Germans use acoustic & magnetic mines as well as the old-fashioned contact mine, yet we were forbidden to mention them; we were even forbidden to describe the simple & well-known methods of fishing up contact mines which anyone could study in books like Domville-Fife's for the past 25 years. The newsmen were peeved & had to content themselves with personality sketches of one or two men in the minesweeping patrol. The cameramen were openly scornful. So were Fletcher Coates of the C. B. C., and I. The conference broke up at

8:30 p.m. - we were all fed-up and hungry. Somebody asked, "Are you doing this story for Maclean's?" and I said "No, certainly not!" & walked out. The Navy cars took us back to our various hotels, etc & that was that.

Coates suggested "Why don't you do an article on 'Naval Censorship?'" It might be a good idea.

TUESDAY, SEP. 21/43. Drove back to L'pool. this morning.

On the way I picked up a young soldier named Hall bound for his home at Petite Riviere on short leave. He belongs to a paratroop battalion, half U.V., half Canadian, which has been trained & stationed in the U.V., mostly at Helena, Montana. His unit is commanded by a U.V. officer & took part in the Kiska landing. The Canadians still get the usual Canadian pay, plus 75¢ a day "flying time", but it is paid to them in U.V. currency. They wear a hybrid uniform which leans to the U.V. style but has a red shoulder patch saying (USA CANADA) & a red white & blue whistle cord.

War: Italian troops have driven Germans out of Sardinia. French troops from North Africa have landed in Corsica, seized the capital Ajaccio, & driven the Germans from the western half of the island. On the mainland Clark's 5th & Montgomery's 8th armies are making slow progress towards Naples. Mr. Churchill is back in Britain, reviewed the war in the Commons today. It is revealed that he sailed from Halifax <sup>SEP. 14</sup> & spent an hour or so in the Public Gardens, on the Citadel, etc., was cheered by little knots of observant

citizens, shook hands with many, pinched a little boy's behind jovially, made his famous V sign right & left, told Mayor Lloyd of Halifax, "Now we know your city is something more than a shed on a wharf." My newscamera friends of yesterday told me that Winston was quite drunk at sailing time, & many of their pictures of him were "ruled out" because he looked it. He sailed in the battleship "Renown".

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 22/43

Kibbie & Hilda arrived by car this p.m. dull weather with showers. War: Germans are destroying the whole dock area of Naples. Our troops continue slow progress in the Salerno hills. Some of the Dodecanese islands off the Turkish coast have been occupied by British detachments, aided by Italian garrisons. In Russia the big German retreat continues, with Cossacks already watering their horses in the great Dnieper River & Russian guns hammering at the gates of Smolensk & Kieff. It is thought the Germans will stand on long-prepared positions along the Dnieper.

R.A.F. after a week of quiet, staged a blitz raid on the city of Hanover tonight, cost 26 planes. { 2,338 TONS OF BOMBS WERE DROPPED IN HALF AN HOUR }

Lieut-Commander Lawrence, the P.R.O. at Hfx, phoned this morning with a long & rather apologetic story about the failure to provide me with material for Maclean's. I guessed that he had before him my peppery letter to Maclean's, saying why I had written no story & giving my opinion of naval censorship — picked up in the mail by the Postal censors & passed to Lawrence for action. In case he hadn't, I repeated to him what I had told Maclean's, though I said it was

not his fault, the system of censorship was to blame. He asked if I would come to Hfx again if he guaranteed a story with lots of facts. I said yes, of course. He will let me know when he has such a story.

FRIDAY, SEP. 24/43 Incessant rains. They let up a bit this morning & deceived us into a motor trip along the LaHave via South Brookfield & New Germany. Pouring rain all the way. Had a good dinner at Arnberg's, Petite Riviere. The new gov't. plant at Kell's Cross, 2 or 3 miles out of Bridgewater, is now engaged in making "landing barges" of wood & in sections so that they can be knocked down & shipped anywhere. { Foundation Company runs this show. Many of the workmen are from Quebec. }

War: the Russians are reaching the Dnieper line everywhere, just as the autumn rains begin, rendering further operations difficult or impossible - until the hard frosts set in, anyway.

R.A.F. blitzed Mannheim-Friedrichshafen last night, cost 37 planes. Germans claim a big U. boat success in the North Atlantic, using new tactics.

SATURDAY SEP 25/43 Rain & dull weather all day. The Ribbles left for Hfx at 7 pm. War: Germans have evacuated Smolensk, long their Russian front headquarters. Moscow is jubilant & talks of Germans everywhere routed & falling back in disorder. Berlin calls it a "retreat according to plan". Somewhere between is the truth. In Canada the new war loan has been announced - \$1,200,000,000; subscriptions open in October. This exactly twice the size of the first war loan of the present war.



MONDAY, SEP. 27/43.

A fine day, the first time we have seen the sun in 6 days. Temp down to 40° last night. Grounded all last week by the bad weather; today our air visitors, slow old Swordfish biplanes, painted light grey, & thundering twin engined Avro Ansons painted a light buff, are performing their usual manoeuvres over the town. The contractors for the new wartime houses are erecting small workshops on Shipyard Point for the sawing of frames, etc. The Point is covered with lumber piles for the job. So far they are still busy digging trenches for sewers & water pipes, using steam shovels & a large gang of men & boys. **War:** reports from the 5th & 8th armies show that the treacherous Italian decision to turn against Germany, (now that it is clear that the Axis is losing the war) while very useful to our cause, is not receiving any cheers from our soldiers. Our troops say they don't want Italians for allies.

It is reported that the Italian royal family & Marshal Badoglio & staff are safe in a south Italian town under British occupation.

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 28/43.

Fine again. Walked around Western Head. **War:** 8th Army has taken Voggia, the biggest German air base in southern Italy. Canadian 1st Div. is with this force, has advanced 400 miles since landing ~~for~~ Sicily. U.S. planes heavily bombed Emden by daylight yesterday. Last night R.A.F. plastered Hanover again, cost 39 planes. French forces in Corsica have driven the small German garrison as far as Bastia, where our submarines have sunk 10 ships & shelled others, & the Allied air forces have shot down many big German transport planes.

Prominent Liberals from all over Canada are meeting in Ottawa to discuss recent political events. (Irving Bain, of Liverpool, is amongst them) The gathering is styled the National Liberal Federation. Premier King informed them that there would be no general election until the present gov't's term expires in mid-summer 1945, adding of course a number of contingencies which might bring on an election.

The Prices & Trade Board says our molasses ration is to be increased from 10 fluid ounces to 20 fluid ounces per coupon, there are smaller increases in the allowance of corn & maple syrups. Also the absurd ban on cuffs for men's trousers is lifted at last, & a man may get 2 pairs of pants with 1 coat.

WEDNESDAY, SEP 29/43 Fine. 800 soldiers & sailors from Aldershot & Deep Brook are helping pick the record apple crop in the Valley, by special arrangement with authorities; otherwise much of it would have rotted on the trees for lack of pickers. War: R.C.A.F. reports U-boats equipped with better A/A guns are now fighting it out on the surface when attacked by planes. In Italy the 5th Army has broken through the mountains behind Salerno & is now at the edge of the Naples plain. The ancient ruins of Pompeii are in British hands & once more we are fighting for the slopes of a volcano - this time Vesuvius. In Liverpool the school board after some debate has decided to go on letting the Navy have the high school auditorium for its weekly dances. It is the only large dance floor in town. Formerly dances were given only when a ship had finished her refit

at Thompson's or Mersey, usually on the Friday before sailing. For the past year however the dances have been conducted every Friday, the guardship of the week putting on the show. Seamen can invite any woman they wish, & since many of them invite local whores (even negroes have appeared, but a colour line has been drawn) the company is strangely mixed. There is a good deal of drinking (mostly bootleg stuff) and evidence of fornication has been found next day in some of the lower classrooms, while the toilets are usually left in a horrible state. The local health officer has objected very strongly to the use of the school for these affairs but naval officers point out that no other place is suitable & the town should consider it a patriotic duty. They have promised to keep better order but they confess it is impossible to keep out the whores, asking reasonably "Who is going to decide which lady is a whore & which isn't?"

THURSDAY, SEP 30/43

Overcast, cool easterly breeze. Blistered my left foot yesterday breaking in a new pair of shoes on a hike to Mutton & back. Impossible to get proper walking shoes now. In fact all the shoes now are of poor leather, indifferently made, & 25% or 50% higher in price than before the war. War: R.A.F. heavily bombed Bochum in the Ruhr last night. 5th Army advance patrols are at the outskirts of Naples. 5th Army's total casualties so far about 9,000 killed, wounded & missing - 60% of them British. (Germans have claimed "huge" losses inflicted on 5th Army in the landing battles at Salerno) In Liverpool, Roger Inness is in business again at the old stand, selling groceries for cash. Rationing makes a difference in the distribution of supplies -

today I saw quart milk-bottles filled with molasses offered for sale in the window of Victor Scobey's grocery, a strange sight after 3 years of scarcity.

Construction workers have their own solution of the housing problem - the little car-trailer house-on-wheels so popular with tourists a few years ago. Since the Wartime Housing project got under way here I have noticed trailers parked on the grounds of the old Cobb house, in the ball park, & behind Bain's garage. Jerry Nickerson is housing his imported Newfoundlanders in the little shack known as "Snug Harbour" on Water St.; it was built originally by half a dozen large-hearted fellows (including Jerry himself) to provide a loafing place for old Hugh Dunlap & certain retired mariners like old "Sim" Doggett & "captain" Chandler, who liked to spend their days yarning on the waterfront.

FRIDAY, OCT. 1/43.

A drizzling, nasty day to open the deer season. War: 5th Army has occupied Naples & found the port very thoroughly demolished. Jugoslav irregulars have banded themselves into armies since the dissolution of Italian occupation forces, & are giving German troops a rough time of it. For a time they actually held the important Adriatic port of Split, & several times they have menaced Trieste. Survivors of the ships sunk in sub-Arctic waters on Sep. 20 & 21, when U boats attacked a convoy using new weapons & tactics, have reached Halifax. Censorship is tight but I have it on the authority of a Ferry command pilot returning to Canada in the convoy that

the chief new weapon is some sort of radio controlled torpedo which he says "can't miss". Also the U boats are more heavily armed against surface craft & aircraft, & showed no hesitation about fighting it out on the surface. Corvettes which attacked were promptly sunk with the new torpedoes & our aircraft received a hot reception when they attempted dive-bombing. Three corvettes & 1 destroyer were sunk, together with 5 merchantmen. (Today the Canadian authorities admitted loss of the destroyer "St. Croix" with 146 men; she was one of the 50 old U.S. destroyers turned over to the British navy in 1940) Also heard that the huge transport "Queen Elizabeth" struck a light cruiser in thick weather some weeks ago; "Lizzie" suffered some damage; the cruiser was cut in half & sank with all on board.

Tonight the Admiralty admits loss of the corvette "Polyanthis" and the frigate "Itchen", apparently in the convoy action above.

In Canada the 3 fighting services have decided to pool their recruiting; under this arrangement the R.C.A.F. gets first choice for air crew, on the other hand R.C.A.F. will not enlist men for ground crew who are eligible for army service; just what the Navy gets out of it I don't know. Voluntary enlistment is now picking up only youths coming of age; all others willing to enlist have gone long ago. Meanwhile conscripts are being called up steadily for training. Lorie Rice, oil truck driver, married six years, with 2 children, got his call yesterday. Cecil Day has <sup>subsequently examined</sup> lost the last of his male employees, a pale cock-eyed young man just called up. The paper mill has begun to employ

women in the machine room - half a dozen for a start.

SATURDAY, OCT. 2/43 Rain. In spite of the weather Roy Gordon & I went deer hunting up-river this afternoon, first in Bluff Murley's old log-road opposite Third Stillwater Falls, & later between Indian Gardens & Kempton Lake. I started a fine deer at sundown on the K. L. trail but couldn't get a shot at it. Home at 8 p.m. Saw many hunters, no deer.

SUNDAY, OCT. 3/43 Dull & damp. R.A.F. staged a big raid on Munich last night, following a daylight raid on the city by U.S. planes from Sicily or North Africa on Friday. In Russia the Germans continue their fighting retreat to the Dvina - Dnieper line. The Dnieper line has been reached, nearly the whole length of it. In Italy our 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> d. armies are advancing slowly from Naples & Foggia, delayed by the usual effective German minefields covered by tough rearguard machine guns & artillery. In New Guinea, Australians have taken the Jap base of Tinsackhafen.

The old Newfoundland sealer "Terra Nova", has been wrecked in the North Atlantic. She was built for a whaler at Dundee in 1885, had seen much service in Arctic & Antarctic exploration - she was poor Scott's ship on his last expedition - and many seasons with the sealing fleet. Of the fleet only "Eagle" is left now.

Austin Parker was in tonight, just back from a week-end tactical exercise with C Coy at White Point. Brigadier Simpson, also Capt Tuttle, training officer of the P.L.F. (reserve) were present for a conference with the officers. It seems that the

Co'y. Q/6. - R. H. Murray, principal of Liverpool schools - was recently hauled over the coals by Battalion for neglect of duty, failure to keep his officers informed of essentials, etc. Murray is a complacent self-seeking man, able but lazy, an expert at passing the buck; he is in the Reserve primarily because he likes the extra pay & is fond of swanking in a captain's uniform. He is unpopular with rank & file, knows it, & doesn't care a hoot. His reply to the latest wiggling by H.Q. was his resignation. Simpson & Tuttle made some discreet enquiries, found that neither the 2/i.c., Brent Smith, nor the senior platoon officer, Parker, would undertake command of the Co'y; both suggested bluntly to Simpson that the Reserve Army's usefulness is finished now that there is no possibility of German landings on this coast, & why not save officers & men a lot of valuable time, & the country a lot of money, by disbanding the whole thing? Simpson & Tuttle (both in the Reserve on a permanent basis, with full pay & allowances) demurred, of course. The matter of Murray's resignation was left in air. Parker hinted broadly to me that if I came back to the Co'y now I would be offered the captaincy; but that is impossible in my present situation; in any case I feel with Parker & Smith that the time has come to write the Reserve Army off the books.

MONDAY, OCT. 4/43

Tuttle phoned this morning & asked me to have lunch with him. At lunch he steered the conversation around to C. Co'y's affairs, said that things were in a mess, & offered me command of the Co'y. I said I was up to my eyes in a

novel & couldn't spare the time. He asked for suggestions on how to straighten up the Co's. affairs; I gave him a few for what they are worth. At the end of our interview he admitted with a grave smile that doubtless the war would be won regardless of C's existence or failure to exist. I think the Brigade staff see as well as the rest of us that the usefulness of the Reserve Army is past.

A letter from John Blackwood asking for British publishing rights in "His Majesty's Yankees". My agents London representative, Brent Kenyon, had a good offer from Jarrold's but I told him Blackwood must be given preference.

War: R.A.F. blitzed Cassel last night, cost 24 bombers.

German aircraft are now offering battle in large numbers to our daylight raiders over France & Holland; today the R.A.F. and U.V.A.F. between them bagged 75. In Russia the Germans have been driven from their last foothold on the caucasian side of the Kertsch Strait. In the Aegean Sea a German force partly air-borne, partly sea-borne, has landed on the island of Kos which our troops occupied last month (see note Sep. 22) & succeeded in establishing itself; fighting is still going on. In Italy the 5th Army has taken Benevento & the 8th. has landed a force behind the German lines on the Adriatic coast & seized the port of Termoli. In Corsica, Free French troops have taken Bastia & driven the last German troops off the island. Authorities in South Africa have just admitted one of the worst marine disasters of this war - the torpedoing of the liner



"beramic" in the South Atlantic, November 1942, with the loss of over 500 lives. The German submarine picked up one survivor & took him off to Germany, all the others were left to drown in the heavy seas, most of them families of South African and Australian soldiers.

In Halifax several hundred freight handlers & stevedores went on strike for higher wages on Saturday. The Minister of Labour termed the strike illegal & ordered them back to work by 8 a.m. today. They refused. Promptly several hundred soldiers, sailors & air force men were marched to the scene & commenced handling the cargoes. Now other Hfx stevedores threaten to walk out in sympathy with the strikers.

TUESDAY, OCT. 5/43 Rain. Troops & seamen continue moving perishable freight at Hfx; so far most of the 1400 longshoremen there have remained at work, but labour unions are sending the usual furious wires to Ottawa, smugly accusing the govt. of "sabotaging" the war effort, etc. The affair is being watched with interest in the U.S.A. It seems to me that the time has come to clip the wings of these greedy unionists, all over the country, who see in the war and the urgent nature of all production & transportation a golden opportunity for themselves. War: stalemate has come upon the Russian front, where the autumn rains have begun just as the Red troops reached the Dnieper-Dvina line. In Italy our armies are moving slowly up the long peninsula against stiff German rearguards, extensive

road demolitions & lavishly sown minefields. In the Aegean it looks as if our small force on the island of Kos had been overwhelmed. U.S.A.F. bombed Frankfurt yesterday & last night the R.A.F. dumped a heavy load of "block-busters" on that city for good measure. There have been light naval clashes in the Channel & on the Norwegian coast, where a U.S. aircraft carrier got in some good work on a German convoy.

Young Frederick Tupper of Milton, missing in the Sicilian fighting, has turned up in Germany as a prisoner of war.

I had my car overhauled at Thompsons; new parts on steering gear, new heater hose, & new spark plugs, etc., cost \$22.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 6/43 Temp. 36° at 8 a.m. A fine day. I put the parlour & sun porch storm windows on — a tedious business; the house windows must <sup>first</sup> be washed twice — once to get the dirt off and once to put a clear gleam on; and the same for each of the storm-sashes, both sides of the glass. The kids returned much pleased from a visit to Lynch's Show this evening. It is pitched outside the town limit just east of the ball park, as usual, & has this year a ride on live donkeys in addition to the usual Ferris Wheel, roller coaster, wheels of fortune etc.

The dock strike at Hfx is broken, the men went back to work today. Commander Robertson, R.C.N., who is King's Harbour Master, told newspapers today that the service men, although not accustomed to the work, stowed cargo at the rate of 15 tons per hour, compared with the 12.8 ton average of the longshoremen.

THURSDAY, OCT. 7, 1943.

Up at daylight & drove up the river road just as the sun rose. The woods are in full colour now, lovely in the red morning light & all as still as death after the cold night. Saw two deer, both does, standing in the edge of the woods <sup>by the bridge pond</sup> & stopped the car, took careful aim with my newly acquired rifle - the deer stood very still, with heads & most of the necks showing above the bushes - and missed! Away they went. Couldn't understand it. Fired the rifle, four or five shots at a makeshift target (in the ruins of Cliff Murlby's old log camp) & discovered that the adjustment of the Lyman peep sight as shown me by Gordon was away off. Got it adjusted to my satisfaction, hunted in the woods east of the river road until nearly noon without sign of other deer, although I saw at least 8 partridge - 6 in one bunch.

War: the indefatigable Russians, brought to a halt by rains along the Dnieper, have opened a new attack 60 miles north of Vitebsk & captured the big railway junction of Nevel. After all this time the Russians maintain their rigid mystery; foreign observers are allowed to see only occasional glimpses of the fighting & little or nothing of the Russian war machine; no one knows what damage they have really inflicted on the Germans, or what they have suffered themselves. Their own accounts are boastful & their figures on German losses are fantastic. No foreigner has yet been allowed to see or count the German prisoners of war in Russia. The size & condition of the Russian air force or navy are as much a mystery as before the war; some glimpses have been given of the army.

So too we can only guess at Russian war aims, or peace aims, or their real attitude towards Japan, — or for that matter toward us. Some of their newspapers are openly contemptuous of our war efforts & only brief mention is ever made of our African, Burman, Australasian & Italian campaigns, or of the great R.A.F. bombing of German industry.

FRIDAY, OCT. 8/43

Lovely day. Bought a pair of walking shoes for \$12<sup>00</sup>, the kind that used to cost \$6 or \$7 before the war. Shoes can be had at pre-war prices but in them the leather is worthless & the workmanship not much better.

I have had much trouble with my nose & throat this year, & smoking has almost ceased to be a pleasure. There are days & weeks when a whiff of tobacco is like so much red pepper up my nose.

War: R.A.F. blitzed Stuttgart last night. Germans staged their biggest raid since '41 — about 60 planes last night, some of which reached London & dropped about 30 tons of bombs. Stiff fighting in Italy; but Germans have only 6 divisions there so far. In the last war the Austro-German forces in Italy numbered 20 to 30 divisions.

U.S.A.F. bombed Bremen heavily in daylight today.

SATURDAY, OCT. 9/43

Fine. Last night R.A.F. blitzed Hanover & shed bombs also on Bremen, Berlin & one or two towns in the Ruhr; cost 31 bombers. Today U.S.A.F. bombed cities in Pomerania, Poland & East Prussia, a long hop, probably made from new bases in Italy.

The Japs have evacuated the islands of Yella Lavella, & Kolumbangara in the Solomons, under direct attack by Allied planes

x warships. 1 Jap cruiser, 2 destroyers & 40 or 50 motor barges were sunk. Germans report that British officers, & probably some Allied troops, are now operating with Yugoslav forces on the Kalmatian coast. London has learned that in Malaya & Johore some bands of British soldiers are still conducting a guerilla war in the jungle against the Japs.

This afternoon I went to our camp at Eagle Lake with Dunlap, Smith & Parker for a week-end's hunting. Temperature 80° in the sun. Hardwoods in full colour & leaves falling fast. Frosty night.

SUNDAY, OCT 10/43 Lovely day. Hunted from Half Way Cove to the old "Square Camp" on Kempton Brook with Smith this morning. Spent the afternoon clearing windfalls & some stones out of the trail to the river, & later we got one or two sunken logs in the lake & spiked them to the canoe wharf with drift bolts, adding some rock fill. In the evening I hunted along the old trail to Kempton Brook, saw much bear dung, some fresh; but no deer. Lovely moonlit night.

Monday, Oct 11/43 THANKSGIVING DAY Hard frost last night froze in 's' inch in a pot of water on the camp verandah.

We separated in the morning, Smith to work on the new trail to Kempton Lake, Parker & Dunlap to hunt up the brook meadow between Long & Eagle lakes; I to hunt between the camp & the river. Parker & Dunlap had the most extraordinary luck; stepped out of the canoe at the brook mouth while Parker answered a call of nature. When

Parker arose he saw 2 large buck deer walking slowly through the tall grass, showing only their heads & necks. He clutched his breeches about him & shot 1 buck dead. He then called Dunlap's attention to the other, Dunlap fired - & missed.

In the afternoon P., D., & I went by canoe to the SW. cove of Eagle Lake, they to open the old trail to Mid-Cove, Long Lake, I to prowel up the brook in search of the buck D. missed. Saw nothing until I returned to the vicinity of Eagle Lake; while I sat doggo in a spruce clump (& after 20 minutes) a young prong-horn buck ran out of the woods & stood within 35 feet of me. He was too small & I let him go. After supper we sweated as usual with the hand-barrow down the trail to the river, taking turns at carrying P.'s big buck. It was dark long before we got to the river. A nearly full moon was rising & thus we had light for the risky business of "jumping" the Mersey Paper Co's boom - the punt laden with 4 men, rifles, equipment & the big buck - the punt is now old & rotten. Home about 8 p.m. Stayed with P. & D. in P.'s summer house, skinning the buck by the light of flashlights - an awkward business - until 10 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT. 12/43

Another heavy frost last night completed the wreck of the garden. We have had just 4 ripe tomatoes off the 5 healthy bushes of which we expected so much; the tomato crop was a failure everywhere in N.S. due to the rainy summer.

War: The Russians have fought their way across the Dnieper north & south of Kieff; the Germans are fighting fiercely

to hold the revolt line. British Admiralty announces that British midget submarines one night in September entered the German naval base deep in Alta Fiord, near Hammerfest, Norway, & torpedoed & severely damaged the battleship "Virpitz." Three of the subs. were lost & the Germans claim to have taken some prisoners. Mr. Churchill announced today that Portugal had agreed to lease ports in the Azores to Britain for the duration of the war; these will be a big help in the Atlantic patrols, both air & sea. British forces have already landed in the islands under the agreement. It is not expected that Germany will (or can) do anything about it.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13/43 Another splendid fall day. I am having great difficulty with my novel "Roger Sudden"; at the urgent insistence of Doubleday Doran, (who have advanced over \$2,000 on it) I changed the plot in mid-career - & have not been able to live comfortably with it since. The truth is that I did not want to write another historical novel so soon after "His Majesty's Yankees" & I should have stuck to my instinct, which has never failed me yet.

War: The "rebel" Italian govt. headed by General Badoglio & backed by the royal family, today declared war on Germany. Since  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Italy, including all the industrial regions, is in the hands of Mussolini's "Fascist republic", the declaration hasn't much point morally & none physically, for the truth is there is no fight left in the Italians!

In L'pool, Thompson's Garage is to be taken over for a machine shop in connection with the new marine slip. In its place Thompson's will have govt. priorities in building a fine modern garage on the east side of Market St, next the highway bridge. They have bought the old Kenny building, (an eyesore for years) and torn it down to make way for the new garage.

The scarcity of labour here, & the presence of several hundred healthy young sailors in port all the time, most of them "broke", have been an anomaly in L'pool for 2 years. But this has changed in the past month & now one sees sailors in dungarees cheerfully mowing lawns, putting on storm windows, even delivering coal from truck to cellar.

THURSDAY, OCT 14/43 The 9th. successive day of fine weather, absolutely remarkable; frosts at night, temperature climbing to 80° in the sun at noon, no comfort except in shirt sleeves.

War: MacArthur reports a great air raid on the Jap base at Rabaul in the Solomons; 3 destroyers & several transports sunk, no less than 177 Jap planes destroyed on the ground & in the air. Fantastic!

In Italy the 5th. Army has attacked the German line along the Volturno river in force. The Russians have taken the railway centre of Zaporosche on the great bend of the Dnieper river, & on the Black Sea coast they have fought their way into the streets of Melitopol.

FRIDAY, OCT 15/43 Overcast but fairly warm. U.S.A.F. made a big daylight raid on the German mfg. town of Schweinfurt yesterday & ran into heavy opposition, 60 bombers were shot down, also



2 of the accompanying fighters. They claim to have shot down 91 German fighters in the course of the raid.

In Italy our 5th Army has fought its way across the Volturno.

SUNDAY, OCT. 17/43.

Parker, Dunlap, Gordon & I left this morning for our annual hunting trip at Eagle <sup>Lake</sup>. It was a dull day, with a light mist moving slowly from the east. At N<sup>o</sup> 3 dam we loaded our outfit into the old red punt & started. After about 100 yds. up N<sup>o</sup> 3 pond a breeze sprang up & we realized the punt was dangerously overloaded. We put in to shore & Dunlap & Gordon got out with their rifles. Parker & I set off again although by this time the breeze had become a gale & was increasing at an incredible rate. By the time we reached the point where we usually "jump" the log-boom the gale was lifting whole sheets of water & flinging it in our punt. It was impossible to jump the boom though we made several attempts. Gordon & Dunlap stood on the shore & prayed — or so they said. We tried to paddle up to windward to a small island but the punt began to swamp & we had to jump out on the boom (a slimy green log, it was too). I managed to steady myself with an old spike of driftwood or flouage, which enabled me to spin the log with my feet, rolling the punt over as Parker heaved on the gunwale; between us we got it somehow over the boom. Parker had lost his paddle in the struggle. He took mine & paddled the punt in to shore & baled the water out of it, leaving me hanging to the boom. Then he came back, picked me up, & we resumed our

voyage in the comparative shelter of the flowage. By this time we knew it was no ordinary gale. Old dead trees in the flowage were snapping off like carrots & crashing into the water. At the landing we loaded our haversacks on our backs, piled the whole of the rest of the duffle on a hand barrow, & staggered up the slope to Eagle Lake with it. The lake was a sight - a froth of white with the terrific wind picking up the tops of waves & carrying the spray 100 yds. into the woods. The shriek of the wind was terrific & trees were bowing before it & falling to earth with sounds quite lost in the general uproar. The heavy log cabin shook in the gusts & actually seemed to lift off its foundations once or twice. Several young spruces in front of the Shack cracked under the strain & afterwards had a permanent camb towards the N.W. One big maple fell to earth just behind our well, & a hemlock 18" through was snapped off, just beyond.

The big wind began at 11 a.m. reached its height about 12.30 or 1 p.m.; then it shifted from SE to S and about 2 p.m. dropped as suddenly as it came up. The water of the lake remained muddy & roiled for days, & everywhere in the woods we found trees down & limbs fallen, a hopeless tangle in places. (Afterwards we learned that the hurricane blew a recorded 70 to 85 M.P.H., did great damage all over western Nova Scotia; the apple growers in the Valley are hard hit, although a large part of the crop had been picked.)

This narrow escape from losing our outfit seemed to exhaust our luck, for we had poor hunting the whole week, with grey skies & rain falling at some part of the day or night every 24 hours. Nobody got a shot at a deer except me - & I muffed that. It was on the east side of the river, whether Gordon & I had gone for a hunt up to George's Brook.

I left Gordon near the road & after 100 yds. came on a buck & doe standing in a strip of swamp. I fired, too quickly, at the buck who was showing his head over an old upturned root. Away they went. Later, on the high huckleberry barren a mile to the north I saw the head of a fine buck at 200 yards, but only for a moment; did not get a shot.

Also walked right up on 2 big bull moose lying down in a fir thicket in the midst of the barren; they gave me a great start; one walked off a little way, the other stood his ground. When I uttered a "cow" call, the first one came back & looked me over very carefully. Finally both walked off. Had my lunch by George's Brook that day. Next day Parker & Dunlap crossed the river with me for another hunt in the same region. None of us saw a deer, although we saw 2 bull moose. I came upon one in a little spruce swale, uttered a "cow" call - & the bull made for me. I had to run out into the barren where there was more room to dodge & - if necessary - to shoot. The bull followed me to the edge of the open & stood there, thrashing the bushes with a big set of horns, a

impressive sight. I wished for my camera which was in the camp at Eagle Lake. During the entire week I hunted every morning & afternoon, often in pouring rain. Between us we covered the whole Eagle Lake - Long Lake - George's Lake area. No deer. Simply a hoodoo'd trip from the very start. But we got plenty of exercise, & some thrills & a bit of fun. One day Parker & I took the head of a buck Gordon killed last year & set it up in some bushes opposite the camp. Dunlap, returning at dusk from a hunt towards Big Falls, spotted it & fired eagerly enough to satisfy us all.

This trip we heard no loons in Eagle or Long Lake, neither saw nor heard porcupines mating, saw not a single rabbit - all common things at this time of year. The storm brought us an unusual visitor in the backwoods, an English sparrow who was <sup>so</sup> delighted to find men & a dwelling that he came right in & hopped about the cabin floor.

We had our usual pair of whiskey-jacks scavenging in the camp dump, but this year they were joined by a handsome pair of bluejays. This year there were apparently no acorns, on the oak ridges about Eagle Lake anyhow.

War: we got news every evening on Parker's little radio. Our forces in Italy are fighting their way slowly up the peninsula against stiff opposition by veteran German troops who have learned the whole

art of delaying tactics in the long retreat in Russia. During the week the Russians captured Melitopol & also broke across the north shoulder of the great bend in the Dnieper River, putting in jeopardy all the German forces in the bend.

MONDAY, OCT. 25/43 Population of Halifax is now 106,000, an increase of 8,000 over last year. Dartmouth has 17,000, an increase of 2,600. These figures do not include army, navy or air forces personnel quartered in the city.

In Liverpool the first pre-fabricated houses have been erected on the old Cowie property near the railway bridge.

The latest Victory Loan campaign is now in full swing. I subscribed for \$3,500. The Dominion is expected to raise \$1,200,000,000 this time. Queens County's quota, \$950,000.

TUESDAY, OCT. 26/43 British cruiser "Charybdis" & one destroyer sunk by torpedos in the Channel. Our troops in Italy are fighting slowly forward. Canadians are engaged & several local boys have been killed or wounded during the past week; otherwise no news of the fighting has been given out. How different from the last war!

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27/43. The 11th successive day of dull or downright rainy weather, with an easterly gale & a big sea running into the harbour. Mr. David Lloyd George, not often in the news nowadays, has astonished the world by marrying his secretary. He is 80, she is 50.

The U.S.A. has decided to abolish "dim-out" regulations

on both coasts. Clem Crowell had tea with us yesterday, says he has resigned command of the 52nd. (Reserve) Field Battery at Lockport, fed-up with the whole Alice-in-Wonderland atmosphere & convinced that the Reserve should be abolished as a waste of time & money. At Lockport for many months he has had 4 guns, several trucks, a tractor, a jeep, two searchlights — \$75,000 worth of equipment — and not a single shell!

FRIDAY OCT. 29/43 Rain & easterly gales all day yesterday, a black and howling N.W. sky today — our 13<sup>th</sup> successive day without sunshine. I think we shall always remember '43 as the year it rained all summer & fall.

Claude Bishop died suddenly yesterday. He was 53, a tubby white-haired boisterous man who seldom ventured away from his drug store on Main St. He had made a modest fortune through the years but never had a day's fun in his life. Hallowe'en is much on the minds of our kids, & tonight after supper I performed the annual rite of cutting out a pumpkin lantern.

A number of disabled British prisoners have arrived home in Swedish ships, exchanged for disabled Germans. They bring reports of incredibly low German morale; some of the German guards at the camps declared that the war would come to a bad end by Christmas. Defeats on the Russian front, failure of the U-boat campaign, & especially the heavy R.A.F. bombing of German

towns, are given as the cause. These reports agree with reports of Swiss & Swedish journalists. Is it possible that the Germans are about to crack?

Talking tonight with Charlie Williams, captain of the Mersey Co's steamer "Markland", taken over long ago by the Ministry of Shipping & now engaged in carrying bauxite from Demerara to Mobile. He says that shipbuilding has so far overtaken war losses that the old per centime bogey of "getting a cargo" has popped up again. Crews are a queer assortment nowadays & the worst men he gets are the Cape Bretoners - invariably agitators, expert "slow-downers" & often saboteurs in small ways not dangerous to the ship. Many of the ships engaged in this bauxite trade are old "lakers" - Great Lakes steamers which are well adapted to the trade, though poor sea boats. He thinks the new Liberty ships are fine vessels in looks, lay-out, etc., but the all-welded construction does not stand up well. Doesn't think much of the ships now being built in Canada on British designs; they are well built but the design appears to have been made with a view to post-war Baltic & other timber trade - derricks gathered forward & amidships, to the extreme detriment of accommodations, in order to provide a clear deck space.

Tom Ratchford has been made a director of Mersey Paper Co. B. J. Waters also was recently placed on the board.

SATURDAY, OCT. 30/43 Sunshine! 'All day!' (But with a furious westerly gale) The kids all over the place tonight celebrating Hallowe'en, tomorrow being Sunday. This year we had nothing to give the maskers at the door; candy, nuts, pies, fruit - all unobtainable or too expensive to dish out to the mob. Work has begun on Thompson's new garage on Market Street near the bridge - driving piles for a foundation, since all the "land" thereabouts is really nothing but filled docks - a fact which few in the town seem to realise.

A visitor tonight, Donovan, a Welshman, chief E.R.A. on a Canadian corvette in port. He says the new German torpedo is fired in the ordinary way but is actuated near the target by the target's propeller wash; it follows the wash right up to the ship & explodes under the propellers. He said certain gadgets are now being installed near the stern of his corvette, presumably to counteract this uncanny device.

Captain Wallace Ogilvie, our star war profiteer, has shut up his house & departed to the Bahamas, in considerable secrecy. Plans to stay the winter, it is said.

He bought the yacht of the late Edsel Ford in New York & sailed to Nassau in her with his family. In some way he succeeded in getting the income from his ships diverted there, & so will pay no income tax. The yacht's price was \$40,000.



