

# RIAL Page

P I N I O N

... Blood, Sweat, Tears." ...

"I have nothing to offer you but blood, toil, tears and sweat." (Sir Winston Churchill, House of Commons, May 14, 1940).

"And there was blood in that change, and sweat and tears . . ." (AT THE TIDE'S TURN by T. H. Raddall, Blackwood's Magazine, November 1939).

One of the satisfactions in extensive reading comes from encountering in some unusual place a word or a phrase of an incident that causes one in surprise to exclaim "Now where have I seen this before." It is akin to the feeling a woods traveller has when thinking himself in strange territory he suddenly comes upon a familiar landmark and says in some surprise "Why, I've been here before."

Two years ago —and a little — we picked up a collection of Dr. Raddall's short stories and reading AT THE TIDE'S TURN noticed the quotation given above. Martin Blunt, chief magistrate of the town of Oldport (Liverpool), drawn by ties of blood to the people of Massachusetts and their revolutionary cause but pulled by history and pride of race toward the British tradition, and sensing in the presence of his brother in that bout a symbol of the suffering implicit in internecine strife, out of the author's luxuriant imagination came the singularly appropriate phrase" . . . blood and sweat and tears . . ."

Dr. Raddall says he sought a crisp phrase suggestive of the inward and outward agony of a people facing a long and cruel war. The comparison between the imaginative incident of 1778 and the actuality of 1940 in Britain is too striking to go unnoticed

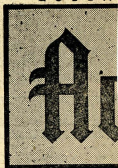
The Churchillian phrase has found its place in our cultural heritage and ranks with the best efforts of Pitt, Burke and Gladstone. Any attempt to elaborate on it would be to paint the lily. But the circumstances: England in 1940 was paralysed by a shattering defeat and blinded by an intolerable future. Aside from the fact that Sir Winston had been a long-time subscriber to Blackwood's the coincidence of imagination, fact and phrase is curious and suggests Dr. Raddall's comment that in both minds there may have been a reminiscence of past reading of the blood and sweat of Christ's passion.

It is interesting to observe and it may have some significance that in these latter days the "toil" seems to have been dropped from Churchill's promise. (E.K.F.)

# Debert



## QUEEN



Liverpool, Nova Scotia

## Port Med

Mr. and Mrs. D. and children of Va. guests of Mr. and M. ine.

Mr. and Mrs. Ea Wilmot, N. S., were and Mrs. Ernest P.

Mr. and Mrs. Pe Mr. and Mrs. Roy to Spryfield to vis sister, Mrs. L. Frali

Mr. Paul Lalande to North Bay after at his home here.

Fred Harding of Fl were guests at the

Mr. Charles Bar George N. S., was w and Mr. Joudrey end.

Mr. and Mrs. A accompanied by C Glawson motored to Friday. Capt. Glaws factory checkup at

Mr. and Mrs. Cec family of Sydney, v and Mrs. John Coh

Mr. and Mrs. Iva son of Toronto, are ents, Mr. and Mrs. ley.

Mr. and Mrs. Ern Mrs. F. D. Meisner Shelburne on Frida on Mr. and Mrs. A.

Mrs. J. B. Gard from Yarmouth on has her grandniece, lop of Dover, Mas Kate Latimer of guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Gor Halifax, were with Clements.

Miss Geraldine Miss Mary Barss were recent guests old Hopkins.

Mr. and Mrs. A have returned to a visit in Halifax.

The sum of one fifty dollars was ta glican Garden Part for church purpose

Bennett and Ma have gone to Wir employed on the g

Mr. Amos Leslie Mr. and Mrs. Joh

## Wedding Bells

### Thorburne — Morgan

wedding of much interest to rpool and surrounding dis- was solemnized on Wednes- July 12th., in the Salvation y Citadel, New Glasgow, N. S. n Miss Norma Pearl Morgan, ghter of James Morgan and late Mrs. Morgan, Stellarton, S., was united in marriage to id Lloyd Thorburne, son of and Mrs. Mark Thorburne of rpool, N. S. Capt. Ivan Robin- of Moncton, N. B. performed ceremony.

he bride, dressed in Salvation y uniform, and carrying a quet of red roses entered the del on the arm of her father he strains of the Wedding ch played by Lieut. M. Hodg- of Lunenburg, N. S. Her at- ant, Lieut. Jeanette Anstey tellarton carried a nosegay of ow roses, also wearing Salva- Army uniform.

wo winsome flower girls, dys Morgan, Stellarton and e Parnell Brooklyn Queens nty in identical gowns of ve and yellow nylon with te head bands and carrying ets of mauve and yellow ns, preceded the bridal party t man was Vincent Thorburne her of the groom.

uring the signing of the reg- r Lieut. Hendrickson of lgewater sang the Wedding yer.



NOVA SCOTIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION DIVISION

Box 1650  
Halifax, N. S.  
January 15, 1959

Dr. T. H. Raddall  
Liverpool, Nova Scotia

Dear Tom:

Last evening I was reading some of the stories in "The Wedding Gift" and as a matter of curiosity, I wondered about the date of your writing Turn of the Tide. There is an expression reminiscent of one of Winston Churchill's best and I wondered which of you got there first. The reference is to "blood, sweat and tears".

Kindest regards

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. K. Ford", written over a horizontal line.

E. K. Ford

Edwin K. Ford  
12 BAKER STREET  
YARMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA  
9 February 1960

Dr. T. H. Raddall  
Liverpool  
NOVA SCOTIA.

Dear Tom:

Probably I should explain at the outset so as to give you a little warning, I write an editorial a week for the YARMOUTH HERALD, DARTMOUTH FREE PRESS, KENTVILLE ADVERTISER AND THE EVENING NEWS of New Glasgow and after finding through conversation that there is real interest in Winston Churchill's use or the co-incidence - it doesn't matter which - involved in your "...blood....sweat ....tears...." phrase from AT THE TIDE'S TURN I wanted to do an article on it. Naturally I would not do it without your permission.

Possibly you remember giving me the details on this in a letter before me dated January 17, 1959. Be assured I will not use a direct quotation from a personal letter and, if you wish, I would send you a copy of the article for perusal before I send it in.

Another thing that just popped into my head. I have the 'honor' of being the chairman of the Program Committee of the Rotary Club here. I remember you never would go to the Halifax Club but our group of fifty or so would be thrilled - I use the word in its true sense and not carelessly - if you would come and we'd pay the expenses. Better still, because we meet Monday noon, come up on a Sunday afternoon, bring Edith with you, spend the night with Verna and me and give the old folks a little extra pleasure in retirement. Sometime in April?

Kindest regards

*Edwin*

January 17th, 1959

Dear Edwin,

You're not the first to notice the coincidence and to ask the same question. Here's the answer.

I wrote "At The Tide's Turn" in the early autumn of 1939, and on November 1 I received a letter from Blackwood's Magazine accepting it and enclosing a cheque for £27 in payment. They published it some time between then and January 1940. (I can't find my old copy of the magazine, but my Blackwood tales usually appeared about two months after acceptance, never more than three.)

The phrase, "blood in that ~~ink~~ change, and sweat and tears" came to my mind from nowhere -- possibly a memory of boyhood Sunday School lessons about Christ's passion. Anyhow it expressed exactly what was in "Dunt's" mind and I wrote it down. Years later (1947) the tale re-appeared in the collection of my magazine tales called "The Wedding Gift", published by McClelland & Stewart.

Mr. Churchill, as you know, came to the Prime Minister's office in May 1940, succeeding Chamberlain. On May 13 he uttered his famous reference to "blood, sweat and tears." Maybe he, too, remembered his Sunday School lessons. I understand he has been a lifelong subscriber to Blackwood's Magazine, and if he had any time for reading in that black spring of 1940 he must have read my story.

I've often been tempted to write and ask him where he got that phrase, but it seemed presumptuous and I never did. I still wonder.

With every regard,

Edwin K. Ford, Esq.

Feb. 11, 1961

Dear Edwin,

I have no objection to your proposed article on the "blood, sweat and tears" quotation, but I hope you will make clear that I regard it simply as a coincidence. To imply that Mr. Churchill picked up the phrase from my story in Blackwood's Magazine would be presumptuous -- indeed fatuous.

I have checked back through my old correspondence with Blackwood, and I find that my story "At The Tide's Turn" was published in their issue of November, 1939. At that time they were paying their contributors on or shortly before publication, and in a letter dated Oct. 23/39 they sent me a cheque for £27, saying, " 'At The Tide's Turn' is included in the contents of 'Naga' for November."

In a letter dated August 19/39 they acknowledged receipt of the story, hence I must have written it in July or in the early days of August -- not in the early autumn as I thought when I wrote to you before.

As I've said, the phrase came out of the back of my head. I wanted a crisp phrase that would express the inward and outward agony of a people facing a long and cruel war. Long afterwards, when various people commented on the similarity of my phrase and Mr. Churchill's, I could only suppose that he and I had both drawn from a common source. In my case the only thing I can think of is St. Luke's description of Christ in Gethsemane -- "his sweat was as it were great drops of blood" -- though I was certainly unconscious of this at the time. "Sweat and blood" came into my mind, with the added word "tears", and I put them down. Mr. Churchill went one better and added "toil", in his great speech of May 13, 1940.

It's very kind of you to invite me to address the Rotary Club at Yarmouth, and to stay overnight with you; but I am wrestling with a subject and material for a new book, an all-absorbing business, and I must stick to my desk for months to come.

Sincerely,

Mr. Edwin K. Ford