

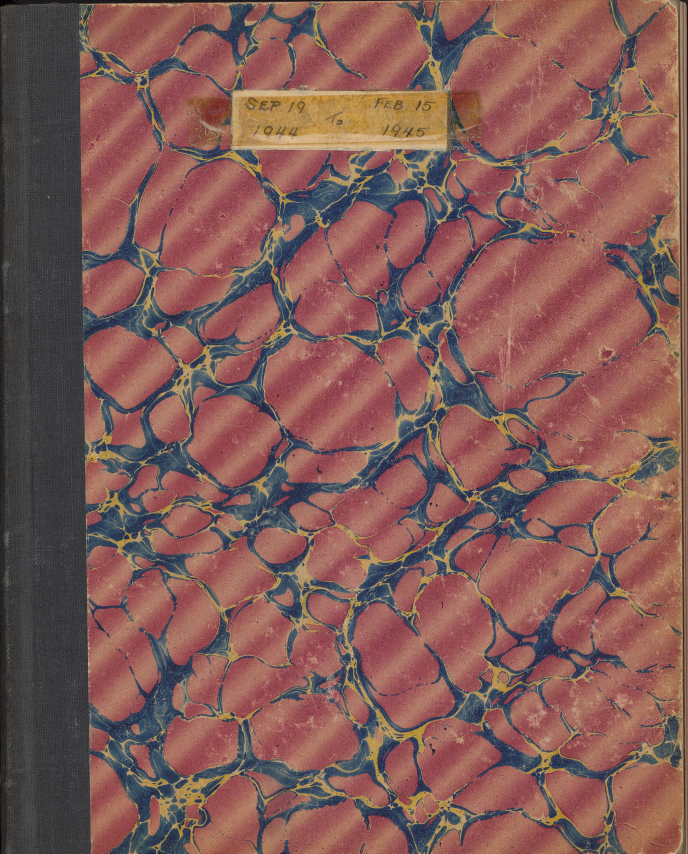
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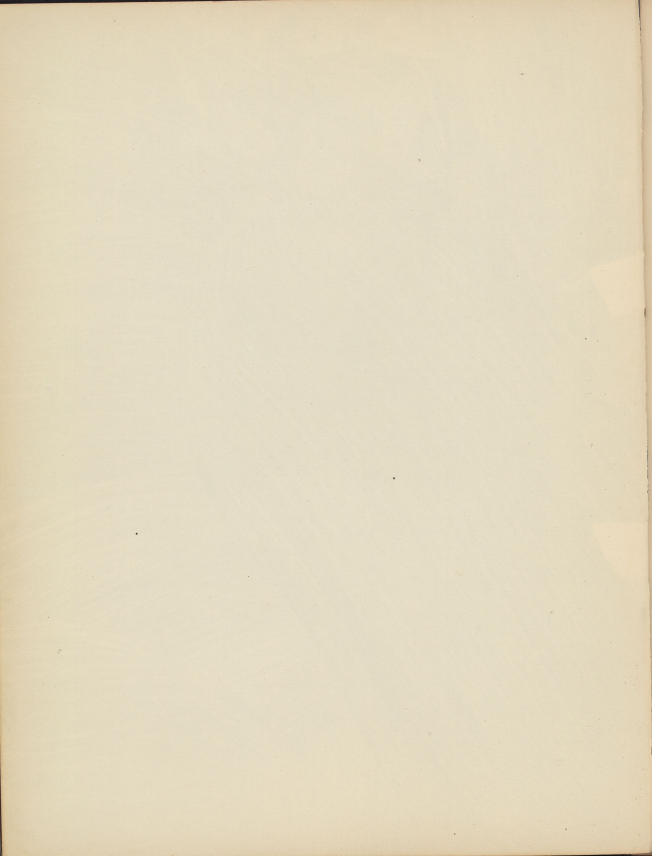
FEB 15

1944

to

1945





THOMAS H. RADDALL
LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

Diary.

Thomas H. Raddall II.

Sep. 19, 1944 to Feb. 15, 1945

have entered Hungary. Finland has signed an armistice with Russia. The terms are harsh: the chief points - Finland to pay an indemnity equal to 30 million U.S. dollars within 6 years; the port & region of Petsamo in the north, with its valuable nickel mines, to be ceded outright to Russia; parts of the Baltic coast to be occupied by Russian troops for 50 years; all Finnish shipping to be handed over. Denmark, long restless under German rule, now is seething with sabotage, strikes, etc., & the Nazis have disarmed & dismissed the Danish police for suspected complicity.

In the Pacific, sharp fighting continues on Palau Island, east of the Philippines; U.S. troops who landed on Morotai, in the Halmaheras, are having less trouble.

U.S. submarines in the Pacific have sunk another 29 Jap ships, including 2 destroyers. Latest official reckoning of Canadian casualties in this war: - (to July 31/44)

| | NAVY | ARMY | RCAF | TOTAL |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Dead | 1,184 | 9,788 | 9,848 | 20,820 |
| Prisoners & missing | 351 | 5,108 | 5,217 | 10,676 |
| Wounded | 303 | 18,343 | 896 | 19,542 |
| | 1,838 | 33,239 | 15,961 | |
| TOTAL | 1,838 | 33,239 | 15,961 | 51,038 |

Canadian merchant marine casualties, 1200, not included in the above.
 Present strength of Canada's armed forces, 769,000.

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 20/44

Gov. Bain invited me to go along with him and Rah Murray, Max Wharton, Herb Johnson (manager, Bank of N.S.), driving to Middleton in Bain's car to see the final ball game between Halifax Shipyards and H.M.C.A. "Cornwallis". Hot weather. The stands were full & we sat along the side-lines. Many navy men & Wrens from Deep Brook, including the C/O. of "Cornwallis" & other brass hats; a great crowd from the Valley towns; & a mob of Halifax shipyard workers, most of them young, flashily dressed, drinking or downright drunken, waving handfuls of money to ~~bet~~^{help} on their team. In view of the recent strike of these young louts, our sympathies were largely with the Navy; but another L'pool. group - Larry Eldon, Victor Scobey & Roger Inness, each bet \$50 on the Shipyards team. The game was very close, & a tie of 4-4 was broken finally in the 11th inning, when a Navy batter, after a 1 base hit, ^{steals and} galloped all the way round the diamond on 2 successive fielding errors by Shipyards. The game ended there & in a sudden torrent of motor traffic we made our way westward along the Valley in search of a meal. Enquiries at Lawrencetown (where the exhibition was in progress) & at Bridgetown revealed that, owing to food difficulties & scarcity of help, the hotels are refusing to serve meals except to their own guests. Many, indeed all, of the little wayside restaurants & "hot dog stands" which used to flourish along the Valley highway, have gone out of business for lack of tourists. As far as we could find out, it is impossible for a wayfarer to get a meal anywhere between Kentville & Annapolis.

In Annapolis, in the Golden Anchor, a fairly large cafe recently opened by an enterprising Chink, we sat down about 7-20. The place was full of Navy people from Deep Brook; service very slow, but after waiting an hour we had a very good dinner.

On to Caledonia, where we found the fair grounds a blaze of light & the North Queens Exhibition in progress. We went in and looked over the simple attractions (Stoby tried Crown-and-Anchor, hoping to pick up some of the \$50 he lost on the ball game, but after dropping another 2 or 3 dollars he quit — "not my day"). It was then 10:15, an hour when country fairs are usually folded for the night, & this one was still going merrily — proof that the farm people now have lots of money to spend. But with all the young men (& many of the adult girls) away in the services, the crowd was an odd mixture of the old & the very young. Home towards midnight. *de "Columbia"*,

THURSDAY, SEP. 21/44. Fine & warm. A destroyer, [✓] one of the old U.S. 4-funnel craft acquired early in the war by the R.C.N., is at Thompson's for a refit — the biggest naval craft yet repaired there. Rumor says she will remain at Liverpool for a depot ship.

Charles Bruce, Canadian Press correspondent, is reported missing on an air-borne operation in Holland. He is a Nova Scotian, son of a fisherman, & a poet of merit. War: Canadians have taken 6,000 German prisoners at Boulogne, with several more strong points to be cleaned up before the port can be used. Other Canadian troops have reached the south bank of the Scheldt estuary.

In Holland, the British 2nd. army has reached & taken Nijmegen, where the great bridge across the Rhine was seized intact by our paratroops just as the Germans were about to blow it up. They are now pouring across the bridge to attempt relief of the British 1st. Airborne Division, which has been cut off & badly mauled near Arnhem — the Germans claim 2800 prisoners there, including the general commanding the division. Bitter fighting in Italy about Rimini & north of Florence. Today in Rome an Italian court condemned to death Pietro Caruso, chief of police, who handed over dozens of hostages to be shot by the Germans. The sentence — to be shot in the back. Russians still driving hard on Riga.

In Canada, the Commonwealth Air Training Plan is being drastically reduced. It has produced over 100,000 air crewmen. The staff of 64,000 will be down to about 35,000 by next Feb'y.

FRIDAY, SEP. 22/44 Heavy rain this morning, fine with a brisk NW. wind this afternoon. Had a good walk around Western Head. The Governor General (Earl of Athlone) & Princess Alice are touring Nova Scotia & will spend next week-end at Liverpool. Mayor Wright asked me to write an address for him. Did this tonight.

War: Position of the British 1st. airborne division near Arnhem very grave. Our 2nd Army is held up 6 miles to the south by strong German forces. Canadians have crushed the last German resistance at Boulogne; total bag, 7300 prisoners. Americans have cleared Brest; bag not stated.

In Italy today, Greek troops occupied the port of Rimini, after Canadian, British & Indian troops had fought through the hills & out-flanked the German defenders. The Po valley is now open to our armor. Allied planes from Italy have dropped more arms & supplies to Polish citizens fighting inside Warsaw. Germans evacuated Tallinn, capital of Estonia, & appear to be in full retreat towards Riga.

In the Pacific, U.S. carrier-borne planes struck Manila on Wednesday, destroyed 200 Jap planes, sank or damaged 37 Jap ships. Japs have proclaimed martial law in the Philippines "because invasion is imminent". Chas. Bruce, the missing C.P. correspondent, is safe. His plane made a forced landing in Belgium.

SATURDAY, SEP. 23/44 Fine & cool. The Dominion Victory Loan Committee wired me for permission to make a radio play of my story "A Muster of Arms", to be broadcast over the national network in connection with the forthcoming loan. I wired approval. Gave Mayor Wright the address of welcome to the G-I. He is sending it to Mount St. Vincent to be hand-written on a scroll by one of the nuns. = A sharp frost tonight, the first of this autumn.

SUNDAY, SEP. 24/44. A chilly morning, a fine hot day. Smith, Parker & Dunlap went up to Eagle Lake yesterday. I went up this morning with Jack Dunlap & Tommy, walking in the long trail from Big Falls & cutting out a number of windfalls with

my ax. Found Jack Freeman Jr. & Roy Gordon had walked in to camp just ahead of us. Busy day, tarring the camp roof, cutting pillars for the verandah, digging rock ballast for the wharf. Tommy & Jack went in for a dip. They can now swim quite well. Left camp about 7 p.m., breezing down Big Falls pond in a big boat borrowed from the Power Commission, & pushed along by an outboard motor belonging to Dunlap. Temp. at 10 p.m. 35° Fahrb & falling. We picked out modest crop of squash & tomatoes to save them from frost.

War: Our airborne force still holding out beyond Arnhem. Relieving column of 2nd Army fighting furiously with Germans for the Arnhem bridge across the Rhine. The Luftwaffe has shown unusual strength in this area & there is plenty of German armor. The Hun seems to consider this battle a decisive one. All along the Siegfried Line the U.S. troops are now held up, & in France, near Nancy, the Germans are actually attacking in considerable strength.

In Italy, Canadians are now 4 miles beyond Rimini, the 5th Army is advancing as fast as the 8th, & the whole Gothic Line has been abandoned by the Germans. { Colby: this proved a piece of sheer optimism or part of the 5th Army's propaganda. The Gothic Line was still held & the Germans fought on for weeks. }

MONDAY, SEP. 25/44. Fine & cool. Spent most of the day cleaning my furnace, stowing firewood, cleaning the cellar & burning rubbish. Francis Tupper died shortly after noon today at ~~his~~ ^{his own} home in Milton. He was 68. Tonight I represented the Legion at a meeting in town hall, called by the ministers to draw up plans for celebration of Victory Day, whenever it comes. The ministers want the whole day

devoted to prayer. Praiseworthy, but there will be a mob in the streets looking for something to discharge their excitement. Navy & air force officers present thought that V-day would not come till spring, anyhow, & there would be lots of time to think it over. Arrangements were left to a committee, of which I am one.

War: Our paratroopers are still holding out beyond Arnhem. The narrow supply corridor of the relieving British 2nd. Army has been twice cut by German attacks from both sides. Canadian 1st. Army is moving up in support. Other Canadians today launched a terrific attack on Calais, preceded by 1000 tons of bombs dropped by R.C.A.F. U.S.A.F. made another terrific bomb assault on the Rhine towns. Germans have abandoned the whole of Estonia. The Russian fleet, long penned up in Leningrad, is out in the Baltic & Helsinki reports heavy gunfire at sea. Mr. & Mrs. Churchill have arrived in England from the Quebec Conference, aboard the "Queen Mary", the same ship in which they sailed to Halifax.

TUESDAY, SEP 26/44

Walked to Milton this afternoon. Cecil Day wants me to write a little tribute to Francis Tupper so I stopped to ask Sid Morton (his cousin) for some details of his life before 1923. Sid & his stupid son Fred live in the old Morton home, a fine big house on the hillside facing the river from the east. They live a pleasant, slipshod life, centering their interest upon a little trotting horse "Sunny Hal", which Sid bought from F. B. McCurdy 2 or 3 years ago. Fred takes the horse around the Maritime racetrack circuit & occasionally wins some money.

He showed me the trotter's pedigree & earning sheets for the past 2 years (about \$1,000).

I wanted the exact date of Tupper's college class, so we jumped in Sid's ramshackle car & drove to Tupper's house. The widow of Francis' brother Archie now lives in the front part of it: she gave us the key to the back part & we went in. Everything just as Francis left it; the murky kitchen in which he lived, with its cobwebbed corners & smoke-blackened ceiling, the rusty stove, the table littered with books & documents, the rude iron bed with its ragged & filthy blankets. We went up the back stairs to the little bedroom in which he died. This was a surprise, very clean, simply furnished with a small wooden bed & dresser. The walls bare, unpapered, with no ornament except 2 group photos of his college class & football team. A pair of heavy corduroy knee-breeches, part of his old football costume, hung from a hook near the head of his bed. He was expelled from Acadia for a scrape in the 90's & the affair soured his life. There was no date on the class pictures & I came away so wiser.

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 27/44 Fine & cool. Went to Francis Tupper's funeral this afternoon. Religious service in the Baptist Church, full Masonic ritual at the grave. Not many mourners; mostly elderly men.

Afterwards I talked with Russ & John Walker, & Sid Morton, & got from them a list of the various log-marks of old time Milton lumbermen. War: - our airborne division beyond Arnhem has been crushed after a gallant 10-day fight against an enemy well equipped with armor & artillery. Germans claim 6500 prisoners, many of whom are wounded, & 1500 killed. It seems clear proof that parachute troops, when used against a well-equipped enemy, must be dropped within

quick striking distance of the main land force. These troops were dropped 40 or 50 miles behind the German lines, & the land force had to cross two wide branches of the Rhine delta, against German resistance, to come to their relief. German radio commentators say that Germany has recovered from the swift defeat in France, & that "allied armies will get no more easy victories in the West."

THURSDAY, SEP. 28/44 Foggy & chill. A furnace fire most of the day.

Brent Smith asked me to come & get some surplus tomatoes from his garden. Went this afternoon & Brent loaded the back seat of my car with tomatoes (green & ripe) beets, grapes & a huge pumpkin.

War: Mr. Churchill gave a long review of this year's events, to the Commons today. He said there are now between 2 & 3 million allied troops in France, Belgium & Holland, & that 40% are British. In the great summer campaign in France & Belgium, British casualties were 90,000 K, W & M. U.S. casualties, 145,000 K, W & M. German casualties close to 900,000, of whom 500,000 were prisoners, "with the garrisons of Lorient, Calais & Dunkirk still to come, & another 200,000 cut off on the coast of Holland with small chance of escape". Of the British forces on the Burma frontier he said the 14th Army numbered between 250,000 and 300,000. It had engaged & defeated five-sixths of the Japanese troops in Burma-India theatre & killed 50,000 or 60,000 Japs. The 14th Army had suffered 40,000 battle casualties and 285,000 hospital admissions for tropical disease. In the Italian

theatre, he said, one half of (U.S.) Gen. Mark Clark's 5th Army was British; the 8th Army was entirely British with exception of some attached brigades of Poles, Greeks & Italians.

FRIDAY, SEP. 29/44 Rain all night, heavy S.E. wind this morning. This afternoon I walked to Milton & back in bright sunshine. The private railway cars of the Gov.-General (they appear to be 2 pullmans & 1 ordinary diner, painted the usual olive green) arrived in town this afternoon from Yarmouth at the tail of the regular Hfx. train, & are parked on the small siding behind the station. The G.-G. & staff stopped off to inspect the Shelburne naval base & came on to Lpool. by motor car about 5:30 p.m. The train carries its own squad of Mountie guards, all in red dress jackets. I understand the stay in Liverpool is to be more or less private, to give their excellencies a chance to rest after the incessant public functions of their Nova Scotia tour.

War: Canadians besieging Calais have granted a 24-hour truce for the evacuation of the civilian population. Canadians are fighting hard for German strong points on Cap Gris Nez & have already over-run a number of the big 14-inch guns used for bombarding Dover. (German radio claims German garrisons are still holding out at Dunkirk, Calais, Lorient, Rochelle & on both sides of the Garonne mouth leading to the port of Bordeaux). Airmen report masses of new German troops & material pouring into Holland north of the Rhine.

The Luftwaffe is showing strength, & today Canadian Spitfires shot down 28 planes, making their total 80 this week. Ralston is in Italy again. MacNaughton retired from the army today with the rank of full general.

SATURDAY, SEP. 30, 1944

Fine & cool. Mayor Wright asked me to act as guide to the G. S. on a visit to one or two spots of interest in the town. He sent a car for me at 11 A.M. & he & Madden, M.L.A. & I arrived at the train together. We were greeted & invited aboard by ^{Major Mark} Clayton, the A.D.C., a slim, wiry young man who shook hands scout-fashion, left-handed, & was very deft & good-humored. We entered a drawing room & met Miss Vera Lorenfell, the lady-in-waiting, a tall & sprightly spinster of 35 or 40, with a long face & an odd fashion of shutting her large eyes with a pair of enormous lids & opening her mouth very wide when making a statement of any sort. She & Clayton were good conversationalists & we talked for a few minutes on various matters - Madden (primed with a drink or two as usual) discoursing in a loud voice on the price of fish, of chocolates, etc. - & Wright smiling & urbane in his best funeral-director's clothes.

His Excellency came in & we were introduced by Clayton. Athlone is a soldierly man, very tall & straight. He talks jerkily, in an undertone, does not meet your eyes, & seems stand-offish. Later he unbent a lot & I could not determine whether his manner was due to excessive shyness or to stupidity. H.R.H. the Princess Alice came in, a small, vivacious & handsome woman with a manner as easy as His Excellency's was stiff. She told me at once that she had read a good deal of my work, & His Excellency remarked heavily that he had been reading about Liverpool in an article of mine, pointing to copy of Maclean's in a magazine rack.

Off we went to town, an imposing little procession: - the G. S. & his A.D.C. with Mayor Wright leading in an army motor car driven

by a smart W.A.C., then Madden & H.R.H. in a second army car,
& finally myself in a town car with Miss Greenfell; all preceded by
a pair of army motor-cyclists & accompanied by a squad of red-coated
Mounties. We went to the Fort, where I pointed out various matters
of interest & told something of the history of the town. H.E. asked many
questions, most of them dull & humorless, & I found H.R.H. much the more
intelligent of the two. Clayton was everywhere, like an alert little Cairn
terrier (his moustache, I suppose). Then back to the cars, with much
jumping to attention & saluting by escort & drivers. Another stop at
the Perkins house. We all went inside & garrulous old Mrs. Day was
there to do the honors for the museum. H.E. wrote his name slowly &
with great care in the guest book, & popped a dollar into the
gift-box, informing Mrs. Day ~~and~~ gravely that she must "take
very good care of the moneybox". H.R.H. signed her name
quickly & gracefully as she does everything & forth we went to
the cars. More saluting, many townspeople & sailors on the sidewalk,
much clicking of amateur cameras. On to town hall & the I.O.O.G.
room for servicemen, where Mrs. Millard & many of her ladies were
waiting. The party were much interested in the collection of ship-souvenirs
on the walls, & the I.-G., remembering something in my Maclean's article, asked
me for the story of the Gorhams, whose portraits hang on the end wall.
His unvarying comments, to me & to others who engaged him in conversation,
were "Int' resting, very int' resting!" or "Quite! Quite!" or "Amusing,
very amusing." He impressed me as a dull, kindly but stiff

old gentleman, rather dazed by the long & strenuous tour of the Maritimes but determined to carry things through with a good bearing. Finally we returned to the train & their excellencies thanked us each, separately, with handshakes. We shook hands also with Clayton & Miss Grenfell; & just as we took our departure the Mountie sergeant, a fine-looking chap named Fraser, asked to be introduced to me, told me he had "read everything I wrote" & asked me to autograph a book for him.

I understand their excellencies spent the afternoon up-river at Mersey Lodge, a beautiful place just now. They are to attend Trinity Church tomorrow, & Bishop Kingston is to preach.

News: ^{During} the first snow on the prairies, chiefly about Edmonton. ^{soldiers} Canadian have taken Cap Gris Nez ^{in 7 years} with 1300 prisoners & all of the 11" & 15" guns which for 4 years had bombarded Dover & Folkestone. (I can remember seeing the flash of Gris Nez lighthouse very clearly across the Channel from Hythe when I was a boy.)

In the past few weeks British submarines have sunk 37 German ships, from the Arctic Ocean to the Aegean Sea. Stiff fighting in Holland, where our 2nd. Army ^{was} slowly widening its wedge to the Rhine. In Italy our troops have "crossed the Rubicon" in fact & in force; a small stream, it seems. The ghost of Caesar must have rubbed its eyes.

SUNDAY, ~~SEP~~ OCT. 1, 1944. Overcast with an E. wind. We had planned an expedition to Eagle Lake today but gave it up, expecting rain. The G-G & his party attended service at Trinity Church this

morning. The scouts, cubs (including Tommy) and brownies (incl. Frances) were drawn up on the school grounds across the street, & stood nearly two hours in the raw wind, awaiting & then undergoing inspections by their excellencies. The regal pair made a thorough job of it - H.R.H. spoke to each of the brownies; Francie received a pat and a "Where's your badge, dear?" (she had lent it to another little girl.) To Milton this afternoon & walked "around the bridges". Red maples now in fall color & the islands are lovely.

War: Germans at Calais surrendered a few hours after Canadians resumed their assault; about ~~7,000~~^{7,000} prisoners. The port is badly wrecked.

Dissensions between the exiled Polish govt. in London and the "new Poland" group (formed amongst refugees in Russia) have flared again. The London Poles represent chiefly the big landowners, who hate the Russians for their land-division schemes. - which schemes the Moscow Poles have adopted with enthusiasm. Since the Russians are now driving the Germans out of Poland, it is clear they will establish a government in Warsaw favorable to themselves, & the London govt. will simply be a name. While all this is going on, the Polish patriots inside Warsaw, under mysterious "General Bor", are being slowly hemmed in & cut up by the German garrison, while the Russian troops sit passive across the Vistula.

MONDAY, OCT. 2/44. ^{Solo's} The deer hunting season opened today in dull easterly weather. Small ^{supplies} of shotgun & rimfire ammunition were ~~made~~ available this year, carefully rationed - you had to produce your gun registration, etc. - but no centre-fire cartridges, so that the deer hunters are chiefly dependent on

their own carefully hoarded pre-war supply. There is plenty of .303 service ammo (sold ashore by sailors off the corvettes) but not many have .303 rifles. They alter the bullet for hunting purposes by filing the point off (very crude) or drilling a small hole down through the tip to a depth of about $\frac{3}{16}$ ", which makes the jacket "mushroom" on striking a fairly hard object.

closed season on partridge this year, & the closed season on moose is continued despite loud protests from the "let's-kill-everything" type of sportsman. The presidential election in the U.S. is getting very warm. Mr. Dewey has just completed a very well organized tour of the country, speaking of Pres. Roosevelt with the customary Republican invective, & blaming him for everything imaginable, including the U.S.A.'s unpreparedness for war. He has a good reputation for cleaning up organized rackets in New York, & has made a good governor of New York state. He has big business behind him, & most of the newspapers, but as Alice Longworth Roosevelt said the other day, "I can't ^{see} ~~as~~ President of the U.S. a man who looks exactly like the bridegroom ^{and} ~~at~~ a wedding cake!" (Dewey is small, dapper, with neat black hair carefully parted, & a small black toothbrush mustache).

War: U.S. 1st Army has opened an assault on the Siegfried Line near Aachen. Can. 1st Army is pushing into Holland near Turnhout, N.E. of Antwerp. British 2nd Army is still fighting hard to maintain its corridor to Nijmegen. In Jugoslavia, Russian troops have joined forces with part of Tito's army S.E. of Belgrade. The Germans evidently are withdrawing successfully a great part

of the estimated 200,000 troops in Greece & lower Yugoslavia. British Commandos, supported in part by Canadian naval craft, landed on island of Ceythera, at the south tip of Greece, & found the German garrison gone.

In the Pacific, U.S. forces in the Palau Islands reckon they have killed about 10,000 Japs.

TUESDAY, OCT. 3/44. A howling westerly gale all night, with rags of cloud blowing across the face of a full moon, & freezing cold. Lit the furnace this morning & kept it going. This afternoon I mowed the lawn, pruned the birch & ash trees, dismantled the stick-and-rope fence around my little kitchen-garden, & raked the stones & trash from the street in front of my house. (The latter job I perform frequently: we have not had a street-cleaning gang in town for 2 years, & grass is growing in the gutters.) I also took my car over to the service station to have the anti-freeze put in. No glycerine is available but we use alcohol at 45¢ a quart. And I purchased 1 quart of Barbados rum @ 4⁰⁰ for my hunting trip later in the month. Jack Chaplin sent over a few cans of surplus pears & peaches from his summer cottage at Barto's Beach.

Morning (8 am), noon, & night (6 p.m. & 11 p.m.) we tune in to the news broadcasts, as we have done now for more than 5 years. At half-past noon, too, I tune to Berlin for the official German communique in English, which often gives news of Allied movements days before our own brass-hats consider it safe to do so. The German broadcast at this hour is aimed at South Africa, and

is always preceded by a few bars of Schubert's Marche Militaire, & then a voice with a perfect English ^{accent} declares the date and "Here is the official German war communique". The Fuhrer's headquarters announces —

The broadcast is always followed by bits of less official news, usually accounts of strikes, disturbances etc. in Allied countries, & finally there are greetings from South African prisoners of war, 3 each day, to relatives at home.

War: the Polish insurrection inside Warsaw under Komorowski, alias "General Bor", has been crushed after 63 days fighting. Germans say the whole city is in ruins and civilian casualties have been huge.

In China things are going from bad to worse. Chinese troops & officers are of low fighting quality & their continual retreats before the Japs have obliged U.S.A.F. squadrons to destroy & abandon airdrome after airdrome — all of which had been expensively equipped with material flown from India over the Himalayas.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4/44 Sharp frost last night. Temp. 25° at 8 a.m. Kept the furnace going over-night for the first time this season. A lovely walk around Western Head this afternoon, sunny, with a cold north wind. Fishermen & their women out in the fields digging potatoes. Stopped for a yarn with old Jim Conrad & munched one of his carrots — I love a raw carrot fresh out of the ground. Tommy & Francis delighted today to find that they can lift Mama right off the ground. They went to the ball park tonight to patronise Bill Lynch's "show" — a merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, a ride on live ponies, a hot-dog booth, & half a dozen try-your-

luck booths, most of which seemed to be Crown- & Anchor under various thin disguises. Lynch has a large collection of these things really, & they make the round of the larger towns & the autumn fairs; on the tag end of the season he splits up his "attractions" & sends them to pick up the last dollars of the season in small towns like L'pool. He pays our Legion branch a fee varying from \$200 to \$500 & advertises "under the auspices of the war veterans" or "the Canadian Legion".

News: Ottawa says that prices generally in Canada now stand at 18% above pre-war level. Gov't is anxious to persuade us that the price ceiling has been reasonably well maintained. Nothing is said about the fact that shoes at only 18% above pre-war price are shoddy & worthless, clothing little better, that cans of food (when available at all) contain less, that cans in some cases are openly & blatantly smaller, & so on all the way down the list. When these things are taken into account it seems to me we are paying at least 50% more than pre-war prices.

THURSDAY, OCT. 5/44 Fine & warm. Spent all afternoon washing & installing storm windows on the east side of the house (downstairs). Also cut away some of my too-luxuriant shrubbery.

War: it is revealed that British troops are on the Greek mainland & have taken the port of Patras. The garrison, 1200 Germans & 1300 Greek "collaborators", surrendered without a fight.

FRIDAY, OCT. 6/44 Overcast. Mayor Wright tells me the town is urging Ottawa to build a proper recreation centre for naval men in Liverpool, to contain a wet canteen, also a dance floor.

Such a place, it is hoped, will eliminate much of the promiscuous boozing by sailors, which litters the streets, alleys & lawns & gardens with empty bottles. Navy hops have been held once or twice a week in the Yacht Club or more usually in the school auditorium.

But as a result of continued misbehavior the Yacht Club has been closed to them & the school is only permitting 1 dance per month.

Mrs. E. Millard & other good ladies of the I.O.D.C. still valiantly "chaperone" these dances, but the tone of the affairs has gone from bad to worse. The sailors invite their own partners, often choosing the lowest whores in the district, & there is always high revel in the woods behind the school & even in the school, where the janitors frequently find evidence of drinking & fornication in classrooms & toilets. This has become intolerable & the only course is a recreation hall to be run by the Navy itself.

The I.O.D.C. room in the town hall will continue to provide entertainment for men only, & with no liquor permitted, for those who prefer quiet recreation.

Had a long talk about Micmac place-names & legends with Sam Glode this afternoon. He is the oldest (66) & most intelligent ^{Indian} in this part of Queens, lives alone in a small shack on the northern outskirts of Two Mile Hill.

War: British troops have landed on the Greek island of Samos, where a garrison of 1000 Fascist Italians surrendered after firing a few shots.

SATURDAY, OCT. 7, 1944.

A gorgeous day, like June. A small parcel by mail brought me the silver medal of the Governor-General's Award, which a representative of McClelland & Stewart, on my behalf, (I couldn't get there) accepted at the annual dinner of the Canadian Authors' Association at Hamilton. It is a simple disc of silver with the Canadian coat of arms in relief on one side, and the circular lettering "Governor General's Annual Literary Award"; on the reverse side is my name and "Fiction. 1944".

For 2 years Edith has persevered in teaching Tommy to play the piano. Tonight there was a break in the "music" & I heard him burst out bitterly, "Why do you make me do this? I hate it! I hate it!" It was like an echo from my own childhood. From 7 to 17 I was forced to strum a piano until I came to hate all music - a hatred which prevented me from enjoying the music of others until I was 30. I spoke up quickly in the boy's defence, & Edith released him from the torture. But she sulked all evening. In 2 years of unimaginative firmness she had failed to see that the boy hadn't the touch, the ear or any other of the qualities which make a pianist, keeping his nose to that ivory- & mahogany grindstone; ~~and~~ ^{and} I couldn't keep silent any more.

War: autumn rains are slowing up fighting on all fronts. Canadians are fighting their way across the Leopold Canal east of Bruges, with the aim of clearing the south bank of the Scheldt. U.S. troops are slowly widening their narrow breach in the Siegfried Line near Aachen. The terrific air assault on

German industries continues. In the past 24 hours 6000 to 7000 British & U.S. planes have dropped 12,000 tons of bombs there.

The Luftwaffe is fighting back hard, & today the U.S.A. alone lost 51 bombers & 15 fighters. A few robot-bombs, launched from planes over the North Sea, fell in London again today.

SUNDAY, OCT. 8/44.

Decided to use some of my carefully saved gas on a "leaf drive", which we have not taken for 2 years. Left L'pool. in thick fog at 10 a.m. Had a puncture in Milton & had to drive across the river & dig old George Hemson out to fix it. As usual now, it meant a general inspection of tires, & a shuffle to make sure that the most serviceable tubes were in the most serviceable tires. In addition to my dubious spare, I carried another hoary relic (& tube) in the back seat with the kids. Left the fog behind at Milton & enjoyed the autumn foliage at its best. South Brookfield is a changed place since the big woodenware factory burned. Nothing is left but a small sawmill built & operated by the ~~C. H.~~ Eddy Co., who apparently bought the old site. Of Bienvenue Frères no sign remains except of course the 3 or 4 good houses (& the little catholic church) they built for themselves, and the cheap little boxes they built to house the cheap French labor they brought down from Quebec.

They bargained for timber like Jews, paid the lowest wages known in Queens County since the hungry '20's, & sold their stuff at high prices at home & in the West Indies. Lionel Bienvenue told Tom Ratchford (a fellow catholic & very close friend) in 1938 that the

firm had cleared a profit of \$100,000 that year. What they made in these fat war years one can only guess, & the fire which liquidated the capital investment (well insured) at the moment when the war's end came into sight, was a most remarkable thing. Bienvenue Trénes & their French employees have gone back to Quebec.

We had a picnic lunch by the pond of a little shingle mill on the Ohio river, just before New Germany. Lovely there & all the way down the Lahave. At Bridgewater fog again, & fog all the way through West Lahave & Dublin & Petite Rivière. I had phoned Arenburg's to arrange dinner at 5.30 but we arrived at 3. Fooled away some of the time by exploring the summer colony at Green Bay. At Arenburg's we found old Mrs. Birchall with her pet dog Peggy; & a peculiar black & yellow bird with a long beak & a bright yellow eye. The bird, she informed us, taking the bird out of its cage for our inspection, was a toupial (pronounced "too-peel") from Venezuela. He could whistle ~~loudly~~ loudly & softly on 2 notes & (she informed us) could whistle the Assembly bugle call when he was in the mood.

Her husband came trudging in. A short brisk man with a grey moustache & imperial beard, pince-nez, bald, with shrewd black eyes & a lively manner. He is Frederick T. Birchall, an Englishman associated 40 years with the N. Y. Times, first as a foreign correspondent & finally as managing editor. Mrs. Birchall's hobby is aviculture & she talks fluently but solemnly about birds all the time.

Birchall is now retired, has fallen in love with Nova Scotia, & has transformed an old farmhouse at Petite Riviere into a fine residence. He has never given up his British citizenship, & now wants to spend his last days "under the old flag", as he sentimentally puts it; wintering in Jamaica, summering at Petite Riviere.

Home about 8 p.m. News: Wendell Willkie, former candidate for the presidency of the U. S., & well known all over the world, died suddenly today. He was one of the few Republican politicians who could see beyond the end of his nose in world affairs.

MONDAY, OCT. 9/44 Thanksgiving Day. It began with an explosive thunderstorm in the night, followed by fog, which deepened to a drizzle & finally became torrential rain. Gordon, Dunlap, Smith, Lusk, Jack Freeman & I had arranged a deer hunt for today "rain or shine", so we set off about 7.30 A.M. The river road was one long parade of "sportsmen" in cars, cruising along at 15 M.P.H., peering at the woods on either hand, ready to shoot anything resembling a deer. This is against the law, but the law is impossible to enforce without some sort of motor police in considerable number, & a certain type of hunter (mostly tournament) spends the hunting season comfortably in a car on the wooded roads. At Indian Gardens we borrowed a canoe & a light sponson skiff of Messy Paper Co's, Dunlap hitched his Grinnode to the skiff & away we sailed up First Lake, towing the canoe. In the thick mist we managed to find the hardwood ridge which runs up the east side of

the East Brook flowage. Gordon & Freeman hunted up the west flank of the ridge, Sunlap & I up the east. Smith, who had no rifle, came with us. Soon after we separated the heavens opened, & we swam rather than walked through the waist-high huckleberries & swamp grass. In the wild meadows east of the ridge we found many tracks of moose & deer, & in the woods on the edge of it we flushed several deer; none afforded a shot except one slim young doe with a fawn no bigger than a collie dog. I knew the fawn would starve or perish anyhow this winter if I shot the doe so I let her walk into the obscurity of a thicket. The fawn stood, curious & unafraid, & I called Smith over to look at it. We inspected each other for several minutes in the downpour & then Smith & I resumed the hunt north-eastward. Towards noon we halted for lunch, got a hot fire going under the "shelter" of a very ragged spruce & made tea. That done, & thoroughly soaked, we tramped back through the reeking meadows & found Sunlap coaxing a fire amongst the tangle of driftwood left by last winter's ice & thaw at high water mark. We carried up the canoe, turned it over a couple of logs, & sat in its narrow shelter until G. & F. showed up like drowned rats. They had seen nothing. We turned homeward, wet but cheerfully, & spent the rest of the evening drying & oiling our rifles & gear.

News: Churchill, Eden & the British Chief of imperial staff, Sir Alan Brooke, are in Moscow conferring with Stalin. On the fronts the war goes slowly. Snow is falling on parts of the Russian front &

in the Italian hills. British casualties in Greece since the first landing a few weeks ago are exactly 3 K.F.W. & they have the whole of the Peloponnese! The Germans have evacuated the whole country, leaving small garrisons, chiefly composed of Greek mercenaries, at key points.

TUESDAY, OCT. 10/44. Weather cleared today. To Milton this afternoon & had another long talk with Sam Glode. News: Russians have cut through Lithuania to the Baltic at Memel & now surround the city. British & loyal Greek troops have entered Corinth. U.S. troops have sent in a demand for surrender of the city of Aachen - "or else". This is the first large German city to come under our guns (pre-war population, 165,000, but many were evacuated by Germans before U.S. troops closed in).

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11/44 A lovely & balmy afternoon after a morning's rain. The ridge behind Whynot Town; & Wildcat & Great Hill are in full color now. Legion meeting tonight. Routine business. News: many houses in Aachen hung out white flags & several groups of civilians & deserting soldiers crept out to the U.S. lines; but they said the German officers of the garrison had threatened to shoot anyone who made a move to surrender. So today the guns & the dive-bombers began to wreck Aachen. The Russians sweeping through Transylvania into Hungary have taken Bluj, cut the Belgrade-Budapest railway & seized Szeged, Hungary's second largest city. Telephone com. between Berlin & Stockholm, cut for several days; rumors of peace agitation inside Germany, & of severe repressive measures by the Gestapo.

THURSDAY, OCT. 12, 1944. Fine & mild. Spent the afternoon talking to John Francis, Indian, in his filthy shack on Two Mile Hill. He is an old reprobate, a most primitive savage, veteran of the 1914 war. His veteran's allowance of \$20 a month has just been increased to \$30.41, for which he thanked me very much. The Indian group on 2 Mile Hill has shrunk almost to nothing. Of course several young men are in the army overseas, but other young men & most of the young women have drifted away. The only men here now are Sam & Peter Glode, Sam's son Louis, John & Andrew Francis, ^{AND FRED FRANCIS.} Malti Francis is still in the lunatic asylum; his son Joe (known as "Chief," jocularly) is in the army overseas. Andrew Francis' two grown sons are also in the army overseas.

FRIDAY, OCT. 13/44 Fog. Tonight at 11:30 we heard a trans-Canada broadcast of a play based on my short story "Master of Arms," & adapted for radio by Tommy Tweed. It lasted 30 minutes & was quite good. A navy dance tonight & as usual the night was hideous with sailors & shrieking whores tramping in a scattered procession up the street to the dens on Waterloo St. & the Western Head road. Impossible to sleep & I got up at 1:30 to read. There are now 12 ships in port - 6 at Thompson's & 6 at Mersey. One is the old destroyer ^{"COLUMBIA"} & now moored to Bartling's wharf for a depot ship. She has a crew of 50. There, & the crews of 3 tugs (15 men each) and 2 harbor launches, & the staff of the Elmwood - "H.M.C.S. Elmwood" (our quondam hotel), & the S.N.O.'s office staff, & the permanent shore patrol (10 seamen & 1 petty officer) bring the

shore establishment here to 130 or 140. And the corvettes & mine-sweepers in for refit have anywhere from 300 to 700 men on board (many are sent off to take courses, or on leave.)

News: Germans are pulling out of Greece faster than our small forces landed there can overtake them, & we hear that Athens is completely in charge of Greek patriot forces awaiting the coming of our troops. We have other small forces ashore in Albania. But of course the Balkan issue was decided when the Russians ploughed through Rumania. They are now well on the way to Budapest. Far to the north the Russians have taken Riga at last & the German line is back to the East Prussian frontier except for the garrisons holding out in Libau & Memel. German troops remain in Finland despite half-hearted attempts of Finnish troops to expel them. In Holland, Brevard's 1st Canadian army is still having a stiff fight south of the Scheldt. The U.S. troops are engaged in a heavy battle at Aachen. The city is burning & street fighting is in progress, with the Germans trying to relieve the garrison by strong attacks from the north & east. Terrific air raids continue over Austria & Germany. In the Pacific, the unchallenged U.S. fleet has sent its aircraft carriers to raid Formosa & the Ryukyu islands closer to Japan, & they claim 63 Jap merchant vessels sunk & over 400 Jap planes destroyed. Madame Chiang Kai Shek, who came to South America for a rest cure, has been shopping in

New York, & there has been some tart press comment on the expensive furs & jewelry she bought, in the light of China's poverty & misery.

The "patriotic" citizens of Montreal have added another racket to their infamous gasoline consumption (more than twice as much gas per car as any other part of Canada!) R.C.M.P. have just uncovered a sugar racket there which shows at least a million pounds of sugar sold illegally.

SUNDAY, OCT. 15/44. To Eagle Lake this a.m. with Parker, Smith, Gordon & Jack Freeman. Took in my sleeping bag & one or two other things, ready for the hunting trip. Strong N.W. wind & driving rain all the way in, trees & bushes dripping - we got there soaked. P. & I spent the afternoon caulking between the camp logs with a tar-gun, amid spasms of sunshine, rain & hail. Hardwood leaves falling fast, but there is still plenty of color - and cover; we didn't see a deer. Walked out to the car at dusk, in driving rain. Soaked again.

News: Hungary has asked the Allies for peace. Admiral Horthy, the regent, made this announcement over the Budapest radio. German troops promptly moved into public buildings & the radio has since been silent.

In Pacific, U.S. navy planes plus B-29's operating from interior China continue their week-long assault on Formosan ports. Tokio claims fantastic losses inflicted on the U.S. forces, such as "27 aircraft carriers sunk, 500 aircraft shot down" etc.

MONDAY, OCT. 16/44 Temp. 25° Fahrt. at 8 a.m. Sunny but chilly all day. I brought Grandma Freeman down to spend the afternoon & evening with us. Marie came in for tea & the evening. Aunt Marie is in town & abed, at Mrs. Andrews', a sort

of genteel boarding house for elderly people of some means. Aunt Marie has reached the hypochondriac stage of old maidery; this time she thinks she has suffered a brain hemorrhage, though Doc. Wickwire can find nothing seriously wrong.

Tommy in seventh heaven; he's been hinting (& lately asking) for a bicycle, to be paid for out of his savings, & I've been persuading him to wait a year or so until the restrictions are lifted from bicycle manufacture, rather than pay a high price for some second-hand thing. However, now that Jim has gone to college, the Parkers say Tommy can use Jim's bike as much as he likes.

News: Canadians have shut off the German garrison on flooded Scheldt island of Walcheren from land communication along the causeway. U.S. troops have withdrawn from their precarious foothold on Fort Driank, Metz. Allied air forces blasted Wilhelmshaven & Hamburg. In far northern Finland, Russians have taken Petsamo, which as a German sea-air base was so long a thorn in the flank of our Murmansk convoys.

In Hungary the Germans have deposed Horthy's gov't, & set up a pro-Nazi regime, but the country is in turmoil, many troops refusing duty, & the Russians are only 40 miles from Budapest. In Jugoslavia the Russians have taken Nish & so cut the main line of retreat for German rearguards evacuating Greece. Today British troops landed at Piraeus & marched into Athens. In the Pacific, U.S. aircraft are still bombing Formosa, & in a big raid on Luzon in the Philippines they claim 100 Jap planes destroyed - making a total of over 600 Jap planes destroyed this week. I may sadly misjudge U. S. fliers, but I think their airmen's claims are fifty percent nonsense.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18, 1944

Fine & warm. Yesterday afternoon & this afternoon I spent with Sam Glode, getting the story of his adventurous life; with my Corona mounted on a little table in his living room. Legion executive meeting last night, discussing plans for Poppy Fund campaign, Armistice Dinner, etc., with result that I spent this entire morning writing letters, advertisements, etc., in this connection.

THURSDAY, OCT. 19/44

Fine & warm despite strong W wind. This afternoon walked around Western Head bareheaded & in shirt sleeves. - & found it warm.

News: Tokio announced that U.S. troops were landing on an island in the Philippines, near the center of the group; called Leyte. It was clear from recent widespread naval-air ops. against Formosa & the Ryukyus - the supply line from Japan - that MacArthur was preparing to strike his blow at the Philippines; but everyone (including the Japs) expected the blow to fall on Mindanao, at the southern end of the group. The Russians, who took Petsamo only a day or so ago, with its valuable nickel mines owned by Canadian International Nickel Co, announce they are confiscating the mines but will pay C.S.W. (thru. the Can. govt) \$25,000,000 (U.S. funds)

Berlin has at last admitted the death of Field-Marshal Rommel "in hospital, from injuries received in a car accident on the West Front." (See entry July 31)

FRIDAY, OCT. 20/44

Fine & warm after a cold night (22°). I dug up my small vegetable garden & applied chemical fertilizer to dissolve through the soil during the winter. This evening I attended a meeting of the Legion's Ladies' Auxiliary & gave them what I hope was a "pep talk" regarding the forthcoming Poppy Fund campaign. Racking my head these days & nights for short story material. Blackwood's proofs of the British edition of "His Majesty's Yankees" arrived today. - They now expect to have

the book on sale "about the first of the year" — just 12 months after they promised to have it on the market. Jarrolds, of London, were keen to have the British rights & offered a good price, but I told my agent to give the book to Blackwood — out of a sense of loyalty. However, I've told the agent to sell the British rights in "Rage Sudden" to Jarrolds or some other progressive firm.

News: U.S. 1st Army has captured Aachen after fierce street fighting; the first large German city to fall into our hands.

Canadians, still thrusting north of Antwerp, advanced 5 miles today. R.A.F. & R.C.A.F. blasted Stuttgart last night, & there were the usual subsidiary day & night raids on other West German centres.

Russians have taken Eydtkuhnen & are now firmly on East Prussian soil. They have taken Debreczen, Hungary's 3rd largest city, after a fierce tank battle on the plains. And in conjunction with Tito's Yugoslav forces the Russians have taken Belgrade after a week's bitter fighting in the streets. The Churchill-Stalin conference at Moscow ended yesterday. They are stated to have discussed questions of self-government for Poland & Jugoslavia.

In the Pacific, it is confirmed that MacArthur has landed in person on the Philippine island of Leyte, with a U.S. army estimated at 250,000. An enormous fleet of warships & transports (including almost the whole Australian navy) conveyed them there.

The Philippine president & cabinet landed with MacArthur. So far there has been only light Jap resistance & the U.S. troops

have over-run a great part of Leyte. In Burma, the British 14th Army has taken Sittim, the Jap base, towards which our troops have been fighting many months. Altogether a great day!

SATURDAY, OCT. 21/44 We got the tail end of a tropical hurricane today, with high wind for a time & torrents of rain. Met young Freeman Supper & had a yarn with him in the Legion rooms. He has been in the R.A.F. Ferry Command nearly 4 years, flying all over the world, & has never been in a serious accident. A clean-looking intelligent lad, he is in Milton for a few days to settle his uncle Francis' estate, & wants me to look over the books & papers for anything that may be of value to the G.C. Historical Society. George Banks died of angina early this morning; he was publisher of the "Saldonia Gold-Hunter" many years, moved to Liverpool in 1938

SUNDAY, OCT. 22/44 At young F. Supper's invitation I went to Francis Supper's house this afternoon & spent 2 hours hunting through the filthy litter of papers & books. Freeman told me to take anything of historical value for myself, & to take anything I didn't want in that line to the historical society. There were pages & pages of scribbled foolscap, on all sorts of subjects, un-numbered & hopelessly mixed up. His library was like his mind, a hodge-podge covering all sorts of weighty subjects, but I took for myself several N.S. county histories, Rands "Micmac Legends", & after a long search I found in a dusty pile of old newspapers the logbook of the Spanish brig "El Hercules", prize to a Liverpool privateer in the 1790's; Francis showed it to me years

ago, when he was busy translating it. Sundry papers & books relating to Nova Scotia history I took away also, & deposited in the Historical Society's bookcases in the Perkins house. Freeman showed me some old photographs he found in a trunk, showing Francis as a young man, in football & baseball teams, and in various groups of tough looking characters, taken I suppose in the Yukon & Australia.

TUESDAY, OCT. 24/44 Cold, clear weather. Spent most of yesterday & today on Legion work — pension claims, jobs, the forthcoming Poppy Fund campaign, & the Armistice Dinner.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25/44 Fine, warm. Took this afternoon "off" for a walk. Rolf Seaborn picked me up on the road to Milton & I rode with him as far as Two Mile Hill, walked home from there.

News: The Jap fleet has tackled U.S. naval forces in the region of the Philippines. As usual in this age of aircraft, the ships are widely scattered & most of the fighting is being done by planes from carriers, with little precise knowledge of the damage done; a battle of this sort may go on for a week. Tonight the U.S. president announced to the nation that the Jap fleet had been defeated. No detail of losses. So far the U.S. admits the loss of 1 carrier, the "Princeton". Japs admit losing 2 light cruisers & some destroyers.

THURSDAY, OCT. 26/44 Fine & warm. Legion work of various kinds, indoor & outdoor, all day & part of this evening. The secretary is new & green, & I'm carrying on all the correspondence myself, besides the phone & leg work.

News: The Jap fleet is fleeing back into hiding with U.S. naval aircraft in search & pursuit. Australian naval forces took part in the action.

U.S. claim 2 Jap battleships sunk, 2 probably sunk, 6 damaged; 5 cruisers sunk, 4 damaged; 3 aircraft carriers sunk, 1 damaged; several destroyers hit. Allied losses admitted: 2 U.S. aircraft carriers sunk, several destroyers & smaller craft damaged.

In the meantime MacArthur's troops are steadily occupying the big island of Leyte & have landed on adjoining Samar.

Russians advancing along the Arctic coast of Norway have seized the port of Kirkenes with large quantities of German supplies.

In Holland the British 2nd. army has by-passed Tilburg. Canadian forces are still slowly clearing out Germans from the south bank of the Scheldt mouth; Germans say Canadians have also landed on the islands of Walcheren & South Beveland which comprise the north bank. The archbishop of Canterbury died today aged 63; he was noted for his liberal views: name, Wm. Temple. Also died, Princess Beatrice, the last surviving child of Queen Victoria.

Some protest in Canada against continuing the wartime "daylight saving" time in the winter months; but Ottawa ruled today that it must continue.

OCT. 28 - NOV. 5/44 Spent this whole week hunting at Eagle Lake with Gordon, Dunlap, Parker - also Smith, who came in for both week ends. Poor luck, although as usual we got flying glimpses of several deer in the thick woods surrounding Eagle Lake.

The only deer we got was a buck shot by Parker at East Brook, whither he, Gordon & Dunlap had gone in sheer desperation. He shot it far up the muddy flowage meadows & they had a hard job lugging the meat to the boat. The weather was bad when we went to Eagle Lake, pouring rain, then snow & hail, with a Temp. of only 7° Fahr. I came down with a heavy cold & was confined to camp for 2 days. But the weather turned fine & was marvellous - hot calm days & cloudless skies, like September: a real Indian summer. Too fine for hunting - all the dead leaves crackling underfoot. We did a lot of hunting in the canoes, on this account: & I muffed a fine shot at a buck which Parker & I spotted from a canoe in Long Lake; I got ashore on a big rock, saw the buck's horns & the top of his head in the huckleberries not more than 30 feet away, took careful aim - & missed. Away went the buck! I cursed my shooting - exactly the same thing happened last year - but Parker suggested it was the rifle-sights. We tested it at a mark & found it shooting 4 inches high at 50 yards. I bought it last year & have never had a real opportunity to test it, owing to the scarcity of ammo. After this, the motto was - aim low; but I got no more opportunities. We all enjoyed the trip, nevertheless, & the week's exercise from morn to night gave us all a much-needed lift.

Was: we got the news daily on Parker's little portable

radio. The U.S. estimate of damage to the Jap fleet in the battle off the Philippines has risen steadily. Finally it was stated that of 90 Jap ships in action only 2 escaped damage or sinking, & one U.S. admiral declared "the Jap navy, as a fighting fleet, has ceased to exist." In Holland the Canadians cleared the south bank of the Scheldt, & Royal Marines in a fierce & bloody landing action seized the island of Walcheren & the port of Flushing; so that Antwerp is now open to Allied traffic.

Germans have evacuated all of Greece & much of Yugoslavia. Russians are at the suburbs of Budapest. Heavy Allied air raids continue day & night on German industrial cities, with the Luftwaffe putting up a stiff fight here & there.

In Ottawa, Col. J. L. Ralston resigned his post as Minister of Defence, obviously because he couldn't stomach the "zombie" situation any more; & wily Willie King promptly replaced him with Gen. Mac Naughton, who favors continuance of the voluntary-enlistment-for-overseas-service system. Mac Naughton & Ralston were old enemies over policy.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 8/44. Legion work day & night since I got home, chiefly Pappy Fund Campaign, which has fallen on my shoulders.

News: Roosevelt is elected president of the U.S. for the 4th time, with an increased Democrat majority in Congress & Senate, after the most bitter political campaign in memory. Following on Col. Ralston's retirement, Gen. Stuart, Canadian chief-of-staff, has resigned. Tonight Premier

King broadcast to the nation, affirming his faith in the voluntary system & pointing out, incidentally, that only 25,000 of the 65,000 "zombies" now in training in Canada are French Canadians. In Cairo, Lord Moyne, British resident minister in the Middle East, has been murdered by 2 Jews from Palestine, members of a terrorist group who call themselves in Yiddish "The Stern Gang".

THURSDAY, NOV. 9/44

Legion business all day, including delivery of many poppy wreaths in my own car. Aircraft factories are overwhelmed with orders & have summarily cancelled many of the types shown in the little catalogues used by our canvassers, with result that we are unable to deliver 200 or 300 orders which have been paid in advance. This means explanations all round & offers to refund; a headache all round.

Tommy's school teacher informed us he needed glasses. Took him to the optometrist tonight, & tests confirmed it. Too bad. It may not be permanent, of course. When I came ashore from Table Island in 1922 my eyes were strained from night watches over an oil lamp for 13 months, & Wallace the Hfx. optometrist told me my eyes were permanently damaged & sold me a pair of pince-nez. Later I got a pair of the ear-hook type from Pizzant, at Liverpool, & I wore these at my book-keeper's desk, & when reading at night. When I quit office work in 1938 I noticed a recovery of my eyesight, & after a few months I was able to do without glasses (& I still do without them) except at the movies, where I find they relieve the flicker strain. Out of curiosity, I went to a Hfx. optometrist in 1939, for a test,

& he informed me that my sight was almost normal, & of course sold me a pair of glasses which he informed me candidly were "no more magnifying than a pair of window panes", though he assured me I should wear them. I did, once or twice, & then threw them aside; & I remain convinced that optometrists, however "honest," depend for their living on the sale of glasses, whether you need them or not.

FRIDAY, NOV. 10/44 Armistice Dinner tonight in the Legion rooms. About 100 present. Dan Winters & his merry men dished up a really fine meal - cream & tomato soup, roast chicken & "firiin's", tea biscuits, cheese, pie, coffee. The air force boys at Happy Landing had installed a public address system, complete with a portable mike. I occupied the president's chair, of course, with Lt. Com. J. N. Miller, RCNR, on my right, & T. O. J. A. L. Musselman, (senior officer at Happy Landing) on my left. Others at the head table, Sheriff Mulhall, Mayor Wright & his son Jerald, RCAFL, just back from several years' service overseas with a D.F.C.

Miller had brought along some Navy boys to entertain us - one chap a really good tap-dancer, & there was a notable piano-accom-deon trio. Some short speeches & a sing-song, finishing with Auld Lang Syne at 11 p.m. Everyone had a good time despite the wartime "drought" - we drank our toasts in Coca Cola, & even that we had to wangle through the Navy people.

SATURDAY, NOV. 11, 1944

At the Legion's request, the town proclaimed a half-holiday - stores to re-open at 1 P.M.; but most of the merchants remained closed all day. Pouring rain. The Remembrance service held in Astor Theatre, the usual program conducted jointly by the ministers, with its chief feature the placing of poppy wreaths in memory of local men dead in action. A growing number of these, & a sad affair. I spoke from the platform asking for volunteers to donate blood at the clinic; there is an urgent demand for more plasma for the army hospitals.

MONDAY, NOV. 13/44

My 41st birthday. Gifts from Edith & the kids, & from Mother & Hilda; and at tea-time a cake, with white icing & 11 candles - all that is left of Edith's pre-war stock. My new novel "Roger Fudden" is now arriving at the bookstores - sale begins officially on Nov. 18th. Printed in Toronto from Doubleday Doran's plates - a good job. The paper fair, but printed with narrow margins to conserve supply, in the new wartime fashion. Don't like the binding, a cheap job - & McClelland & Stewart are charging a fat price - \$3.00.

Geo. Foster phoned, wants me in Hfx for the "opening" - personal appearances at leading bookstores, radio interview, etc. I refused, saying my tires wouldn't stand the trip, but he had a ready answer. The broadcasting company is sending down a car for me on Thursday.

News:- The great German battleship *Prinzess* has been sunk

in Tromsø Fiord, Norway, by British Lancaster bombers; she was hit by three 6000-lb. bombs & blew ^{up} & sank in shallow water with part of her keel showing. Our loss, 1 bomber. U.S. 3rd Army, Gen. Patton, has taken several of the forts surrounding Metz.

MacKenzie King has called a meeting of Parliament, Nov. 22nd. Rumored that he will demand a vote of confidence on the conscription issue.

THURSDAY, Nov. 16/44 Mrs. Choyle, whose husband is manager of the new Hfa. radio station C J C H, arrived at my house at 4 p.m. in her own car, to take me to the city. We had a spot of tea & cake & set out. I drove all the way. Arrived at Mother's flat at 7.30 & found my sister Hilda there - home for the duration; her husband is now in England en route to a Fleet Air Arm post in Ceylon. All evening in Fraser's office in the Chronicle building with Jim Martell, Andrew Merkel, George Foster & a stenographer, trying to cook up a script for the radio tomorrow night, when Jim is to interview me. Quit at 11 p.m. with a very unsatisfactory script.

FRIDAY, Nov. 17/44 Went to the Archives & in Jim's little nook amongst the books & manuscripts worked on the script from 11 a.m. to 4. Sent out for Coca Cola & sandwiches for lunch. Jim takes the radio business too seriously. Alone, I could have typed a script in an hour at most. The new station C J C H is owned more or less by the Hfa. Chronicle, which means F. B. McCurdy.

Fraser, the managing editor of the Chronicle, is a live wire. His station has only 100 watt power but he hopes to have 1000 very soon, & the Herald's station CHNS, which has long enjoyed a profitable monopoly, is much concerned.

I met Jim this evening in the lobby of the Lord Nelson & we had a whiskey with Mr. Com. Barrett & wife before going up to the broadcasting studio. The broadcast was from 7.45 to 8 p.m. & went off very smoothly, with exact timing. The Barretts & Choyces watched us from the observation chamber. Then on to Jim Martelli's for a party. The Barretts came, & George Foster, Howard Bendeler, Lieut. John Sturdee & wife (Sturdy Sturdee represented the R.C.N. in Hollywood during the making of the film "K-225", in fact he wrote the script for it.), Andrew Merkel. A good lively party. Home to Mother's flat at 2 a.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 18/44 "Roger Sudden" goes on sale in all the bookstores today. George Foster lined up a full day's work for me, including autograph parties in the chief department stores - Eaton's & Simpson's. Mobs in both places. Lunched with the manager of Eaton's store - Mehlman. Book dept. manager a smart little Syrian, Miss Laba. Simpson's manager, Gibson. Book dept. in charge of one Ladell. Met several old friends including a former school teacher, Miss Eva Pye, & Major G.V. Elliot, R.C.A.M.C., who was medical officer in the cableship "Mackay-Bennett" in my sea-going days. Tea at Mother's. At 8 I was a sort

of guest of honor at the Poetry Society meeting, at Andy Merkel's house. About 25 present, mostly middle-aged or elderly women. Sir Wylie Griet, the painter, was there with Lady Griet - Sir Wylie a small bald pot-bellied man with spectacles & a grey moustache, sixty-ish. There was an Air Force corporal; a policeman of the R.C.M.P.; a plump little grey man, clean-shaven, named Enman who writes hymns (two are in the C. of E. hymnbook); Jim Martell came to introduce me to the Society; the only other man was Sir Joseph Chisholm the chief justice, a small slight man, seventy-ish, with a noble face & long white hair. I had a long & pleasant chat with him. I had brought along a Wren named Judith Whitaker, interested in writers & writing, & we sat on a sofa with Sir Joe while a succession of earnest ladies read poetry aloud.

The main dish of the evening was Keats, & one woman read from a book a long dull lecture on the poet & his works. Some relief was provided by little old Mrs. Enman, who went to sleep & snored.

Jim introduced me & I rose & made a few remarks, & later there was a general conversation over coffee & sandwiches. When the Society went home at 11 p.m. Jim & Olga & Judith & I stayed behind, & Andy brought out a bottle, & Tully Merkel & daughter Mary-Elizabeth came in from hiding in the kitchen, & we had some good talk, mulling over Andy's collection of Nova Scotiana - particularly James D. Gillis & his works. At 12.30 Andy took us home in his car, dropping Judith at Stadacona Barracks on the way.

SUNDAY, NOV. 19, 1944. Sunny but cold. At 11 A.M. I set off with

Merkel, Jim Martell & Professor Wilson of Dalhousie University for Shad Bay by car. Dinner with old Arthur Myra & his wife at East Dover — venison & stacks of vegetables & cherry-preserve pie. Myra's fish wharf & field were the scene of the famous "Long Fishermen" picnic in 1932, when Robert Horwood, Kenneth Leslie, Robert Leslie, Merkel, Evelyn Lufts, Ethel Butler & other Nova Scotia poets of that era chartered a small schooner called the Drama & sailed from Shad Bay to Myra's place for a day, taking along a bagpiper in full costume, and the great Jimmie D. Gillis himself.

Merkel has movies of the affair & we set up the projector & screen in the Myra dining room & Andy ran off the film for the old folks' benefit. We drove on to Peggy's Cove, where the light-keeper's widow, Mrs. Garrison — "Wind-blown Nelly" — insisted that we stay to tea, & a very fine tea it was. A local character, old Lawson Inness, was sent for & we treated him to beer & later visited his house to see the fine portrait of him, done by a famous American photographer. Returned to Hfx at 7 p.m.

Mother, Hilda & I went on later to Merkel's to see more films, including a bit that Andy took of Tommy & me in my garden last summer. Some wonderful color films of the Cabot Trail, & P.E.I. Mrs. Barrett was there; also Laura Garton, who conducts a children's column in the Hfx. Herald under the pen name of "Farmer Smith". She is a slight, rather sweet-faced woman,

inclined to quash - wanted to know "how it felt to be a lion", etc.
Andy's son was there, a naval lieutenant; also his wife. Home at 12.

Fraser wants to send me home by car, but that would mean another long drive for Mrs. Choyle, ~~and~~ so I said No.

MONDAY, Nov. 20/44. Up at 6 a.m. Went out to the "Pre-Tab" town off Windsor St. in my taxi to pick up Ferna Dunlap, who has been visiting Jan & Carl, & we came down to L'pool together on the train. Train full of naval men, many with wives, dropping off at Mahone (for Lünenburg) and L'pool or passing on to Shillburne.

War: U.S. 3rd Army has most of Metz, & the French have broken through the Belfort Gap towards Strasburg.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 22/44 Howling easterly gale with torrents of rain all yesterday & today. Legion branches throughout Canada are holding special meetings regarding the governmental crisis on the conscription enforcement. (Parliament begins its special sitting today). Tonight we held our Legion meeting in Liverpool, having notified all members by postcard, & it was unanimously voted that I write & despatch a strong telegram to the M.P. for Queens-Lünenburg, J. J. Kinley, demanding that he support Col. Ralston's full proposals for the supply of reinforcements overseas. Voted also to wire Ralston backing up his stand.

Correspondence between Ralston & King, tabled in the House, shows that the supply of infantry reinforcements to Canadian troops in France & Italy is precariously thin. Ralston

went to the battle areas, consulted officers & men in the field, & returning to Ottawa called upon the cabinet to implement the famous Bill 80, passed after the plebiscite in 1941, which empowered the govt to send conscripts overseas. The cabinet majority, led by King, refused. (Nova Scotia members of the cabinet, Hlesley & Angus Mac Donald, supported Ralston) Ralston then resigned as Minister of Defence & the fat was in the fire. Feeling is high everywhere.

THURSDAY, Nov. 23/44

"Willie" King has jumped the gun in the parliamentary crisis, to the astonishment of everyone, by an order-in-council requiring 16,000 "zombies" to be sent overseas between now and next March. General McNaughton, addressing the House as Minister for Defence (although he has no seat) admitted that 3 weeks of urgent appeals to zombies had failed to get more than a handful of volunteers. But he gave no assurance that the other 54,000 zombies would be sent to the front.

The House, like the country, is in a wrathful mood over the whole business & is not likely to be satisfied with half-measures. Quebec members are outraged over King's "capitulation", & Power, the Minister for Air, has resigned from the cabinet. There was a riot in Quebec city tonight; a mob of young men tore news placards from the windows of an English-language newspaper, & attempted to storm a recruiting office. In Chicoutimi a mob of young men tore a union jack from the flagstaff on

the town hall. Police rescued the flag - but made no arrests.

SATURDAY, NOV. 25/44 Still windy & grey, with fine rain driving on a NW wind - a rough week. Forgot to mention that on my drive to Hfx. on the 16th I noticed the Foundation Co. war plant at Hebb's Cross shut down & deserted, the windows boarded up. They have been making wooden landing craft in 3 sections for easy shipment; most of their product this year went to the Pacific it is said. THIS PLANT
CLOSE OPERATIONS
ABOUT
NOV. 15 '44 Telegram from Bob Kirkpatrick tells me Col. F. V. Ford has died in Toronto, body coming here for burial. Ford was a Milton man, commanded N^o 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in France 1914-17. He & my father were severely wounded by a German bomb near Vimy Ridge in June '17. Ford was a pompous man, very proud of his C.M.G., & of himself. He left instructions for his funeral - a naval or military detachment, a full parade of war veterans, Freemasons of the Bridgewater Lodge as well as those of Milton, etc. - much of which is quite impossible. Service is to be in Trinity Church, L'pool, burial at Milton with pastors of the Disciples of Christ & Baptist churches present, etc.

High School cadets of L'pool held a tag-day today to raise money for uniforms - they got nearly \$300; about half the cadets had no uniforms; this will fit them out nicely.

WAR: The Allied drive in Alsace has reached & taken Strasbourg. In the meantime a terrific battle is raging

near Aachen, the most tender spot in German defences before the Rhine, where British & U.S. troops are confronted by some of the best German troops & material.

SUNDAY, Nov. 26/44 The first day's sunshine in a week; glorious, though the wind is cold. Judith Whitaker & her friend Mrs. Nichols drove down from Afx to see us today, with the Nichols children "Sis", John & Sigory. Mrs. N. is widow of a former Professor of Classics at Dalhousie, is herself a practicing medical doctor. Charming people. I took them on a little tour of the town while the boys went for a ramble with our Tommy along the harbour shore. After tea & talk they left for Afx about 7 pm. Judith's father won the D.V.O. at Dieppe with the Calgary Highlanders, now commands the regiment in Holland.

MONDAY, Nov. 27/44 A grey day. Walked to Milton & back but feel very seedy & got no good from it. Parliament's high resolves seem to have petered out as usual - neatly spiked by Willie King's adroit concession of 16,000 zombies. Zombie troops in B.C. (where 25,000 are quartered, including 3000 French-Canadians) have held several impromptu parades in towns near their camps, carrying placards of protest, etc., & in several cases union jacks were torn down & destroyed.

TUESDAY, Nov. 28/44 Rain all day. Final contract with McClelland & Stewart (for the publication of 19 of my short stories in 1945) signed & delivered. The book is to be called "Jambour & other stories". M. & S. originally sent me a contract which gave them 50% of all royalties

from the sale of movie & all other rights in the book, 10% commission on sales of the book if published separately in the U.S. - whether they handled the sale or not, & so on; & it did not bind them to publish "Sambour" in 1945 or any other specific year but left publication solely to their discretion. I refused to sign, listing my objections, & M. & S. conceded every point. Mr. M. Jones' request went to the curling rink tonight & watched an R.C.R. sergeant-major putting a squad of Reserve engineers through the military funeral procedure, for Col. Ford's burial on Thursday. Rather comical - 4 sergeants solemnly carrying a wooden ~~box~~^{bench} to represent the coffin.

News: "Zombies" are still demonstrating in their various camps - one very orderly parade through Sussex N.B. - but there is open mutiny at a camp at Terrace, B.C. some of the zombies in arms & refusing duty. War: Canadian troops are in line near Nijmegen, Holland, some of them on German soil. U.S. 3rd Army is in the Saar valley, only 8 miles from Saarbrücken after sharp fighting. Russians are slowly closing in on Budapest. Heavy Allied air raids on Germany continue, with sharp resistance from the Luftwaffe in places. A terrific explosion in an underground R.A.F. bomb store near Burton-on-Trent killed 200, damaged houses & buildings in a radius of 15 miles; cause unknown.

THURSDAY, NOV. 30/44 The first edition of "Roger Sudden" is completely sold; McEldelland & Stewart are wiring bookshops to expect delivery of second edition about Dec. 12th. Col. Ford's funeral today, and

a worse day I never saw, a gale blowing in from the sea with rain in sheets. Service at Trinity Church, the coffin covered with a union jack flown by 1st Canadian C.B.V. in 1914, Ford's cap & sword resting on it. Pallbearers chiefly veterans of Ford's old unit. A Legion burial party attended, myself in charge. M. Jones there with his Reserve unit. Only a few civilian mourners - the weather, I suppose - & of course Ford for all his good qualities was never very popular - the vice of stinginess - & he had been out of the county for 30 years except for brief visits. The troops left the church first & presented arms as the coffin emerged from the door. We formed up & slow-marched down Church St in a flood of rain. Cortège halted opposite Fraser's Boarding House, & troops & Legion climbed into cars & army trucks waiting there. Drove up west side of the river, crossed the bridge, found the Milton Freemasons waiting, drenched & forlorn, to join the head of cortège. The rest of us left the cars at the foot of Moose Hill, slow-marched to the cemetery gate. Troops formed double file from hearse to gate & presented arms as the coffin passed between. Freemasons lined roadway inside gate. "Father John", C. of C. parson, mercifully brief at the graveside. Storm then at its height. Rifle party fired 3 volleys over grave - some fumbling on the "re-load" - the rain straight in their faces. I stepped up for the brief pronouncement laid down in Legion ritual, called for the minute of silence, laid the poppy from my lapel on the casket, saluted, turned away, followed by each Legion man in turn. Back in our ranks, called 'Attention!' Firing party

presented arms, 3 buglers of Liverpool cadet corps blew Last Post and Reveille. Funeral then turned over to Freemasons for final rites.

I marched my Legionnaires off to the cars - overcoats sodden, berets streaming, shoes squelching. "Father John" drew me aside - "You need a drink, old man. Come to the parsonage." Drove my Legion passengers to town; Father John & Willy regaled me with wine & beer & I thanked them from the bottom of my heart. Starvation diet all day - blood clinic tonight. Walked to the High School in dry clothes about 8 pm, about 20 there, mostly naval men.

My 6th donation - presented with "silver" button of Red Cross in recognition. Hot coffee & delicious doughnuts afterward as usual. Home about 9:30. A hard day. All the funeral arrangements fell to me; worked out very well in spite of hideous weather.

I had a look at Ford in his oak casket at the undertaker's this morning. The Toronto "morticians" had decided to cover the great bomb-scar in his cheek, encased the whole face in wax, then cosmetics - complexion a weird purplish brown - quite inhuman - he looked like something out of Madame Tussaud's. Seems to me that the morticians have developed their art to the point of obscenity.

FRIDAY, DEC. 1/54 Rain this morning, sun at noon, snow this afternoon. Yesterday's storm caused damage all over the Maritimes. Tommy is to make his stage debut in the school's Christmas play - as the hind end of an elephant. Jack Dunlop, his bosom companion in mischief, has been chosen by an unwilling teacher for the front. I predict a very

peculiar elephant. People have been coming to my house at all hours with books to autograph, so I was glad when Madden (not to be out-done by the Hfx stores) suggested an autograph party. Spent an hour in this adjoining tea-shop this afternoon, autographing copies of "Roger Budden" for dear life. Madden was half drunk, as usual, red face shining, voice booming. He fortified himself from time to time with 4 fingers of whiskey in a glass.

A photo. of an escaped German prisoner in yesterday's Hfx. papers started a local spy-hunt & the Mounties have been busy all day answering calls from excited people - mostly women uptown.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2/44

Edith's aunt Marie Bell sent for me tonight. She is a former school teacher, without pension, has lived alone in the old Bell house in Milton for years, a neurotic old maid with a kindly heart. This fall Yerna Dunlap persuaded her to come & stay with Mrs. Andrews at L'pool until her health improved a bit. I went down & found her in a bedroom, lying fully dressed on the bed, with a photo of Col. Ford before her, & in her hand a letter from Royal Trust Co., Toronto, stating that the Col. had bequeathed her \$10,000 "in token of our lifelong friendship". She seemed very broken in heart, saying several times, "It is all over. What a long time".

She then revealed that Ford & she had been very much in love when she was 20, & that for some reason (she did not explain) they had decided not to marry. They came to this decision in 1898, when she was 22 & he was 29; they have corresponded ever since, seeing each other on his brief summer visits to Milton, & neither of them ever married. She showed me a touching little love

poem he had written for her a few years ago, referring to a sleigh drive back in '97 when their romance was at its height. Ford was a parsimonious man (I really think that is why he never married) & accumulated a lot of cash in the course of his life, but he was generous to Marie, sending her sums of money from time to time, & 2 years ago he purchased for her an annuity of $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \$500 \text{ a year} \\ \$5800. \end{array} \right\}$ She asked me to look after the business with the Trust company for her.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3/44 Wind still east, sky grey & air bleak. To Milton by car this afternoon to fetch some things for Aunt Marie. Later went with Edith to afternoon tea aboard the corvette "Amherst," just completing a refit at the Mersey wharf; commanded by a Lieut. Fraser. The Parkers there; the ^{Rev} Murrays, (who never miss a free drink), Howards, Dunlaps & Annie Ritchie, plus one or two navy wives, & the skipper's little boy Ian. As usual there was little tea & a good deal of whiskey, gin & sherry; & all went merrily. At 8:30 returned to town & went on to Hector's, where we had ice cream & some of Hector's birthday cake.

MONDAY, DEC. 4/44 A sunny day at last, after a fortnight's rough weather. Went to the gov't liquor store & got a month's ration — 1 quart of Governor General (Jamaica) rum, & 12 quarts of Dav's ale. This must tide me over Xmas & New Year with a multitude of callers! I have consistently refused to fall in with the general practice of getting "teetotaler" friends to take out a liquor ration book & turn it over. One sees people with as many as a dozen books in their possession. The practice is illegal but the liquor store clerks wink at it. "Ike" Smart came in this afternoon for a yarn.

He is being sent to one of the remote Mersey Co. pulpwood camps to scale wood this winter & doesn't like the prospect - hates Verge, the woods boss.

My kids have 28 War Savings certificates (Tommy 21, Frances 7) representing their savings since war began. (Each cert. costs \$4 in 25¢ U.S. stamps, & is worth \$5 at maturity). I give each 25¢ a week pocket money; but Tommy adds considerably to his by delivering newspapers from the Post Office to Feldon's store each noon, selling bottles, running errands & shovelling snow for our neighbours, etc. His total income must be about \$50 a year; * I've tried to teach him the difference between thrift and mean-ness, & encouraged him to rustle for himself and save for himself, but to spend a good proportion on model aeroplane kits, etc.

TUESDAY, DEC 5/44 Sunny, almost warm. Spent the afternoon washing & installing storm windows, & put on both storm doors. Stowed the 3 garden seats overhead in the garage. News: Skirmishing along much of the western ^{front}, but the U.S. 3rd Army is still pushing on from Metz into the Saar - has crossed the Saar river & taken most of the industrial city of Saarlautern. Our heavy air raids continue night & day; our aviators report that while the Luftwaffe is vastly outnumbered it has some very good machines - the German jet-propelled fighter is faster far than anything we have. Much speculation about Hitler - he has not been seen or heard since the "attempted assassination". Some Allied writers believe he is dead, others say mad, & there is one wild theory that he has started for Japan in a submarine. One thing is certain, the German high command still issues decrees & proclamations in his name.

In Greece there is civil war between the gov't forces lately returned

from exile, & the guerilla forces who have been fighting the Germans (& each other) for 2 years. British troops are backing the govt., & there has been sharp street fighting in Athens with some British casualties. This is a sample of what we must expect in other parts of occupied Europe, where we have armed the most lawless section of the population (because they made the best rebels against German rule). In the end law & order will have to be restored by wholesale hangings & shootings on the German model - or the Russian.

In Italy, Canadian & British troops have taken Ravenna by slow but sure outflanking moves. British general Alexander has become C.-in-C. Mediterranean, & U.S. general Mark Clark takes command in Italy, although the majority of Allied troops there are British. In China, the Japs are advancing steadily on Chungking as if determined to end Chinese resistance once & for all. In the Philippines, U.S. troops are bogged down on Leyte by the rainy season & tough Jap resistance. Despite U.S. naval victories the Japs are reinforcing & supplying their troops on Leyte, & their air force is by no means finished. Australian army has been withdrawn from New Guinea to rest & refit. The Jap garrisons in New Guinea, cut off by sea, are left to "wither on the vine."

THURSDAY, DEC. 7/44 Lovely sunny day. Sharp frost every night, roads muddy by noon. Brought Grandma Freeman to town this afternoon (saw a pheasant in the west road to Mutton, it flew over to Salmon Island) & fetched Aunt Marie up from Andrews' - her first venture abroad since her illness. They stayed for tea & the evening.

Later: told by naval chaplain John Wilson
that she was sunk by submarines



News: Canadian corvette "Shawinigan" lost with all hands - 7 officers, 83 men.
No official details but naval men say she foundered in the great storm of Nov. 30th.
She was well-known in L'pool, where she refitted on two occasions.

FRIDAY, DEC. 8/44 A calm, sunny day & cloudless sky. Howland White spent the morning fitting 2 new storm windows on the bathroom & Tommy's bedroom.

I walked to Milton & back this afternoon without a topcoat & perspired all the way. Many aircraft buzzing over, everything from Flying Forts to an ancient Walrus. Two or 3 Mosquitos from the Greenwood station visit L'pool regularly twice a day, skimming the roofs and hilltops. The Swordfish & their companion Aero-Ansons, from the Fleet Air Arm station at Yarmouth (formerly our daily familiars) are not seen so often now.

Rossignol Sales Ltd. (a by-blow of Thompson Bros) have completed their fine new garage & service station next to the highway bridge on Market St. It is of tile, covered in white stucco. Gov't wanted their old garage in connection with the marine slip, hence wily Charlie Smith was able to wangle priorities for all sorts of rare materials & fittings.

Contractor was Howard Keddy. (This garage & service station etc. became property of Smith.)

News: Willy Willy King won a vote of confidence in Ottawa by a majority of 73. His original motion was "That this House approves the government's policy of maintaining a vigorous war effort." On a C.C.F. motion the words "policy of" were struck out. The C.C.F. & Social Credit members then voted for the motion of confidence, with a majority of Liberals. The Conservatives voted against it & found themselves in queer company - for with few exceptions the French-Canadian

members voted against the motion also, for very different reasons.

The U.S. State Dept. in a sharp rebuke, has disassociated itself from British armed intervention in support of govts in Greece, Italy & Belgium. Mr. Churchill defended British action, in the House today, declaring that Britain must & would resist any attempt of armed groups to seize power in liberated countries, no matter whether they called themselves Patriots or Democrats or similar names. The Germans are full of glee over the contretemps, of course.

MONDAY, DEC. 11/44 Cold & sunny. This evening drove to North Queens with Madden (M.P.A.) & Edgar Wright (mayor of L'pool), to attend a dinner of the North Queens Board of Trade, at which I was invited to be principal speaker. The gathering was in South Brookfield hall; about 50 men, mostly farmers, sat down to 2 long tables & 1 short one, arranged U-fashion; the tables covered with the housewives' best linen & decorated with sprigs of pine, the cones gilded, & red wax candles in simple & attractive holders made of short birch logs, with the bark on, laid lengthwise, with 3 holes bored in the upper side for the candles. A chicken dinner, with generous helpings & all the fixings, apple pie, cheese, coffee — I enjoyed every bit of it, for I was cold & hungry — Madden's car had no heater & we had driven slowly to spare his tires. Young Doctor Harry S. Smith (a son of old "Prom") introduced me very gracefully & I spoke for half an hour on the story of North Queens, its pioneers & development. Madden said a few words, & Wright gave the blessing of the town of L'pool on the efforts of the North Queens board. The president is a retired farmer named Kempton, from Kempt, a sturdy fine-looking man in the early sixties, & the live

wires are Ronald Chute, Doc Smith, Amos Washington Broughton, & the local bank manager, Hamilton. They are out for better train service, the permanent paving of the Liverpool - Annapolis road, the establishment of small woodworking industries & a cannery, etc.

Before going to the hall we called on the Bienvenues. Lionel was away in Quebec but Mrs. Bienvenue received us - a petite gray-haired vivacious woman, speaking voluble English with a strong French accent. She & Lionel are the last of the little French community at South Brookfield; they are staying till next May to wind up their affairs. It was in May, 1930, that they came to V. B., & Lionel began to lay out plans for his woodworking plant, the workers' houses, etc. At first most of the millworkers were French, brought down from Quebec & the north shore of New Brunswick; but as the years rolled by the French workers gradually drifted home & were replaced by local labor except for a small group. The French schoolteacher remains, a Miss L'ougeiré from Col Brook, N. S., & the Colledonia school has her services in teaching French there - an excellent arrangement, for she speaks excellent & cultured English as well, & has a charming personality. The Bienvenue mill employed 120 men.

The Eddy Company now operates a small sawmill on the site, employing about 30, & they make no secret of their intention to close out when the war ends.

Learned from Wright that my old Micmac friend Mike Mokoney, Broad River, died, & was buried in the Catholic churchyard at L'pool yesterday. He was said to be 89 but I think he was older. He was the last Micmac in south Queens who knew the old language, place names & legends thoroughly, & I have made many journeys to Broad River & spent many an afternoon with him.

There was some white blood in him, going back to his grandfather, & I think the name was originally MacEwan. He was embittered over the refusal of the Indian school at Shubenacadie to release his youngest daughter to keep house for him; he never ceased denouncing the Catholic church, was scornful of the Christian god & Jesus & the Virgin, & often told me he preferred to believe in Gluskap & the other ancient spirits.

TUESDAY, DEC. 12/44 S.E. gale & pouring rain all day. This afternoon young Lawrence Cleveland was buried from the C. of E. He was steward on a merchant ship, the ^{CORNWALLIS} "~~Challenger~~", torpedoed in the ^{Gulf of St. Lawrence} ~~Bay of Fundy~~ a few days ago, his body recovered later. His family sworn to secrecy on the manner of his death, but "Father" John Wilson told me. Wilson added there is quite a flurry of submarine activity off our coast, & that a rumor among navy people here says the corvettes "Bobolt", "Simmins" ^{SEC. JRM. 22/45} "~~Hammond~~" "~~Clayquot~~", all familiar in L'pool, have been torpedoed & sunk recently.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13/44 Rain. In Quebec & Ontario a great blizzard has stopped traffic & business generally - no newspapers appeared in Toronto this morning.

I am still making little progress with my projected series of short stories. Legion work, etc, have interrupted my working hours seriously; but apart from this, I am suffering from a lack of material, with no apparent cure. The inability to rove about the countryside in my car, due to gas & tire restrictions, is a terrific handicap. There is plenty of material at hand about the war at sea - the navy chaps are full of it - but the magazines & newspapers are choked with tales of that sort & I prefer to steer clear of the crowd.

Legion meeting tonight. The slate of officers for 1945 brought

in & approved. Len Curtis will be president. The branch now has \$2800 in Victory bonds, \$180 in War Savings certificates, & about \$1300 in the bank after payment of current bills. News: Sharp fighting in Athens between British troops & guerrillas of the E.L.A.S. party, & reading between the censored lines with the skill of 5 years' practice, one can see that the British troops have so far got the worst of it. On the West front the U.S. armies continue their slow grind towards Cologne, & into the Saar. In Italy, British & Canadians continue their slow grind towards Faenza. And the Russians continue their slow grind towards Budapest. Everywhere the Germans are fighting with desperate skill although out-numbered, out-gunned, & suffering under terrific air bombardment everywhere. (Last night R.A.F. dropped 3000 tons of bombs on Essen, alone.)

FRIDAY, DEC. 15/44 Sunny & cold. A good walk to Milton, interrupted for a time above Hill's Grove, where I saw a sudden column of smoke and walked around a bend of the road & saw Herbert ("Sunnie") Whynot's little wayside store blazing like a torch. Half a dozen unlovely women were running back & forth with buckets from the well, & Sunnie & Sam Wolfe were trying to wet down the little porch at the back, Sunnie babbling about money. Useless, of course - the whole thing burned in a few minutes; the L'pool motor fire engine came in at the death, & by shovelling the steaming, wet black muck from the charred floor a quantity of silver money was recovered & some charred paper currency. Sunnie was in the habit of keeping money hidden in various places about the store & says he lost several hundred dollars altogether.

His bushy black eyebrows, his grey forelock, & the grey stubble which is always on his unclean face, were all scorched to a taffy-colored fuzz, & his cheeks were burned from his attempts to enter the blazing shop. In his faded & patched old trousers & coat, & with a navy wool cap sitting jauntily over his skull, he was a sketch.

This habit of keeping currency at home or in a store is general among people of a certain type who dread the war-time taxation. A Jew in N.Y. lost thousands of dollars (& serve him right!) last year when his home safe was burgled. A local Syrian, John Sapp, bought a house in L'pool the other day for \$3000, & paid for it with currency fished out of an overcoat pocket. The idea is that money deposited in a bank is at once revealed to the government, with inconvenient income-tax enquiries.

The navy's wet canteen at "H.M.C.V. Elmwood" has been in operation about a month. Each man can buy 2 quarts ^{of beer} a day so long as it is drunk in the canteen. There is no noticeable decrease in the number of naval customers at the liquor store, however. The widespread racket in liquor permits enables the back-street bootleggers to get plenty of gov't stuff: they sell beer any night for \$1 a quart (profit of 60 to 65 cents), & rum fetches \$20 per quart; & these establishments, too, are well patronised by navy people. How the ratings manage it on their small pay nobody knows; but most of the ships come in here from long spells at sea & the men usually have a considerable sum in back-pay.

I got something in my eye at Sunnie's fire today & had to sit up half the night in agony, unable to sleep or read.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16, 1944

cool, overcast. Went with Dr. Bain this afternoon to South Brookfield, where Bain wanted (without success) to buy the late Roy Smith's car, from the widow. A fine farm on a hilltop, with a big orchard.

Returning, we overtook Edgar Wright & Bruce Chandler in their motor hearse, on their way home from a funeral at Caledonia. There was a teamster on the wayside with a couple of Christmas trees tied on his load of firewood, & we all stopped to chaffer for the trees - a quaint business, the undertakers in their silk hats & clawhammer coats. Wright & I got the trees (25' each) & put them in the hearse, & so homeward.

News: - the grim & bloody struggle all along the West front continues, & on the 8th Army front in Italy, & the Russian front about Budapest. In the Pacific, U.S. troops have landed on Mindoro in the Philippines, which puts them in striking distance of Manila. Jap troops on Leyte are hopelessly cut off, & efforts of Jap warships & transports to reinforce them have been defeated by U.S. airmen with terrific loss. Recently Tokio announced the death of several more admirals, making an astounding total of 73 since Pearl Harbor.

In London, Churchill informed an uneasy House that the Polish gov't-in-exile has no standing with the Russians, whose paramount interest we must recognise; he added that Poland must yield the territory she took from Russia east of the old "Curzon line", & that she may compensate herself with a large chunk of East Prussia. In Montreal there was a great reception for the first 200 army veterans of 5 years service, home on 30 days' leave from Italy & Holland under the new rotation scheme; they were from all parts of Canada.

SUNDAY, DEC. 17, 1944

Had a good walk around Western Head with Brent Smith this afternoon. Two petty officers of the corvette "Portage", Ellsworth & McCartney, came to tea & stayed the evening.

E. was versatile, did card tricks & played the piano rather well; altogether we had a pleasant evening. News: In Italy, Faenza has fallen to New Zealand troops, after some bitter outflanking battles, notably by Canadians along the Lamone river.

MONDAY, DEC. 18/44

Christmas mail rush is on - the off train got in at 1.30 (due at noon, but that's an old pre-war joke) & the post office was still sorting mail tonight. The usual mob at the wicket trying to buy stamps, mail parcels or money orders; and the Great Unwashed out in full strength, jamming the General Delivery wicket. It was easier & much quicker to run up to Milton in the car & buy my stamps & mail my parcels there. News: Germans have begun a strong offensive against the U.S. 1st Army: they achieved a surprise & swept across the northern part of Luxembourg to the Belgian border.

TUESDAY, DEC. 19/44

Snow began early this morning & fell heavily all day in big flakes with a moderate wind. Movies tonight - "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" - good fun. News: Censorship hangs heavy on the U.S. 1st Army's defeat but it is known that the Germans are within a few miles of Metz & are still hitting hard. The Luftwaffe shows a sudden strength & U.S. airmen claim over 100 German planes downed. Germans are giving little detail but they boast that in 36 hours they have taken more ground than the U.S. troops took in 4 weeks.

Prisoners escaped from Jap hands in Burma reveal that 60,000 British prisoners taken at Singapore have been forced to labor on a railway recently ~~built~~ completed from Siam into Burma, living in terrible conditions, & that 25,000 had died.

THURSDAY, DEC. 21/44 Thaw, fog, slush, but tonight quite a bit remains of our 9-inch snowfall. The news from the west front - the little we are allowed to know - is very bad. W. 1st Army has been cut in half, with the loss of much of its artillery, stores & equipment. Germans claim 20,000 prisoners & more coming in every hour; their spearhead is close to Rege, the loss of which might force the British & Canadian armies to fall back on Antwerp. Berlin is jubilant, says the whole operation was planned & is being directed by the Fuehrer in person - "while the Allied press was wondering what had become of him!"

The Russians are still inching forward around Budapest & in Slovakia. Canadians are still attacking in Italy. Fighting in Athens continues, & in the port of Piraeus, with the scanty British garrison still getting the worst of it. British 14th Army in Burma has reached the railway to Mandalay after the long fight across the hills from India.

FRIDAY, DEC. 22/44 Sharp cold last night - six above zero. The temp. didn't get above 20° all day. To Milton in the car this p.m. to deliver Grandma Freeman's birthday gift, etc. Cut some pine & fir twigs in Hill's Grove for house decoration. River frozen over from Milton to L'pool. Doubleday Doran sent me for Xmas a copy of the Basic History

of the United States, by Chas. & Mary Beard - an excellent thing but
biased in its modern judgements, on Theodore Roosevelt for instance.
McClelland & Stewart, more practical, sent me a box of House of Lords
cigars - a rare treat nowadays.

NEWS: Gen. Eisenhower has issued a grave order of the day, command-
ing his troops to stand fast. S.H.A.E.F. (Supreme H.Q. Allied Expeditionary
Force) admits Germans have reached within 25 miles of Sedan.
Berlin says Patton's 3rd. A.V. army has shifted forces from the
Sarre to attack the south flank of the new German salient.

SATURDAY, DEC. 23/44 Fine, cold & clear. Walked to Milton & back.

A letter from Doubleday Doran says they have transferred the
publishing rights in "His Majesty's Yankies," also the plates, to
McClelland & Stewart, who will henceforth print the book in Canada.

Crowds in Main St. tonight, a number of drunks, naval & civilian,
& some fisticuffs, which kept police busy. Some of the naval shore
personnel held a dance tonight in a stores shed at "Elmwood",
with a big juke-box blowing music into the night. Outdoor
lighting, forbidden until a month or so ago, is back again in
Christmas style, with many colored lights blazing outside doors
& porches amongst branches of pine & hemlock etc.

SUNDAY, DEC. 24/44 Again sunny & cold. Good sleighing. Brent Smith
& I walked to Potanoc & back. I got the Xmas tree set up.

Tommy assembled the colored electric lights, & Frances hung on the
ornaments. } Tonight a marvellous feast - to the Paul King's for lobster, ham, cake & coffee,
then in succession, to our home, to Johnsons to Pauline for drinks & music around home 2.00

REVEALED BY RCN AFTER THE WAR: — CANADIAN MINESWEEPER "CLAYQUOT" TORPEDGED & SUNK
JUST 5 MILES OFF SAMBRO LIGHTSHIP, DEC. 23/44. 8 MEN LOST, 73 SAVED

CHRISTMAS DAY, 1944

A white Christmas, snow on the ground, ice on the river & a white hoar on all trees & bushes this morning. I drove to Milton & fetched Grandma & Marie Freeman, & picked up Aunt Marie Bell, to spend the day with us. The kids delighted with their gifts — Tommy's special joy being a real man-size hand-axe with a murderous edge. A fine dinner — roast chicken & the fixings, & plum pudding. In the afternoon I walked to the Bristol rail crossing, then followed the rails across the bridge & back home via Main St. It was snowing briskly when I started, & poured rain as I returned, & the rain continued. Tonight, driving the ladies home was a nightmare, the roads a glass of ice under water, & a thick mist cutting off one's vision a ~~few~~ few feet along the beam of the headlights. I drove at 15 m.p.h. with the old car slithering all over the road. News: the German thrust toward Sedan seems stalled at last. An American garrison is still holding out in the by-passed road & rail centre of Bastogne in S.E. Belgium near the head of the salient, & U.S. troops are holding firm at Stavelot & Malmedy on its northern flank. The location of the southern flank is not disclosed, but Germans admit that Patton's armored forces coming up from the south have penetrated several miles. It was good flying weather & the Allied air forces had a field day, destroying many tanks & much motor & horse-drawn transport, harassing troops & guns, & dropping huge bomb-loads on Trier, Cologne & other German

bases. In Italy, Canadians are still inching forward in mud & snow - & blood. In the Pacific, MacArthur announces the complete destruction of the Jap army in Leyte, Philippine island. Fantastic figures: claims over 100,000 Japs killed, for a U.S. loss of 2600 killed & about 6000 wounded. Fighting in Athens continues, with some success for the British troops. Greek gov't troops seem worthless, but our men are getting some support from the guerillas of the E.D.E.S. (right wing) party. I missed the King's broadcast today. Edith said he stammered terribly. News men say this Christmas in Britain, especially in London, was a gloomy one. All Christmas leave for Montgomery's army was cancelled owing to the German attack against the U.S. 1st.

My gift to Edith (at her request) is a spring-filled mattress. I also bought a reading lamp for the sitting room. The kids presented her with a glass teapot - "flame ware". My own "loft" consisted chiefly of books - "War & Peace", "Frisstram Handy", "The ^{World} America of Washington Irving", "The African Queen", "The Cloister & the Hearth", "The Sun is My Undoing", etc.

TUESDAY, DEC. 26/44

A rough windy day with temp falling fast. News: Churchill & Eden have flown to Athens in an attempt reconcile the rival Greek factions & obtain peace in Greece. Meanwhile small British forces are still fighting with the E.L.A.S. guerillas. On the west front things are worse; Germans have lunged 11 miles further into Belgium, & S.H.A.E.F. suggests their drive is still going strong.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27, 1944

Overcast, cold. A walk this afternoon - R. Johnson picked me up on Bristol Avenue & dropped me at Potanos; I walked back from there, stopping at the Milton forge on the way, as I usually do. Old Will Turner is too rheumatic for the work now, & his son-in-law Archie McKnight is carrying on the forge alone, working day & night. It is the only real blacksmith's shop for public work in south Queens now & men bring horses & oxen to be shod, & other forge work, from Port Maudway, Mill Village, Port Mouton & Liverpool.

News: - On the west front the German spear-head is close to Dinant on the Meuse; on its south flank U.S. forces have broken through to their several thousand men cut off in Bastogne, & have driven the Germans out of central & eastern Luxembourg; on the north flank U.S. troops are now attacking in force. Good flying weather & allied air forces again struck hard & often at Von Rundstedt's communications as well as his tanks & troops. Russians are in Budapest, fighting the German & Hungarian rearguard from house to house.

In Greece, Mr. Churchill was shot at by a sniper when about to enter an armored car outside British H.Q. in Athens; the bullet went wide & struck a girl 300 yds. away. He & Eden have succeeded in getting the Greek faction leaders together in the hope of settling differences; it is suggested that the Greek archbishop become regent vice King George, whose return to Greece is doubtful. In the Pacific, U.S. aircraft have bombed Tokio for the 5th time this month, while they are striking at industrial targets in Japan almost every day, using the

new bases on Lipjan Island.

THURSDAY, DEC. 28/44

Wild weather, a S.E. gale with rain all night & morning, & then a quick shift to the N.N.W. with gusts of hurricane strength & temp. dropping towards zero. News: S.H.A.E.F. has brought the situation on the west front up to date - Patton's 3rd U.S. Army, striking at the south flank of Von Rundstedt's salient, is forcing a German withdrawal. The German forces which penetrated to the Meuse were in light strength & poorly supplied & there seems to have been no serious intention of pushing beyond. It looks as if Rundstedt intended a local success & was astonished as we were when the U.S. 1st Army cracked wide open; he didn't have enough reserves to follow through & contented himself with giving S.H.A.E.F. a scare & the U.S. 1st a very bad beating.

Mr. Churchill & Eden left Athens by air for London. His ^{Churchill's} only comment on the sniper who fired at him yesterday was, "What cheek!"

SUNDAY, DEC. 31/44

New Year's Eve. Edith & I invited to a small party at H.M.C.V. Elmwood by the S.N.O., Lt.-Col. Hope, but we had to decline as Edith had advised members of our own group that the annual New Year celebration would be held at our house. A cold day with ice everywhere. The party gathered at our house towards 11 pm - the Parkers, Johnsons, Vernots, Sheiss's, Dunlaps, MacDonalds, Murrays,

- each man bringing a quart or so of liquor & his lady bringing cake & sandwiches. At the stroke of midnight the party got into full swing & all went merrily. About 2 a.m. the Donald Smiths, Seldons & others arrived for a call & insisted on us all going to Seldons. We went

about 3 a.m. stopping at Stevens' & ~~Seldon~~ Rawsee Nickerson's on the way.
A crowd at Seldon's. Lots of fun. Walked home at 5 a.m. in pouring
rain, very bad walking on the icy streets. We had parked Tommy
& Frances with Grandma Freeman for the night, so we could sleep
tomorrow morning.

New Year's Day, 1945. A raging storm of wind & rain all day.
Drove (very carefully owing to the ice along the river road) to Milton
this afternoon & had a fine old-fashioned chicken dinner at Grandma
Freeman's. Home at 10 p.m. with the kids. Wind blew in gusts at
hurricane strength all night, shaking the whole house.

News: On the west front both sides seem to have paused for breath.
German & Hungarian garrison in Budapest is being driven from building to
building by Russian storm troops & the beautiful old city is being
destroyed. Hitler broadcast to the German people, promising
victory as usual - but not before 1946 - threatening death to all
who fail to play their part in the struggle, etc. U.S. secret
service reveals that German saboteurs have been landed on the
coast of Maine from a submarine as recently as last month;
two were caught. The King's honors list includes several hundred
Canadian names - our friend Cdt. John Harding got a Mention in
Despatches. Forgot to mention that two or three days ago
I donated 25 books from my library to the servicemen's
bookcase in the J.O.D.C. room, Town Hall.

TUESDAY, JAN. 2, 1945

All snow & ice clean gone from the streets, though it remains on the river. Walked to Milton's & back. It was like a day in April. News: Just as Hitler shrewdly chose the Xmas season for his Western offensive (when Anglo-Saxon troops were certain to be relaxed & off-guard) so he chose yesterday for a surprise attack by hundreds of aircraft against R.A.F. 'dromes in Holland & Belgium. Many R.A.F. craft were caught on the ground & destroyed but the Germans hung over the target too long & R.A.F. fighters from more distant fields came in, caught the Germans on the way home, & shot down "hundreds" - R.A.F. claims the biggest bag since the merry days of 1940. At the same time Germans launched heavy ground attacks against the U.S. army in the Saar basin. It looks as if Hitler has shifted very large forces from the east front to the west, taking advantage of the long inactivity of the Russians on the greater part of their front.

The format of "Roger Sudden", which did not impress me on Nov. 13th, & which I described very bluntly to George Foster, was changed abruptly in the midst of the first edition apparently. Supplies reaching booksellers since Christmas are printed with more generous margins, resulting in a thicker & better proportioned book, & all the edges are trimmed - whereas the first lot were uncut & the reader had to sit literally knife in hand. But the cover cloth is a still lighter green, where I had suggested a dark green from the first.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3, 1945

Temp 30°-40° Fahr't., just enough to dry the roads. Sky grey & uncertain. The great gale of New Year's Day did much damage in the province - the force reached 65 M.P.H. in some of the gusts - & barns blew down, chimneys toppled & shop windows fell in.

Blackwoods sent me 3 copies of their edition of "His Majesty's Yankees". The book seems quite well bound, type small, narrow margins - it is less than half the size of the Doubleday Doran edition - "authorized economy standard" according to the flyleaf, cover pale blue with gilt title on the hinge only, the jacket simply Hornung's map which formed the end-papers of the Doubleday edition. A letter from John Blackwood says the Edinburgh edition is limited to 2000 copies, due to paper rationing, with no prospect of further editions. (Price is 10/6s.)

This limit is disconcerting, for out of loyalty to Blackwood, I told Chambrun's London agent, Brent Kenyon, to reject a rather good offer of Jarrolds, the English publishers, who were eager to bring out a considerable edition. However I regard my self-imposed "debt" to Blackwood now discharged & will make other arrangements for "Roger Suddens" over there. News: the German salient in Belgium is now under heavy attack by the U.S. 1st Army on the north, & the U.S. 3rd Army on the south, while allied air forces are making terrific attacks on Von Rundstedt's troops, transport & rail bases.

In Burma the Japs seem to be in full retreat on Mandalay. In the Philippines U.S. troops are over-running the big island of Mindoro with little or no Jap resistance.

THURSDAY, JAN. 4, 1945

Mild, overcast, ground muddy, like a day in April.

There is much German submarine activity off our coast & we hear rumors of 5 ships sunk in a single convoy only 30 miles off Halifax within the past week or two. News: Ottawa announces total Canadian casualties for all services in this war, to Oct. 31, were 79,659 k.w. & m. Of these the Canadian army suffered 61,000 k.w. & m. In the Pacific, U.S. "super-fort" bombers operating from Guam & Saipan are striking targets in the Jap homeland almost at will.

FRIDAY, JAN. 5, 1945

Another springlike day. Pans of river ice drifting out to sea.

Local lobster fishermen are getting 50¢ per lb. at the dock. Called on old Will Smith this afternoon for a yarn about the sea.

News: Eisenhower reveals that on Dec. 20th, soon after the German breakthrough, he placed the U.S. 1st & 9th armies under the supreme command of Gen. Montgomery, thus grouping them with the Canadian 1st and British 2nd armies. British troops are now attacking the north flank of the German bulge, but with little progress. On the south flank Patton's U.S. 3rd army has been driven back on Bastogne.

On the Rhine front, German troops have driven back the U.S. 7th army several miles. There is snow all over the front & some troops are fighting in white overalls - both Germans & Allies. Today U.S. air forces made heavy bombing attacks on Rostock's communications, & tonight the R.A.F. plastered Hanover & Berlin. In Italy, Canadians are fighting toward Alfonsine. In Burma, British amphibious forces have occupied the port of Akyab without a fight.

SATURDAY, JAN. 6, 1945 Fine, windy, cold - temp. 10° above zero this afternoon, when I had a brisk walk around Western Head.

MONDAY, JAN. 8/45 A blizzard all night, turning soft this morning. A terrible mess. Town got a lot of sailors, shovelling snow from Main Street & taking it to the harbor in trucks. Our faithful old aluminum kettle, many times plugged & repaired, gone at last. Kettles are almost impossible to obtain - the hardware stores get a few now & then, & they are quickly snapped up. Today there are none in town. At the Kiwanis lunch today in Mersey Hotel, I was guest speaker - "Whips from a writer's workshop" - anecdotes collected in & about the County.

News: - increased air activity along our coast, & light-keepers are being regaled once more with a few bars of "Rule Britannia" and the mysterious "Instruction A - A for apples - is to be carried out."

Rumor that corvette St. Boniface, which refitted here not long ago, was torpedoed & sunk near Hfx. with heavy loss of life.

In the Ardennes the Germans are still withdrawing from the tip of their salient, but striking back at every attempt to pinch it off.

Monty, cocky as ever, told newsmen that Rundstedt is the smartest general he'd yet come up against - & he (Monty) had obtained a photo of Rundstedt to hang beside Rommel's on the wall of his H.Q. - suggesting by broad inference that Rundstedt, too, would soon be defeated & dead. German thrusts across the Meuse in Holland, & across the Rhine near Strasbourg, are held.

Tokio says U.S. troops are about to land on Luzon, Philippines, after a heavy air & sea bombardment.

TUESDAY, JAN. 9/1945

Went to the Goose Hills at Port Joli this afternoon with Irving Bain & joined a party at Hunt's camp — "the Stumble Inn bunch" — Larry Seldon, Victor Scobey, Frank Strum, Hubert & "Rosay" Nickerson, Len Doggett, Jim Donley, Bruce Chandler. Most of them were there simply to drink & play cards, a merry lot. I hunted along the shore where the Path Lake brook enters Port Joli, until supper time, a few small flocks of geese came over & I had a few hopeful shots but the birds were high. Slept on a rickety trundle bed in the main room of the cabin, alongside Doggett who snored.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10/45

A cold morning. Strum & I crouched in a blind by the frozen shore, hopefully watching for black duck over a couple of decoys. Ducks skittered up & down the harbor in 2's & 3's, & there were several squadrons of black ducks riding the water 200 or 300 yds. off-shore, but nothing came to our guns. This afternoon I returned to town for the Legion meeting tonight, at which I formally turned over the presidency of the branch to Len Curtis, & inducted the officers for 1945. News: — U.S. troops in great force landed on Luzon Island in the Philippines yesterday, including MacArthur in person. The landing place was Lingayen Gulf, exactly where the Japs made their chief landing in 1941, a little over 100 miles north of Manila, but it seems to have taken the Japs by surprise, for the U.S. landing met with little or no resistance. Sydney reveals that since November last, Australian troops have taken full charge of the fighting in New Guinea & all U.S. troops in the islands have gone north.

THURSDAY, JAN. 11, 1945

To Port Joli again with Bain, crisp weather. Spent the afternoon tramping along the shore trail to a place below Maxwell's Point, hard going in places owing to drifted snow, & overhanging bushes. No geese flying, they swam like a long grey shadow in mid-harbour talking to each other in a discordant chorus which is nevertheless a charming thing to hear. After supper the camp gang sat down to poker & played till nearly 3 a.m. Cold night, 8° below zero.

News: - Germans retiring slowly from the tip of their Ardennes salient.

FRIDAY, JAN. 12, 1945

Everything cracking this morning. Five of us came back to town with Bain this morning - Port Joli & the wild geese hidden in a dense mass of frost vapor - Bain's car froze up & we stopped on the road with steam & alcohol pouring from under the hood - got it thawed, filled the radiator again with a kettle of hot water from the nearest farmhouse - back home by 10 a.m. At home the kitchen hot water boiler had burst, a fine mess, & yesterday Pentz installed a new one. A few days ago he had to install new taps in the kitchen sink.

SUNDAY, JAN. 14, 1945

Snowstorm all day, rain tonight. Tommy has set up a bird-feeding tray on a post in the garden wall, well laden with seed & crumbs: visitors so far - sparrows, chickadees, 1 bluejay, 2 crows.

News: - Russians have struck hard at the German line in Poland & have broken through between Cracow & Warsaw. In the Ardennes the British & U.S. troops have pinched off the Kunstedt advanced forces - most of which had been successfully withdrawn - & our aircraft are hammering long columns of retreating tanks, guns & transport.

MONDAY, JAN. 15, 1945

Thaw & slop. Saw a Gloucester dragger at the wharf, a green hulled, white housed thing with 2 bright blue dories perched on the cabin roof. She is about the size of a tugboat, with the same high house, but you miss the funnel. Instead, just above the house, is a glorified stovepipe belching diesel smoke. She has her registry number painted on a black board on the side of her house, & her transom bears her unique name - "Holy Family, Gloucester". She is partly manned & probably wholly owned by Gloucester "Portugees", is in port to avoid the storm, & was engaged in dragging for redfish (some call them rosefish) right off Liverpool. They get \$3.75 per ~~cut~~ cut. for these fish at Gloucester, say the Nova Scotia redfish are best, & ask why N.S. fishermen don't fish for them. Hubert Nickerson says no draggers in N.S. but if there were his firm could soon work up a market for the fish. Also at the wharf was the small dieselboat, "J.J. Bowie", a Dominion gov't experiment launched last year to demonstrate long-line fishing.

News: heavy allied air raids on German oil refineries brought up the Luftwaffe in strength - U.S. pilots alone claim 215 German planes shot down. Berlin says Russians are making sharp probing attacks along their whole line from the Baltic to Jugoslavia, of which the thrust in Poland is the greatest. U.S. forces in Luzon advancing steadily towards Manila without serious opposition.

TUESDAY, JAN. 16, 1945

A wild storm of wind & rain began this afternoon & lasted all night. More plumbing trouble - the furnace fire pot is badly cracked in several places and the hot water coil is burned through & leaking.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17, 1945

Aroused at 5 a.m. by the yowling of tomcats, who presented a perfect target for a shotgun but were quite safe owing to my storm windows. Got up soon after & made coffee. Weather soft, everything dripping, fog-horn moaning - the thickest fog ever; I had to keep my office light on until 10 a.m. This afternoon on the docks I met Capt. Calder, late of the "Zorces", now looking after the interests of the "J.J. Bowie", discharging fish at Pickerson's. She was built at Mahone last year at a cost of \$75,000, & carries a crew of 5. Each man gets \$150 per month straight time, plus 10% of the gross value of the fish caught ("half the hand", in other words. The gov't keeps 50% of the gross). This is a Dominion gov't. experiment to show Bluenoses how much better things are done on the West Coast, where this "long line" system is in vogue.

Pickerson says the "Bowie" catches no more fish per day than the average motorboat of the inshore fishermen, whose crew is two men or 3 at most. Calder himself admits the "Bowie" should be 15 feet longer, & fishing for halibut.

This evening I gave a little talk on L'pool to amuse a young people's society who meet once a week in the Baptist vestry. Parson Mac William had formed it to combat amongst teen-agers & those in the early 20's the steadily declining moral tone of a naval post. A praiseworthy object, & the chosen leader is Miss Briton, a schoolma'am who is young & pretty & pious; but the program was intensely dull - prayers, hymns, a sacred song by 4 young ladies, a little homily

on the Christian virtues of friendliness by a virgin no longer young; and then me! About 25 present, mostly young ladies, & 4 or 5 young naval petty officers, one of whom - evidently in love with Miss Britton - confessed to me that the society didn't seem to be "taking hold" in the way they'd hoped. Of course not! Why don't they dance & play games?

News: with the great Polish plains frozen & good going, the Russians' long awaited winter offensive is in full swing & the Germans are falling back swiftly to avoid a mauling. Today the Russians entered Warsaw, a city of the dead; they are in the outskirts of Cracow, & have taken Czestochowa, the big Polish city almost on the German border.

THURSDAY, JAN. 18/45 Turning colder. Streets a mass of ice, & much of the old snow remains in spite of the rain: This afternoon I had Doc Wickwire cut away a peculiar lump or wart on the 2nd finger of my right hand. It started last Fall when my finger was pierced by a glass-like shiver of the rock wool with which I insulated the attic. Wickwire cut away the original lump & removed the shiver in December, but the lump grew again, larger & more painful than before. This time after cutting it away, W. cauterized the raw base electrically.

News: - British 2nd. Army still pressing in Holland & Belgium towards what London terms "limited objectives." The winter weather is unusually severe in western Europe, with deep snow & temperatures down to zero. The marvellous Russians are now fighting for Cracow & at one point have reached the Silesian border. In Budapest some remnants of the

German-Hungarian garrison remain, but most of the twin cities is in Russian hands, with 59,000 prisoners. The street fighting is said to have laid much of the beautiful old city in ruins.

In Luzon, U.S. troops are now 31 miles from their landing at Lingayen.

Mr. Churchill gave a 2-hour review of the war in the House today. He said the battle of the Ardennes had been fought & won almost entirely by U.S. troops, who outnumber British troops on the West front by $\frac{2}{3}$ more than 2 to 1. On the other hand the fighting in Italy was largely done by British troops, who were 3 to 1 (U.S.) in that area.

The British Empire now has 100 divisions under arms, 65 of them in contact with the enemy in Europe & Asia. Our forces in Italy were pinning there 27 first class German divisions. British Empire casualties so far in this war (not counting civilians or merchant seamen) are 1,043,000 killed, wounded & missing: of these more than 600,000 are from the United Kingdom, 85,000 from Australia, 79,000 from Canada.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19/45 Cold, with snow squalls. Jerry Nickerson tells me that local small boat fishermen are averaging \$300 profit every month — one man & his partner made \$700^{each} last month. There is no deduction for income tax, of course, & few or none of the fishermen are filing tax papers. News: On the West front the British 2nd Army is still fighting forward inch by inch over the German border towards Cologne. Fighting is still going on in the Ardennes, where the Germans have withdrawn from a great part of their salient, but SHAEF says

The main battle has ended in a German defeat with the loss of 120,000 K.W. & M. U.S. casualties were 55,000, & they took 40,000 German prisoners. In the east the Russians are still driving forward, have taken Bracon & Lutsk & have driven 30 miles into East Prussia. Newsmen in Poland say the Germans evacuated every living soul from Warsaw & the Russians entered a burnt-out city of utter silence.

SATURDAY, JAN 20/45 Cold, sunny. The state of my tyres has forbidden solitary rabbit-hunts this winter so I was glad when at noon Ralph Johnson (who as a forester for Messy Paper Co. can get plenty of gas & tyres) proposed a hunt at Port Mouton. Parker, Dunlap & Smith went along; we parked at the old gravel pit on the hill beyond the village, struck back to the railway & walked up the track about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, then hunted back to the car. Rabbits are scarce this year, yet I saw 6, all very wild, & only got a shot at one - which rushed straight into my hands when my shot nicked it. The others got 1 or 2 bunnies apiece - a poor show for a strenuous afternoon - the snow about 6" deep, crusty, & giving underfoot. News: North of Strasbourg, German troops have shoved back the U.S. 7th Army & the city is in danger. The Russians are now over 40 miles inside the East Prussian border, taking Tilsit amongst other places. In Poland their troops are half way to Posen from Warsaw. Today, with a few German die-hards holding out in one corner of Budapest, Hungary threw in the sponge - the provisional gov't signed an

2000 others damaged & perhaps destroyed. The Russians have swept half way to the sea in East Prussia, taking Insterburg, Allenstein, Osterode & Deutsch Eylau. In Poland they are approaching Posen & are within 165 miles of Berlin. In Silesia they are threatening Breslau. German broadcasts give all the details, saying frankly "the Bolsheviks have broken through", & calling on every German to die fighting. In Burma the new Ledo road to China is now cleared of Japs & open to traffic. U.S. aircraft have been pouncing on Jap shipping all along the Indo-China & south China coast for days, & Tokio says that Formosa ports are under heavy air bombardment & a U.S. landing is to be expected.

In Canada the hunt for 6,300 "zombie" deserters has begun.

Robot bombs are still falling on England day & night, causing great damage & many casualties at times. ^{Rain's main came today & removed those} of my tires, wheels & all - the tires to be sent away & re-treaded.

TUESDAY, JAN. 23/45

Rain all night but plenty of ice & snow remains. Last autumn Morsy Paper Co. began to scrape the black paint from the hundreds of windows which were so hastily obscured in Sept. 1939; the work is nearly done now & the big plant blazes with light at night & the workers no longer feel like moles by day. Navy men here have organised hockey teams, obtained skates & sticks, & play a good deal on the flooded railway marsh, which has had a good sheet of ice since Christmas. They look very rough & ready, wearing paint-spattered dungarees, old jumpers & the black cold-weather caps with its peak and tied-up earflaps. News: U.S. troops today took St. Vith, the little Belgian border town which was the key to Runstedt's

salient in the Ardennes. The German army, badly mauled, is now back on its own soil except in a corner of Luxembourg; but of course they still hold northern Holland & their Rhine bridgeheads on both sides of Strasbourg in Alsace. The latter weather continues along the whole west front.

The Russians have taken Bromberg in Poland, & are at the east bank of the Oder river in Germany on a 37-mile front. Berlin says that Hitler has sent Himmler, his chief hatchet-man, to restore the East Front - which sounds as if German troops are running away from it.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24/45 Cold, clear. Spent the afternoon with Edgar Wright talking of undertaking, past & present. News: our airmen in the Rhine region have discovered a heavy German troop movement, by road & rail, towards central Germany - undoubtedly bound for the Russian front. The airmen are having marvellous targets & claim 7000 motor vehicles destroyed in the past 3 days, apart from trains shot up.

THURSDAY, JAN. 25/45 Zero weather & high wind. A severe coal shortage in town, with dealers rationing their customers. I went to the blood clinic tonight but found the waiting room filled - 50 or 60 people, mostly naval men - & the staff advised me to come some other Thursday, so I came home.

A U.S. freighter went ashore near Sambro a few days ago. She had a mixed cargo, everything from lorries to foodstuffs, worth 2½ millions, & all the fisher folk of that shore (accomplished wreckers all) have had marvellous "picking", as they call it. The shore is strewn with goods & a swarm of fishermen's boats has been hanging about the wreck. Now the navy & army have stepped in to salvage what they can, &

police have arrested a number of people taking goods into Halifax in cars & trucks for sale in the "black market". When I was stationed at Portuguese Cove ("Camperdown") in the early summer of 1922 I found every house in the village equipped with bedding, carpets, mirrors, crockery, tableware etc., looted from the hospital ship "Leticia", wrecked there in 1918, & I remember the fishermen talking with relish of other fat prizes, in their own time & far back into the time of their fathers & forefathers. It was a common saying, on a foggy night - "A good night for a wrack, boys."

FRIDAY, JAN. 26/45 Zero weather & a gale blowing. Mersey Paper Co has laid off about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the carpenters employed on naval refitting, & the local union is protesting about "undermanning the work".

News: East Prussia is cut off from Germany - Russian troops have reached the Baltic near Elbing & taken the rail centre of Marienburg in the Nantzig Corridor. Near Marienburg they liberated a number of Allied prisoners in a German prison camp - some R.A.F. officers amongst them. In Poland the Germans are still holding out in Pozen but the Russians have by-passed this fortress & are across the German border - some of their advanced troops are reported within 100 miles of Berlin. In Silesia the Russians have crossed the Oder river in several places & the great city of Breslaw (pop. 600,000) is cut off. Moscow says that since the huge Russian assault began on Jan. 12th they have killed 295,000 Germans & captured 86,000, along with vast quantities of guns, vehicles & other material.

On the West front the British 2nd. & U.S. 9th armies have

reached the Roer River in their advance towards Cologne & Dusseldorf & report weak German resistance. There is still some sharp fighting near Strasbourg where Germans continue to make attacks, apparently designed to forestall a push by the U.S. 7th. army.

On Luzon, Philippines, the U.S. troops yesterday took Clark Field, the big air base 50 miles from Manila, but the Japs are now putting up stiff resistance in the hills which command it.

SATURDAY, JAN. 27/45 Fine, cold. Drove to Big Falls with Parker, Dunlap, Smith, this p.m., road treacherous with deep icy ruts. Hard walking to Eagle Lake, laden with haversack & sleeping bag, snow 6" to 1 foot deep, crusty, holding one step & breaking through the next. Eagle Lake well frozen, ice 12 inches thick. A cold night with moon almost full, very still & lovely.

SUNDAY, JAN. 28/45 A late breakfast. Spent morning chopping & sawing fallen trees out of the trail, getting firewood etc. A fine warm day, we spent the afternoon loafing in the sunshine on the verandah, coats off. Walked out about 4:30, easy going in the broken track. Rabbit tracks everywhere, yet yesterday we saw only 3 tracks between Big Falls & camp - 2 1/2 miles. Evidently the bunnies had swarmed out to play & feed in last night's moonlight. Saw also 2 wildcat tracks (one of them on the lake ice near camp), many deer tracks all around the camp, 1 moose track. Coming down the river road we came upon eleven deer, in scattered groups of 2 or 3, all standing at the roadside.

News:- On the West front the British 2nd, U.S. 1st, 3rd & 9th armies are all pressing forward in deep snow, & before them German resistance is weakening. Some newsmen predict a general German retreat behind the Rhine. The Russians^{no} have seized many big German munition & plane factories in Silesia & western Poland. Memel has fallen, Königsberg is surrounded, so is the fortress of Posen. In Greece the ELAS forces have released 1000 British prisoners. In Luzon, MacArthur's troops are within 36 miles of Manila. The first big convoy of supplies by motor truck has arrived in China from Burma over the Ledo road.

MONDAY, JAN. 29/45 Mild today, rain tonight. Clem Crowell came & had tea with us, presented me with Chisholm's "Speeches & Public Letters of Joseph Howe" (2 vols), also a copy of Robie Tufts' "Some Common Birds of Nova Scotia". He tells me Shelburne for some time has been exclusively a naval base - the army & air force personnel were withdrawn. News:- Russians are besieging Breslau, Posen & Königsberg, & are within 93 miles of Berlin. Berlin is choked with refugees from East Prussia & Silesia & the Berlin radio admitted today that the city itself is in grave danger. R.A.F. bombed Berlin heavily last night & again tonight. U.S. casualties on Luzon so far, 4,200 K.W. & M. They claim 25,000 Japs K.W. & M.

TUESDAY, JAN. 30/45 Cold, windy, snow blowing. Had to let the furnace out while plumbers worked all afternoon to put a new hot-water coil in the furnace & to patch up the cracked fire-pot with fireclay. They also fixed two leaks

in the cellar pipes and re-piped the new boiler, a job badly botched by Pentz on Jan. 12th. News: Hitler made a brief broadcast to the German people today, the anniversary of his accession to power: He told them that a calamity faced them on the east, urged them to the utmost sacrifices to preserve the Reich. Official German news admitted Russians are within 73 miles of Berlin. On the West front Allied troops are pressing forward slowly in snow sometimes to the waist, & report German rearwards only, with little or no artillery. French troops are closing in on Colmar, the Alsation city on the west bank of the Rhine which Germans managed to hold after the collapse of their armies in France. Ottawa announces minesweeper "Clayoquot" sunk by torpedo just before Xmas, 8 lost, 73 saved. "Clayoquot" refitted here last year & we entertained a couple of her men at our house.

Nova Scotia & N.B. coal miners threaten to strike Apl. 1st if their new demands are not met. Mick King apparently thinks MacNaughton will be defeated in the North Grey by-election, for today he announced that a general election will be called by April 27th.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31/45. Cold, much ice on the less travelled streets, but main highways bare & dust blowing. Walked to Milton for a yarn with the blacksmith. Tonight I attended a meeting of 50 or 60 men & women, in the high school auditorium, to discuss the reformation of the local subscription library. The old library, formed in 1912, has functioned with a meagre supply of books & small interest, in the Council Room at town hall. The town made an annual grant of \$25. Rupert Weston, former supervisor of schools, always stupid & without drive of any sort.

has been in charge of the library association since foundation. He is now very deaf, speaks in a roar, & tonight roared that he had not called a library meeting since 1918; reason not stated. Anyway he thought it was time he retired & so did we; Tom Ratchford was elected president & after some discussion it was decided to put on a drive for membership & donations, to cull out the worthless books in the old library (most of 'em are out-of-date fiction) & to arrange a staff of voluntary librarians & draw up a basic list of books to be acquired first. Not mentioned at the meeting, but prominent in our thoughts, was the De Wolfe bequest, which comes into effect on the death of Miss De Wolfe, now old & blind & ailing. Her brother Charles, an odd tight-fisted Paul Pry-ish sort of man (favorite question, pointing to your new overcoat, your car, your house, or anything that was yours, "If it's a fair question, how much did that cost?") died in the 1930's & left a rather complicated will by which, in the end, the Salvation Army gets most of his money. But he did leave \$10,000 towards construction of a library in the town, to be called Dewolfe Memorial Library, - always providing that the town put up a similar sum. We all laughed at the time - it was so like Charlie De Wolfe to try, even in death, to get a bargain - a \$20,000 memorial for \$10,000.

THURSDAY, FEB. 1/45 Cold, snow blowing. Another leak in the water pipe in the cellar - an elbow insufficiently packed by plumbers. Attended blood clinic at the high school tonight, my 7th donation. News: - The sound of guns can be heard in Berlin. Russians are less than 40 miles away at the bank

of the Oder, which is frozen. (Russians crossed the Oder in its upper reaches near Breslau some days ago but these forces are too far away to affect the fighting near Berlin.) London observers say Marshal Zhukov is taking big chances in his forward rush, but question if the Germans can rally enough strength to attack his exposed flanks. On the West there is a curious state of affairs. Allied troops are moving forward everywhere, finding strong positions abandoned or weakly held, but claim that the deep snow now turning to slush under heavy rains limits their pace to a crawl. One newsman states flatly that the Germans have gone back to the Rhine.

In Luzon a daring raid by U.S. Rangers & Filipinos has liberated about 500 prisoners from a Jap prison camp 25 miles behind Jap lines. Most of the 500 are U.S. army men taken at Bataan 2 years ago, but there were a handful of British from Singapore.

Ottawa announces that, of 6300 "zombies" who deserted at Xmas, about 1600 have been rounded up or returned voluntarily; over 4600 are still A.W.O.

FRIDAY, FEB 2/45

L.C. Beach, the chief W.T.P.B. man for Lun.-Queens-Hel., last week asked me to give a talk to the Kiwanis Club at B'water. I said I couldn't go - reminding him pointedly that he had refused my application for times last year. He laughed, said he would come & get me in his own car. Which he did, today. A very good lunch at the Fairview with the club. Rev. George Ernst introduced me & I spoke on the beginnings of wireless telegraphy in Canada, & my own reminiscences of its growing-up days. Chatted with several

members afterward, particularly Rev. Eydt, Lutheran. Beach has a suite of offices on Main St., with 2 typists, 1 male clerk, an "investigator" (a huge man named Saunders) on his staff. Beach is a large bland pale man with good teeth, pale blue eyes, glasses, an "eyebrow" moustache, 50-ish, a smooth talker, good organizer. He is a native of Westfield, Queens Co., started life as a railway telegrapher at B'water, drifted off to the West, & in the 1920's had a prosperous fur business in Victoria B.C. He was "cleaned" in the 1929 crash & has since been a sales manager for Wash-Kelvinator, the refrigerator firm. Refrigerators being off the market for the duration he was lent to the W.T.P.B. for the duration & asked for the post down here. Saunders drove me back to L'pool.

SATURDAY, FEB. 3/45 Walked to Milton this p.m. & arrived there just after John Walker's truck skidded on the ice in front of Peggant's store & plunged on, through the bridge rail into the river. The truck landed on its top & sank, with the bottom just above water. John, shaken but unhurt, clawed his way out through the floor boards.

In town (dressed in my old hiking togs) I met Charles Murphy coming out of Wong's cafe with two men, whom he introduced as Solon Lowe, former treasurer in the Social Credit gov't. of Alberta, & Mrs. Kuhl, Social Credit member for Jasper, Alberta, in the federal house. Charlie is head of a little group in L'pool trying to form a Social Credit party & he'd invited these two "Social" men down to speak. I promised to be there, & went tonight. The high school auditorium ^{was} ~~was~~ about 1/3 filled, mostly with men, some naval men amongst them. The 2 men began speaking (Kuhl first) at 8 p.m. & were still in full blast at 10:45 when I left. I had heard John Blackmore, another Albertan, expound the

Secred theory here in April 1938 & there was nothing new except that Lowe & Kuhl kept quoting current war expenditures & declaring that Canada could & should raise that amount in peacetime, apparently for some sort of "dividend" to the people, to be paid each year, for ever & ever. Kuhl added that 4 hours work, 4 days a week, was plenty for the workers of Canada to supply all the goods needed for a much higher standard of living than we now enjoy.

Kuhl is very tall & thin, with broad shoulders & immensely long arms which he keeps in rapid motion all the time he is speaking, like a windmill. He shouts, never smiles & has the intent taut face of a fanatic. He is egg-bald, with a fringe of black hair, 40-ish, glasses. Lowe is short, thickset, dapper, soft-voiced, glasses, greying brown hair very neatly brushed; bringing out the most astounding financial problems - & solutions - with the bland & kindly air of a Sunday school supt. explaining the difficult parts of the lesson for the week. Kuhl formerly was a schoolteacher, like Aberhart, Blackmore & many other Secred leaders. Lowe mentioned that he was a farmer at one time, though his hands are white & soft & he looks more like a life insurance agent.

I think their scheme is crackpot, but there is no doubt that apart from their weird financial theories these men have given Alberta an honest & energetic government. The Secred group here is very small & quiet, very different from the aggressive C.C.F. party, & if as one Hfx paper asserts "the chief centres of Secred in N.S. are at Hfx & L'pool," then the party has small chance in this province. News: U.S.A. made a terrific daylight raid on Berlin, 3000 tons of bombs, with special attention to government & war administration buildings - 8 direct hits on the big Air Ministry building.

SUNDAY, FEB. 4, 1945 Absorbed in Joseph Howe - what a man! Walked across to Bristol this afternoon for a yarn with old Will Smith.

The railway marsh covered with a good sheet of ice & hundreds of skaters.

News: MacArthur's troops are in Manila & there is still no sign of serious Jap resistance. On the west front our forces are still following up the steady German retreat towards the Rhine.

MONDAY, FEB. 5/45 A tall 60-ish man named Proctor came to see me tonight

& persuaded me to contribute an article to a new magazine, "Maritime Quarterly" to appear some time in March. Said the mag. is financed by a group of Nfa doctors, merchants etc. who wish to see a mag. devoted to Maritime welfare. The Lieut-Gov. has given it his blessing & N.A. firms are taking lots of advertising space. Proctor stayed all evening, talked interestingly about Canadian gold mining, in which he claimed to have made & lost two fortunes. He spent an hour trying to convince me that there will be bloody revolution in Canada & the U.S. for 10 years after this war, & left me wondering just what was really behind him & his magazine.

News: - Berlin admits Russians have crossed the Oder near Küstrin, on the direct road to the capital.

French & U.S. troops, in taking Colmar, claim to have cut off 10,000

German troops in the Alsatian forest. Army officials in B.C. state

that a number of "zombie" deserters have been rounded up in Seattle & other U.S. Pacific coast cities. In the Grey North by-election,

which the whole Dominion has been watching, the gov't candidate, General MacNaughton, has been defeated.

CON. - 7,338

L.B. - 6,099

C.C.F. - 3,136

TUESDAY, FEB. 6/1945

Today I removed from my den wall the much pencilled map of the eastern front which I pinned there in 1941. It covered roughly the territory between the longitudes of Breslau and Moscow; at one stage the Germans fought clean across the map & off into the Caucasus. Now the Russians have fought across & clean off the map towards Berlin.

Attended the funeral of L. H. ("Guy") Minard this afternoon at Milton. He was 83, an old-time lumberman who worked hard, got things done, but somehow never made money. His two bankruptcies involved many of his friends but he was well liked. His last venture, a milk business, was a fair success for 20 years. He always used to say at other people's funerals, "Bury me in a box of good pine boards, that's all; no fuss, no flowers" - but he got the Liverpool undertaker's best - flowers, silk hats & all. A cold sunny day.

News:- Churchill, Roosevelt & Stalin are believed to be meeting somewhere on the Black Sea.

THURSDAY, FEB. 8/45

I met a young geologist, a son of the late Commander ("I'm Alone") Randall, home in Canada, on leave after 3 years in British Guiana with the big Aluminium Co. of ^{Canada}, which gets most or all of its bauxite down there. He says the production of bauxite in the B.G. mines has been reduced to about $\frac{1}{5}$ of its wartime peak, due to sharply reduced production of aluminium in the big plant in Quebec. News: Canadian 1st Army began to advance along its whole front, found sharp pockets of German defence but these obviously rearguards. Movement is slowed by the vast German minefields hidden in deep snow, by the weather, by the low wet nature of the land.

The Russians are at last in full possession of Budapest, where a big German-Hungarian army had been ordered to stand and die in defence of the road to Vienna. Russian claim the enemy lost 160,000 K.W. & M. in the 7 weeks battle, & vast stores of material.

No news from the Russians facing Berlin, but Konev's army has thrust across Silesia & is 70 miles from Dresden.

On the west front the Canadian 1st. Army has been advancing over plains flooded by the Germans, using all sorts of amphibious craft. In cleaning up "islands" of German defence they have taken 5000 prisoners in the drive so far. This makes a total of 124,000 prisoners taken by the 1st. Army since the landings in Normandy, & brings the total taken by all Allied forces in the West to 900,000.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14/45.

St. Valentine's Day, & a mailbox full of tender missives for Tommy & Frances. This afternoon a supper party at Doctor Doug. Murray's new camp overlooking Big Falls - Art & Evelyn Merkel, Dr. "Bum" Robertson of Yarmouth, the Murrays & Radclalls. A lovely spot. Two big eagles stalking about on the ice shelf across the river; several flights of wild duck. Some good talk Home at 9.

News:- Russians only 50 miles from Dresden; last night & today the R.A.F. & U.S.A.F. gave that city "the works" - the Russian advanced posts can see the smoke of the burning city. At Halifax, the Board of Governors of Dalhousie have asked & received the resignation of President Carlton Stanley. Stanley has been pres. of Dal. since

1931, a most unpopular man, a classical fanatic; apparently the Board decided that Dal. needed a very different head for the post-war years.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15/45. Merrill Rawding described a "bear's nest" he had seen on the Roseway River a few days ago - Jim Bower, Shellburne guide, found it in a swamp, with a she-bear & two cubs hibernating in it. The thing was made of quite large sticks, built rather like a bird's nest with the smaller sticks inside, the cavity only 40" in diameter. The 2 cubs (dropped last spring, not this) were huddled together at the bottom & the mother lay over them. Bower's dogs routed them out & he managed to shoot & kill all 3 with a .410. gun using N°6 shot - he was wildcat hunting at the time. The bears were stupid & groggy but the she bear put up a stout fight with the dogs before Bower got his 3rd shot home.

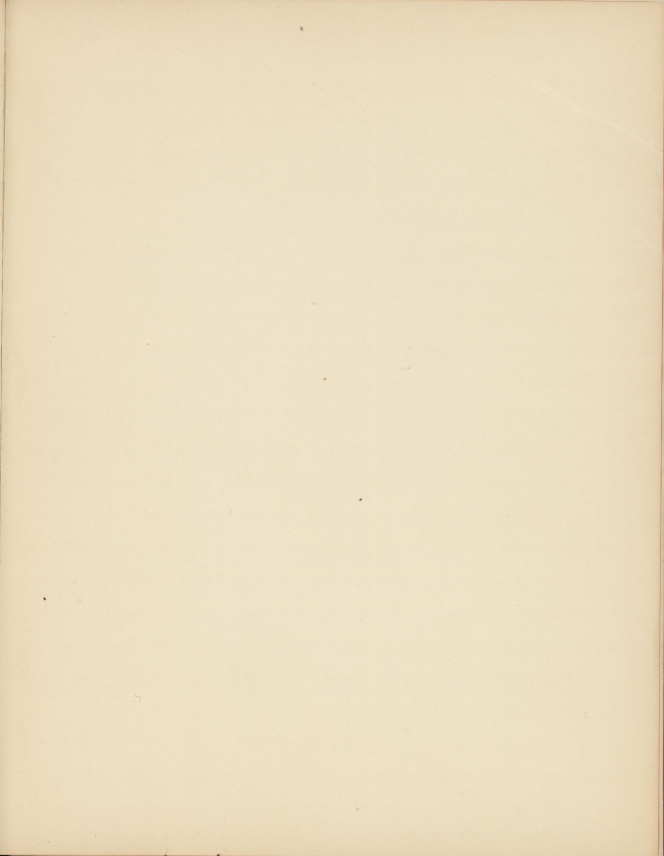
News:- U.S. fleet has appeared off the Jap coast & its carrier planes have bombed Tokio & other ports - an evident challenge to the Jap fleet.

SAURDAY, FEB. 15/45. Lovely winter weather; sharp nights, bright days, snow thawing at mid-day, freezing at dark. At 8 p.m. went to a C.C.F. meeting in Masonic Hall. A full house, mostly trades unionists, but many curious citizens like myself. Speaker, John Lloyd, the young accountant who became mayor of Hfx a few years ago & proceeded to sweep the cobwebs out of City Hall. He has now decided to go in for radical politics, a very different business. He is thirty-ish, slight; narrow face, glasses, thick dark hair, a protruding brow. A fluent but wandering speaker.

makes long involved sentences which end sometimes in mid-air. Obviously very pleased with himself a little carried away by the publicity he got as mayor of Mfr. in wartime I fancy. I remembered Andrew Merkel's verdict on him — "blest, but a lightweight" — and agreed.

News:— German gov't believed to have gone from Berlin to Nurnberg. Rumors of growing chaos behind German armies, despite martial law & Himmler's firing squads. At Manila, U.S. troops have occupied Bataan peninsula, & paratroops are dropping on Corregidor. A big U.S. fleet still off Japan coast & its 1200 carrier-borne aircraft are attacking Tokio again today.

Re Dalhousie's dismissal of President Stanley, I hear there was a fine row with Hon. R. B. Bennett, who sided with Stanley. Bennett after his political failure as Conservative leader in Canada went off in a huff to England, to live, in the middle 1930's, but he has been generous to Dalhousie, his alma mater. From his retirement in England he wrote & cabled the Board of Governors, threatening to give no more money to Dalhousie and (rumor hath it) demanding return of the \$650,000 he gave the university some years ago, unless Stanley were retained. The Board was adamant. Stanley clashed with G. F. Pearson, chairman of the Board, soon after he came in 1931, and Pearson resigned. The others stayed, but the new president did not engender love. He caused the flourishing new school of Commerce to wither & almost die, because he did not believe in teaching anything so crass & mercenary. On the other hand he created an institute of public



the very best of health which is not
at all with himself - both caused by the ordinary
course of life in winter I pray - I remember to have had
what he calls "blow" but a light one - and again
I have never yet found to be more from the
of going there behind the scenes - and I must have
been very square - Mr. W. says that the
their journals & passages are being in England - the
of the world of paper work & the 1800 series has been
starting to be again today

The following account of the death of the
in the year 1800 - who died with the
of the world of paper work & the 1800 series has been
starting to be again today

