The SUMMERSIDE GUARDIAN
AND PRINCE COUNTY CHRONICLE

THE WESTERNGUARDIAN

AGENT: Mrs. John Pond, 31 Church Street — Phone 289
SUMMERSIDE and PRINCE COUNTY

News, Subscriptions, Advertising, should be left with Mrs. Pond.

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—HAND WASHING MACHINES and wringers sold right at Brace's. L-769-12 27 2i.

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—ANOTHER SHIPMENT of 600/16, 625/16 and 600/17 tire chains also cross chains just received at Brace's. L-755-12-26-2i.

—FRESH frozen boneless horse meat. Order now at Brace's. L-761-12-27-2i.

—MCMAHON House, Kensington Friday night, Dec. 27, special card party and dance. Refreshments. L-783.

Meat rationing In United Kingdom

LONDON, Dec. 26—(CP)—Great Britain's meat ration is likely to be reduced from that purchasable for one shilling tenpence (about 37 cents) per week to purchases of one shilling sixpence (about 30 cents) per week per person early in January, it was reported reliably today.

(Britain rations meat by price rather than weight. The one shilling tenpence allowance bought about a pound and a half of beef.)

Pork, tripe, kidneys, liver and sausages, which hitherto have not been rationed, now may be part of the ration. Members of the fighting services, who until now have enjoyed larger rations, are expected to take a cut in proportion to that given the civilian population in the new order by the minister of food, Lord Woolton.

Lord Woolton turned down a suggestion that restaurant patrons should have coupons clipped from their ration books, as was the procedure in the last war.

NAZIS DON'T LIKE HER
Elizabeth Deegan is one of three members of the U. S. embassy staff in Paris whose recall has been demanded by German authorities.

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British lose "Hush-hush" Destroyer

LONDON, Dec. 26—(CP)—The 1,350-ton destroyer Acheron, called a "hush hush" vessel when she was built in 1930 because she was fitted with extraordinarily high-pressure boilers, has been sunk, the Admiralty announced tonight.

On a trial run the Acheron established a record of fuel economy. Her boiler pressure of 500 pounds a square inch was said at the time to be 66 per cent greater than anything previously attained.

No details of the action in which she was lost were given, nor was the date mentioned.

The Admiralty bulletin said:

"The board of the admiralty regrets to announce that His Majesty's destroyer Acheron (Lt. J. R. Wilson, R.N.,) has been sunk. Next of kin of casualties have been informed."

The Acheron was the 36th destroyer Britain has lost since war began, not counting the two Canadian destroyers lost in collisions. At the outset of the war Britain was listed as having 179 destroyers, but more were known to be under construction and it was generally estimated that at least 200 were in action shortly after the war's start.

Since then the Royal Navy has acquired 50 over-age destroyers in the destroyers-bases exchange with the United States.

The Acheron, of the Acasta class belonged to the first group of destroyers in which the torpedo tubes were quadruply mounted. Her normal complement was 138 officers and men. She carried four 4.7-inch guns, six smaller and eight 21-inch torpedo tubes.

(Concerning this class Jane's Fighting Ships says: "A very successful class, all having exceeded designed speed with ease.")

Woman's Success Rugs To Riches

SAN FRANCISO, Calif., Oct. 32 -(CP)-Twenty years ago freshmen art students at the University of California laughed at a tall blond coed who insisted on learning to weave.

She bought a loom on the instalment plan anyhow—and paid for it with the cloth she turned out.

The other girls drew caricatures of snaggled-toothed women at broken-down looms—and put her name on them. And when the blond coed said she was going to be a textile designer, they thought she was deserting art.

Now Dorothy Wright Liebes, not yet 40, decrees the patter of the rug on the floor or of the Venetian blinds. And she has orchids, not caricatures, on her bedside table.

Mrs. Liebes is accounted a genuine American artist. She weaves eight hours at a time to work out a new pattern. Two skilful fingers are her principal tools. Materials include rawhide, glass, reeds, silver, gold spun glass, linen, wool, silk, and a "favorite,"—cotton.

This 39-year-old craftsman has a San Francisco studio as smart as it's small. Ten or 12 women weavers and one man, all technicians of design, are her laboratory work-mates. They make no copies. The designs are all-American. Mrs. Liebes' is a $50,000-a-year business.

One Liebes design "principle" is built on making things not so much for posterity as for the present. But she points out "the designer must remember he's creating for the future by interpreting the past present."

But she's all for having every housewife own a loom.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26—(AP)—A toll of at least 382 violent deaths was recorded today in reports of the United States observance of Christmas.

Traffic accidents accounted for 273 fatalities Christmas eve and Christmas day, while 109 other reported violent deaths swelled the total from coast to coast to more than half the three-day weekend toll of 678 last Christmas.

Lives were claimed by suicides, fires, poisonings, explosions, drownings, stabbings and asphyxiation.

New York led all states with 41 deaths followed by Ohio with 29 and Illinois with 28. Pennsylvania and California had 24 each and Texas 22.

3,000 bottles Of home brew Fall to Police

—Nearly 3000 bottles of home made beer was seized by the Summerside R.C.M.P. on Christmas evening from a house on Water Street west. The beer was hidden around the house which had no cellar. The police got the beer hidden around the sides of the house.

At Conway on Monday 90 gallons of mash and a still were seized as well as 15 gallons of moonshine. Prosecutions will follow in each case. —S.

Concentration of

(Continued from page 1)

sage of 1,160 troop trains by Jan. 31.

Under the German-ordered speed-up in Rumania's war production, two large Rumanian industrial plants will be devoted to the manufacture of warplanes for Germany, diplomatic dispatches from Bucharest said. A submarine building yard already in operation at Galati, these advices added, has been ordered to increase its production.

This German military activity coincided with the shift of Baron Manfred Von Killinger, Nazi minister to Slovakia, to the same post at Bucharest. He is prepared to rule Rumania as Hitler's virtual Gauleiter (district leader), informed sources asserted. He formerly was consul general in San Francisco.

Diplomatic reports from Bucharest said the Germans were prepared to take over complete control of Rumania's civil administration. Heretofore the approximately 100,000 German soldiers already in Rumania have been reputedly used only to guard vital sources of oil supply and to train the Rumanian army in modern methods of warfare.

The Nazi troop movement became known following news that a stalemate had been reached at the Russian-German-Italian-Rumanian conference called to decide which nation or group of powers should control the all-important mouths of the Danube—Germany's supply line to the east.

The conference recessed after two months and it was said officially it would be resumed at the end of January, but informed quarters declared there was a wide gulf between the Axis delegates on one hand and the Russian representatives on the other.

Late Soybean Crop Provides Best Hay

The soybean is one of the few annual legumes suitable for the production of hay. In regions where it may be grown, it is there extremely valuable as an emergency crop in the case of alfalfa or clover failure or in other instances when a hay shortage is foreseen, Under suitable climatic, soil and cultural conditions adapted varieties of this crop will produce, in three or four months, large yields of high quality hay comparable in feeding value to alfalfa Soybean hay is suitable for feeding all kinds of live stock and since it is characterized by a high content of digestible protein it can be used to reduce the amount of costly concentrate feeds. Sometimes a certain amount of wastage occurs in feeding soybean hay containing a large proportion of coarse stems but this may be overcome by the use of suitable varieties, seeding at the proper rate and harvesting at the right time. Difficulty has frequently been experienced in curing soybean hay but this too may be prevented by the use of adanted varieties and seeding and harvesting these at the proper times.

Experiments cnducted by the division of forage plants, Central Experimental farm, Ottawa, states J. H. Boyce, division of forage plants, ndicate that the best hay varieties of soybeans are the relatively late maturing sorts for the district.

Soybeans should be sown at about the same time as corn, that is, as soon as the soil becomes warm enough for the germination and growth of the crop. If the field has not grown a crop of inoculated soybeans during recent years it will be necessary to inoculate the seed or field with suitable bacteria. Soil preparation should be thorough with a view to obtaining a mellow, weed-free seedbed. Soybeans do not complete well with weeds, especially during the early stages of growth. Farmers are advised to select the cleanest land available for growing soybeans. Seeding may be done either in rows 28 to 30 inches apart, in which case 35 to 45 pounds of seed per acre will be required, or in six to seven-inch drills at the rate of 1 1-2 to two bushels per acre. The latter method is preferred for hay production since it produces hay with finer stems and slightly higher yields than row planting. Under no circumstances, however, should the drill method be used if the land is known to be weedy. Soybeans may be planted to a depth of one to two inches, depending on the type and condition of the soil the heavier the soil the shallower the planting.

After the crop has been seeded and before it is up a light harrowing is advisable to break any crust that may be formed and to kill weeds. It is also recommended that light harrowings crosswise of the rows or drills be given when the beans are two to six inches high. These cultivations should be given on sunny afternoons when the young seedlings are not easily damaged Row plantings should be cultivated as long as is necessary for weed control, care being taken not to ridge the soil.

The best time to harvest soybeans for hay has been found to be when the pods are about half-filled. The problems of curing soybean hay are similar to those experienced with alfalfa, that is, to cure it throughly and still retain all the leaves. The procedure followed in curing alfalfa hay will be found satisfactory for soybeans. It may be cut with a mower after the dew is off, left in the swath until the leaves are thoroughly wilted and then raked into windrows and left until cured or after two or three days put into small cocks. When feeding soybean hay it is recommended that it be fed along with other kinds of hay, since digestive troubles frequently result when soybean hay is fed alone.

Keep Minard's in the home.

Clow - Richard Wedding

A wedding of much interest took place in St. Mary's Convent Chapel on Thursday morning at 6 o'clock when Miss Florelda Richard, daughter of Mr. G. Richard, and the late Mrs. Richard, was united in marriage with Mr. George Clow, accountant at the International Fox and Animals Foods, Limited, Summerside. Rt. Rev. G. J. MacLellan, V. G., performed the ceremony in the presence of relatives and friends.

The bride was very lovely in a blue silk velvet costume with matching accessories. Her bridesmaid, Miss Mildred DesRoches wore a costume of navy blue. Mr. Isadore Perry acted as groomsman.

Mr. and Mrs. Clow have the best wishes of their many friends for their future happiness. They will make their home in Summerside. Mr. Clow is well known in amateur theatricals on the Island and is a member of the Little Theatre Guild of Summerside. —S.

Many prominent Persons urge U. S. action

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26—(AP)—A round robin telegram bearing the names of 169 prominent persons and urging President Roosevelt to do "everything that may be necessary to insure defeat of the Axis Powers" was made public by the White House today.

It said that "the materials of war and the military and naval and air strength we now have and the implements we can now produce are enough to make certain the defeat of the Axis powers, so long as Britain is on her feet and fighting, but that with Britain down, they are not enough and may not in the future be increased enough to hold the whole world at bay."

Immediately, a sharp division of opinion made itself manifest in Congress. For example, Senator William King (De.-Utah) said that "all possible aid" for Britain, Greece and China is imperative, while Senator Rush Holt (De.-W. Va.) said the appeal to the White House was made by a "collection of warmongers," many of whom, he asserted, "have financial interest in the continuation of the war."

The appeal was delivered to the White House in the form of a telegram. Attached were the names of educationists, editors, authors, businessmen, religious and labor leaders and others.

While some of them have been identified in the past with the William Allen White Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, or its adjuncts, Ulrich Bell, newspaperman and one of the signers, said that no organization was behind the appeal. The White House said that so far as it knew the telegram was spontaneous.

The signers included James B. Conant, president of Harvard University; Frank Altschul, New York banker; Charles Seymour, president of Yale University; Gerard Swope, New York industrialist; Mrs. Dwight Morrow, mother-in-law of Col. Charles A. Lindberg; Lewis W. Douglas, president of the Mutual Life Insurance Company and former budget director; Carter Glass, Jr., Lynchburg, Va., Arthur Garfield Hayes, New York lawyer; Rupert Hughes, author, and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., motion picture actor.

While there was no announcement whether or not the President agreed with the telegram, the fact that it was made public by his official aides caught the attention of Washington.

Pledging "complete approval" of the Roosevelt plan to lend armaments to Britain, the telegram also urged the President to tell the country "clearly and boldly" of the chances of British failure and the consequences to the United States of such an eventuality.

It said that "ignorance and lethargy and disbelief here are blinding us to our own peril" and added:—

"To your leadership the people responded before. To your leadership, the people will, we believe, respond again. Your leadership is essential to the preparation of men's minds for what may be ahead of us."

"We ask you," it said at another point:—

"To clarify once more, but perhaps in greater detail, the nature of the conflict which threatens to wipe out the sort of Christian civilization in which men may be free from the restraints of intolerance, from the fear of injustice and from the menace of arbitrary power.

"We ask you to make it the settled policy of this country to do everything that may be necessary to insure the defeat of the Axis Powers, and thus to encourage here and everywhere resistance to the plausible but fatal arguments of appeasement."

The telegram apparently was framed with President Roosevelt's Sunday fireside chat in mind.

Stephen T. Early, White House press secretary, told reporters shortly before the telegram was made public that the broadcast address, to be made from 10:30 to 11 p.m. AST Sunday, would be "very specific" on aid to Great Britain.

Roosevelt May propose Ship program

By Max Boyd
Associated Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 —(AP)— An authoritative source said tonight President Roosevelt will propose shortly that the United States construct at high speed a great number of merchant ships to offset the inroads made by Nazi planes and submarines on Britain's merchant marine.

The program, reminiscent of the one under which ships were built in record time during the first great war, may be outlined by the President at his "fireside chat" Sunday night.

Its announcement may await the convening of the new congress next week, however.

Details were not disclosed, but a reliable informant said the program would be "extensive" and that it would fit into the plan which Mr. Roosevelt has discussed for leasing or loaning equipment and supplies to Great Britain.

To avoid a "bottleneck" in marine engine production, this source continued, reciprocating engines would be used in the ships instead of turbo-electric equipment. The reason given for this was that some unused facilities for the production of reciprocating engines are available, whereas plants to turn out the more modern equipment are loaded with work and can not be expanded quickly.

It was not disclosed whether the proposed ships would themselves be made available to Britain, or vessels now coming off the ways for the United States merchant marine would be released to Britain and replaced in the American fleet with the subsequent production.

In view of recent statements by administration officials that Britain would be in great need of help next spring, there was widespread speculation that some of the current production of ships now laid up might be leased or loaned. Vessels whose keels have not yet been laid down could not be completed by spring under any practicable speed-up, experts said, even if they were built of wood as in the days of the last war.

FRENCH RE-ASSURE U. S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—New assurances were given to the State Department today, French Ambassador Gaston Henry-Have said, that Martinique and other French possesions in the western hemisphere represent no danger to the United States.

The Ambassador said he also explained to Sumner Welles, Under-Secretary of State, the recent changes in the Vichy government which included the ouster of Pierre Laval as vice-premier and foreign minister.

VICHY OFFICIAL RETURNS

VICHY, France, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Navy Minister Jean Darlan, who appears to have taken over Pierre Laval's place as negotiator between France and Germany, returned today from a 24-hour visit to Paris in which it is believed he explained to German authorities how collaboration of the two countries might continue.

Conflict over Words used By De Valera

DUBLIN, Dec. 26.—(CP)— Prime Minister Eamon de Valera's reference to Eire's "overshadowing anxiety" in a broadcast to the United States last night was interpreted in Dublin tonight as no more than another periodic reminder of possible danger and of Eire's determination to defend her neutrality.

An official text of the speech, put out by radio in Eirrean after the broadcast, and including some minor changes incorporated by de Valera in the advance text, contained no specific mention of either Britain or Germany, and the Prime Minister's secretary said neither was named in the broadcast.

(A Columbia Broadcasting System transcription of the broadcast in New York quoted de Valera as saying: "The overshadowing anxiety at the moment seems, however, to be today's possibility of incitement which would force our people once more to battle against Britain and the British." A C.B.S. spokesman, after re-checking the record of the speech, said it sounded clear on this point).

As issued in Dublin, the speech said:—

"The overshadowing anxiety at the moment is the day-to-day expectation of the possibility of a crisis which would force our people once more to battle desperately for their liberty."

De Valera has sounded similar warnings several times before.

Dubliners found comfort in this phrase:—

"At no time since this war began has there been any friction between us and any of the belligerent governments. There has been no attempt at any time either to threaten or to bully. Our position as a neutral has been frankly recognized and in the main respected."

HITLER ON TOUR

BERLIN, Dec. 26.—(AP) —Hitler made a Christmas tour along the northern French coast, D.N.B., German propaganda agency, said today, reporting that he told his soldiers "a better and more beautiful Germany" will come from this war.

NAZI TO HEAT SHELTERS

BERLIN, Dec. 6.—(CP) — Germany's controller for steel and iron said today permits would be issued for the purchase of stoves and radiators and other heating apparatus for air raid cellars, but that they could not be used for other purposes.

The amount of steel and iron for the hundreds of thousands of such cellars was not estimated, but it would be considerable because scarcely a house even in the smaller cities is without a cellar.

Shortage of Housing may Slow production

OTTAWA, Dec. 26 — (CP) — Shortage of living quarters close to many of the huge new Canadian munitions plants may create a bottleneck in wartime industry and slow up production, according to opinions conveyed to officials here by plant operators.

An elaborate program of prefabricated housing construction may be the answer but so far the government has not announced a policy.

In the United States the government has launched a large program to provide housing for vast new war industries, using portable, demountable houses which may be quickly set up, as quickly knocked down or removed to another point of need, or salvaged.

This idea has been studied by Canadian authorities. There has been no official "go ahead" order although a small measure of housing construction has been started in connection with one new Quebec plant.

Already there have been reports of skilled workers leaving wartime tasks to which they had been drawn from other work, because of their inability to obtain proper housing in their new locations.

Various estimates have placed as high as 400,000 the number who will be employed in new war industries, involving great movements of workers to localities where little accommodation exists.

This problem has not yet been placed in the hands of any particular department. The national housing act, a peacetime endeavor of several years standing, is under jurisdiction of Finance Minister Ilsley.

Mr. Ilsley said today the act was still functioning and although there have been reports it would be abandoned or curtailed, no action has been taken. He would not comment on the government's attitude toward a possible housing emergency.

The Munitions and Supply Department, as a part of one of the larger munitions developments in Quebec, is building a series of 100 brick houses, or permanent construction running from two to four bedrooms, for the skilled workers who will have to be brought to Canada from the United Kingdom.

Airmen from Empire plan Reach Britain

(By Douglas Amaron, Canadian Press Staff Writer)

LONDON, Dec. 26—(CP Cable)—The first contingent of Australian graduates of the Empire Air Training Scheme and the third group of Canadian graduates arrived in London from Canada tonight.

The Australians, who received their elementary and intermediate training "down under" before going to Canada were welcomed by Air Cmdr. F. H. McNamara, V.C., representing the Australian High Commissioner, Stanley Bruce.

Like previous contingents the latest additions to the growing Empire air force will be posted at Royal Air Force stations and likely will be in in action soon against the enemy.

Air Vice Marshal L. S. Breadner, who with other Royal Canadian Air Force officials crossed the Atlantic with the Canadian graduates, said that the output of the training scheme was "only a trickle at present," but added that it will grow "like a snowball and people will be dumbfounded as more and more numbers are turned out."

The Air Vice Marshal said he was chiefly interested in visiting the Canadian squadrons, but he hopes also to meet some Canadian Empire Scheme graduates already here.

Air Vice Marshal Breadner is accompanied by Air Vice Marshal E. W. Steadman. He has come to Britain at the suggestion of the air ministry primarily for survey purposes, to see how the various commands are functioning and to determine at first hand for what the Canadians are being trained.

COMMANDS AIR FORCE
Reginald Jackson, a Canadian who learned his flying the hard way, has just been named general and commander-in-chief of the Royal Thailand Air Force, Thailand used to be Siam and Jackson used to be a bush pilot on the sub-Arctic run between Edmonton, Aklavik and points generally north. Now he is not only a commanding general, but he's also the only Canadian resident in Thailand.

CANADA'S WINTER BIRDS

OTTAWA.—(CP) — Large numbers of birds brave the cold snow to spend Christmas in Canada and the annual survey for information on them is now in progress.

Fear Loss

(Continued from page 1)

within six hours of our rescue, or sooner, I'm afraid they're gone," said Hansell. "A storm blew up and lasted for days." Other survivors agreed that chances of the 49 men being alive were slim if they had not already been landed at some port.

Hansell, whose exposure to bitter North Atlantic weather was an unwelcome contrast to his 14 years in the tropics, paid tribute to the rescue work of the little French freighter flying the colors of General De Gaulle, "leader of free Frenchmen."

"You have to take your hats off to those Frenchmen," he said. "They have nerve." Climbing a jacob's ladder was the only means of getting aboard the rescue ship in the rough sea, and on reaching the deck the survivors collapsed.

They had enough to eat and drink in the lifeboat. All showed hand sores and blister marks from toil at the oars. Their principal trouble was caused by sore, swollen feet as a result of almost constant contact with salt water washed into the boat.

Only one man needed to enter hospital after landing here. He was G. Haxell, quartermaster from Harwich, who suffered poisoning in a hand resulting from a sore caused by rowing.

No Warning

The first torpedo bit into the freighter without warning about 9.30 p. m. Scantily attired, one wearing only pyjamas and another in bedroom slippers, the crew took to the boats without saving anything. Two more torpedoes settled the freighter's fate.

When the submarine rose to the surface a German officer, speaking good English, asked the freighter's name and the British seamen then were permitted to row away without further molestation.

Contact with the three lifeboats soon was lost, although later an unidentified small boat was seen with half-naked men toiling at the oars. A hail to this group brought no response.

About five days after the rescue the French freighter had a sub scare. A periscope was reported seen and several shells were fird from the freighter but nothing else happened.

The survivors were garbed in odd garments borrowed from their French rescuers. Some had their shoes split to ease swollen feet. Medical aid on the rescue ship was limited during the slow, 22-day voyage to port and most of the men were still suffering foot trouble tonight.

They had a good Christmas dinner yesterday and today enjoyed their first real breakfast in nearly a month. They said breakfasting was uncommon on French freighters. Wine was plentiful "but did we have a job to get some tea," smiled one survivor.

All looked bright and cheerful. "We were lucky from beginning to end," said a philosophic seaman Commented ex-passenger Hansell: "I hope the next time will be luckier."

The survivors, including one passenger, who landed here were:

Samuel Browne, Captain, Belfast.
John Sihack, Chief Engineer, Liverpool.
James Davidson, Chief Refrigerating Engineer, Liverpool.
F. Mulholland, fireman, Liverpool.
H. Smith, fireman, Liverpool.
T. Dwyer, fireman, Liverpool.
E. W. Bravery, quartermaster London.
Robert Milne, Stewart, Liverpool
Joseph Sheridan, Cook, Liverpool.
W. J. Caulfield, bosun, Belfast.
J. L. Benson, baker, Liverpool.
W Palmer, quartermaster, Liverpool.
G. Haxell, quartermaster, Harwich.
W. C. Daniels, gunner (R. N.) Liverpool.
O. M. Hansell, passenger, Jamaica.

SEASICKNESS

(Continued from page 1)

clambering off, filing through the waterfront sheds and across the gangplanks of two big passenger ships. Hundreds of them are lining the rails after hastily flinging their equipment into their quarters.

The air is ringing with the cries of the soldiers from the transports and the responding shouts of a smattering of girl friends, sailors and other folk from the pier.

This is the scene, the prelude to the sailing of the forces which, an official announcement said, arrived in the United Kingdom today.

There is a virtual rain of pencils, playing cards, cigarettes, caps, letters, coppers, even watches. Badges land intermittently with a metallic click.

A soldier bellows "Hey, you in the blue hat . . . catch this note." The girl in the blue hat scans it and turns her head.

The harbor front is echoing messages like these:—

"Hay, sailor . . . Hey you in the grey coat . . . No more Petawawa . . . Anybody there from Winnipeg . . . Hamilton . . . Toronto . . . Look, Joe, there's Spike from home . . . Who wants a badge? . . . Heads up. Look out below . . . Hey, sailor, how about a swap . . . Hey, sister, mail this letter please . . . Don't forget to write . . . Oh, look, there's Soapy; he's a de-o-vine dancer . . ."

A girl holds up a glass tumbler, and it's jammed with two watches, badges, pencils. She has a cap under her arm. A New Testament lands at her feet, and she acquires that, too.

A tousle-haired private jostles to the rail. He shouts: "Who wants a sweater?" Off comes his outer tunic and then a sweat shirt, bearing the name of his unit. He flings it into the breeze with the warning "You'll have t'wash it."

The girl with the New Testament gets that, too.

SWEDEN'S TRAINING

STOCKHOLM. — (CP) — Nearly 250,000 men have enlisted in voluntary rifle clubs in neutral Sweden and home guard units have been formed in all parts of the country.

NEW WAR SECRETARY
Capt. David Margesson has been appointed secretary for war in the British cabinet to succeed Anthony Eden, who replaces Lord Halifax as foreign secretary. Margesson, chief Conservative whip, has been a private in the Palace of Westminster Company of the Home Guard.

Huge Strides in British Aircraft Production

LONDON, Dec. 26—(CP)—Britain's Ministry of Aircraft Production, headed by Canadian-born Lord Beaverbrook, has grown in six months to the biggest and busiest organization of its kind in the world.

Established last summer after France collapsed and Britain was left to fight alone for survival, its immediate task was to ginger up British plane production to cope with the threat of Axis preponderance. By taking over all Royal Air Force operational equipment responsibilities it freed the ministry to concentrate on recruiting, feeding, clothing, housing and training personnel for actual operations.

Hardly had Lord Beaverbrook swept into his office than he summoned three other Canadian "busy B's" to aid him. J. P. Bickell, Canadian mining magnate, came by air and started work at once. Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, former Canadian Prime Minister, was pressed into service and Beverley Baxter, member of the British Parliament, joined the "B-hive".

Details of the Canadians' work remain a secret but it has been suggested Mr. Baxter's function was that of a super pep-talker who stimulated aircraft workers to greater effort.

The term "aircraft production" is not generally understood. The ministry does more than supervise construction of the planes (airframes) and engines. It hands them over to R.A.F. squadrons "in full flying condition for operational requirements." These include a set of delicate and complicated instruments, a battery of automatic guns and cannon guns, bombs, shells and ammunition, bombsights, radio sets, electric equipment, oxygen cylinders, parachutes, flares, signalling apparatus, rubber dinghy and many secret gadgets.

The ministry orders the planes, engines and equipment, inspects their construction, makes its own contracts and pays the accounts of thousands of main contractors and sub-contractors. It supplies motor launches and speed boats for R.A.F. units and balloons for the barrage command.

It controls the British purchasing commissions in Canada and the United States and the British air mission in Washington. It also provides transport for purchases in America and Australia. It took over from the air ministry the old aircraft inspection directorate and various centres of scientific development.

And, for good measure, it handles the gift-purchase fund, now fast approaching the £7,000,000 ($31,000,000) mark. Hardly a day passes but Lord Beaverbrook acknowledges donations for buying aircraft.

Another important branch is the air transport auxiliary whose 255 civil pilots, including 25 women, "ferry" hundreds of new planes every week from factories to R.A.F. maintenance units and from these units to squadrons based all over the country.

There has been no hint of the number of workers involved. It is known, however, that the present rate of aircraft production far exceeds that in the peak periods of 1918 when its administration, by the Ministry of Munitions, kept a staff of more than 17,000 busy day and night.

110TH CASUALTY LIST

LONDON, Dec. 26.—(CP) — The War Office's 110th casualty list issued today listed 28 killed, 54 wounded, 41 died, six died of wounds, one died of wounds while a prisoner, 14 wounded and prisoners 92 prisoners, two previously reported killed now known to be prisoners, one previously reported missing now reported to have died of wounds while a prisoner, and 10 safe.