

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1944

The Invasion Launched

The great news that Allied troops had begun landing on the northern coast of France broke early yesterday morning on a world waiting tensely for just this message. From now on, the battle is joined on the western front. It is what our boys have been training for with such intensity and single purpose during many long months. How many Canadian soldiers are in action, of course, will not be known for some time. Recently, however, their commander, General Crerar, declared that "there are more than a quarter-million Canadians trained and ready for the last battle," and it may be assumed that a large portion of these forces will be assigned to the invasion.

Our people at home must be prepared for news of heavy casualties, while the beachheads are being established and secure footholds gained in enemy occupied country. The Germans have been preparing their western defenses for more than two years. Pre-invasion information published in London indicated that they had established a coastal defense zone, principally of concrete pillboxes and gunposts with large minefields covering the areas around these static emplacements. For miles barbed wire was strung. Many coastal ports and villages are believed fortified in the same manner as at Cassino and Ortona in Italy where scores of houses were turned into strong points and guns placed in cellars. Further inland the enemy undoubtedly will have strong defenses hinged on key towns and cities and bolstered by mine fields. German reserve divisions are likely concentrating on this line, prepared to strike at formations advancing from bridgeheads.

Some things they no longer have, however. One is the initiative. Another is effective means of countering the tremendous air superiority which the Allies now possess. It may be taken for granted that every last detail of the invasion plans has been checked and counter-checked by General Eisenhower and his associates. Every man is trained to do his particular task supremely well. The Navy, of course, is working in complete coordination with the land and air forces.

The Russian drive from the east has also been timed to fit in with the western invasion plans. That was indicated recently by a Moscow broadcast, which recalled that the collapse of France, the Dunkerque evacuation, the Vichy-German armistice, and the initial attack on Russia in 1941 all occurred in June, and commented grimly: "June, 1944, is a dismal month for Germans. The Red Army faces them—an immense force ready to deal powerful blows. The storm in the west may break at any moment. . . . The day of reckoning for June 1940 and June 1941 is coming for Hitler's Germany."

The day of reckoning—and also of liberation for the millions of oppressed people of Europe. His Majesty the King emphasized this point in his inspiring address yesterday, in which he urged "a world-wide vigil of prayer and dedication" at this time, as well as the complete confidence of the Allies in the outcome of the tremendous struggle now under way.

Nurses In Battledress

More than three-quarters of a million Canadian men and women wear uniforms of the fighting forces. Behind this huge array stands a small band—not quite 3,500—of alert and trained young nursing sisters who are carrying on in the tradition of their service. 2,807 of them are in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, 237 in the Royal Canadian Navy Nursing Service and 370 in the Royal Canadian Air Force. There are 40 women doctors in the armed forces, four in the navy, 25 in the army and 11 in the air force. An interesting account of them appears in the current issue of "Canada At War", an official publication issued by War-time Information Board.

The first call for trained women to nurse the Canadian forces came in 1885 during the Northwest Rebellion. Six graduate nurses and four sisters of the Order of St. John answered that plea and proceeded "to the front by the Moose Jaw Trail." Though their service received merited appreciation, it was not until June, 1899, that a general order was issued stating "the creation of a Canadian Army Nursing Service is in contemplation and will proceed at a future date."

The first Canadian nurses went overseas to the South African War in 1899 and returned late in 1902 with their place so well established in the forces that in 1904 provision was made for a nursing reserve of 25 members, which was raised to a permanent corps in 1906. Nursing sisters became recognized as army officers, and were given relative rank. This Canadian procedure was later adopted by the United States and within the past few years by the British Army.

During World War I more than 2,000 nursing sisters served overseas and their heroism won them nearly 600 decorations and mentions in despatches. After the armistice the permanent corps of the service was retained and a current registry of qualified women available for active service was set up. Thus it was that when war broke out in 1939 there was no question of a tedious reorganization and it was but a quick step to mobilize again for immediate action.

During the worst of England's blitz, Canadian nurses went heroically about their jobs when death fell from the skies. They cared

for many civilians as well as soldiers. When the bombing was most severe many hundreds of patients were brought from all parts of England, including a number of badly injured children who had been evacuated from a bombed city.

Following the Canadian invasion forces into the Mediterranean theatre, Canadian nursing sisters were prepared for the casualties of the Sicilian campaign. In a stubble field in North Africa 1,000 miles from Gibraltar, a Canadian hospital was set up and was functioning within ten days.

Canadian girls in field manoeuvres with mobile hospital units in Sicily and Italy are following the steps of the British sisters with respect to the adoption of more practical uniforms. Gone are the traditional cloaks and skirts to be replaced by the khaki battledress—trousers and tunic bearing the medical insignia. They are on actual casualty stations for only two months at a time and then return to the base hospitals for less exacting duty before going back to the lines. A number have been returned to England to pass on their experience to hospital staffs there. All this has been in preparation for the great event on which the curtain has now risen—the invasion of north-western Europe.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canada is paying half the cost of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan estimated at \$1,500,000,000. The United Kingdom pays the remainder less payments by New Zealand and Australia for the cost of training air crews.

Canadian egg production objective for 1944 is 10 per cent higher than 1943; of the 1944 production, at least 10 per cent may be sent to the United Kingdom.

Girls who told the police that two foreign parachutists had landed near the quay in Ballina, Eire, and later admitted that it was all a hoax were sent to prison. The police searched the quay area three days and nights. Maureen Corrigan, 21, a domestic servant, was sentenced to six months, and Charlotte Brownlee, 19, to three months.

Norway and Sweden became separate nationalities this date 1905, the former country seceding from the Union and becoming a separate kingdom under Prince Charles of Denmark who became Haakon VII; in 1907 Britain, Germany, France and Russia guaranteed the integrity of Norway, a guarantee which proved worthless when Hitler invaded Norway in 1939.

Out-work is on the increase in Britain. Latest figures gave 40,000 persons engaged on industrial work in private homes and other makeshift out-work depots, 17,000 in London alone. They work on the average of 22 hours a week; their output is good, and the quality high. Part-time factory workers now number nearly a million.

Wages in Canada are now at an all-time high level, well in advance of the pre-war high in 1920. Based on 100 for the 1935-1939 average, the wage rate index in 1920 was 112.7, in 1939, 105.3, in 1942, 127.5. This gives only a partial picture, as overtime pay and bonuses are not included. The total amount paid in wages and salary in 1939 was \$2,550,000,000 compared with \$4,700,000,000 in 1943.

One of the world's youngest cities is Komsomolsk-on-Amur, built by Soviet youth in a remote area in the Far Eastern part of the USSR. Some 12 years ago there was nothing on the site except two small villages with a total population of 100. Within five years the city had grown to 70,000, and before the war increased still further. The surrounding country is rich in coal, iron, gold, timber and furs, and Komsomolsk has become a large industrial centre. Instead of virgin taiga, broad fields and orchards girdle the city. A large Palace of Soviets is under construction, and plans are being made for a Palace of Culture and the finest theatres in the Far East.

Gamlingay, England, with a population of 1,440, is paying its own war gratuity to all who left to join the armed forces. It has provisionally fixed the bounty at \$160 a man, but the amount may be more or less, according to length of service. Only a few women of Gamlingay are with the forces, but they, too, will receive the war gratuity subscribed by the people. Gamlingay declares that no other small town in Britain is doing more for its men of the services than Gamlingay is planning for its 140 men now with the colors. It has collected more than \$7,000, most of it within the last two years. In addition, it is sending \$2 a quarter pocket money overseas have this amount credited to them. Gen. Montgomery has written to the fund's organizers thanking them for the "magnificent work."

Henri Bourassa's hatred of Britain and everything British lives on in his old age. The other night he said to a Bloc Populaire rally:—"When they speak of a crusade for Christianity I cannot forget that our first co-operation with British imperialism contributed at the end of the last century to the extermination of a valiant little nation in South Africa." There was no extermination, asserts the Ottawa Journal. From the battlefields of South Africa there rose a great new nation, free in name and free in fact; a nation created through British statesmanship, and with its fruits seen in the grand spirit of Jan Christian Smuts in leadership of his people by the British side in the present fight for freedom. That, apparently, is something the heart and mind of Henri Bourassa cannot understand—the spectacle of a people who can forget the past, accept the present, and look hopefully and without barren hate to the future.

Highlights Of Italian Campaign

By The Canadian Press

Here is a chronology of the Italian campaign: Sept. 3, 1943 — British 8th Army, including Canadian, invades toe of Italy across Messina Stra. from Sicily; secret military armistice with Italy signed in Sicily, effective Sept. 8.

Sept. 8 — Italy's unconditional surrender announced. Sept. 9 — Allied 5th Army lands at Salerno south of Naples; Germans bomb and sink Italian battleship Roma. Sept. 10 — Germans seize Rome; disarm Italians in north; Allies occupy Taranto.

Sept. 14 — Fifth and 8th Armies establish contact after bloody fighting at Salerno which fell Sept. 11. 30 Italian ships, including five battleships, surrender in Allied ports. Sept. 20 — Germans announce evacuation of Sardinia; French, with some U.S. troops, land on neighboring island Corsica to start cleanup of that territory.

Sept. 28 — Eighth Army occupies air bases. Oct. 1 — Naples falls. Oct. 3 — Fifth Army wins Benevento; lands at Termoli on Adriatic next day. Oct. 13 — Italy declares war on Germany after Premier - Marshal Badoglio in Rome; Emmanuel elude Germans in Rome and escape to south Italy.

Oct. 14 — Fifth Army crosses Volturno; heavy fighting slow Germans dig into strong mountain positions. Nov. 2 — British crossing Sangro River break into enemy's main winter line. Dec. 31 Jan. 2, 1944 — In slow fighting British break through cross lower Garigliano River; Americans and French close in upon Cassino on main road to Rome; Canadians take Ortona on Adriatic.

Jan. 22 — Fifth Army troops land at Anzio south of Cassino but fail to divert Germans from Cassino and cut German communications along Arno River. Feb. 15 — Allied planes attack Benedictine Abbey atop Monte Cassino but fail to dislodge Germans. March 15 — Allied planes raze Cassino but fail to dislodge Germans. May 5 — Allied planes wreck Pescara dam on Adriatic side of front, causing torrent on German positions.

May 11 — Eighth and 5th Armies launch big drive between Cassino and Turin; Rome falls at 11 P. M. May 13 — Cassino falls. May 19 — Nazis abandon Gaeta and Allies break into Hitler line after crushing Gustav line. May 23 — Anzio beachhead forces launch their attack. June 1 — Beachhead troops cut Appian Way; Canadians break Hitler line farther inland.

June 2 — Both fronts merge into single line; Germans retreat to single line further inland. June 2 — Velletri, fortress town 18 miles southeast of Rome on Appian Way, falls. June 20 — Allies break into Via Cassia farther inland, also captured. June 4 — Rome captured.

Notes By The Way

It would take all of the 10,000 mechanics in private practice five years to repair the 100,000 cars in the bomb-damaged buildings in London, England. Just imagine the job of mechanics in Berlin and other German cities.—Chatham Daily News.

More than 150 young women in Ottawa have registered as "baby-sitters" for returning soldiers. The children are relieved of mothers' worry for an evening or two each week when they can participate in real war service.—Brookville Recorder and Times.

Tokio radio has made a broadcast every American can hear. The broadcaster broke into Japanese broadcasts and translated about as follows: "In serving as a sergeant, be a corps saturated with water, do not let your feet be covered with weeds. In a tank in the sky, be a corps that challenges clouds. It's okay by us.—Chicago News.

Although much has been heard of American flying nurses, little has been said of the admirable work done by the Nurses of the Army. Badly wounded men lying still from the front are always accompanied by fully qualified nurses, no matter how dangerous the journey. Unlike American nurses, they have no flying in training to prepare them for the job. These are the nurses from the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.—London Daily Star.

Research work is amazing, but Nature is wonderful. In the ocean in all weather—birds never lose—fur-bearing animals know what sort of winter we are going to have—caterpillars change into butterflies—trees can haul sap 200 feet out of the ground—four-ounce humming birds fly over the Gulf of Mexico—some butterflies can communicate with each other through sound substances—mayflies live 12 hours and turtles 200 years.—London Free Press.

For more than 100 years the City of London has been paying the property tax of one Peter Morice £250 a year as part of the considerations for signing up a device to pump water into the city. Last week the old contract, which has cost London about \$6,500,000 was still being faithfully honored. These are the only two other 139 years to go.—New York Times.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS. THE GREAT KIDNEY PILLS. TREATMENT FOR NEURALGIA, MIGRAINE, RHEUMATISM, BRUISES, BURNS, SCALDS, HEADACHE, BACKACHE, NEURALGIA, MIGRAINE, RHEUMATISM, BRUISES, BURNS, SCALDS.

Canada's Deputy Minister For Air

The following interesting sketch is from the Montreal Standard. Mr. Gordon referred to is a brother of Mr. J. P. Gordon, Chief of the Montreal Police.

Herbert Ford Gordon is the new deputy minister for the air, promoted to that position in succession to S. L. de Carteret. He is the first civil servant to hold the air deputy ministership, his predecessors, de Carteret and Duncan, having been prominent industrialists who took time off from their private affairs to help the government.

But, while the term civil servant suggests a quiet, unimaginative cog in the government machine, the way in which the dynamic tycoon of industry, Herbert Gordon is anything but a cog. Quiet in speech and scholarly in appearance, he is nevertheless a veritable prodigy of energy—as he would have to be to work as second in command to energetic Air Minister "Clubby" Power.

How the new deputy came to be working for the government at all is a story in itself. It was after the last war, and, he admits, he was going to make a fortune. Just back from his travels in a 1,500-acre farm just north of Kinderhook, Sask., planted 800 acres with flax. He was then selling at \$8.35 a bushel. One day the autumn of 1919, he had everything ready for the harvesting of an estimated 15,000 bushels. Work was to begin the next day. That night it snowed—a real blizzard. The following morning the snow was three feet deep on the ground—and on the flax.

The harvesters went home, and he got rich quick. Gordon decided he didn't care so much for farming as he had thought. He decided to return to the city and to return to the government. He would like to purchase his land for this purpose. After getting in touch with the Soldiers' Settlement Board officials in the west, he came to Ottawa to sell the land. He was most popular with the chairman. The chairman didn't buy it, but he did ask the erstwhile farmer if, in view of his knowledge of the west and other things, he would care to join the board. Gordon accepted for the time being. That was in 1920, and he has been with the government since.

Reliving his somewhat severe aspect—when he is not smiling—Herbert Gordon is most popular with officials in Ottawa. His philosophy is that people are all pretty much the same, that if the other person senses kindness in oneself, the reciprocates, and the two get along famously.

"I adopted this attitude," he says "because I found I didn't have the qualifications to browbeat anyone anyway. I am not a politician, but the 18,000 civilian and many thousands more service personnel of the War Dept. are all my friends. He is noted among the employees for his sympathetic understanding and good nature. When it was pointed out to him that the picture which accompanies this article portrayed him as a rather mild-mannered individual he replied "Just as well. It's about the only body should start thinking I am a severe person."

But, his kindness notwithstanding, Gordon is an able and uncompromising administrator. An employee of the department who recently had occasion to be reprimanded after Gordon had seen him with a brick wrapped up in so many feathers before.

Gordon was born at Kingsborough, Prince Edward Island, in 1882 one of five sons of a Baptist clergyman Rev. Dr. John A. Gordon. He attended the St. John's Academy in St. John's, N.S., and then the University of Toronto. He was in the Canadian Field Artillery, where young Herbert took his primary schooling. When he was 13 they moved back to St. John's, and he made his high school course.

The next move was to Montreal, where he became pastor of the First Baptist Church, in downtown St. Catherine Street. Herbert had by this time decided he would like to become a lawyer and went to McGill University.

Two years later, however, in 1902, when he was 20, law seemed to have lost its appeal, and in its place came an undeniable yearning for a lumber company, was eventually sent to the bush between Winnipeg and Fort William in charge of 300 lumberjacks. It was the period of railroad expansion, and the main task was to supply ties for the Canadian National road to the coast.

The years up until the middle of World War I saw him in various parts of the Prairie Provinces, engaged in lumbering. In 1916, he was promoted to be in charge of overseas, he enlisted in the Canadian Field Artillery, where he served in France six weeks after he departed the five years he remained there until demobilization.

It was in 1919, that he purchased his ill-fated farm in Saskatchewan, lost everything that he had and, in early 1920 joined the Soldiers' Settlement Board.

Board superintendent for the Maritime until 1922, he was then made superintendent for Alberta where for the next five years he handled the settling of many thousands of families. Projects on which he worked included the 3,000 Family Scheme sponsored by the British Government, the Hebridean Settlement Scheme which brought 400 Scottish families to Alberta, and the Clondonnell settlement of 100 families north of Vermilion.

From 1926 to 1936, Gordon found himself in Ottawa. He was called back for revaluation of all soldiers' settlements throughout the country.

In 1936, he was transferred to the Finance Department and placed in charge of the administration of the Farmers' Creditors' Arrangement Act, aimed at adjusting the debts of farmers which were often as high as capital. This was an appointment in which he was the object of plenty of criticism, particularly from the Senate Banking Committee. Several of whose members had interests in the institutions to which the farmers owed money. In the five years during which he held this post, Gordon was responsible for the lowering of farmers' debts from \$300,000,000 to \$200,000,000.

When war broke out, the Finance Minister, Sir James Macpherson, called him back to Ottawa. He was appointed deputy minister for the air, a position of great responsibility. He is now working on the air policy for the government.

Small snails that fly in hot July And lodge in sleeping ears. Can rouse therein A trumpet's din With Day of Judgment fears. Small mice at night Can walk more flight Than lions at midday: A straw will crack The camel's back— There is no easier way. One smile relieves A heart that grieves Though deadly sad it be. And one hard look Can close the book That lovers love to see. —Robert Graves.

Does Life Insurance give good value? Illustration of a man and woman looking at a document.

With high taxes, increased living costs, and a ceiling on wages and salaries, enough money can still be saved to pay for life insurance. For example, compare the cost of an Ordinary Life Policy with the cost of a few everyday items.

\$2500 The price of one pound of candy per week buys a Great-West Life policy for \$2500. That means \$2500 of protection for your family is self-supporting, then cash or an income in your later years.

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\$7500 The price of one package of cigarettes per day would buy a \$7500 policy with the Great-West Life. That means a guarantee of \$7500 in cash for your family if you should die a next egg for you in the future if you live.

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Life insurance is not a luxury. It is an essential you must place first on your list along with food, clothing and shelter. Life insurance alone can guarantee food, clothing and shelter for your loved ones if you should die, and for you in your later years if you live. A Great-West Life man will be glad to help you with your insurance problems.

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Norman Rogers, requested the loan of his services as administrative assistant to the defence department. He acted as liaison officer between the War Supply Board and the Munition and Supply. He was the successor of the Department of Munition and Supply. He was chosen for the deputy minister position in 1941, he distinguished himself by his administrative ability with the result that he was chosen for the deputy minister position in 1944.

Herbert Gordon is married to the former May Brock of Ottawa has two children, Captain Hugh John Gordon, now serving overseas with the Royal Canadian Engineers and a daughter, Adele, who occupies a senior position in the Foreign Exchange Control Board. She really runs the Bank of Canada, her proud father confided to bank gossip.

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ONE HARD LOOK. Small snails that fly in hot July And lodge in sleeping ears. Can rouse therein A trumpet's din With Day of Judgment fears.

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FORGOTTEN NAME. Moscow was a former name of Russia.

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