

CANADA HOLDS FRONT LINE IN FIRST WAR YEAR

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Empire Rallies Men and Supplies To Help Britain

Dominions Achieve New Heights in Making Instruments of War for Fight With Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy

By H. M. PETERS
Canadian Press Staff Writer.

AFTER a year of war Hitler sprawls over Europe, behind him a string of military triumphs over weak nations. Before him, rising to greater military strength than ever before, stand Great Britain and the Empire. That's the picture after a year of war. Britain has been fighting for twelve months—in Belgium and France and Norway and Africa—and has yet to achieve her maximum strength. She is just starting mass production of airplanes, to show Germany what she is capable of doing in the air. The Royal Navy is stronger than it was in September, 1939.

Backed by Dominions. Behind her, contributing a never-ending stream of men and war materials, are Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the other nations of the Empire. Like Britain, they also are just starting to mass-produce the instruments of war that will stop Hitler.

After a year of war Hitler finds his greatest enemy—Britain—far more formidable than the Britain of 1939 or, indeed, the Britain of the First Great War. He has little time to review his successes against the weak nations because British bombing planes, steadily becoming more numerous, are dropping bombs on Germany every night.

A year of war, started Sept. 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland, divided itself into four main phases. They were:

1. The eastern campaign in which Germany and Russia defeated and divided Poland, and Russia attacked little Finland.
2. The winter of defensive behind the Maginot Line and the Westwall, of naval blockade and conflict at sea.
3. Land war in the West, the German overrunning of five nations from Norway south to France.
4. The Battle of Britain, and the attendant Anglo-Italian war in Africa.

Poland was fighting stubbornly when the Russians invaded her Sept. 17 from the east. Then the fight was over. Russia soon turned upon little Finland, and finally, after a bitter struggle, penetrated the Karelian Isthmus defences and obtained the city of Viipuri (Viborg) and other concessions.

The Polish campaign gave the first real hint that this war was not to be fought as other wars. The Germans threw mechanized troops out far ahead of the main troops to disrupt communications, always in close co-operation with the air force. Subsequently in other campaigns the weapons of espionage, of fifth columns, ideological propaganda and of parachute troops further emphasized the difference between the Second Great War and its predecessor of 1914-18.

Winter Campaigns. Through the winter was waged a war of positions. It was the stage of the defensive behind the Maginot Line, the naval blockade of Germany and the examination of ships going to neutral countries surrounding the Reich.

In this period came the winter's brightest spot, the flashing of naval guns of Montevideo in the 14-hour running fight in which three British cruisers—the Exeter, Achilles and Ajax—disabled and drove the pocket-battleship Admiral Graf Spee into the Uruguayan capital, ending a threat to Allied and neutral shipping in the South Atlantic. The Graf Spee was scuttled four days later, and the British won the first contingent of the Canadian Active Service Force landed in the United Kingdom Dec. 17 and others followed during the winter until a strength of two divisions in the United Kingdom was attained. Later on Australians and New Zealanders joined in the defence of Britain.

The third stage—war of movement—opened with dramatic suddenness April 9 when Germany invaded and then overran Denmark and Southern Norway. Denmark accepted the route of forces from the north, but the Norwegians fought back bravely and welcomed British and French troops in an effort to drive out the invaders.

But although the Allies landed in some strength at Namsos and Andalsnes in mid-Norway, and around Narvik in the far north, the Germans were too securely based to be ousted. Their air force commanded the Skagerrak, across which they ferried troops in great numbers. The Allied troops had to be withdrawn from Central Norway on May 10. Subsequent events in the Low Countries and France compelled withdrawal of the Allied forces from Narvik for other duties.

Chamberlain Resignation. The Norwegian campaign brought about the resignation of Prime Minister Chamberlain and the choice of Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, to succeed him. Mr. Churchill, declaring to the country that he had nothing to offer but "blood and tears, toil and sweat," formed a truly National Government, with ministers ranging from L. S. Amery, the Tory diarch, on the extreme right, across the breadth of British political life to Ernest Bevin, trades union executive, on the left.

Mr. Churchill's accession to office to oppose Hitler whose policies he

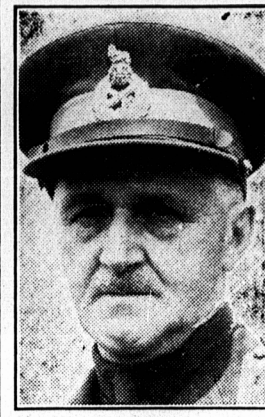
Commanders of Canada's Shock Troops in Britain



MAJ-GEN. G. R. PEARKES, V.C., Commander of the 1st Canadian Division, "Fighting George." Pearkes enlisted as a private in the First Great War and came home a Colonel with the Victoria Cross for "supreme contempt of danger and wonderful powers of control and leading" at Passchendaele.



LT-GEN. A. G. L. McNAUGHTON, Commander of the British Army Corps in which the First Canadian Division is included and the Second Division will be incorporated.



MAJ-GEN. VICTOR W. ODLUM, Commander of the 2nd Canadian Division overseas. He returned from the First Great War a brigadier-general and re-entered civilian life in Vancouver. He never lost his military contacts. He kept up his studies of military science in the expectation Germany would again make war.

East on Alert For Defence Of America

Maritime Provinces Form Basis of Powerful Atlantic Command

By JOHN LEBLANC
Canadian Press Staff Writer

AS CANADA'S first line of defence on this continent, the Maritime Provinces after a year of war stand yet untouched by actual battle, but bristling with defences enlarged and strengthened in the months of conflict.

Just as the transition from peace to war did in 1914-15, the year has done much to change the face of these eastern Provinces. Now the war dominates their life, and always in the background is the certainty that if an invasion ever comes, the Maritimes will be the striking point.

Key cities are ready for that eventuality. An elaborate air-raid precautions setup is in full swing, with even mobile dressing stations ready in some places. The navy takes care of the threat by water, with big guns, too, guarding the shores.

Industrially and economically also the war has left its stamp on the Maritimes. Factories that used to turn out materials of peace are grinding out shells by the tens of thousands. Coal mining production is up. Farmers are striving to produce more, with the Empire's needs in view.

The recent appointment of Major-General W. H. P. Elkins to Canada's new Eastern Military Command was direct evidence of the Maritimes' importance in the defence of the Dominion. General Elkins is responsible for guarding thousands of miles of coastline.

Long Coastline. The shores of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are in General Elkins' command as well as the coasts of Newfoundland, the Gaspé Peninsula and the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Organization of this new command reminded the people of the Maritimes and adjacent territory were not only in that part of Canada closest to the Empire's enemies in Europe, but also a vital link in the Empire's war organization.

Harbor traffic is booming in "east coast" Canadian ports. The long convoys come and go, preceded by minesweepers and flanked by the watchdogs of the navy.

Says General Crerar:

Written for The Canadian Press By MAJ-GEN. H. D. G. CRERAR, Chief of the General Staff.

SUCCESS in war, reduced to its simplest form, is largely a matter of obtaining the correct solution to a problem in dynamics. Generally speaking, it is a question of how to apply the right amount of force at the right time, in the right direction, and at the right place. If any one of the factors in the calculation are incorrectly assessed, then there will result either a surplus of effort or an ineffectual effort. If we are to be successful, therefore, we must not only arrive at a proper appreciation of the enemy's intentions and of the means he intends to employ against us in order to further his ends, but we must be quite clear in our own minds as to the military resources at our own disposal and the best way we can use them not only to repulse the enemy, but to defeat him.

Present Task. At this date it is no use indulging in laments and recriminations over the military inadequacies of the Allies as revealed by Hitler through his conquest of most of Western Europe. The task is now, with those bitter facts in our possession, to create the right amount and nature of armed force required to destroy him and all he represents, and to do so in the minimum of time.

From what the Minister of National Defence has said in Parliament, it can be taken that the maximum military effort which Canada is capable of producing is now in process of intense development. The essential thing is that such effort should be so co-ordinated and balanced, that really effective results should appear in the minimum of time.

I am giving away no secrets to the enemy when I state that our present major requirement is armament. We have no dearth of men in Canada, now enrolled in the fighting services, who clamor for a chance to press this war through to its final and victorious conclusion. We have a large and constantly growing Canadian Active Service Force now in the United Kingdom which, individually and collectively, is the match for anything it may meet on the field of battle.

But, what Canada and the Empire as a whole still lack is a sufficiency of the modern weapons of war to enable those men to destroy the enemy without sacrificing their lives unnecessarily. At times it may appear to those who, by the very nature of things, cannot know all the factors in the military problem that the department is moving too slowly that the staff is indifferent to presumed dangers from this direction or the other, or that the manpower of this country is not being enlisted or commissioned in the quantities which the situation seems to demand.

Believe me, the staff is indifferent to nothing. Canada is waging war which can assist to the utmost, and in the most effective manner. The difficulty under which that staff labors, however, is that owing to the reticences imposed by war, it is usually quite unable to explain to the public through the Minister just why this policy is pursued and that one rejected. There are reasons, however, and believed to be sound ones.

The essential thing is to do first things first. The Minister of National Defence, in his recent speech, indicated an order of priority in the development of our military resources which now claims our every attention. We are working to a plan which, at this stage, seems best suited to the contingencies which we must be prepared to meet. If circumstances indicate that changes in that plan are necessary, in order better to contribute to the overthrow of our enemies in Europe and to the security of this country and of the continent, there shall be no delay in recommending them.

From recent and personal experience I might add that there will also be no delay on the part of the Minister in approving sound recommendations once they are placed before him.



Maj-Gen. Crerar

High Destiny In 128 Words

We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, on the seas and oceans. We shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air. We shall defend our island whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches and the landing grounds, in the fields, in the streets, and on the hills. We shall never surrender. And even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, will carry on its struggle until, in God's good time, the new world, with all its power and might, sets forth to the liberation and rescue of the old.

—Prime Minister Churchill in the Commons, June 5, after Dunkerque.

War Power Of Canada Expanded

Land, Sea and Air Might Greatly Increased in First Year of Conflict

By C. R. BLACKBURN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

CANADA, a land of peace, has transformed itself within a year of war into a determined belligerent spending almost \$2,000,000 a day in a grim war effort against Germany and Italy. Day by day the war effort and the cost grow.

Twelve months ago when Nazi Germany hurled its strength against Poland and France into the conflict, the Dominion had a small standing army, an insignificant air force, a tiny navy. It had great capacity for production of war instruments, but few orders.

Today the strength of the Canadian Active Service Force is 153,842, of which 39,839 men are in England guarding the island fortress beside troops from other parts of the Empire.

Spectacularly, the Royal Canadian Air Force has grown into a great striking force and continues to expand in size and strength. Its enlisted personnel on July 24 was announced as 19,453, and now probably exceeds 21,000 on the basis of a weekly enlistment of 400. At the outbreak of war R.C.A.F. strength was 4,061.

Equally spectacular has been the growth of the Royal Canadian Navy—in ships from 15 to 121 inside of a year and in men from 1,700 to 10,000. For the first time in her history Canada has sent warships to Great Britain to fight with the Royal Navy.

Changes in Capital. Ottawa, nerve centre of Canada's unprecedented war effort, has undergone great transformation since last September. From this capital is directed the administrative and organizing forces which have mobilized 60,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen overseas, created the nucleus of a great home defense army, built up a navy from the smallest beginning, and established an air force.

This has meant to Ottawa the addition of thousands of workers to the public service, appropriation of every foot of available office space, construction of two large temporary office structures and creation of new departments of government.

After the initial year of the first Great War Canada had more men overseas than in the present instance, but conditions were far different, although the same enemy threatened.

Then the main effort was to put manpower on the front line to hold the enemy or drive him back from his entrenchments. Now the call on Canada is for men, but also for materials in staggering quantities, for air fighters and for assistance in keeping the Atlantic lanes open.

To meet this responsibility the Government has set up Ministries for Air and Naval Services within the Defence Department, a new Department of Munitions and Supply, and a new Department of National War Services.

Most impressive of all phases of the war effort is the air development. In addition to building the Royal Canadian Air Force into a powerful unit which has been on active service defending eastern and western shores since war started, Canada has given leadership and administration for the gigantic Commonwealth Air Training Plan, which is designed to turn out an endless stream of trained air personnel from all parts of the Empire.

In July and August, 1915, after a year of conflict, Canada was mobilizing men for service overseas as a chief war responsibility. Industrial development for war purposes was practically nil—it was to come later. There was little or no thought of the possibility the Dominion itself might be invaded.

After a year of war in the present struggle Canada has not only sent two divisions to England, but has provided garrisons for certain of the British West Indies, Iceland, Newfoundland and the strategic Atlantic and Pacific fortifications.

Naval and air units are operating on both coasts, particularly on the Atlantic, conveying merchant fleets, patrolling against possible attacks by air or water, and assisting the naval blockade of Europe.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King, always a man of peace and criticized by his political opponents for failure to co-operate fully with the British Government in defence matters, was in office with a record-breaking majority when war broke out.

He immediately called Parliament and obtained almost unanimous approval for a declaration of war against Germany. Within seven months after war started he went to the country in a general election and obtained an even greater majority of supporters in the House of Commons.

Diplomatically, the most important war development for Canada occurred at Ogdensburg, N.Y., where the Prime Minister and President Roosevelt recently met and agreed on a plan to establish a joint defence board for Canada and the United States.

Canada's Aid Cheers Britain In Battle "On to the End"

By EDWIN S. JOHNSON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON, Aug. 31 (CP)—At the close of the first year of war, Canada stands by the side of the Mother Country in the Battle of Britain. Residents of this embattled island have ever the cheery word for the youngest Dominion and its mounting aid in men and munitions.

When the First Division came to England in chill December, the country's hospitality warmed the hearts of the shivering Canadians. "Canada" on broad khaki shoulders promised aid to the Allies in a battle really not begun. Hitler's soon announced the of the Commonwealth Air Training scheme in December, and its development, after early delays, to wider scope than planned was accepted in official circles as one of the war's heaviest moral strokes against Hitler.

Canada will be producing highly trained airmen in such numbers as to turn the tide of battle in the skies. Canada's own fliers, who saw little action until the "baby blitz-

War Industry Rises to Need

Year's War Orders Cost About \$300,000,000

Canada's industrial plant, accelerating and expanding from day to day under the drive of war, has taken governmental war orders estimated at approximately \$300,000,000 in the first year of the war.

The expansion itself, about equally shared by Canada and Great Britain, cost and is costing \$150,000,000.

The almost daily publication of war orders means that Canadian industry is rising to the needs of war on a grand scale. Air training depots are to be built and equipped, army camps enlarged and equipped for winter occupation, naval craft are to be built, the enlisted forces to be clothed and armed.

The result will be that Canada is producing war material as never before. Plant building is largely accounted for by three categories of need: explosives, arms and commodities for manufacture of metals and chemicals.

Of war orders placed, the largest is for aircraft and aircraft supplies. It is worth about \$75,000,000. Mechanical transport, shipbuilding and construction run this figure a close second. A large item is for clothing for the armed forces and in anticipation of the general military training plan.

Chief of Air Force



AIR VICE-MARSHAL L. S. BREADNER

Active head of the R.C.A.F. as Chief of the Air Staff, member of the Royal Naval Air Service in the First Great War, he flew with the navy and the fighting squadrons in France. He was one of the originals in the Royal Canadian Air Force and was for a time director of civil aviation.

—R.C.A.F. Photo.

A YEAR OF WAR: SALIENT DATES IN THE DRIVE TO HALT HITLER

1939

- Sept. 1—Germany invades Poland.
- Sept. 3—Britain and France declare war on Germany. British liner Athenia torpedoed by German submarine with loss of more than 100 lives.
- Sept. 5—Herzog Government in South Africa defeated on neutrality issue; Smuts forms new Government.
- Sept. 6—French forces cross border into Germany.
- Sept. 10—Canada declares war on Germany.
- Sept. 11—British troops land in France.
- Sept. 18—British aircraft carrier Courageous torpedoed; 518 lives lost.
- Sept. 19—Canadian Cabinet reorganized; Hon. Norman Rogers becomes Minister of Defence.
- Sept. 22—Germany and Russia divide Poland.

1940

- Jan. 1—War Secretary Horne-Belisha replaced by Oliver Stanley.
- Jan. 25—Canadian Parliament dissolved after four-hour session.
- Feb. 1—Russians start new drive at Mannerheim Line.
- Feb. 5—Canadian Pacific freighter Beaverburn torpedoed off Irish coast.
- Feb. 17—British destroyer takes 299 British seamen from German prison ship Altmark in Norwegian fjord.
- Feb. 25—110th Army Co-operation Squadron, R.C.A.F., arrives in England.
- March 13—Russia and Finland sign peace treaty at Moscow.
- March 18—Hitler and Mussolini confer at Brennero, Italy; French Premier Edouard Daladier resigns.

- March 21—Paul Reynaud forms new French Cabinet.
- March 26—Liberal Government returned to power by sweeping majority in Dominion election.
- April 3—Earl of Athlone appointed Governor-General of Canada.
- April 4—Brigadier Victor W. Odlum, Vancouver, appointed to command 2nd Canadian Division.
- April 9—Germany invades Denmark and Norway.
- April 10—British destroyers attack superior force in first battle of Narvik, Norway; two British destroyers sunk and two damaged.
- April 11—Winston Churchill announces more than eighteen German ships sunk since invasion of Norway; also four British destroyers.
- April 18—British naval force destroys seven German destroyers near Narvik, Norway.
- April 15—British and French troops land in Norway.
- May 2—Allied forces evacuate Southern Norway, re-embarking at Namsos.
- May 10—Germany invades the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Winston Churchill succeeds Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister.
- May 11—Winston Churchill announces War Cabinet, assumes defence portfolio.
- May 14—Netherlands capitulates to Germany.
- May 18—Marshal Henri Petain appointed Vice-Premier of France.

- May 19—Maxime Weygand replaces Gamelin as commander of Allied armies.
- May 20—Prime Minister Mackenzie King announces Canada to raise third division.
- May 25—Britain arrests fascist leaders.
- May 24—German drive to Channel ports develops around Boulogne and St. Omer.
- May 26—General Sir John Dill replaces Sir Edmund Ironside as Chief of the Imperial General Staff.
- May 28—King Leopold III of Belgium surrenders to Germany.
- May 29—Air Commodore L. S. Breadner appointed Chief of Air Staff.
- June 1—Hundreds of volunteer boats of all sizes aid in evacuation of British from Dunkerque.
- June 4—Winston Churchill announces completion of Dunkerque evacuation; 335,000 British soldiers rescued; 30,000 casualties reported.
- June 5—Canadian troops relieve British garrisons in the West Indies.
- June 5—Battle of France begins with German attacks on the Somme.
- June 8—Aircraft carrier Glorious lost as British evacuate Narvik.
- June 10—Italy declares war on Britain and France. Canada declares war on Italy. Defence Minister Norman Rogers killed in airplane crash near Newtonville, Ont.
- June 13—Paris declared an open city to save it from bombardment.
- June 14—Hon. James L. Ralston succeeds late Norman Rogers as Minister of Defence.

- June 14—Paris taken by Germans.
- June 16—French Cabinet of Paul Reynaud resigns. Marshal Petain heads new Government.
- June 17—French Government sues for peace.
- June 18—Canadian Government moves to mobilize manpower and resources. Prime Minister announces Canadian troops in Iceland.
- June 22—German-French armistice agreement signed at Compiègne, France.
- June 23—Britain recognizes General Charles de Gaulle as leader of all "free Frenchmen."
- June 25—Hostilities ended between France, Germany and Italy.
- June 28—Canadian destroyer Fraser sunk by collision in French waters; 45 dead or missing.
- July 1—German occupation of Channel Island; announced. First German prisoners of war arrive in Canada.
- July 2—First British refugee children arrive in Canada.
- July 3—Britain seizes French Fleet. French ships sunk or damaged in resistance at Oran, Algeria. Admiralty announces torpedoing of liner Arandora Star, bearing German and Italian internees to Canada; about 1,000 lives lost.
- July 8—Premier Angus Macdonald of Nova Scotia becomes Minister of National Defence for Naval Services.
- July 14—Major-General A. G. L. McNaughton promoted to rank of lieutenant-general and given com-

- mand of army corps to include Canadians in England.
- July 16—Brigadier G. R. Pearkes, V.C., promoted to rank of major-general and to command of 1st Division, C.A.S.F.
- July 22—Major-General H. D. G. Crerar appointed chief of the general staff, Department of Defence, Ottawa.
- Aug. 2—Arrival of 2nd Canadian Division in Britain announced.
- Aug. 8—Sixty German planes downed in air battles over Britain.
- Aug. 13—Ten persons, including three Australian Cabinet Ministers and Chief of Army Staff, die in crash of airliner near Canberra.
- Aug. 15—Germans attack Britain with 1,000 planes; R.A.F. bags 180 German aircraft and loses 34 in raids.
- Aug. 18—President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Mackenzie King, after conference at Ogdensburg, N.Y., announce that a permanent joint board of defence will be set up by Canada and the United States.
- Aug. 19—British withdraw from British Somaliland.
- Aug. 20—Prime Minister Churchill announces "agreement in principle" for U.S. lease of British island territory from Newfoundland to the Caribbean for defence bases.
- Aug. 21—Canada and Newfoundland agree on coordination of a common defence scheme.
- Aug. 23—London bombed in first night raid of the war.