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No Early Change In Food Rations In Great Britain

By JOHN DAUPHINEE

LONDON, March 14 — (CP) — Food rations in Britain will have to continue at their present level for the rest of this year and possibly into 1946, although the European war seems likely to end soon.

Food Minister J.J. Llewellin says the general food position continues "difficult" despite increased production for which British farmers should be given credit. Declines in production in Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand were involved and the freeing of enemy-held territory brought a problem.

"We were all right until we started liberating people," he said. "That made additional claims on the world's food supplies and we have to help meet these from stocks in Britain.

"With the extra demand and the shortening of supplies we are going to be shorter than I would like, but we should be able to carry on."

Asked specifically whether the sugar ration could be increased, Col. Llewellin said:

"There is no chance of increase in the sugar or any other ration this year and possibly next."

These are the ration levels which will be continued:—

Bacon—four ounces a person a week.

Sugar—Eight ounces a week.

Tea—two ounces a week.

Cheese—three ounces a week.

Meat—an amount which can be bought for one shilling and two pence (about 26 cents) a week.

Fats—eight ounces a week, including not more than two ounces of butter.

Preserves—one pound a month, the ration including jam, mincemeat, jelly, marmalade and honey.

Milk—2½ pints a week for adults, one-half pint daily for children.

Personal points—24 points a month, with a wide range of canned stuffs and other commodities available at varying coupon values; for instance, canned meats at 16 points a pound, canned salmon at 32 points a pound, sweet biscuits at eight points a pound.

Mother Charged With Murdering Children

TORONTO, March 14 — (CP) — A charge of murder was laid late today against Mrs. William Boothe, 30, of Toronto, mother of three small daughters who died this morning from illuminating gas escaping from an uncapped pipe.

Mrs. Boothe was in hospital here where her condition was described earlier today as serious.

Mrs. Boothe was found unconscious on the floor, her head wrapped in a blanket. A wrench was lying on the floor nearby.

The girls were found dead in their bed shortly before dawn today when a neighbor broke down the door of the semi-detached house to discover gas pouring from an uncapped pipe in the bedroom.

The children, whose father is a street photographer in New Westminster, B.C., were Betty Anne, eight, Peggy, six, and Carole, three. Mr. Boothe is returning to Toronto, police said.

Conservative Party Holds Conference

By ROBERT LLOYD
(Reuters Staff Writer)

LONDON, March 14 — (Reuters) The Conservative party conference approved unanimously today a resolution urging the government "to formulate without delay a comprehensive program for the provision of adequate housing within the shortest possible period after the war." It declared private enterprise should be encouraged by large-scale public loans to prospective owners or tenants.

This was the only resolution passed with an undertone of impatience toward the government but delegates also demanded the earliest removal of wartime restrictions on private initiative.

The conference turned to these questions after giving Prime Minister Churchill a firm pledge of support and a broad hint was voiced that he would be asked to lead the party in peacetime reconstruction.

Mr. Churchill himself, as party leader, will address the delegates tomorrow, probably dealing mainly with such domestic problems as reconstruction, housing, post - war business and trade with the Dominions.

ORWELL COVE SCHOOL

Report for February:

Grade X — Beatrice McKenna, Laurena Rooney.

Grade IX — Clifford MacLeod, Pauline Grant, Lloyd MacLeod.

Grade VIII — 1. Marie Rooney, Malcolm MacLeod, Michael MacKenna.

Grade V—1. Annie Grant, Kenneth MacLeod, Joseph Rooney.

Grade IV—Eileen Rooney.

Grade III — Mildred MacLeod, Charles Grant.

Grade II—Clayton Cook, Georgina McKenna.

Grade I—Donald Nicholson, Glenn Nicholson.

Highest average: Clifford MacLeod, 82%.

Prize in Arithmetic, junior grades —Mildred MacLeod.

Perfect attendance — Pauline Grant, Annie Grant, Malcolm MacLeod, Lloyd MacLeod, Clifford MacLeod.

Teacher—Mary E. Bell.

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CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

At a recent Buckingham Palace investiture, His Majesty the King, presented the O.B.E. to the two Senior Chaplains at Canadian Military Headquarters, who are also Senior Chaplains to the Canadian Army Overseas. They are shown outside the Palace, after the ceremony. At left, H-Colonel William Thomas Ross Flemington, (Protestant), Sackville, N.B., and right, H-Colonel Michael Cornelius O'Neill, M.M. (Roman Catholic), Edmonton, Alta.—(Canadian Army Overseas Photo),

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West Novies Complete Another Year In Italy

BY WILLIAM BOSS
(Canadian Press War Correspondent)

WITH THE CANADIAN CORPS ON THE ADRIATIC, March 14 — (CP) — The "fightin" West Novies" have had another full year of beating up the Nazis in Italy.

It was a year that saw men of this formation, the West Nova Scotia regiment of Bridgewater, win two Distinguished Service Orders, two Military Crosses, six Military Medals, three mentions in dispatches one award of the Greek Order of Valor, one U.S. Bronze Star and one membership of the Order of the British Empire.

The story of the regiment from the time of the Ortona winter line in January 1944 until the end of the same month this year is eloquent of the zip and dash of this colorful infantry battalion.

Their stride has taken them through the foul mud of the Arielli ridge, the green fields of the Hitler Line, the spiny ridges of the Gothic Line and the maze of canals and rivers draining the Lombardy Plains.

The first three months and part of April last year provided a succession of identical days and nights, patrolling ahead of San Nicola, San Tomasso and Villa Grande, little communities on the Ortona Front. Enemy positions code named "Blue Bird", "Bourlon", "Kingbird" and "Grebe", to mention only a few, became sickeningly familiar as the Nova Scotias were "hurled at the Hun" holding them.

Relief came in April when they were drawn back into the Campobasso area for training and refitting. In the towns of Ielsi and Gambetesa, which they'd helped liberate a year before, they prepared for the storming of the Hitler Line, brushing up on infantry-tank cooperation.

They were committed to action on May 16 once the Gustav Line had been broken and British 8th Army was pressing on to the Hitler defences. In record time and with extremely light casualties, the unit brought itself well on the German positions, drawing up along a line about 300 yards from them.

The next few days were devoted to intense patrolling as the West Novies collected information about the enemy positions which could possibly help in drawing up the divisional plan.

Smashed Hitler Line

The battle was finally joined at five minutes to six the morning of May 23. For intense, savage fighting under the most incredible artillery, mortar and nebelwerfer concentrations ever experienced, the Hitler Line has become epic. The West Nova Scotians battled steadily. By seven o'clock next morning they'd pierced through in their sector and reorganized on the far side, northeast of Pontecorvo.

They got a day's breather, then resumed the chase. They drove the enemy from Pontecorvo to the Melia River, where, once another Maritime regiment (possibly the Carleton and York Regiment of St. Stephen, N.B.) had secured a bridgehead, their brigade went into reserve.

That finished that campaign for the W.N.S.R. who pulled back to Piedimonte D'Alife where the business of refitting and recreation was tackled with characteristic vim. The troops had leaves to Naples and newly-liberated Rome and by mid-August were ready for action again. Original plans called for a break through the Gothic Line in the Florence area and the West Novies went there with the rest of their division. They were in the sector only a few days when the plan was changed and they were whisked over to the Adriatic coast with an intermediate stop in Perugia.

In the early phase of the Gothic fighting, from the Metauro to the Foglio River, the Nova Scotians were in reserve. The Foglio reached, however, they were given the job of making a crossing. First patrols got over the afternoon of Aug. 30. A full-scale attack was set for that night, it went in in early morning and the troops had a nasty time.

Mines Took Heavy Toll

Not only was enemy artillery fire accurate but his small arms and defensive fire generally was so well organized that any advance was difficult. But worst of all were the mines. A heavy toll had been reaped by this vicious weapon before it was decided to attempt an infiltration with another battalion elsewhere.

The regiment reorganized and rested briefly and north of Cattolica participated in inter-battalion reliefs with three regiments before finally kicking off to establish a bridgehead over the Marano River.

The crossing was achieved, one bridgehead secured complete with bridge. Followed the storming of the San Lorenzo-San Martino Ridge, of which San Lorenzo town was the West Novies' objective. After four attempts it was taken on September 14th.

The troops wound up their participation in the Gothic campaign by assaulting the San Fortunato Ridge Sept. 19. This was another of the Italian campaign's epics. Five battalions, of which the West Novies were one, managed to surround the feature by night, and in the morning those in front drove the Germans off the top into the guns of Canadians behind. The West Novies attacked on the left, flanked by an Eastern Ontario regiment (possibly the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment of Picton, Ont.) which tackled the side of the crest, and a French-Canadian battalion (possibly the Royal 22nd of Quebec) on their right.

The troops had a well-earned month's rest around Cattolica, out of which they came in mid-October to participate in the action north of Cesena. This was the time of the Savio River crossings, in the course of which Pte. E.A. (Smokey) Smith of New Westminster, B.C., did the fighting which later won him the Victoria Cross. Two companies of the West Novies established a bridgehead north of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, a Vancouver formation. Fire was heavy, however, and it was decided to exploit the left footing over the Savio and the Nova Scotians were ordered back.

There was another month's rest.

But Dec. 1 found them in position in an Indian division's newly acquired bridgehead over the Montone River, poised to break out from it. They attacked that same morning, crossed the Via Cupa Canal, by-passed Russi before sending a company in to check reports of the enemy's withdrawal, and then struck out for the east dyke of the Lamone River, northwest of the town.

They had been stiffly opposed throughout the whole of this action. Other regiments attempted to get a foothold over the Lamone and were unsuccessful, and so the week of Dec. 4—10 was spent by the West Novies patrolling the dikes while the next assault was being planned.

They participated in the battle which smashed the Lamone defences. The Dec. 10 assault saw them attack in the centre, right where the enemy's prepared artillery and mortar fire came. They abandoned the plan to make their own bridgehead and instead went over by way of the crossings secured by the battalions on their flanks, joining on the far side and carrying on the battle in the sector originally assigned to them. They wiped out four German tanks and self-propelled guns, together with their crews.

Later they participated in the fighting which expanded the Naviglio bridgehead, got patrols to the outskirts of Bagnacavallo before being moved to the left of the front facing the town. To celebrate Christmas they left the line Dec. 23, returning three days later. When the enemy's "bulge" over the Senio was eliminated in fighting Jan. 3 and Jan. 4 which also bagged Granarols, the West Novies attacked to the Senio from the north, making a 1,500 yard gain. They had forced the Germans to a point 300 yards from the river, from which he was later pried by infiltration tactics.

Besides the commanding officer, a former second-in-command of the W.N.S.R., the regiment has three other key officers from Halifax. They are Maj. John Cameron, Capt. Art Dyer and the Regimental Sergeant Major, William Callahan.

Keltner Quits War Job For Baseball

(By The Associated Press)

LAFAYETTE, Ind., March 14— Ken Keltner again has left a war plant job to play baseabll with Cleveland Indians.

Although declining comment on his action, the perennial third baseman for the American League all-star team repeated his move of last year, when he said: "Baseball is my business. If the army wants me, it will find me working at it."

Yesterday President Roosevelt said he favored baseball as long as it did not require perfectly healthy people who could be doing more useful war work.

The infielder left a job in a Milwaukee war plant to report to training camp last year. He promptly was reclassified 1-A and was accepted for the navy after passing his physical examination.

He was not called, however, and after several months had passed was reclassified. He returned to his factory job at the close of last year's campaign.

With the exception of 35-year-old catcher-coach George Susce, Keltner is the first Indian not possessing a 4-F (medically unfit) rating or discharge papers to arrive in camp.

LLOYD MacKENZIE

The community of French River was saddened by the news of the passing of Lloyd MacKenzie, French River, P.E.I., at the early age of 23 years in Camp Hill Hospital, Halifax, following a short illness. Lloyd enlisted in Sept., 1939, and the following January he went overseas. While on the way over he became seriously ill, but he recovered from his sickness. He served two and half years overseas, but, returned to Canada in 1942 because of ill health. He received a honourable discharge from the army and entered the employment of the C.N.R. in Halifax where he laboured industriously until a short time before his sudden death on Friday, Feb. 23. His remains arrived in Kensington on Saturday.

His funeral was held from the home of his father, Mr. George MacKenzie, French River, to Geddie Memorial Church on Wednesday, Feb. 28 where many friends and relatives gathered to pay their respects to all that was mortal of this fine young man. The funeral was conducted by Rev. J. A. McGowan and the following hymns were sung led by a mixed choir: "The Lord Is My Shepherd", "Forever With the Lord" and "Sleep on Beloved". Interment was made in Geddie Memorial cemetery.

He leaves to mourn their loss besides his father and step-mother, three sisters: Dorothy (Mrs. Donald Mills, Charlottetown); Margaret, Crapaud, and Betty, Montreal.

The beautiful floral tributes speak of the esteem in which the deceased was held.

The pallbearers were:: Messrs. Elmer Paynter, Arnold Meek, Oliver Meek, Kenneth Pigeon, Willard Stewart and Hollis MacKay.

Japs Teach Children Bayonet Fighting

SAN FRANCISCO, March 14— Japanese children in the elementary school grades are being trained in "bayonet charges," the enemy homeland was told today by the Tokyo radio. "These children have been very enthusiastic in this training," said the Federal Communications Commission-monitored broadcast, saying they are "going out to the decisive battle front by polishing their fighting spirit for the destruction of the United States and Britain."

Injured Newsboy Has New Scalp

TORONTO, March 14 — (CP)— Alfred Culver, 12-year-old newsboy whose scalp was torn when he was attacked by dogs in January while delivering his papers in suburban North York Township, has a new scalp thanks to plastic surgery. Skin taken from his stomach, back and thighs has been grafted. Later eye surgery will provide a new left eyelid and eye brow and his ears are to be rebuilt with contact grafts from the neck.

MONCTON March 13 — On the forthcoming Victory Loan campaign H.M. Stevens of Moncton has been appointed liason officer for the railway branch of the national Victory Loan committee in the Maritimes, according to word received here, succeeding R.G. Loughlin.

In commenting upon this appointment J.P. Johnson, vice-president and general manager for the Atlantic region of the Canadian National Railways stated he was very pleased that Mr. Stevens had been assigned to this work and he should prove a worthy successor to Mr. Rollie Loughlin who had assisted greatly in making previous loans a success among railway employees.

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WEARS LONGER . . . PLEASANT ODOR

Ludendorff railroad bridge across the Rhine River at Remagen was seized intact by the First Army, German reports say, thus enabling Yanks to establish a bridgehead on the east bank. Span is 1,068 feet long.