

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887) President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure Vice-President: J. R. Burnett, F.J.L. Secretary: Lieut. Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D.S.O. Editor and Managing Director: J. R. Burnett, F.J.L. Associate Editors: Frank Walker and Lieut. Ian A. Burnett, R.C.N.V.R. (On Active Service)

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink." MONDAY, JULY 3, 1944

Medical Science in Battle

A remarkable reduction in the percentage of deaths from wounds was effected by the Allied Army medical services during the early North African campaigns and later in the operations in Sicily and Italy, and the experience gained there is being applied with even more notable results on the Cherbourg peninsula.

These are exceedingly heartening facts both for the fighting forces and for their relatives back home. But even more important they reflect great credit on the army medical services at the front and on the ceaseless, tireless research workers in the Allied countries.

One important development in army medical progress in this war is the improvement in air evacuation of the sick and wounded. It is now new with the present war, however, for, according to a government publication reviewing recent achievements in the treatment of sick and wounded troops, the first real attempts were made in the Spanish civil war when the Germans used Condor machines to fly casualties from Spain over the Pyrenees and then high over the Alps to Germany. The high flying did not prove injurious to those being evacuated from Spain.

Then in this war the Allied forces, during the North African campaign, used returning transport planes to take wounded to stations for necessary "definitive" treatment. The current issue of "Canada at War" comments: "The aero-medical transport has a two-way shuttle importance. First, comes the transport of the sick and wounded from battle areas to rear casualty clearing stations, and later from these stations to well-equipped hospitals in the interior. Secondly, is the transport to active theatres of medical supplies, equipment and personnel."

Highly valuable army medical research is being conducted at home. There is the vital question of the effects of air transport on various types of wounds and injuries and the effects of drugs at high altitudes. Patients who have been flown from eastern Canada to the Neurological Institute at Montreal, the Gazette cites, have been studied for adverse effects. Experiments in decompression or altitude chambers have also been conducted. Practically all types of sick and wounded, the review says, seem to withstand transport by air excepting those with abdominal wounds. During the African campaign those suffering from head, chest and face injuries and severe burns were found to be the better adapted to air evacuation.

An eminent philosopher of France remarked when the Germans began their war on his country over seventy years ago: "Now we will see what science can do with a rifle on its shoulder." Science has in the past quarter century devised diabolical instruments of torture and destruction, fiendish weapons for use in warfare, but it has also worked marvels in the cure of casualties, in the alleviation of suffering, which should be of momentous import in the days of peace to come.

Hitler's Manpower

Some commentators, recalling that Hitler still has some 300 divisions of combat troops, wonder why he isn't using more of them against the Allies on the Normandy bridgehead. The Allies, judging from the best information at hand, haven't more than between 20 and 25 divisions in France.

The answer, clearly, is that Hitler can't use all his divisions in Normandy, or even a good fraction of them, for the reason that his forces are strung out all over Europe. He still has the bulk of his armies in Russia. He has armies in Italy, armies in Yugoslavia, armies in Greece; millions of other troops stretched out from the northernmost tip of Norway to the southernmost coast of France.

Hitler can't withdraw those armies; not safely. He is faced with a fresh mighty drive by the Russians; he has his hands full in Yugoslavia; he is being mauled in Italy; he does not know at what hour or what point the Allies will strike all the way from Norway to Marseilles.

That being the position, the idea of a gigantic German counter-offensive against the Normandy bridgehead may turn out to be all wrong. It may well be that as that bridgehead is enlarged, with the Allies showing that this is to be their main invasion move, Hitler will bring up increasingly large forces, leave his other fronts in the west thinned out. Even then, the measure of what he can do will depend upon the tide that rolls down upon him from Russia.

City Of St. Francis

In Umbria the Allied troops are occupying the country of the most ancient race in Italy, says The New York Times. The Umbrians, apparently the first settlers on the coast of the Adriatic and in the valley of the Po, were gradually pushed out by the Etruscans. The Umbrian plain, rich in meadow and vineyard, mulberries and maize and wheat, with its old olive trees, its oaks, and here and there poplar and cypress, its gardens and orchards, is his hills crowned with famous cities, has as much beauty, perhaps, as can be seen even in Italy. Our men who reached Perugia the other day are now in its neighbor, Assisi. On their way they crossed a Roman bridge over the Tiber.

In the city the portico of a temple of Minerva with six Corinthian columns greets them on a public square. A renowned Latin poet, Propertius, was born in Assisi, but it is the city of a far greater poet, St. Francis. This was his city,

this plain he could see from his father's house.

More than 700 years after his death the young man about town who gave up ease and riches to serve lepers and the poor is one of the best beloved saints and endeared to very many outside of his own communion. His Friars of Orders Gray continue worthily his work. The Order of Poor Clares still hallows the name of its founder, the noble lady who gave up wealth, inspired by the example of St. Francis.

The fifteenth-century churches full of the treasures of revived art are the most interesting monuments of the city. One may see the garden where the briars he rode among brought forth roses, the garden of San Damiano, where he wrote "The Canticle of the Sun." The only fault of Rome is the excess of sights. Assisi is more easily surveyed.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Quebec founded this date 1508 by the French traveller, Samuel Champlain. The French fleet saved from the Nazis this date 1940.

Now we are nearing the "dog days," Parliamentarians are longing for the end of a session they themselves have prolonged.

General MacNaughton who has been deservedly promoted and provided with adequate pension rights, has had his leave of absence extended for three months from this week.

According to Finance Minister Ilsley, the trend of personal incomes is still upward, and despite taxation, the excess of personal disposable income over the cost of necessary wartime living standards is greater than ever before.

The Chief Justice in throwing open the hearing of the recent rape case acted in the best interests not only of law and justice, but of democratic principles and practice. There is too great a tendency these days to deal with matters of public interest behind closed doors, thereby endangering that same public interest.

Three ministers in Premier Ivanoe Bonomi's new Italian Government have declined to swear an oath of allegiance to Prince Humbert as "Lieutenant General of the Realm." The three are Benedetto Croce and Alberto Cianca, ministers without portfolio, and Admiral Raffaele de Courten, Navy Minister.

Mrs. Gladys Moorewood, sister of Richard Llewellyn, author of "How Green Was My Valley" has been killed by a German rocket bomb which struck her home in southern England. Her brother, a captain in the British Army, is stationed in Italy. The dispatch said Mrs. Moorewood, her stepmother and two nieces were killed by the projectile.

At least 500,000 yards of cloth have been saved during the last year as a result of the salvaging of outmoded wardrobes by Canadian women, Miss Kate Aitken, supervisor of the Prices Board Consumer Branch's Clothing Conservation Program, says in her annual report. In the past 12 months, 98,471 garments have been remade by 25,493 women who registered for instruction at the branch's 183 remake centres.

There were three West Kent School chums, inseparable. They joined the Scouts together; they joined the P. E. I. Highlanders in pre-war days together; they volunteered for overseas together; they were wounded in war separately, one in Sicily, one in Italy, one in France. The one wounded in Sicily recovered sufficiently in time to take part in the Invasion of France, and distinguished himself leading a company of tanks and infantry successfully against the foe. Blood tells.

Customs duties and war exchange tax on farm implements and cream separators are removed under the new budget brought down Monday evening in the House of Commons. The Finance Minister was at pains to emphasize that this will not increase the supply of such implements coming from the United States, because they are subject to restricted allocations. The Wartime Prices and Trade Board will, however, amend its order setting ceiling prices on imported farm implements and repair parts in such a way as to give effect to any decreases in the laid-down cost to importers which will result from the action taken.

The number of children in Canada under 16 years of age was set at 3,409,911 by Trades Minister MacKinnon in a return tabled in the Commons. The total was believed to represent approximately the number of children in Canada who would be entitled to the family allowances which the government proposes to pay as from July 1, 1945. The return made no reference, however, to the family allowance legislation. A break-down of the total by provinces follows: Prince Edward Island 30,484; Nova Scotia 179,599; New Brunswick 155,319; Quebec 1,133,137; Ontario 988,933; Manitoba 204,684; Saskatchewan 286,821; Alberta 243,547; British Columbia 187,427.

The economic effects of the war on the Maritime Provinces are set forth in a report by Mr. B. S. Keirstead, formerly of the University of New Brunswick, now Bronfman professor of economics and political science, McGill University, published by the Institute of Public Affairs, Dalhousie University, Halifax. According to Prof. Keirstead's preface, the work has as its aim the provision of information on the more significant events of the war period that will assist those who bear the responsibility of policy formation. In the work is included a chapter on fisheries by Mr. Stewart Bates, professor of commerce at Dalhousie and economic adviser to the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa, as well as a section on agriculture by Mr. J. H. Latimer, professor of agricultural economics, Macdonald College. The services of Mr. Latimer have recently been procured for a limited period by our own Provincial Government.

Notes By The Way

American soldiers in France have been advised to help the women with the housework. And the approving notice from Marie and Madeleine will repay them for all that K.P. training they got back home.—Windsor Star.

A milkman, inducted into the army, wrote back home from camp: "Bessie, I sure do like this army life. It's nice to lie in bed every morning until 5.30."—Montreal Gazette.

The flightless dodo bird of Mauritius Island, near Madagascar, became extinct before 1700 A.D., less than a century after its discovery, because three or four of the birds furnished a meal for a whole ship's crew.—Science Digest.

The age-old tragedy in modern setting: A mother abandoned her baby on the doorstep of Grace Hospital, Detroit, and left with it a note—written in lipstick—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

The picture, The Light of the World, painted by Holman Hunt, shows Christ in a garden at midnight. In his left hand He is holding a lantern and with His right hand is knocking on a heavily-paneled door. He says to the artist, "Is the door to the human heart—it can be opened only from the inside."—Felix Downey in Chester-Fighters.

A sensible system of education would take the boy or girl with brains and keep pushing them on in schooling as far as they are content to go—knowing well that such training never be a loss to the world. It is only cranks who wish to open the top of the human head, and measure the weight of "lessons," which may or may not mean fit that particular kind of a head. Education is, and must be, a leading out of the individual. —Victoria Colonist.

Marshal Petain is being sustained by carefully controlled doses of epiedrine and benzadrine, which opens visions of rulers getting older and older, and being kept alive for about four hours by energizing drugs, says The London Daily Sketch. Four hours, says an informant, is Petain's active day. For after his morning's work as Vichy he sinks back into the comatose state fitting to a defeatist octogenarian.

How long will the war last? Well, from what I have been able to observe it will last only as long as the grandmothers can take it. These heroic creatures are putting up a great battle, but there is a limit to their endurance. Frequent changes of equipment and doing the laundry work afterward, not to speak of bottle-warming in the cold grey winter air, as well as piloting a B-17, but there is no time off to recuperate. When granny chokes, the fire will be out. —H. V. O'Brien in Chicago Daily News.

Reduction by 50 per cent of forest fires in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the last five years is recorded in Moscow. "The result is ascribed to modern methods of prevention and forest management by the forest guards, and by war conditions, great precautions have been taken to prevent avoidable loss of timber resulting from forest fires. In the areas and drop messages in the nearest community when a blaze is sighted. In remote regions fire fighters and equipment are dropped by parachute.

But did we go to war to improve our social conditions? Did we hope by having expended on the machines of death, to improve a standard of living? Is it not we went to war so that London should not know the pollution of a Nazi victory parade; that in Manchester's Albert Square its civic leaders should not hang from German gallows; that the Scottish and Peruvian moors should not become a desolate and wasteland; that the camps housing and torturing the bravest and most loyal? That give to the world a declaration of war, and it remains a reality today. A better world we may have after the war. We shall, however, still be working for it. And, more than ever, we need—all of us to work for it today.—London Sunday Dispatch.

News reports coming from the invasion beaches tell of a gallant commander and his men. A tank landing craft on its way to the French shore developed a fault. The barge was filling rapidly with water. When it became obvious that it could not be salvaged, the commander ordered it to be abandoned. The craft was deliberately sunk by the passing of a mine into the minestrone outer waters. Fortunately, when the barge sank most of its men were picked up by motor launches. These are men to be proud of. They have no thought of personal safety—they risk their lives rather than delay for an instant the flow of men and materials to French soil.—Winnipeg Tribune.

The Home Guard has acquired a large anecdote, much of it obviously invented. Here is a story for the authenticity of which a correspondent vouches. In the very early days of the L.D.V., an ex-sergeant of the old school, complete with waxed moustache, roaring parade-ground voice and all, had an experience which was novel to him in spite of his long and varied military career. With an incredible effort of patience, self-restraint, energy, and vocal variation he had wrestled for two rather head-breaking hours with a very raw squad whose sole redeeming feature was its obvious anxiety to please. At the end of the parade he was standing for a moment regarding them much more in sorrow than in anger when one of their number took a pace forward from the ranks and, turning towards the squad, said in precise and pleasant tones, "Gentlemen, I should like to propose a vote of thanks to the sergeant for his efforts with us tonight." Nobody knows what the sergeant's thoughts were, but as he left the parade-ground he was observed to be swallowing hard and looking slightly dazed.—Manchester Guardian.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the expression of views on questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not assume responsibility for the opinions of correspondents.

CONFEDERATION HISTORY

Sir,—In the Canadian Woman's Magazine, "Chatinne", for July, 1944, there is an article entitled "Cradled in the Waves" by Miss Adele White, Assistant Editor. A section of the writup placed in quotation marks is given as information which I gave to Miss White. It contains at least seven errors. I wish to state that the errors were not made by me. Following are some of the errors and the corrections.—

I. Wrong: "Arranged a meeting with representatives from Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia." Correct: The meeting at Charlottetown on September the first, 1861, was called to discuss a union of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. There were five delegates from each of these three colonies, and eleven visitors from Canada. Newfoundland was not represented.

II. Wrong: "The Governments of Upper and Lower Canada." Correct: In 1841 there were no colonies known officially as Upper and Lower Canada. They were joined as United Canada in 1841, and known officially as Canada until 1867.

III. Wrong: "For three days they argued back and forth." These are not my words. Correct: The meeting at Charlottetown opened on September the first, and continued until the evening of September the eighth, eight days not three.

IV. Wrong: "Adjourned to meet at Quebec a few months later." Correct: The meeting at Quebec opened on October the tenth, six weeks after the opening of the Charlottetown meeting.

V. Wrong: "Here are the signatures of the delegates." Correct: I have not in my possession the signatures of the delegates. Neither have I ever seen them.

VI. We have the signature of Sir John A. Macdonald in our registers. The one which I showed Miss White is as follows: Name—John A. Macdonald, residence Ottawa, occupation, cabinet maker. Date, August 9th, 1867, the year before his death and twenty-six after the meeting at Charlottetown.

VII. Wrong: "We held out until all the conditions were met." Correct: We held out until the Better Terms were promised in Canada.

I am, Sir, etc. WM. F. P. BRADLEY, Assistant Archivist, Charlottetown, June 30, 1944.

NURSES' TRAINING AND FALCONWOOD HOSPITAL

Sir,—It was with much interest that I read the articles in the newspapers recently regarding the training of nurses. After reading the above-mentioned articles I now solicit space in your valuable paper to express my views on the subject.

As I am a graduate nurse of Falconwood Hospital, my concern will concern chiefly the training given those nurses. Why are they not given a chance to get their B.N. degree after graduating from Falconwood? When I graduated from this hospital I held high hopes for the future with the understanding that I could complete my training by serving a year in a general hospital. But that affiliation was taken from Falconwood and every attempt I have made to finish my training by taking a post-graduate course was "nipped in the bud." In the meantime nothing was ever done to better the position of the graduates of Falconwood Hospital.

With the war bringing on an urgent need for nurses, I can understand why those graduates are not given an opportunity to get their B.N. degree and meet the need of more service. It should be realized that caring for our patients in Falconwood is just as exciting, if not more so, than in a general hospital. Besides the care and devotion given to the patients, long hours are spent in study which, presumably, will be of little or no benefit after graduation.

While I may not play a major part in relieving the scarcity of nurses I feel sure that, if the graduate nurses of Falconwood are given a fair chance to complete their training, it would be of no small benefit to the country and what is more important, the young ladies who train there would have their dream of being a registered Nurse fulfilled.

I am, Sir, etc. GRADUATE OF '33.

Scenes In Belgium

(Belgian War Information) On August 21, 1943, two priests were shot at the Citadel in Liege. They were the Abbe Peeters, a Belgian priest of Comblain-au-Pont, and the Abbe Desirant, of Devanure, Marcour, Belgian Luxembourg. Walloon guards quartered in the Citadel, who saw the two priests walk to the firing ground, decided that they had never witnessed a more impressive scene. The two heroic patriots had promised themselves that they would go to their death singing. They kept their word.

Abbe Peeters was the first to appear in the prison yard. He was accompanied by another patriot—his name is unknown—who was also about to die. The brave priest of Comblain was easily recognized by his pronounced limp. He was wearing on his cassock the ribbons of his decorations, awarded in the last war, and was smiling, as usual. In the Citadel he had been known as the cheeriest prisoner and the most courageous comrade. For nearly three months he had been kept in uncertainty of his fate, yet downward or discouraged.

When the guards appeared at dawn and made signs to the Abbe and his comrade to go forward, the brave priest lifted up his powerful voice and began to sing the "Magnificat." He marched right across the barrack-square, still singing, and finally his voice was lost in the distance. The Abbe Desirant followed his brother priest fifteen minutes later. He, too, was accompanied by a victim, now condemned to death. The Abbe, thirty-three years old, was an imposing, proud figure. When he emerged from the notorious block of condemned cells

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P. E. I. BOAR PREMIUM POLICY The attention of boar owners in the Province is directed to the following Policy: Boars eligible for premium must be registered in the name of the group or individual making application. Registration Certificate must be available to the inspector on date of inspection. Boars under eight months of age on July 12th are ineligible. No maximum age is set, but animals must be satisfactory as breeders. Where vermin, disease, or parasites exist no premium will be paid. Premium shall be paid only on the recognition of a Board set up to examine inspectors' report in each individual case. No premium will be paid in cases where organizations have received grants during the current year to assist in purchase. Premiums shall be paid as follows: Boars from dams qualified in Advanced Registry, Class "A" \$12.00; Class "B" \$8.00; Boars passing in speed and approved by the Board, not out of Qualified Dams, will receive 75% of the above amounts. Boar owners are asked to send for a copy of the Premium Policy and Application Form if animals are eligible. Application for premium must reach the office of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Charlottetown, not later than July 15th. No bonus will be paid until December 15th and bonus receiving bonus must be in satisfactory breeding service at this date. Bonus will be paid to applicant providing Boar is in active service at above date.

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