

Questions Vaue Of Last Nine Months Fight In Italy

By BILL BOSS
Canadian Press Staff Writer
OTTAWA (CP)—The official history of Canadian army operations in Italy during the Second World War questions the military value of the fighting in the campaign's last nine months.

Canadian troops fought during the nine months, suffering some of their heaviest casualties in that theatre.

Written by Lt.-Col. G. W. L. Nicholson, deputy-director of the army general staff's historical section, the 682-page text is buttressed by 67 pages of references, 25 maps and 14 battle sketches.

"UNPROFITABLE" DRIVE

"The Canadians in Italy, 1943-45"

The Allies should have held up south of the Germans' Gothic Line in August, 1944, as Prime Minister Churchill had advocated. Advancing beyond that between September and December, resulted in a "bitter and unprofitable struggle which wore out the last four months of 1944, and cost Canada her heaviest casualties of the campaign."

2. The generalship of Sir Oliver Leese, 8th Army commander during the Liri Valley campaign of April and May, 1944, was faulty. While Canadian troops were closing up to and smashing the Hitler Line British troops on their right flank were marking time. Both British and Canadian formations suffered heavier casualties than had been expected.

3. Lt.-Gen. E. L. M. Burns, commanding the 1st Canadian Corps, was relieved of his command after leading his formation through its bitterest and most successful fighting because, although "of very distinguished abilities" he didn't get along with senior British officers and had been placed in an "impossible"

position.
4. Burns asked unsuccessfully in July, 1944, for an additional infantry brigade to be sent from Canada for the 5th Canadian Armored Division. Barely two months later, when the reinforced stream was drying up, Defence Minister Ralston wanted to reduce the 1st Canadian Division by one infantry brigade, from three to two.

5. Col. Raiston and Lt.-Gen. Kenneth Stuart, chief of the general staff, proposed at one stage of the campaign that the 1st Canadian Army be disbanded, its headquarters to be incorporated with Canadian Military Headquarters in London to administer Canadian forces in the field. Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, then army commander, said the government would have to find someone else to implement such a policy.

MAJOR DIFFERENCE
"This fundamental difference of opinion," says the history in one of its rare allusions to policy matters, "certainly contributed to producing his (McNaughton's) retirement before the end of the year."

Published tomorrow at \$3.50 by the Queen's Printer, the engrossing, well-written history carries the reader in detail through the easy-to-follow details through the planning and execution of all the major operations of the campaign. Throughout Col. Nicholson keeps his readers informed of what the Germans were doing.

Col. Nicholson, a pre-war high school principal in Saskatchewan who enlisted with the Prince Albert and Battleford Volunteers before becoming historical narrator for Pacific Command in 1943, says that by July, 1944, the Italian campaign had accomplished its task.

"The 12 months which followed the invasion of Sicily had deprived Germany of her Axis partner; opened to Allied shipping the important sea route through the Mediterranean to the Middle East and India; gained air bases on the Italian mainland which considerably increased the effectiveness of the great bombing program against Germany; and enhanced Allied prestige by winning a decisive victory which led to the capture of Rome and set the stage for the successful invasion of southern France.

"In July, 1944, however, there seemed little in Allied plans likely to produce any further spectacular contribution by the forces in Italy."

ADVANCE ORDERED
"Instead, they ordered Gen. Alexander's weakened forces to advance over the Apennines to close to the line of the River Po."

Nicholson submits that a Churchill suggestion of building a massive fortified line across Italy's narrow waist would have continued to retain large bodies of German troops in Italy—the theatre's assigned function.

Strategical considerations aside, he says, nothing "can alter the fact that the Allied armies in Italy waged and won a hard and well-fought campaign."

"Always the attacker, they carried out major amphibious landings, and three times attacked the enemy with the full strength of an army group. Their polyglot forces, in which 26 nations were represented, drove the enemy from one position after another up the whole length of the peninsula to complete his destruction in the northern plain."

"To these successes Canadian troops made no small contribution."

NOTABLE RECORD
"Except for the last two months of the war Canadian formations were engaged in all the major phases of the campaign; when it left Italy the 1st Division had served continuously in the theatre for a longer period than any other division in the 8th Army."

"In the long advance from Pachino (Sicily landing beach) to the Senio (the Canadians' final 1944-45 winter line) the Canadians had fought against 30 different German divisions . . . as we have learned from enemy records, the reported appearance of the Canadians in a given sector was generally the signal for the Germans to commit their best formations in the theatre."

QUESTIONS ITALY
Of the 92,757 Canadians who served in Italy more than one-quarter became casualties. A total of 26,254 were killed, wounded or taken prisoner, the latter category totalling 1,000.

Casualties of all kinds in the five major Canadian operations were: Sicily, 2,227; the Moro River and Ortona, 2,805; the Liri Valley, 3,713; the Gothic Line and the Battle of the Rimoli Line, 4,511; the advance to the Senio, 2,581.

The history questions the generalship of Sir Oliver Leese, 8th Army commander, under whom the 1st Canadian Corps fought the crucial battles of the Gustav and Hitler Lines and then the pursuit up the Liri Valley. That operation was part of the campaign leading to the liberation of Rome.

and British armor, artillery and engineers and other corps troops and services.
Construction battalions had labored five months to build the eight-mile Hitler Line.

The 1st Canadian Division smashed the line May 23 at a cost of 47 officers and 832 other ranks killed, wounded or captured by one infantry brigade, from three to two.

"The bitter fighting in which they broke through the strongest of all the enemy's positions there was to link lastingly the name of the 1st Canadian Corps with the Adolf Hitler Line," says Nicholson.

But the pursuit bogged when it came to passing divisions of one corps through the area of another. Burns subsequently wrote: "To change boundaries in the middle of an operation like this, and still more to endeavor to pass a division under command of one corps through the area of another is bound to result in traffic confusion and delay."

SUPPORT FOR BURNS
Historian Nicholson supports Burns.
"There will be some critics of the Army plan who will question the soundness of trying to advance with two corps abreast through the narrow defile of the Liri Valley. They will suggest that operations should have been under the command of a single corps headquarters—a practice followed by the Germans throughout the battle."

"Bearing in mind the fact that the heaviest casualties suffered by the 1st Division in its assault were those inflicted from the right flank (13th British Corps) and that this exposed the flank remained a source of embarrassment to the 8th Armored Division in its subsequent advance, the question must be asked whether greater pressure might have been maintained in the Aquino sector by a corps commander in command of the entire front."

During the summer, while 1st Canadian Armored Brigade supported British formations past Lake Trasimene to Florence, the corps retrained and reorganized.

SUPPORT DENIED
Burns, reporting that 8th Armored's one infantry brigade, the 11th, had been overworked in the Liri Advance and that 8th Army was providing extra infantry brigades for its armored divisions, asked Canadian Military Headquarters in London whether an operational brigade group might be sent from Canada to Italy for inclusion in 5th Armored.

"A request by Gen. Alexander that the recommendation be supported by the war office was turned down by the CIGS (Gen. Sir Alan Brooke) who ruled that no 'diversions from Overlord (the Normandy assault)' could be agreed to."

Burns then improvised an infantry brigade from his own resources. Those troops, trained specialists in other than infantry warfare, turned in a splendid record in the Gothic Line and Lombardy Plains exploitation.

Two months later Defence Minister Ralston visited the theatre with particular interest in reinforcements.
He was told that by Oct. 10, if the corps continued active, there would be no reserves and units would have to fight below establishment. Gen. Burns urged that his command be maintained at full strength.

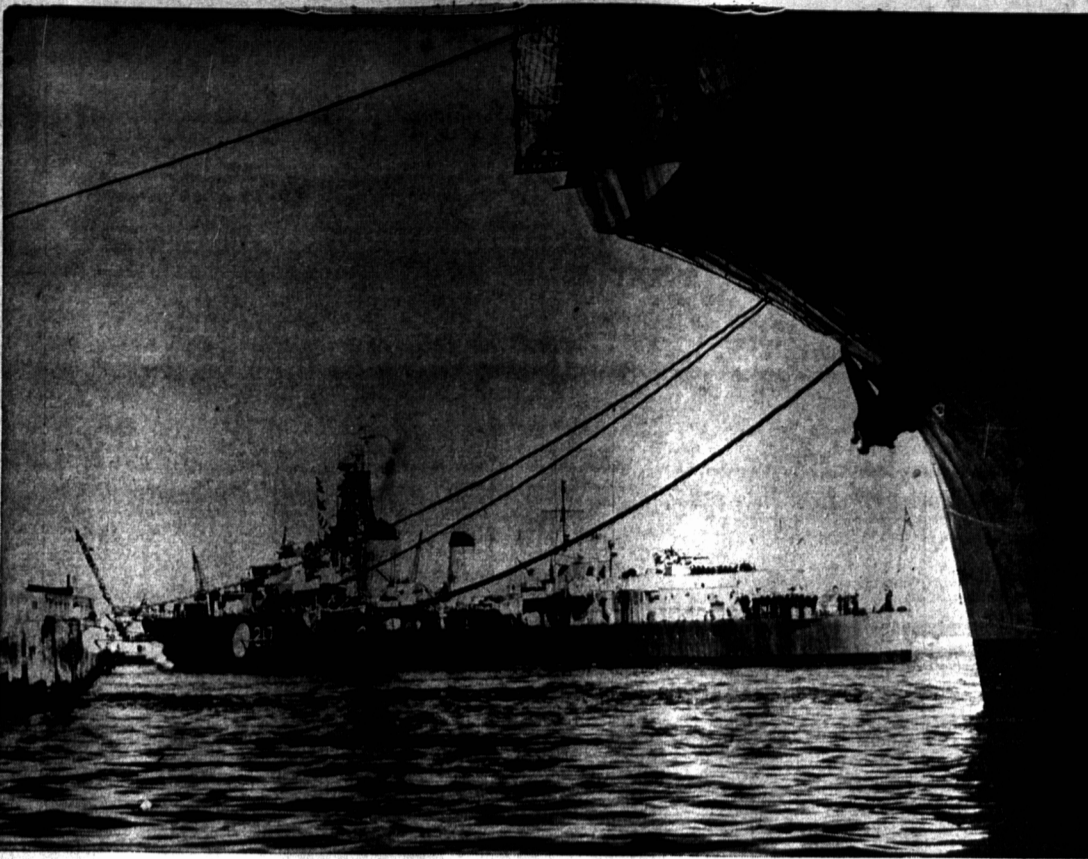
Ralston, however, suggested to Gen. Leese that 1st Division be reduced to a brigade, instead.
"Strongly deprecating this suggestion," says the history, "Leese declared that the division was undoubtedly the best in the 8th Army, that it could always be relied upon to take on a tough job successfully, and that any reduction in its infantry would be a mistake."

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Richards, Murray Harbour, were the guests of their daughter, Mrs. Willard Murray, Wednesday, Sept. 12th.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Allen, York, left on Monday, Sept. 10, for Boston. They were accompanied by Mrs. Douglas Moore, Charlottetown, who will spend a short holiday with her sister, Mrs. Alen.

Mrs. Elmer Brown was hostess for the W.M.S. at her home Tuesday evening with good attendance.

Mr. Eric Sproule, R.C.A.F., Halifax, was a visitor to his home in York.



DESTROYERS SAIL FOR EUROPE

Partly framed by the towering bow of the aircraft carrier Magnificent, HMCS Iroquois, one of four RCN destroyers which will pay training visits to European ports in the next two months, sails from Halifax. Light circle on Iroquois' bow just forward of her official number 217 is actually rat guard on Magnificent's berthing lines. (RCN Photo)

YORK

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Rev. Howard Christie, Charlottetown, was a visitor to York Manse on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

Mr. and Mrs. James Maund, City, spent a short time in York, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Parker Jewell.

Mrs. Elby Hardy and Mrs. Edson Hardy, York, spent Friday in Charlottetown.

Rev. J.M. Sproule, Mrs. Sproule, and family, were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller Bideford on Saturday.

Miss Elaine Cooke has returned to her home in York, after spending a holiday with her sister, Mrs. Robert Bell of Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave MacDonald, Union, were the weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Crockett, York.

Master Allen Keiser, spent the weekend in York.

Miss Lauretta Vessey, Dunstaffnage, was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Elmer Brown, York, on Sunday, Sept. 2nd.

HAMPTON

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Peterson, have motored to their native province, and during their brief visit are the guests of Carl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Peterson.

The many friends and relatives of Mrs. Albro Howatt regret to learn of her continued illness, and are extending best wishes for a start on the road to recovery.

Miss Wanda Pearson, has returned to her home at Chelton, following an enjoyable visit here, the welcome guest of Mrs. Earle Callbeck.

Friends of Mrs. William Callbeck are extending best wishes for an early and satisfactory return from a recent illness.

Friends of Mr. Weldon Smith are extending to him a "welcome back" following a considerable period of absence from his former home near Canoe Cove. Like other Islanders having set-up homes with the intention of remaining away permanently, they enjoy a brief visit to the place and friends of by-gone years, and the expression is invariably heard: "There's no place like home."

Many residents were present to enjoy the opening of the fine new Federal Building on September 11.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. William Silliker are extending much sympathy in their recent heavy loss of the fine large barn, caused by being struck by lightning, with contents, on September 14. Reliable information is not available as to Fire Insurance applicable to this loss.

Mr. Howard MacKinnon has returned from an enjoyable motor visit among friends residing in the U.S.A.

Miss Dorothy Millar, teacher of York School, spent the weekend at her home in Bideford.

Mr. Harry Kelly, and Miss Dorothy Millar, teachers of York School, attended the Teacher's Convention held in Charlottetown, the 12 and 13 of September.

Mrs. Fred MacDonald, Charlottetown, spent Saturday in York.

Miss Myrna Caswell, Charlottetown, was the guest of Miss Shirley Vessey on Saturday.

Tryon Presbyterian Church on September 8, Miss Elaine Chisholm, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Chisholm, North Tryon was widely entertained by her many friends. Including those held in her honor in the city, Miss Chisholm was the guest of honor given by the North Tryon Community in the Baptist Hall, where many beautiful and useful gifts were presented in testimony of the esteem entertained by these many large gatherings for this young couple. Following a wedding tour through the Maritimes, it is agreed that they will reside in Charlottetown.

The Children's Rally Day Service at Bonshaw was greatly enjoyed by the large number present, on September 16, each one participating bringing credit to themselves and to those who gave their time in preparing them for a very fine service.

POWVAL

The Powval Ladies Aid held their annual chicken supper in the hall on Tuesday evening, Sept. 11. This supper, which is looked forward to, with much interest, was largely attended this year, and a goodly sum of money was raised.

On Wednesday evening September 12th, a large number of friends and relatives gathered at Fownal Hall to tender a shower in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Frank McMillan. To the strains of the Wedding March played by Mrs. Nat MacKinnon, the bride and groom were ushered to the seats of honor by Miss Marlene Balderson and Mr. Wallace Smith. The stage was blue streamers and white wedding bells, which were filled with confetti.

A short address was given by Mr. Gordon Moore, after which a gift of money was presented by Mr. Kenneth Judson.

Gifts were opened by Mrs. Charles Jones and Florence McMillan. Hilda Jones read the accompanying verses. Frank, on behalf of Jane and himself thanked all for their gifts and thoughtfulness. After singing "For they are Jolly Good Fellows." Frank was bounced by a number of his pals. The remainder of the evening was spent in music and dancing. The music being furnished by: Mrs. Harold Smith, Mrs. Nat MacKinnon, Mr. Leo Coady and Douglas Drake.

Mr. and Mrs. James MacQuarrie and Mrs. (Reverend) Richard Mercer of U.S., have returned to their homes after spending a short holiday, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edison Smith, Pownal. DJ

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FROM MILTON'S OLD SPAIN



There's no need to lose time from your bridge game or your favorite television program preparing lunch for your guests or yourself if you let us take care of your food problems. Whether it's a lunch, hot dinner or supper we'll be glad to look after your food needs and you won't have the work or worry over deciding what to prepare for your guests. In addition you'll find that it won't cost you any more than if you prepared the lunch or meal yourself. Its ideal for parties where all can share in the cost or for a hot meal when you haven't time to prepare something warm. The food will be just as hot as if it were served in our restaurant for it will be carried on aluminum foil plates covered with aluminum foil. Simply reach for your telephone, dial 4636, place your order with us and within minutes the food will be on your table delivered free of charge on orders of \$1.00 or more. This service begins today and is made possible through the co-operation of Milton's Old Spain and Ed's Taxi. Orders will be filled between 8:00 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. anywhere in Charlottetown, Parkdale, Spring Park or Saint Dunstan's.

MILTON'S OLD SPAIN
DIAL 4336

Mayflower II Is Launched In U.K.

BRIXHAM, Eng. (AP)—Pretty girls wearing capes and shawls which were the fashion of the Pilgrim mothers stood in a down-pour of rain Saturday as the sturdy little ship called Mayflower II was launched in misty Tor Bay.

As the brown and white hull, still without superstructure or sail, slid down the greased slipway, the band of the Somerset Light Infantry played the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

A clergyman blessed the little craft, which in about a half a year will be ready to duplicate the historic voyage of the first Mayflower in 1620 from Plymouth, England, to Plymouth Rock on the coast of Massachusetts.

SAME CHARACTERISTICS
As nearly as builders could make it, Mayflower II has the characteristics of the ship in which the Pilgrims sailed to America. But there are differences. Mayflower II will cost about £100,000 probably more than the original pilgrims could have afforded.

On the insistence of navigation authorities it will carry radio, just in case. Fifteenth-century rigging and equipment will be used. But there will be some modern gear if the 20th-century pilgrims cannot manage the more primitive gadgets.

An American hero widely acclaimed in Britain, former airman Reis Leming of Toppish, Wash., came over to christen the vessel. The wind almost drowned out his words when he shouted: "I christen the Mayflower II."

In 1953, Queen Elizabeth awarded Leming the George Medal for saving the lives of 27 Britons in a disastrous east coast flood.

FOLLOWS RITUAL
Naming of the vessel was in strict accordance with a historic British ritual. Leming drank wine from a goblet and then tossed it into the sea. Then, again in conformity with the old ritual, Berie Watson, 22, plunged into the water and recovered the goblet. Watson will be a member of Mayflower II's crew when she sets sail for the New World about next April.

Few other members of the crew have been selected, said Warwick Charlton, one of the organizers of the enterprise, conceived as a project to strengthen Anglo-American relations.
Mayflower II will be berthed permanently at Plymouth Rock.



People who drive in gold-plated limousines get their names and pictures in the newspapers. As you may surmise "that's the big idea." That's why they do it. It is said that Sir Bernard and Lady Docker get more space in the newspapers than cabinet ministers and movie stars. Gold plated cars are just one of their attention getters. Lady Docker plays in marble contests with factory workers, attests in \$1,000 gowns—and wins championships—entertains coal miners on her luxury yacht. The Star Weekly has a story about this publicity pursuing couple in this week's issue. You'll find it amusing. You get a whole week's entertainment when you get The Star Weekly. Entertainment for adults and children, too. It has pictures and you'll enjoy seeing page and pages of them; feature articles you'll enjoy reading. Reviews of the movies and the entire world of entertainment. News from the world's fashion centres, and picture—new menus, 20 pages of colored comics. Interesting fiction stories and a complete novel. The Star Weekly — Buy it today

Coming Events

Regular Dance Bonshaw Inn Tuesday night. Burns Orchestra.

Dance Fortune Hall, Friday night, Sept. 28.

Reserve Monday October 8th for social and Dance in Iona Hall.

Dance Stanley Bridge Hall Sept. 28. Weatherby's Orchestra.

Reserve Oct. 10th for Highfield United Church supper.

Dance New Glasgow Hall to night. Door Prize.

Chicken Supper and Bazaar, South Rustico, October 10th - 56.

Dance Grandview Hall, Wednesday, September 26, Boudeault and O'Connor.

Dance Forest Hill Hall Wednesday night September 19. Turner's Orchestra.

Regular dance at Gordon Lodge every Friday night. Weatherby's Orchestra.

St. John's Anglican Church Chicken and Ham supper, Wednesday October 3. - North Milton Hall.

Year end sale Sept. 25th to Sept. 29th. C.M. Simpson and Sons, Stanley Bridge.

"The Miracle of Fatima" (In color). St. Teresa's Hall, Friday, Sept. 28th, 8 p.m.

Weekly Dance Fort Augustus Hall every Wednesday night. Burke's Orchestra.

"The Miracle of Fatima" (In color). Coran Bann Hall, Saturday, Sept. 29th, 8 p.m.

Dance Mt. Stewart Memorial Hall, Tuesday night. Rollie MacKenzie's Orchestra.

Dance St. Peter's Holy Name Hall, Tuesday night. MacEwen's Orchestra.

Reserve Monday, Oct. 1st for Fiddlers Contest, St. Peter's Bay Hall.

Green Road chicken supper, Wednesday, Sept. 26th, supper served 7:30 to 9. Dance after.

"The Miracle of Fatima" (In color). Mt. Ryan Hall, Tuesday, Oct. 2nd, 8 p.m.

Chicken Supper, All Saints Church, Wednesday, Sept. 26th, from 5 to 9 p.m. Dance after. Webster's Orchestra.

Dance West Royalty Hall, Wednesday, Rollie MacKenzie's Orchestra. Canteen service. 9:30 to 12:30.

Important Announcement

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
In Aid Of

PROTESTANT ORPHANAGE

OPENS
Monday, October 1st

FACTS TO REMEMBER

AT PRESENT THE ORPHANAGE IS WELL FILLED WITH CHILDREN — INDICATIONS POINT TO A CAPACITY HOUSE THIS COMING WINTER.

DUE TO EXTENSIVE REPAIR WORK AND WITH THE COST OF ALL NECESSITIES AT THEIR PRESENT HIGH LEVEL, A GENEROUS RESPONSE TO THIS YEAR'S APPEAL IS URGENTLY NEEDED.

HERE IN P. E. I. WE CONTRIBUTE MAGNIFICENTLY TO ALL CANADIAN-WIDE APPEALS. IT IS A PRIVILEGE, AS WELL AS A RESPONSIBILITY, TO CONTRIBUTE WITH EQUAL GENEROSITY TO THIS APPEAL ON BEHALF OF OUR OWN HELPLESS CHILDREN. NO CAUSE IS MORE DESERVING.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS, LARGE AND SMALL, WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE PRESS.

For These Outstanding Values Shop At Greendals

Men's Suits in gab, worsteds, etc., selected from our regular stock, sizes 36 to 46. Values to 49.50.	25.00	Ladies' new Winter Coats in tweed and plain materials. Priced from	29.50 to 99.50
Men's Topcoats in gabardines, tycondas, etc., sizes 36 to 46 in blue, fawn and grey. Values to 29.50.	16.95	Ladies' Dresses arriving daily including sheath styles, assorted colors.	4.95 to 29.50
The balance of our Men's Suits and Topcoats less	20% Discount	Ladies' Suits in tweed or plain materials, fitted or box styles.	19.95 to 59.50
Men's Suede Leather Jackets, knitted collars, cuffs and bottoms. Special low price	14.95	Children's Dresses in wool, velvet or taffeta, sizes 2 to 14.	2.95 to 5.95
Just arrived Boys' Flannel Lined Pants. Completely washable. Blue, brown and grey.	4.95 & 5.95	Children's Knee Socks, ankle socks and long fawn hose.	59¢ & 89¢
We have in stock Men's and Boys' Suburban Coats in newest shades and materials.		Children's Winter Coats and Coats Sets, sizes 2 to 14x.	16.95 UP
ALL SPECIALLY PRICED		Ladies' flannek pyjamas and gowns, all sizes.	2.95 and 3.95
Men's All Wool Sweaters, pullovers or coat styles, assorted colors in all sizes.	3.95	Children's Sweaters	2.49 and 2.95
Men's Dress Pants in gab, worsteds, etc. Values to 12.95.	6.95 & 7.95	Ladies' Slacks, sizes 18 to 44.	3.95 to 5.95
		Boys' Grey Flannel Pants, Sizes 2 to 6x.	1.95 and 2.95

MEN'S STORE OPEN FRIDAY and SATURDAY EVENING

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144 & 150 GREAT GEORGE ST. CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.