

Two Canadians Lose Lives In Spy Network Collapse

By PETER BUCKLEY
LONDON (CP)—The story of how two Canadians found themselves snared tragically in the collapse of an undercover spy network in France during the Second World War is told today in an authorized history of British Special Operations Executive, a wartime secret service agency.

The two men were F. H. Pickersgill, brother of Transport Minister J. W. Pickersgill, and radio operator J. K. Macalister. Both were captured by the Germans within a few days of being parachuted into France and both died in a mass execution at Buchenwald concentration camp 15 months later.

Their fate is set out in a book called *SOE in France* by Oxford historian M. R. D. Foot, published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office (\$6.75).

Pickersgill and Macalister are among at least a half-dozen Canadians who worked for SOE and whose efforts are mentioned by Foot. His is the first history of the agency to be based on some of its top-secret official files, although the stories of several SOE agents have been detailed previously since the war using unofficial sources.

AGENCY IN CHAOS
Foot writes that the two Canadians landed in France at a time of disastrous confusion in parts of Britain's SOE network, whose main job was to infiltrate agents from outside or enlist them locally to disrupt the German war potential and foster resistance through sabotage and propaganda.

Some of the agents were inadequately trained or careless. At least one and probably several talked at length after capture by the Germans. And, says Foot, "undue gullibility at SOE headquarters in London made things much worse."

Combined with several strokes of pure luck, the circumstances allowed the German police and security forces to make fearsome raids on the British underground networks that resulted in the capture of hundreds of French and foreign agents.

At the height of the German successes, Pickersgill and Macalister were dropped all unaware June 15, 1943, into central France. They stayed a few days with an elderly French agent, then left by car with him and a woman agent for Paris.

But they were stopped at a German control point. The Canadians were arrested and the two French agents tried to flee, were wounded by gunfire and captured a few miles away.

WERE BEATEN UP
Foot reports that Pickersgill and Macalister "held firm under questioning by the Germans despite a 'physical knocking about'."

The next spring, Pickersgill was taken to Paris from his country prison in an effort to make him help the Germans deceive London through false radio messages.

But the Canadian "had other ideas," Foot writes. "He set about his guards in the Venus Foch with a broken bottle-end, killed two of them, leaped from a second-floor window and ran off, only to be brought down by the sub-machine-gun of an alert sentry."

Pickersgill and Macalister, along with 35 other captured agents, were transferred to the notorious concentration camp at Buchenwald in September, 1944.

On Sept. 6, 15 of them were summoned by name to the camp office and did not return. The survivors thought it was an administrative affair.

DEATH BY FIRING SQUAD
"Polish acquaintances in the crematorium served disinfectant to the survivors next day," Foot writes. Three days later, another group of 16—including Pickersgill, Macalister and another Canadian, R. Sabourin—were summoned and "they disappeared in their turn."

The capture of Pickersgill and Macalister showed up some of the laxity in SOE operations and helped the Germans make further inroads into underground activities.

The two Canadians were carrying messages for other agents "which the staff in London had been trusting enough to send in English in clear (unencoded)," Foot says. They also had some radio equipment and the codes that Macalister was to use in his messages back to London.

The Germans used the codes and equipment to send false information to London, luring even more British agents into their trap. And an adroit German security officer posed as Pickersgill for several months

Food Shortages In Nigeria Causing Concern To Regime

By KENNETH WHITING
LAGOS (AP) — Worsening food shortages in wide areas of southern Nigeria are worrying the country's military regime, which came into power three months ago.

Rising food prices and scarcities come at a time when the national euphoria which followed the January revolution is easing off. There also is political grumbling.

"The honeymoon is almost over and those nagging problems, which never really went away, are becoming more and

more obvious," said one diplomat. The military governor, Maj. Gen. J. T. Aguiyi-Ironsi, banned exports of eight basic goods last week an announced steps were "being taken to bring rising food prices to normal and ensure that adequate supplies are available."

Food price controls are unlikely to be imposed, apparently because they might prove unworkable.

WON'T CONTROL PRICES
"It is a military axiom that you never give an order unless you are certain it will be obeyed," said one young officer. "That is why controlled prices would not be effective and that is why they probably won't be established."

The shortages and inflated prices resulted from the political chaos late last year during harvest time, which drove many farmers from their plots.

This is planting time in Nigeria and the new harvest begins in late October.

By banning exports and cracking down on speculators, the regime expects to be able to ease the shortages.

Shipments of yams, beans and manioc sent from Nigeria to Britain are marketed in specially food shops for Negroes and West Indians as "tropical foodstuffs."

NO FAMINE DANGER
But Nigeria is in no danger of famine. West Africa's coastal belt is fertile tropical rain forest with extensive agriculture.

Forty-seven officials, including at least three ex-cabinet

ministers, one being held on corruption charges or are under house arrest pending investigations.

On the country's financial front, the military governor says Nigeria has saved about £750,000 (\$2,250,000) by eliminating "political expenditure."

This included the salaries and expenses for ministers in the federal and four regional governments and the cost of operating these five parliaments.

Nigeria's tariff schedule has been overhauled to increase duties on foreign cars and such other items.

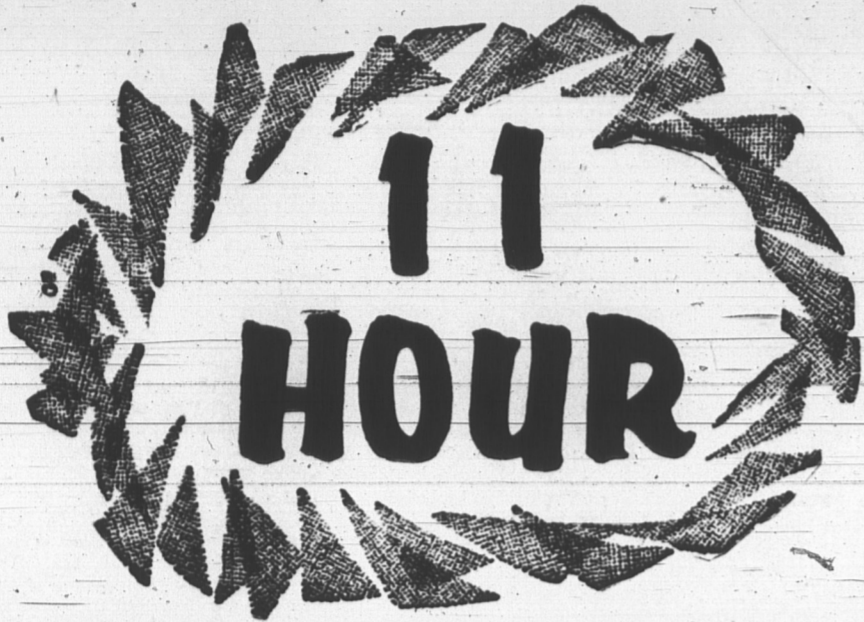
Lower tariffs were arranged for matches, flour, cement, textiles and shoes.

Import duties were a major source of corruption under the old government.

Now 200,000,000, the population of Latin America is expected to reach 600,000,000 within 35 years.

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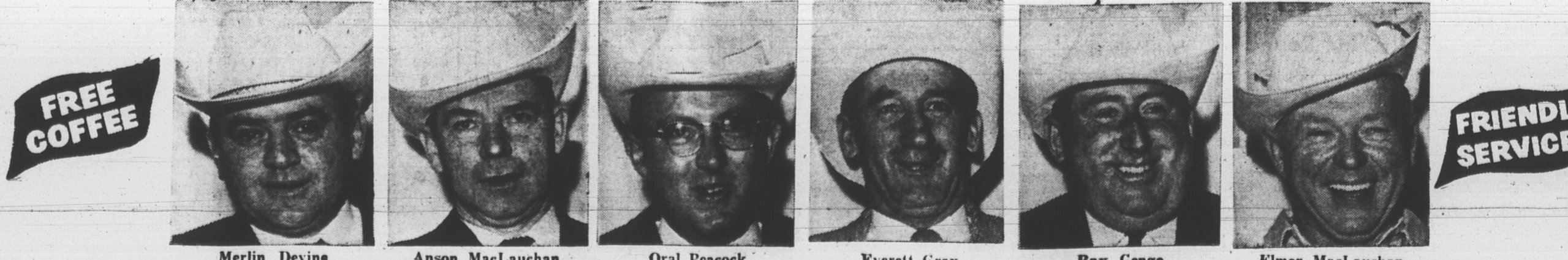


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- 1-'60 VAUXHALL, 4 cylinder
- 1-'62 ENVOY Station Wagon
- 3-'61 ENVOYS
- 1-'62 AUSTIN, 4 door
- 1-'61 DODGE, 4 door
- 1-'57 CHEV, 4 door

- 1-1961 FALCON
- 1-1961 CORVAIR 2 door
- 1-1960 PLYMOUTH 2 door
- 1-1960 RAMBLER 4 door
- 1-1960 CHEV 4 door
- 1-1959 FORD 4 door
- 1-1961 FORD 4 door
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- 2-1958 PONTIACS
- 1-1962 RAMBLER

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