

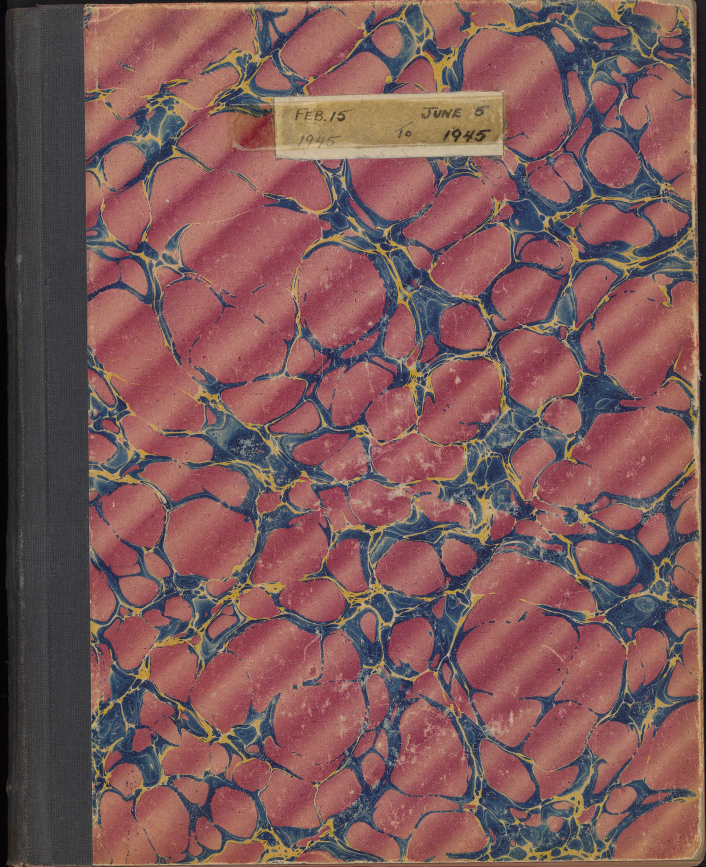
FEB. 15

1945

JUNE 5

to

1945



Canada's armed services 1939-45

(official figures given in "Time" magazine March 22, 1948)

At the peak of her war effort Canada had 789,580 men and women in uniform:- Army, 481,500; Navy, 92,880; Air Force, 215,200.

By March 1948 Canada's armed services had been reduced to 33,827 officers and men (8,398 below the authorized strength). These consisted of:- Army, 15,409; Navy, 6,782; Air Force, 11,636.

THOMAS H. RADDALL
LIVERPOOL LIT. CO. SECT. A

Diary

Thomas H. Raddall II

Feb. 15, 1945 to June 5, 1945

THOMAS B. KAPLAN
LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

20-10-1950
Dear Sir,
I have the pleasure to inform you that your application for membership of the Institute has been approved.
Your application was received on 15th September 1950 and was considered at a meeting of the Council on 10th October 1950.
By the Council's decision you are now a member of the Institute and are entitled to attend all meetings.
I am sure you will find the Institute a most interesting and profitable one to be a member of.
Yours faithfully,
The Secretary

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FEB. 15, 1945 (CONT'D) affairs, & installed one Richter, a refugee German with the thickest of thick accents, to instruct Nova Scotia municipalities in the art of local gov't. This dep't was & is a failure but Richter is still on the college staff, doing little or nothing & probably as puzzled as everyone else about his presence there.

MONDAY, FEB. 19/45 Fine, cold. Much to-do amongst the mayors & council because Thompson Bros. demand a much lower assessment. A sworn statement, signed by Earl Thompson, declares the total value of their ~~plant~~ ^{buildings} to be \$35,000. (Their new foundry alone cost that.) If they don't get the lower assessment, Thompson's threaten to remove their business to Shelburne. A lot of wind, I think.

News: U.S. troops have landed on Iwo Jima, one of the Volcano Islands, part of Japan proper but several hundred miles south of Tokio. Heavy fighting. Tokio bombed again today by U.S. "super-forts", who found fires still burning from the naval-air raids last week. Several thousand British prisoners, freed when Russians over-ran several prison camps in Poland, East Prussia & Silesia, have made their way to Moscow, hitch-hiking & just hiking.

THURSDAY, FEB. 22/45 The first break in our steady winter weather. Pouring rain, gutters choked with ice, a flood every ~~where~~ ^{where}. A gathering of boy scouts & girl guides in the basement of the United Church tonight. I took my collection of Micmac relics & gave a little talk, & we had a bean supper & moving pictures. This is Boy Scout Week.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23, 1945.

Raining still. The bus service between L'pool, Brooklyn & Milton is a huge success & the operator, Long, of handy love, plans to put on a second bus as soon as he can get one.

It started last Monday. Clement Crowell, school inspector, agitated for it all last year, seeking dependable transportation for students from Milton & Brooklyn attending L'pool high school. He deserves much credit; a tireless & resourceful worker for education.

Jerry Nickerson, boss of the local fish plant, tells me he is still dependent on Newfoundland labor for the operation of his business. Local men all work at Thompson's for the high wages there. The Newfoundlanders come here on a 6-months engagement, with their transportation paid both ways. Mersey Paper Co. also gets a lot of Newfies for its lumber camps under a similar arrangement. They are good workmen but many are illiterate, suspicious & restless, always hankering for home; when 1 man in a gang decides to quit they all quit - "like wild geese", Jerry says.

News:- On the west front the 1st Canadian Army (which contains more British than Canadian troops, all under Crease's command) has been held up near Calcar by stiff German counter-attacks. Great stretches of the west front have been flooded by the Germans, using a system of dams apparently constructed in peace time for this ultimate purpose, while serving local industries. Today the U.S. 1st & 9th armies drove across the flooded Roer river, using all sorts of amphibious craft, & have gained a footing on the far bank.

Today 5000 Allied planes were over western & southern Germany, striking communications, etc. The Italian front has been motionless for months but the Germans are making vigorous patrols & Swiss papers hint that these efforts are to cover up preparations for a general retreat to the Austrian alps, already in progress. The Russians have taken the by passed fortress of Posen with 23,000 prisoners. Their besieging forces have also broken into Breslau. Today Turkey declared war on Germany & Japan, explaining coolly that it was to ensure her ~~a~~ voice at the post-war settlement of Europe & Asia.

Jap forces are still holding out in parts of Luzon & other Philippine islands. On the island of Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands they are putting up a furious resistance & the U.S. marines are making slow & costly progress.

SUNDAY, FEB. 25/45 Cold, overcast. Quite a bit of snow & ice remains after the thaw. Started my car (it has been laid ^{up} since 1945 so far) & took my family to Milton. I went to see my old friend Will Turner the blacksmith, bedridden all winter with arthritis & slowly sinking. He is 67 & gone to a skeleton. Told me in a faint voice that life in this agony was unbearable & he hoped to die soon.

MONDAY, FEB. 27/45 Reports of a big anti-conscription riot at Drummondville, P.Q., where a force of R.C.M.P. and army Provost Corps men, searching for deserters, was set upon by a crowd estimated at 1500. A battle raged in the streets for 3 hours, with the police apparently under orders not to use firearms & the mob throwing bottles & pieces of ice. Eventually the police & provosts

withdrew with about half a dozen arrested men, & the crowd vented its wrath on three police cars left standing in the street. The police force of Drummondville itself simply hid till all was over.

War:- Allied offensive in the West still grinding slowly towards the Rhine, much hampered by floods & mud. In some places the Germans are fanatical young paratroopers & Luftwaffe personnel hastily trained for ground warfare; these fight to the death. Others are a queer rabble drawn from many divisions, some of them old men, some boys, & many veterans partly crippled by wounds received earlier in the war. So far (since Feb. 15) the Allied forces in the West have taken 60,000 prisoners, of whom the Canadian 1st Army's bag was over 12,000.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1/45 Sunny & cold. A grand walk around Western Head this afternoon. A busy evening; first, to Masonic Hall, where my old friend Rev. J. W. A. Nicholson addressed a C. C. F. meeting. The little hall about $\frac{2}{3}$ full, most of them well dressed & prosperous trade unionists, who indeed supply the staff of the local C. C. F. party. I have no more sympathy with capitalists than they; but it seems to me that a government by trades unions would merely substitute one form of exploitation for another. There were a few women, very chic, wives of the union officials. Perhaps half a dozen naval men. Ushers passed out C. C. F. literature, & a collection was taken up ("to defray election expenses") in wooden platters borrowed, I fancy, from one of the local churches. The contributions were small silver as far as I could see. I left at 9:30 & went to Doctor

Murray's house, where he had assembled about 15 of the town's younger business men to view a film about syphilis - part of a vigorous campaign all over Canada & the U.S. to acquaint the public with the facts about venereal disease. The film was in natural color, with a "talkie" commentary, an interesting but gruesome display of syphilitic infections taken close up - male & female, mostly negroes - the film was made in the U.S. - & the latest medical treatment. By way of diversion we were shown colored films of ptarmigan shooting and salmon fishing in Newfoundland.

While there, George Foster called me from Yarmouth with news about my works published by MacLelland & Stewart. "His Majesty's Yankees" is temporarily out of print; M & S acquired the plates from Doubleday Doran but printers & binders are snowed under with orders & M. & S. are now negotiating for a Canadian edition to be printed & bound in Vancouver! A new printing of "The Red Paper" is now under way. Canadian sales of "Roger's Sudden" are now close to 10,000, & M. & S. have asked Doubleday to let them have 1,000 copies of the U.S. edition to tide over the Canadian demand until M & S. can get another Canadian printing off the press. Doubleday are doubtful, pointing out their own difficulties with paper supplies & the congestion of orders on printers & binders - & adding that the U.S. govt. has ordered 1,000 copies of the U.S. edition of "Roger's Sudden" for army libraries overseas. Finally, my collection of

Large Residue Left In Charity Bequests

Retired from the army, Col. Frederick Samuel Lampson Ford C. M. G., died in Toronto last Nov. 23, leaving an estate valued at \$192,895, which is divided among the following: Enos D. Ford, brother, Nova Scotia, personalty and \$20,000; Mabel N. Kirkpatrick, U. S. A., personalty and \$15,000; Elizabeth S. Charlewood, niece, books and other personal possessions; Carolyn D. MacDonald, friend, personalty and \$30,000; Ada S. Ford, sister-in-law, U. S. A., \$10,000; Foster S. Ford, nephew, U. S. A., \$1,000; Robie W. Ford, brother, Nova Scotia, \$2,000; Marie L. Bell, friend, \$10,000; Clara Manning, cousin, \$500; Clara Kenney, \$200; Canadian Military Institute, \$1,000; Dawson Memorial Hospital, N. S. and Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home, one-half the residue each.

Assets are clothing and jewelry, \$247; life insurance, \$1,000; bank and other stocks, \$88,151; securities, \$82,873; cash in hand, \$42; cash in bank, \$20,161; other personal property, \$418.

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23. If one does not insist upon
elaborate construction equip-

short stories, to be published next autumn under the title "Lambour",
is already in process; M & V have ordered a good deal of art work
for the book & intend to put out a superior product.

All of which is very nice, but it's annoying that none of
the publishers are able to keep up with the demand.

Bruce Chandler told me that the late Col. V. A. R. Ford
left an estate of \$192,000, most of it in negotiable securities.
Ontario & Dominion succession duties will take from \$67,000
to \$96,000 of it. He willed \$20,000 to his brother Enos; ~~\$15,000~~
to a niece, Mrs Kirkpatrick, living in the U.S.; \$10,000 to my
wife's aunt Marie; ^(\$30,000 TO A MYSTERIOUS MRS. MACDONALD) \$2,000 to his brother Robie in Toronto (with
whom he had a squabble of some sort) & a few hundred dollars
in small bequests elsewhere. The residue of the estate is to go to
Dawson Memorial Hospital, Bridgewater, & the Freemasons' Home
at Windsor, N.S. He did not leave a penny to any of the
institutions & charities in his native county of Queens.

FRIDAY, MAR. 2/45

Mersey's steamer "Markland" is home again, after a
couple of years' absence, this time in the general cargo trade between U.S.
ports & the West Indies, Venezuela & Trinidad. A number of us gathered
at the house of Capt. Charlie Williams tonight to bid him welcome home.
"Markland" is taking on a newsprint cargo here, but Williams seems to
think this is only a temporary return to owners' service.

A town meeting tonight in the high school auditorium to vote
on a proposed pension of \$1200 per annum for Arthur Drew, the

town engineer, who is now 73. Until about 5 years ago Irew worked faithfully on a salary set some time before the last war at \$700 per annum. It was increased to \$2100 in 1940 but the man cannot have saved much. He proposes to go on superintending the town works as long as he is able; the pension will then look after him.

The vote was roughly 2 to 1 in favor of the pension.

News: U.S. 9th Army has broken through to the Rhine opposite Dusseldorf, taking Muenchen-Gladbach, Crefeld & Neuss on the way, & the Canadian 1st Army is hacking through the Hochwald forest to join it.

SATURDAY, MAR. 3/45. Mist & rain. Letter from Doubleday informs me that their "Dollar Book Club" has chosen "Rogers Sudden" for its Canadian book for March. This means a distribution of 29,000 copies in Canada, which sounds magnificent but actually means very little profit to the author. The contracts I sign with publishers all contain a special clause providing that in the event of sale of the book to a Book Club of any sort the publisher is not bound to pay the usual royalty. On the 10,000 copies of "Rogers Sudden" already sold in Canada in the ordinary way, my royalty amounts to \$3937.00. On the additional 29,000 copies distributed by the "D.B.C." I shall receive exactly \$725.00, - just $2\frac{1}{2}^d$ per copy. These "book clubs" are a publishers' racket, of course. For the author they have a certain publicity value & very little else.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 1945. Lovely day in spite of a cold wind. The old
street ice, so soiled with soot, is shrinking steadily. This afternoon
I took my family for a drive as far as Summerville & we walked the
length of the beach & sat down for a time sunning ourselves in the
lee of the railway embankment, while the kids pushed icecakes,
stranded by the tide, into the river. Broad River is high with the
melting snow. Near Gull Island siding, later, Edith found a
mayflower in bud. The tarvia highway bare & dry.

News: - U.S. troops are nearing Cologne & Bonn; & the city of
Essen, seat of the great Krupp works, beyond the Rhine, is now in
range of big guns. As in Normandy, the British & Canadian
troops have the toughest job, the hinge of the German line west of the
Rhine, & there is savage fighting in the Hochwald Forest near Kalkar.

German planes (as distinct from "flying bombs") struck at England
last night & tonight for the first time in 9 months. They were in small
force & several were shot down. Russians have taken Kolberg on
the Baltic, between Stettin & Dantzig, cutting off all German troops
in East Pomerania, not to mention the garrisons in East Prussia.

U.S. "superforts" have made another heavy raid on Tokio without loss.

Ottawa announces the court-martial sentence on one Private Smith,
a "zombie" who threw overboard his rifle & kit on the passage to England.
He got 18 months' detention. He should have been shot. Large numbers
of R.C.A.F. personnel continue to arrive in Canada after long service
overseas. Talking to young Ken Jones, son of Col. C.W.P., yesterday.

He is getting his discharge from the Army & intends to resume his law studies, articulated with Stewart, Smith & McKean, the Merry Co's lawyers at Halifax. He served in Italy with the West Noras as a captain, but after a few months in action was invalidated home with psycho-neurosis.

TUESDAY, MAR. 6/45 Rain all day. I pruned my shrubs last evening.

News: Cologne has been taken today by the U.S. 1st Army; the Germans had evacuated most of the civil population & were expected to offer a house-to-house defence, but they pulled out suddenly leaving a few suicide squads of riflemen & machine gunners to hamper the U.S. occupation. All the great Rhine bridges had been blown. U.S. troops are 8 miles from Bonn, & the U.S. 3rd Army has advanced 32 miles in 2 days towards Coblenz. All this striking achievement by U.S. troops makes the British & Canadian inch by inch advance through the Hochwald look like nothing at all, and today a leading London paper even grumbles about the press credits given the "Canadian 1st Army", asserting that $\frac{4}{5}$ of the troops under Crerar are in fact from the United Kingdom.

In Rome today a mob waving red flags demonstrated outside the royal palace shouting "Death to the King!" This was touched off by the well-planned escape yesterday of the fascist general Mario Roata, held in prison to face a treason charge for collaboration with the Germans. Donald Gordon, head of Canada's W.T.P.B., warns us all that further & tighter rationing may come this year, especially in textiles & foodstuffs.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1945 Sunny & cool. Fine walks yesterday & today.

Great news from the west front. It is revealed that troops of Patch's 1st U.S. Army crossed the Rhine at a point south of Cologne yesterday afternoon ~~at a point south of Cologne~~, & have established a sound bridgehead on the east side. Not much is being revealed but correspondents say the German defence was light & the German command seemed confused.

In Burma a column of the British 14th Army crossed the river Irawaddy below Mandalay last week, cutting all communications with Rangoon, & tonight our men are fighting in the streets of Mandalay.

FRIDAY, MAR 9/45 Lovely day. Edith & I walked out the motor road as far as Gull Island siding & then home by the railway track. Plenty of snow & ice still in the shady places & water running everywhere. Many mayflowers in bud & we picked a handful each. A strike at Thompson's today because some employees were not union men; the first labor trouble there since war began. Wolfville high school cadets in town to play basketball with ours, & Liza Mosher's boy came up to see us, a tall goodlooking lad, quick & intelligent.

News:- U.S. 1st Army has taken Bonn on the west bank of the Rhine. More detail of the 1st Army's crossing to the east bank on the 7th. An armored column sweeping around strong German forces west of the Rhine above Bonn came upon the big Ludendorff railway bridge at Remagen absolutely intact. Demolition charges were in place but the German covering party was small & unaware of U.S. troops within 25 miles. The Yanks romped across the bridge, cut the explosives wires & captured the covering party. Before

The German command knew what was going on the Yanks had 3 companies of infantry securely planted on the east bank. Before the German command could do anything about it, a Yank bridging unit had converted the Ludendorff's surface for motor traffic and tanks, guns & troops were pouring across. The U.S. bridgehead is now 5 miles deep & 10 wide.

A new U.S. army, the 15th, is in action on the western front.

On the east front Berlin says the Russians have begun the long awaited drive for Berlin, they are across the Oder at several points.

To the north, Russian troops have reached the suburbs of Stettin and Danzig.

In the Pacific, U.S. troops have landed on Mindanao, largest Philippine island still in Jap hands. U.S.A. fortresses, operating from Saipan, have given Tokio its heaviest bombing yet — 10 square miles of the city left afire.

In Canada, Colonel Gibson, minister for Air, has announced the recall into service of a number of pilots, gunners & wireless operators who had been permitted to return to civil life during the past 6 months or so. Reason — the quick & incessant bombing trips over Germany now are enabling fliers to complete their operational tours in short time — hence more frequent reliefs must be supplied.

SUNDAY, MAR. 11/45 Another fine day. Drove with Edith & Frances to Charleston & Beach Meadows. Aunt Marie up for tea. Hear that the Canadian Navy is granting discharge to any man of 5 years' service if he requests it. News: Germans have abandoned their positions facing the Canadian 1st Army opposite Wesel

after a terrific battle, & scuttled across the Rhine. Germans used massed artillery & mortars & 10 crack divisions against the U.K. & Canadian troops on this front, & lost 21,000 in prisoners — 10,000 of them tough young paratroopers, Hitler's best.

Heavy air assault on German rear go on night & day. Last night the R.A.F. dropped 5000 tons of bombs on Essen alone.

Hitler broadcast an appeal to his people today, talked of military "misfortunes", desertion of Germany's allies, the certain & terrible fate of Germany if she throws in — "the enemy are drunk with victories" — & demanded that every German fight to the death. He invoked the shade of Frederick the Great (his favorite historical figure) who refused to admit defeat & eventually tired out his enemies & won the peace.

MONDAY, MAR 12/45 Fine, cool. Walked around Western Head. The strikers in L'pool are still "out". Many of the men are anxious to go back to work but the union leaders & enthusiasts, mostly out-of-town people, say No. The public has small sympathy for the strikers.

News: — U.S. 1st Army has got 2 pontoon bridges across the Rhine at Remagen to supplement the captured Ludendorff bridge, & German radio says the Yanks now have 50,000 troops on the east side of the Rhine with plenty of armor & artillery. Berlin predicts a powerful British attempt to cross the Rhine at Wesel. On the east front the Russians have taken Küstrin, the town on the road to Berlin which they by-passed in their jump across the Oder some weeks

ago. U.S. planes in force bombed Nagoya, centre of Jap aircraft industry, & left 5 square miles of the city in flames. In Ottawa, Gen. MacNaughton announces that 20% of the zombie deserters are still missing. A report from the front says the first zombies to reach the fighting area have been in action with the Algonquin Regt. Mac N. states that long-service army men are now being returned to Canada from Europe at the rate of 1500 a month. They will not be required to go overseas again for at least 6 months after return to Canada.

TUESDAY, MAR. 13/45 Snowstorm all day. Noticed a few aluminum frying pans displayed in a store window, the first aluminum ware offered for sale here in L'pool since the pre-war stocks vanished in 1940. The price, \$3.75. Kitchenware of all kinds is still scarce or nonexistent. We have been trying without success to buy any sort of tea-kettle ever since last Fall when our old one gave out. We are using a small aluminum thing which we discarded years ago & had lain in the cellar for years. Local shortage acute. Local coal firms have no supplies & many people are burning soft coal slack scraped from the wharf sheds, & green hardwood, etc - the poorest sort of fuel for furnace use. Cape Breton coal miners have chosen as usual this opportunity to threaten a strike in support of new wage demands. News: - stiff fighting about the Remagen bridgehead. R.A.F. dropped 5,000 tons of bombs in 29 minutes last night on Dortmund.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1945

Shovelling out my drive all morning - at least a foot of snow on the level, & 3' in places. (The snow plow wakened me, droning its way up Park St. at 4 a.m. & I couldn't get to sleep again so I got up & made breakfast at 5, which made a long day.)

I have a miserable cold in the head, my first this winter.

Doubleday Doran are advertising "Roger Ludden" in double column, quarter length ads. in the New York Times, N.Y. Tribune & leading papers in Boston & Chicago.

Got 1/2 ton of anthracite today by a miracle - Seth Bartling who is agent for Wallace Ogilvie (our departed was profiteer now basking in the Bahaman sun) remembered a few tons of Welsh hard stored in one of Ogilvie's outbuildings, and borrowed it for the shivering Bartling customers.

News:- Germans have scraped together some jet-propelled bombers and claim to have hit & destroyed the Ludendorff bridge at Remagen. As their official reports for a long time have been reasonably accurate & certainly more forthright than our own, the bridge undoubtedly has been hit.

R.A.F. today tried out its newest & heaviest bomb - a 22,000 lb. thing - on a viaduct in Germany with great success.

THURSDAY, MAR 15/45 Sick in bed all day with la grippe.

SATURDAY, MAR. 17/45

Motored to Hfx this afternoon. Andrew Merkel has persuaded the one & only James D. Gillis (the "Red Pipet" of my story) to come down from Cape Breton for a visit. Merkel, Roy Lawrence, Jim Martell & I have

constituted a sort of reception committee. Gillis arrived yesterday with no other baggage than his fiddle & his bagpipes, wearing a very ragged suit of hand-me-downs (no shirt, collar or tie), a greasy cap, a vast & moth-eaten buffalo coat, & a pair of large country-wool mittens, once white, now black with dirt. No hotel accommodation possible, so Merkel cleared out a room in the Canadian Press offices on Granville St., installed a cot, & bedding, etc. (a toilet & washing facilities adjoining). The first thing to do was to buy him a decent suit of clothes (of a light brown color), shirt, collar & tie (all khaki) a muffler of dark green & blue tartan. For footwear he chose a pair of rubber boots in the half-Wellington style, much favored by seamen.

Tonight we gathered at Merkel's house, 50 South Park Street - Jim & Olga Martell, Roy Lawrence, Professor Wilson of Dalhousie, Pauline Barrett, Bob Chambers & wife, Laura Barten, Andy & Sully Merkel & their two married girls, some others whose names I don't recall. Gillis was guest of honor & he played his fiddle & his bagpipes & talked about his home above Lake Ainslie. His indifference to soap & water was apparent in the dirt crusted on his hands, his ears & scalp - he is bald except for a grey fringe at the back of his head. He is clean shaven on the jaws & his clipped grey moustache covers the whole upper lip with a downward droop

at the corners. His cheekbones are hairy & stained with the grime of a winter's fires. He must have stood 6 feet in youth. His shoulders have a pronounced hunch now, but he walks with the long loose stride of a man of the hills. His head is noble in spite of the grime, the brow full, the eyebrows thick & black, his eyes a dark & glowing brown, intelligent, kindly, the eyes of a poet & philosopher. His nose is aquiline; his teeth have gone with the years, at least only one was visible, ~~an~~ long discolored snag at the lower right hand side of his wide mouth. His chin is pointed. His hands are very long, with lean, bony, agile fingers. A striking personage.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18/45 Some of the mayflower buds I picked on March 9th are now blooming & I brought a number of them to Halifax with me, intending to drop them on Joe Howe's grave in Camp Hill cemetery. I mentioned this to Martell & Merkel & it was decided to make a little ceremony of it, taking Gillis along to play a lament on his bagpipes. Today was warm & sunny with a soft air that belonged to May. On the shady side of the city streets the snow hangs on in the gutters, packed to the solidity of ice & black with soot, but wherever the sun has fallen in the warm 4 days past the snow & frost are gone. We drove into the cemetery about 3 p.m. in two cars — Merkel, Gillis, Martell & I. Merkel took pictures of the

ceremony on his little cine-kodak. I set the sprig of flowers in the soft moist earth beside the tall tomb shaft, & read aloud Howe's own ode to the Mayflower. Then Gillis played "Neil Gow's Lament" walking up & down before the grave.

There were one or two curious strollers in the cemetery but they didn't know what was afoot, & we left in our cars at once.

Martell had spoken to the C. B. C. about broadcasting a talk with Gillis, & as we were so near the studios we drove to Sackville Street for voice tests - Gillis & I, for Dorothy Cox who has charge of these programs insisted that I do the interviewing. Jimmie D's lack of teeth makes his speech a little difficult to follow but the microphone performed wonders.

At Martell's tonight - Jimmie D. the guest of honor - & Roy Lawrence, Lang, Pauline Barrett, Andrew & Lully Merkel, Bill Martell & wife, Rev. J. W. A. Nicholson. Gillis regaled us with bagpipe music most of the evening, marching up & down skinling away, oblivious of the company, the time or anything but the tunes that came crowding into his head. He was delighted to find a fellow Gael in Nicholson & they had a long & spirited conversation in Gaelic. Jimmie D. is not at all the whimsical braggart that you expect after reading his works. Merkel says the years have mellowed him. He is now 75; it is 15 years since last he came down from his hill to visit the

city, & something like 45^{or 47} years since he wrote "The Cape Breton Giant".

He is quiet, modest, forthright, a little mad, perhaps, but not at all the fool that many people take him for.

MONDAY, MAR. 19/45. At 11 a.m. I went to the Legislature with Merkel & Gillis; Roy Lawrence was there, & Minister of Industry Harold Connolly introduced us to Premier MacMillan, who had a chat with Gillis. MacMillan had a patronising air with Jimmie D. which irked me a little. MacMillan is 75 or so, a big man with a pot belly, grey hair & a pair of eyelids which have a perpetual droop & give him a sly look. He was a construction contractor before he went into politics, & was practically "broke" in 1927. His construction company (ostensibly owned & operated by his son) has since made much profit in government works. But we must thank him for our paved roads in Nova Scotia.

Jimmie D. bore himself with his usual simple dignity. We showed him the Red Chamber & while in there a man named Waterman, M.L.A. for Yarmouth Co., introduced himself & explained many features of the place, including the room where an excited British officer is said to have lopped off the wooden eagles' heads with his sword, declaring he would have none of this Yankee stuff about him. "You can read all about those times in a book called His Majesty's Yankees", Waterman informed me gravely, & blushed when Merkel told him who I was.

Tonight Gillis was guest of honor at a meeting of the Poetry Society, held in the library of Queen ^{Elizabeth} ~~Victoria~~ School. Members of the Canadian Authors' Society were there, & others. My sister Hilda went with me, & we met Pauline Barrett at the door & all went in together. Sir Joseph Chisholm asked us to sit with him. Merkel made a good introductory address, kindly & judicious & full of truth. A Mrs. MacPhail sang for us - she had a lovely voice - & a Mrs. Webber played one or two pieces on the piano. The Piper then addressed the gathering in his simple fashion, speaking of poetry in general & his own favorites in particular. He spoke easily & at length, stepping back & forth, gesturing with his lean hands, his large dark eyes aglow. He finished amid applause & little old Sir Joe voiced the thanks of all present. Afterwards Gillis, Jim & Olga Martell, Andrew & Lully Merkel, Hilda & I went on to the home of a Mrs. Dauphinee, a member of the Poetry Society. There we found Bob Chambers, who presented Gillis with a fine drawing of himself from life, engaged in playing his beloved pipes. Again the Piper entertained us with violin & bagpipe music, deaf to all suggestions that he must not tire himself. And he sang Gaelic songs, explaining what they meant. His voice quavers & is frequently off-key but you get the tune. He sings with his eyes closed, a trait I have noticed in many of our country bards, especially in Cape Breton.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1945

This afternoon Gillis & I recorded our talk for the C.B.C. In answer to my questions Jimmie talked about his home on Melrose Hill, the beauties of Lake Ainslie, how he came to write "The Cape Breton Giant", how to prepare the bagpipes for playing ("you soak the reeds in rum or good whiskey, & pour some into the bag, & the results are wonderful") and he sang 2 or 3 verses of his "Farewell to Miss Mackay", & a verse or two of Gaelic in praise of Braighe Margaree - "Lovely Margaree". We made two 15-minute records for a C.B.C. choice, & a 9-minute record for use by John Fisher at some future time on his "John Fisher reports" program.

I had managed to get some beer, & we adjourned to Pauline Barrett's room at the Lord Nelson - Gillis, Merkel, Martell, a Salhouse professor named Mowat, a Wren lieutenant Finch - known as Finchie. We sat on the bed & the floor, Pauline provided delicious rye- & cold-meat sandwiches, & we drank the beer & some whiskey which Finchie brought along, & heard the broadcast at 7:15, & smoked & talked till close on midnight. Whenever we drank, Gillis gave his toast - "That we be no worse", & he sang for us a number of Gaelic songs, explaining what they meant. There was one amusing ballad about a man who drove his cart to the grist mill for a bag of meal, & backed his team into the mill pond by mistake. And another with a partly

English refrain which we all sang together —

"My heart is low, pity me,

Lonely for my darling.

But now she has come back to me

I'll sing the rest in Gaelic."

Towards midnight we all got in Merkel's car - Pauline on my lap - & drove down to the harbor by the Yacht Club. Merkel had a fine poem just sent him by Charles Bruce from the Western Front, & Pauline read it to us in her clearest voice by the light of Merkel's torch.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 21/45

The Chronicle's new radio station CJCH suddenly is very keen to have a broadcast of the Piper & myself, so we went to their little studios in the Lord Nelson this afternoon & did a 12-minute recording in which Jimmie described an old-time Cape Breton felling frolic & sang some of the felling songs in Gaelic. For this (as for our broadcast over CBC) we got \$20, which was turned into the "reception fund".

Merkel is trying to get back Jimmie D's copyright in "The Cape Breton Giant" from the estate of Allen the publisher, & Roy Lawrence has drawn up a legal document which will protect Jimmie in his own rights for the future. Tonight Gilles was invited to dinner at Emscote, F. B. McCurdy's home at N.W. Arm; & he & the McCurdys had a great time. Jimmie D.

(who eats with his fingers mostly) is not used to meals of several courses, & complained to us mildly afterward that "I was full before supper was half over". After "supper", to bring luck to the house in the old Highland fashion, Jimmie marched onto every room from cellar to garret, F. B. McC. leading the way, then Gillis playing his bagpipes, & the family behind. Jimmie was having such fun that he forgot an evening engagement to play his pipes for the students at Pine Hill College, & the students sent a delegation of three down to Emscote to claim him. He charmed Pine Hill & then Merkel took him back to his lodging.

In the meantime Lawrence & I were at the Archives talking to Martell. Bill Borrett was there, & Merkel & his wife Tully came along & we all went out & sat in Merkel's car to hear the CJCH broadcast. Afterwards we adjourned to Mother's flat; the Martells brought along a Wren librarian named Gladwin & we sat & smoked & talked over beer till 1 a.m.

News:- Patton's 3rd. U.S. Army has made a great sweep through the Palatinate to the Rhine; the German losses heavy, many prisoners, & in the confusion Patton has slipped some troops across the Rhine between Mainz and Worms.

THURSDAY, MAR. 22/45. Merkel took Jimmie to the 5:15 (a.m.) train for Cape Breton. The old man went off happily, vowing it was the best time he'd had in his life. He took the fine spring weather with him, for a storm of rain & sleet blew all day, coating the roads with ice; so I spent the day lazily at

Mother's flat, typing a brief account of Gillis' visit to supplement this diary.

FRIDAY, MAR. 23/45 Rain all night took most of the ice off the roads. I went to Simpson's this morning with Mum & the car & we did a bit of shopping - shoes for Edith, an overcoat for Tommy. Dropped in to the Archives & had an hour's talk with Harvey. He has found ~~the~~ ^a missing portion of the Perkins diary. A whole section of it apparently was borrowed by Dr. W. C. Milner about 20 or 30 years ago, & when Milner went to Ottawa as Dominion Archivist he took the portion with him. When Harvey became N.S. Archivist about 18 years ago he wrote to Ottawa requesting a transfer from the Ottawa archives of material pertaining to this province. Down came the diary fragment amongst other things - a mystery, impossible to identify from the entries, & Harvey had it tucked away in the files. When Harvey saw the original Perkins diary (I sent it up by Merkel in February) the handwriting looked familiar & after wracking his memory for a time he recalled the diary section in his files, got it out, & behold the famous diary is now complete again. After lunch I drove to L'pool through a thick sea fog the whole way. One of my poor old tires gave up the ghost at Hubbards but I got home all right on the spare.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1945

(I forgot to include this under entry for this date.) Sir Joseph Chisholm invited me to lunch with him at his club. I walked down to the Law Courts at noon with my overcoat on my arm, a fine warm day. Found Sir Joe in his (Chief Justice's) office upstairs, & he brought in W. L. Hall, an old acquaintance of mine in Queens County politics in the 1920's, now a justice of the supreme court. We chatted for a bit.

Hall is still a tall ruddy-faced man with a ringing voice & a twinkling eye. Beside him Sir Joe looked very small & frail, & so he seemed beside me as we two strolled down to the Halifax Club. The club has occupied the same premises since it was founded in the 1860's, with a modest entrance on ^{Collingwood} ~~Granville~~. Inside, you have a weird impression that you have stepped into the pages of Punch, for here is the typical Pall Mall club with its lofty smoking room & reading room, the semi-gloom, the hush, the fine old Tory types sitting at their newspapers & magazines, the coal fire burning in the grate, the great portrait of the Duke of Kent. Sir Joe consulted me over the menu on the wall & sent in our selections, & presently we went up a tall Victorian staircase to the dining room, a fine large well-lit place.

We sat, & Sir Joe's cronies arrived at the table - Dr. Munro (Supt. of Education), the U.S. consul, & Judge Murray of the juvenile court; Munro a short thickset man with dark eyes & a wisp of grey hair, pleasant but sober featured, a forthright sort of man,

not given to conversation but keeping his end up; the comrad a tall lean eagle-featured man with white hair & granite eyes, talkative, mostly about North Africa & the habits & customs of the Arabs there as compared with various tribes of American ^{Indians} ~~tribes~~. Murray to all outward appearance a specimen of giggling senility - slight, blue-eyed, be-spectacled, showing all his teeth in a sort of horsey grin, but he is witty & shrewd. After lunch we withdrew to their pet corner of the smoking room & sat & talked till it was time for me to go to the C.B.C. studios.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24/45. Great news. Montgomery's army group (British 2nd, Canadian 1st. & U.S. 9th. armies) has forced a passage of the lower Rhine at Wesel where the river is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide, preceded by a terrific artillery & air barrage. German resistance tough in spots where their crack troops were posted but in general it was weak. While this was going on a whole British-U.S. airborne army went over in a vast fleet of transport & gliders & landed well beyond the Rhine. British paratroops seized 3 bridges over the Isel river intact, well to the German rear.

SUNDAY, MAR. 25/45 Lovely day. Spring is here - the first robin appeared on our lawn & the first song sparrow sang in the birches all day. Andrew & Lully Merkel came down by car yesterday to visit their son Arthur & wife at Minard's in Milton. They

came down to L'pool. this afternoon & had tea with us before going on to Hfx. News:- Montgomery has a firm bridgehead across the Rhine on both sides of Wesel, 30 miles long & 7 or 8 ^{deep} ~~wide~~. Contact has been established with the airborne forces ahead. The U.S. troops who made the first Rhine crossing at Remagen March 7th. have been able to extend their bridgehead slightly. The Germans managed to destroy the great Ludendorff bridge by shellfire but the Yanks threw pontoon bridges across. But the spectacular news is once again from Patton's 3rd. U.S. Army, which after crossing the Rhine between Mainz & Worms, has ramped on through Darmstadt & seems to be meeting little or no organised German defence.

Ottawa reports Canadian corvette "Larentian" torpedoed & sunk, fortunately with small loss of life. Berlin says Von Rundstedt has been relieved of his command on the Rhine front, & Kesselring has come up from Italy to take full charge. The Russians are keeping the Germans worried with pressure along their whole front from Budapest to the Baltic, but no big attack at any one point.

MONDAY, MAR 26/45. Mild, overcast. Walked to Milton & back this afternoon, calling on the Barney Seldons en route. Noticed that most of the large white globes on the lamp standards in front of the Post Office in Liverpool have been smashed by roistering sailors during the winter. News: Mr. Churchill has visited the Rhine, crossed the river in two places. At one point a shell burst 50 yards away

but Winnie went on lighting his cigar. Germans are still fighting stoutly opposite the Canadians - the North Sovas had some stiff work at the taking of Reims today - but the British 2nd & U.S. 9th armies are rolling now; they by-passed Essen today. Farther up the Rhine organised German resistance seems to have collapsed. The U.S. 1st army has broken out of the Remagen bridgehead & has reached Limburg. The 3rd U.S. under Patton is practically unopposed now & is near Würzburg, 80 miles east of the Rhine. The U.S. 7th has crossed the Rhine at Karlsruhe almost without firing a shot. Allied planes continue terrific bombing of German industries & communications.

On the east front the Russians are driving through Hungary towards Vienna, are only 30 miles from the Austrian border.

All these things the German radio admits with the utmost frankness - indeed our own news broadcasts quote the German radio more than our own censor-delayed official bulletins, & have done so for months. In Burma, British troops are 35 miles south of Mandalay, & a Jap force of 30,000 is cut off in north Burma unless it takes the hill paths into French Indo-China.

Lloyd George died today after a long illness, almost forgotten in the clash of events.

TUESDAY, MAR. 27/45. Awake at 4 a.m. & no sleep thereafter - the old sinus trouble which makes the whole right side of my head ache &

everywhere. Canadians are still having stiff fighting at Emmerich on the Rhine, where crack German troops are holding desperately to safeguard their forces in Holland. British 2nd. army advance guards are reported unofficially at Münster, & one wild German report places them at Minden - only 35 miles west of Hanover. U.S. 1st. Army, breaking out of its Remagen bridgehead, is reported to have swung 55 miles to the north, cutting off the Ruhr completely. Patton's U.S. 3rd. army is reported past Würzburg, apparently headed for Nurnberg.

The Japanese embassy has fled from Berlin to Stockholm.

Russian troops have crossed the Austrian border on the road from Budapest to Vienna.

R.A.F., R.C.A.F., & U.S.A.F. planes operating on the West front alone have dropped 165,000 tons of bombs on Germany since March 1st. In the Pacific a Royal Naval force including battleships & aircraft carriers has attacked one of the Rikikiu islands S.E. of Japan, thus making the first R.N. cooperation in force with the U.S. Pacific fleet.

In Canada, the Commonwealth Air Training Plan came to an official close today when the last 50 graduates received their wings at Uplands, Ont. Henceforth each dominion, & Britain itself, will train their own airmen on the home fields. The C.A.T.P. trained altogether 150,000 Empire airmen.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1945

Not so warm as yesterday but mild & overcast & dead calm, rather uncanny, as if the great collapse of Germany had stopped the breath of the world. Our brasshats are still releasing very little detail, or as the C.B.C. official broadcast said whimsically today "There is a lot of silence from the Western Front". But correspondents say the Germans are surrendering in masses whenever our troops catch up with them. One captured general said hopelessly, "There is no organized defence between you & Berlin, & when you get there you will find no organized government." Patton's 3rd U.S. Army claims to have captured 140,000 Germans, & killed or wounded another 100,000 since breaking across the Moselle 13 days ago. The U.S. 9th, in the Ruhr, is taking as prisoners only the German regulars, merely disarming the hastily mustered Volksturm & sending them to their homes.

The only news of real fighting is on Montgomery's left flank, where the Canadians have taken Emmerich & Anholt on the Dutch-German border. Unofficial reports place the British 2nd Army at Munster, U.S. forces in Paderborn & Lauterbach & near Kassel & Nurnberg. The German high command seems utterly confused, for our troops find trains loaded with tanks & guns heading west into their hands, while the roads are choked with German troops & transport fleeing east. Today 2300 U.S. planes hit U-boat yards at Bremen & Hamburg. (U.S. troops found

3 U-boats at the Rhine docks in Duisburg.)
In the east the Russians have taken Dantzig, where the Germans
fired the first shot of this war. The Russians claim to have killed
39,000 Germans & captured 10,000 others in the assault, & they
have hoisted the Polish flag over the city. In the port they
found 45 U-boats undergoing refit.

A Canadian-built Mosquito plane flew yesterday from
Newfoundland to Scotland - 2200 miles - in 5 hours 38 minutes,
a record.

SATURDAY, MAR. 31/45 Another mild day with mingled sunshine & overcast.
The kids wanted a picnic, so we drove to Broad River this afternoon
& fried eggs & "Kam" over an open fire at our old picnic place on
the east bank below the highway bridge. The dam & sawmill & bunk-
house erected by the Pole, Czerwicz, in 1940 have gone completely & the
site is as it was before the war. I walked up to look at poor old
Mike Mo-ko-ne's shack. The door was padlocked, the windows boarded
over, probably by Mike's son after the old man's death last winter.
Some vandal (whose tracks were plain in the mud of the tote road) had
gone there lately with an axe, torn the boards off one of the windows &
smashed one pane of glass. Throngs of shoppers in town tonight but
not much to buy. None of the old-fashioned Easter candy. Our druggist
sold us some bars of chocolate for the kids, & the grocer sent up a bag
of taffy "kisses", horrible things containing a minimum of sugar.

News: the great news blackout on the West Front continues, but it is revealed that U.S. troops are in Kassel, 180 miles from Berlin, & that in the past 2 days British & U.S. troops have taken 72,000 prisoners. Eisenhower has broadcast to the German army, advising officers & men to surrender & save further bloodshed.

EASTER SUNDAY, APR. 1/45 A fine sunny day with a strong gale from NW, cool enough for a coat. To Milton this afternoon, where Grandma Freeman & Marie & the man loops have been painting & papering diligently in preparation for Terence's English wife & child. I went up Moose Hill & talked most of the afternoon with Steward Coombs, whose memory goes back to old lumbering days of the 80's & 90's.

News:- The Germans have got a little breath back & once more their official news report gives us the information which our brasshats so sternly withhold. British 2nd Army is fighting in the streets of Münster. Canadians are battling German flank guards beyond Emmerich in endeavor to cut off German army in Holland. (R.A.F. reports heavy enemy motor traffic eastward between Arnhem & the Guelder Zee, as if Germans are evacuating the Dutch ports & the V-2 rocket bomb launching sites from which they have been hitting London & Antwerp. Our planes destroyed 800 vehicles on these roads today.) The Ruhr with its German garrison has been isolated by a junction of the U.S. 1st & 9th armies at Lippstadt. U.S. 3rd army has one column fighting in the streets of Kassel.

the station at 11 a.m. although the train was not due till 12.15. He drove down about 12 & the train came whizzing & rocking along. A great scurry when it stopped. Terry got off, loaded with kit, & Edith & Marie & the kids swarmed at him. He is swarthy from the Italian sun & has a most villainous moustache. He was still dazed with his luck & could only speak in monosyllables. He & 23 others in his unit had just come out of the line above Ravenna & were due for their 5-year service leave. Two had to be chosen. They drew paper slips from a hat, 22 marked "Sorry", 2 marked "Yes". Terry drew last, & his was a "Yes". They ~~were~~ ^{were} sent off to Naples & there boarded a U.S. army transport. There were 1500 men jammed into the ship, mostly Yanks. The ship stopped 2 days at Oran & then headed straight for New York, where Terry landed April 1st. The Canadian group entrained that night for Montreal, & ^{at New Weston} came on to Hfx on the 3rd. There was one other boy from Milton, Maurice Wentzel. The authorities now have things down to a system sadly lacking when the first boys came home. At Toronto an officer boarded the train (he happened to be George Braine, of Milton) & filled out the various necessary papers for the leave men before arrival at Halifax. At Hfx (where my sisters Hilda & Winifred managed to have a minutes talk with Terry in the station) they were whisked off to N^o 6 Depot Camp on Chebucto Road. Here a meal was waiting for them & a reception committee of Hfx ladies passing out candy, cigarettes etc, also representatives of the Region, and Col. MacKenzie, the veterans' welfare officer. Carl & Jean Bonard carried Terry off from there, & he slept that night at their house & caught the H. & S. W. train this

morning. He has a month's furlough dating from April 5th & was issued with ^{coupon} a ration book for sugar, butter etc. We all had dinner together at the Freeman house in Milton. I had to leave then to attend a Legion funeral in F'pool - the late V. C. D. ("Jammy") Watson - service in Trinity Church, burial in the churchyard adjoining, a big crowd & many flowers.

Afterwards I fetched the whole family from Milton to our house for tea, & afterwards ~~was~~ ^{that} there was an evening-long reception, relatives & friends dropping in to welcome Terry home, a house full until 10 p.m.

News:- (Terry revealed that the 1st Canadian Corps left Italy to join the Canadian 1st Army in Germany 3 days after he departed on leave.) Canadians are fighting through Zutphen in Holland to the Zuider Zee, also in Germany west of the Ems river. British 2nd Army has Osnabruck & seems to be pushing down the Ems & Weser valleys towards Emden & Bremen. Allied air forces striking hard everywhere, especially at Emden, Bremen, Hamburg, Kiel. "Mosquitoes" have bombed Berlin 40 nights out of the past 42. It is rumored that German supreme commander in the West, Kesselring, is cut off in the Ruhr with 100,000 of his best troops. U.S. forces now have Gotha & Kassel, also Wurzburg in Bavaria. French troops are in Karlsruhe. Altogether in the West the Allied troops took 26,000 prisoners yesterday.

THURSDAY, APR. 5/45 Rain. Letter from Chamberlain's London man, Kenyon, says that Hurst & Blackett want to publish "Roger Sudden" in Great

Britain. I wrote Chambrun saying this was satisfactory to me.

News:- British troops have reached a point 27 miles south of Omdurman. U.S. troops are 20 miles S.E. of Hanover. The famous old battlefield of Minden is in our hands. Russians are in the outskirts of Vienna.

Perhaps the most significant news is that Russia has notified Japan that their mutual neutrality pact, which expires this month, will not be renewed "because Japan has been assisting Russia's enemy, Germany, against Russia's allies, Great Britain & the U.S." The Jap cabinet has resigned after its habit in all crises, & this time the premier is a retired naval officer, Admiral Suzuki.

Ottawa announces that 12,000 N.R.M.A. ("zombies") are now overseas, admits that 4000 are still A.W.L.

This clipping reveals that the pre-fabs at Bowie's farm cost \$5,386 each, a terrific figure for "temporary" housing.

The houses were built chiefly through the insistence of Carl Thompson, of Thompson Brothers, who convinced the gov't. that his firm's ship refitting plant could not continue to operate unless 75 "wartime houses" were built.

When 50 were erected, building was stopped, & materials for the other 25 were shipped off to Halifax.

Cost Of Houses At Liverpool

OTTAWA, April 4—(CP)—Total cost of prefabricated houses built by the Government at Liverpool, N. S., was \$269,304. Munitions Minister Howe told Clarence Gillis (C.C.F.—Cape Breton South). Land and improvements were provided for 75 houses and 50 houses were erected.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1945.

Sunshine & snow flurries, with a stiff N.W. gale. The L.B.C. has sent me 3 records of my radio interview with James D. Gillis - they went to a lot of trouble, recording it on glass-backed plaques of a size to fit an ordinary phonograph. I get some queer mail; a few days ago a letter from the chaplain of the Ohio Penitentiary at Columbus, saying a number of the inmates had requested him to get a copy of "Roger's Sudden" for them. Perhaps they want to see the account of Roger's prison escape. I sent the book.

News: Geras's Canadian 1st. army has swung towards Emden, has taken the German town of ^{MEPPEN} Meppen on the Ems river, and the town of Koerorden on the Dutch side of the frontier. U.S. troops have taken Hamm, at the east end of the Ruhr trap. Other U.S. troops are in Eisleben, between Halle & Magdeburg. All our troops report spotty German resistance; small groups of armed civilians or Volksturm shooting at our tanks with rifles & bazookas here & there, sometimes a disciplined & well equipped regular force putting up a stout & skillful battle, sometimes running away, sometimes melting away towards our forces in groups with hands up. There is much evidence that German G.H.Q. is out of touch with large portions of its forces. Some of our prisoners rescued from prison camps report wholesale executions amongst German troops for attempted desertion - even officers being shot.

Allied air raids on Bremen, Hamburg & Kiel this week have badly damaged those oft-repaired ports & sunk many ships in them.

including 9 U-boats & the light cruiser "Koln".

The Russians are fighting in the streets of Vienna. In Jugoslavia, Tito's forces have taken Sarajevo, where the First Great War started.

In the Pacific, Moscow announces that the Russian fleet is engaged in "exercises". On Okinawa island U.S. troops have now come upon strongly defended Jap positions.

Ottawa announces that call-ups for military service will cease with the conquest of Germany. Only volunteers for service against Japan will be sent across the Pacific.

SATURDAY, APR. 7/45 Sunny, with a S.W. gale, but the wind was cold.

Went to Eagle Lake this afternoon with Parker & Dunlap. No ice or snow to be seen in the woods. The gravel pit pool was alive with the fattest kind of tadpoles, & water-bottles whirling on the surface. Found 2 brown snakes sunning. The lake & brook very high.

News:- the elusive Jap fleet caught again, this time steaming out of the Inland Sea as if to attack the allied ships off Okinawa. U.S. naval aircraft sank 4 or 5 Jap warcraft, biggest being a 45,000 battleship, the "Yamato", pride of the Jap navy.

U.S. troops near Gotha have discovered a Nazi hoard in a salt mine, about \$50,000,000 worth of gold in bags, a quantity of art treasures, & a considerable amount of foreign coin.

SUNDAY, APR. 8/45 Sunny & warm, with a mild W breeze. This morning we took ax & saw, & cut out of the brook trail some of the winter's

windfalls. Also cut brush to cover Dunlap's new boat against the spring sun. In the afternoon we took the red canoe down to the dam & carried up to camp the hardwood cut down by our hunting neighbors last October - littered all about their bivouac - & we bucksawed & split it. Also a number of birch, oak & maple saplings felled by the beavers last year. Home at 6:30.

News: airborne troops have dropped into Holland S. of Groeningen, & in front of the Canadians. Farther down the Dutch line Canadians have fought through the ruins of Zutphen but are held up near Deventer. British 2nd Army has begun shelling Bremen. The Luftwaffe sent up a surprisingly large number of fighters against Allied bombers hitting Bremen, Hamburg & Kiel yesterday, & 221 Germans were shot down.

U.S. troops squeezing the Ruhr trap are now fighting inside Dortmund & Gelsenkirchen - so long the targets of the R.A.F. U.S. troops are in Göttingen, are 4 miles from Schweinfurt.

Russians are fighting well inside Vienna & have sent columns past the city toward Linz. Small actions continue on the Italian front, probes by U.S. & British forces of company to battalion strength, & they report Germans in strength & of good fighting quality along the whole front. Jap losses in the recent U.S. air attack on their fleet were 1 battleship ("Yamato") 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers.

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1945

Fine morning. This afternoon drove to Western Head with Bill Wilson, Lieut. Don Padmore (RCNVR) & bride &ally. We sat under the trees & Bill had some beer; but before long a dense fog came rolling in & we adjourned to town & my den. This evening I overhauled my fishing tackle. Impossible to buy decent lines now, but good flies & leaders can still be had in small quantities. Clem Crowell came in, & we had beer & played the records of the Gillis broadcast. I gave him a copy of "Saga of the Rover", which he has long wanted for his bookshelf.

News:- Russians have taken Königsberg by storm, the last spot of German defence in East Prussia. The Germans have begun to act like the cornered rats they are: U.S. troops near Gotha, & Canadian troops in Holland, have come upon prison camps in which numbers of unidentifiable prisoners had been beaten with clubs & then shot, a few hours before the German guards withdrew. The camp near Gotha was a regular murder-factory like the one found at Maidanek in Poland, with a large outdoor crematorium, etc.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10/45

Warm, with a fogbank hanging off shore. A good walk to Milton & back this afternoon. Will Payzant buried today. I don't think he had been out of Milton in 25 years. He made about \$45,000 in the grocery store now operated by his son Donald but got little joy out of life. Mother phoned from Hfx at 8:30 saying the Red Cross had just advised her of Betty Freeman's arrival. She & the baby are still aboard the transport but will be

permitted to leave about 11 A.M. tomorrow.

News: Hanover fell today to U.S. 9th army troops who rode into the city in German army trucks captured intact. The German gasoline supply seems to have vanished. Allied airmen ranging widely over German airdromes today destroyed over 300 planes on the ground. Some fighters came up, however, & the German jet-propelled fighter is held in respect by our airmen. Nevertheless Allied airmen claim 97 German fighters shot down today - the biggest German air effort in weeks, & perhaps their last. German forces covering Emden & Bremen are still fighting stiffly & Canadian troops are held up 20 miles from Emden. In the centre of the long front U.S. 3rd army is in Nordhausen in the Harz Mountains & is attacking the big cities of Erfurt & Coburg. Allied airmen flew low over Berlin today & report nothing moving in the streets or on the roads & railways leading to the city. Abandoned?

Russian troops now have about $\frac{3}{4}$ of Vienna. They claim a fine bag of Germans in Königsberg, including many famous generals.

The long dormant Italian front came to life today - British 8th Army crossed the Senio River, preceded by a terrific air & artillery barrage.

WEDNESDAY, APR. 11/45

Up at 5 A.M.. At 6:45 Edith & I set out in the car, picked up Terry, & went on to Hqs. At the Red Cross H.Q. (71 Morris St.) we were ushered upstairs to wait in "the Board Room."

where we found other husbands & relatives anxiously awaiting the brides from England. The girls & their babies & baggage were brought from the ship in groups of 3 or 4, & then the relatives were called to come down & meet them. We waited about an hour (I suggested that since the Board Room was full we should hold a meeting & declare a dividend) & then a cheerful & handsomely painted Red Cross chauffeur in khaki notified us that "Mrs. Freeman" was below. Jerry went down 2 or 3 steps at a time & when we followed to the sidewalk we found him & his Betty in a rapturous embrace. They had not seen each other for 2 years. Their child, Roger, is a chubby blond boy. We got them & their baggage into the car, stopped at Mother's flat for dinner & set out for home about 1:30. A burning hot day - thermometers in Halifax registered 83° Fah. - & it seemed strange to be driving in shirt sleeves when the grass was still brown & bushes & hardwoods leafless.

Delivered Jerry & family to Milton & came on to town for tea. Legion meeting tonight. A proposal of Mowbray Jones that the Legion endorse the proposed new hospital for Liverpool as a war memorial was debated & rejected. News: - German battleship "Admiral Scheer" was sunk in Kiel harbor last night by R.A.F. bombers. British troops have almost surrounded Bremen & another column is racing for Hamburg. U.S. 9th army has crossed the Elbe river at Magdeburg without a fight & the way is open to Berlin, with no visible

German troops. U.S. 3rd army has passed through Weimar headed apparently for ~~Weimar~~ Leipzig.

THURSDAY, APR. 12/45 Another lovely day. Walked to Milton & back this afternoon with Lieut Roy Hyndman, on leave on short leave. He is going to England for a torpedo course. All along the road people were busy digging gardens, taking off storm windows, etc.

At 7 p.m. without preamble the radio shocked us - a quiet voice saying "We regret to announce that President Roosevelt is dead." Later it was repeated, & we heard that Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage ^{the afternoon} in the ~~hospital~~ ^{collage} at Warm Springs, Georgia, where he has been resting for the past 10 days. In the photographs taken at Yalta last winter he looked very thin & frail. He was 63 & had been president of the United States for more than 12 years - had just begun his 4th term. I think him the greatest man of our time, a courageous & successful fighter for humanity in peace as well as war. He was universally beloved except by a type of Republican politician in the U.S. who hated him with heart and voice.

FRIDAY, APR. 13/45 Sunny but cool, with a dank fog slipping through the streets at intervals. I took off my storm windows.

News:- British troops took Arnhem in Holland after a stiff fight. But Canadian troops report a softening of German resistance on their front. 4th Can. Armored Div. is driving on Oldenburg, west of Bremen.

U.S. troops have almost cut Germany in two:- they have reached

the Mulde river S.E. of Leipzig & are only 7 miles from that city. U.S. troops are 10 miles N.W. of Chemnitz, & they now occupy a 100-mile front along the Elbe. U.S. troops closing the Ruhr trap are now in Duisburg & so far they have taken 80,000 prisoners.

The Russians have all of Vienna, & claim huge captures of men & materials there. In Ottawa, Prime Minister King announced the federal election date - June ~~7~~^{11th} ch. This is the same day Ontario had chosen for its provincial election. Willy Willy King must have feared the result in that province.

The body of Mr. Roosevelt left Warm Springs today for Washington in a special train. Flags are to fly at half-mast in the U.S. for 30 days. Flags on all govt. buildings & many private flagstuffs in Canada were at half-mast today.

I mailed today my income tax papers for 1944 - we are given until July to pay the tax. My tax for the year was about \$890, of which \$486 was deducted at source in the U.S.

SATURDAY, APR. 14/45 A burning hot day. All the buds are breaking & my lawn is a fine fresh green. Tommy & 18 other kids (no less!) went trout-fishing all day at "Jones's Hole", by McLearn's ice-houses off the Port Mouton road. They all left their bicycles at the ice-house. Jack Dunlap caught the only trout - a 2-pounder - & went off home in triumph in the afternoon, pausing at the icehouse to let the air out of the other kids' tires. They had no pumps & had to walk home.

Tonight Edith & I attended a wedding anniversary party at Parkers' - the piece de resistance being a great number of fresh boiled lobsters fetched from Long Cove by Horne Clements.

News: - the funeral service for President Roosevelt was held today at the White House. Mr. Churchill was held in London by the momentous affairs in Germany, but Anthony Eden flew to Washington to represent the British govt. The Earl of Athlone went down from Ottawa to represent the King. Our radios gave long & detailed accounts of the ceremony, which was very impressive.

One of the 2 U.S. army bridgeheads on the east bank of the Elbe has been crushed by a sharp & well-mounted German assault. U.S. casualties heavy & Berlin claims several hundred prisoners. The corridor between the U.S. forces & the Russians is now so narrow that large German forces can be switched from one front to the other very quickly, & we may expect further blows of this nature. It is an open secret that a large part of Germany's best troops have been kept facing the Russians as the more bitter of two evils. British & Canadian troops report German defence stiffening again before Emden & Bremen, & the enemy still maintains his corridor along the shore of the Zuider Zee. Allied troops in Italy are advancing slowly against "fanatical" German resistance. U.S. troops cleaning up the Ruhr pocket found a Nazi big wig hiding in a hunting lodge - Franz Von Papen. He gave himself up meekly, saying "I cannot imagine what you want

with an old man of 67." Patton's U.S. columns in Bavaria have reached & taken Bayreuth. French & U.S. troops & aircraft have begun an assault on the German garrison at the mouth of the Gironde, which has so long blocked the port of Bordeaux.

SUNDAY, APR. 15/45 Sunny but cold, with a keen N. wind. Fetched the Freemans down from Milton this afternoon, & Aunt Marie from Andrews' house, & we all had tea & admired small Roges.

News:- Mr. Roosevelt was buried this morning in a rose garden at Hyde Park, his ancestral estate. A battery of field-guns fired a salute as the coffin was lowered into the grave, & a firing party of West Point cadets fired 3 volleys of rifles as the bugles blew taps. Only 1 of the 4 Roosevelt sons - Col. Elliott R. - was able to be present at the side of his mother, the others are on duty in the Pacific.

Memorial services were held today in many places, in Canada as elsewhere; & the radio programmes were given over to broadcasting these services & other tributes to the late president, from morning to night.

The new president, Truman, is a quiet & little-known man from the middle West, a small-town lawyer & judge. He was chosen as vice-president last Fall against the wish of Roosevelt, whose own choice was Henry Wallace. The politicians decided that Wallace was too "radical" - an epithet they had often hurled at Roosevelt himself - while Truman was "a good safe man".

On the western front Canadian troops today fought through

to the North Sea near Groningen in Holland, & an estimated 50,000 to 100,000 German troops are cut off in Holland. U.S. troops have by-passed Leipzig on both sides, & Berlin says U.S. troops are in Chemnitz. Berlin also says the Russians have begun their long-expected drive across the Oder to the capital.

Tokio has been heavily bombed twice in 48 hours by a great fleet of U.S. planes using new incendiary methods & huge fires are burning.

MONDAY, APR. 16/45 Sunny but cold. Temp. 25° Fahr. at 8 a.m.

News: The garrison of German marines in Groningen, Holland, has surrendered to the Canadians. Allied aircraft ranging over German air fields at will today destroyed over 900 planes on the ground.

U.S. troops have another bridgehead 5 miles deep across the Elbe ~~to~~ above Magdeburg. U.S. troops are 7 miles south of Leipzig, have taken Neustadt. The Ruhr trap has so far yielded as prisoners 176,000 German troops including 3 top generals. Hitler has issued a special order of the day to his troops facing the Russian drive across the Oder, commanding them to stand firm — "any officer or man who suggests the surrender of his post will be hanged."

(U.S. troops in one captured city found several German officers hanging from gallows in the streets.) Our forces in Italy are pushing slowly ahead. The Germans are well dug in along the hills & seem full of fight. Gen. Mark Clarke estimates their force at 26 divisions.

Tonight I heard a re-broadcast of President Truman

speaking to a joint session of Congress & Senate at Washington. He pledged himself to the full prosecution of the war & the preparation of a lasting peace along the lines laid down by Roosevelt. Truman speaks quickly & incisively & was much applauded by the representatives.

In Ottawa, Canada's 19th parliament dissolved today. Premier Drew has advanced the Ontario provincial election date to June 4th.

REVEALED BY R.C.N. AFTER THE WAR, THAT CANADIAN MINESWEEPER "ESQUIMALT" TORPEDOED & SUNK, APRIL 16, JUST 3 MILES FROM SAMBO LIGHTSHIP. 44 MEN LOST.

WEDNESDAY, APR. 18/45.

Mild, overcast, a warm drizzle at intervals.

Gave my lawn a light dressing of wood ash & dehydrated lime, mixed half & half, & raked the area thoroughly to work it in. Forsythia bushes in bloom. Received 2 Bartlett prints of scenes at Annapolis, which I ordered in Hfx. through Roy Lawrence. Cost, framed, \$4.50 each.

News: - U.S. troops have entered Czechoslovakia near Aesch, by way of Bayreuth in Bavaria. U.S. troops are fighting inside Leipzig & Nurnberg, & now have all of Magdeburg. Germans in Holland have opened the Zuider Zee dykes, & Canadians are held up by resultant floods. Heligoland bombed heavily in daylight today (4000 tons) by R.A.F. & U.S.A.F. Russians are 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Berlin & can see the smoke of the city, burning under the daily & nightly air attacks.

Correspondents describe the area behind our advancing troops in Germany as swarming with slave labour from all the German-conquered countries, released from the prison camps by our troops. Conditions in

some of these camps were horrible. The people were starved, beaten, forced to labor on all sorts of German war-projects, hanged or shot for the least disobedience. Every camp had the now familiar crematorium or incinerator where the daily ~~crop~~ crop of corpses was consumed. U.S. troops are forcing German civilians from nearby towns to walk through these camps & see the handiwork of their Fuehrer.

It is clear now that the operations of the U.S. 1st & 9th armies, in cutting off the Ruhr valley, resulted in the greatest single victory yet on the West front. For in this trap was caught the greater portion of the German reserves east of the Rhine. So far over 300,000 prisoners have passed into the U.S. prison cages from the Ruhr alone. The total of German prisoners taken in the West since our forces landed in Normandy is now over 2,000,000!

At Ottawa Mr. King announced the resignation of 5 of his cabinet - Brenan, Michaud, McCarty, MacDonald, Lafleche. Most of the resignations had been expected. Angus L. had long differed with King on the conscription issue, demanding a former policy; it is thought that Brenan & McCarty felt the same. But when King announced a dozen appointments to the Senate & some other sinecures it was clear that most of the resigning ministers had simply sought refuge from the coming electoral storm. Among the new senators is J. J. Kinley, M.P. for Lunenburg - Queens for years, an old-style politician crowning a comfortable career with a comfortable life sinecure.

THURSDAY, APR. 19, 1945 Some time ago I promised Clem Crowell I would give a talk to the Home & School Association in his native Lockport, so this afternoon he called for me in his car. We stopped for an inspection of the Summerville school, an old-fashioned red one-room thing sitting in scrub woods between the motor road & the shore. Two rows of double-desks, seating 18 in all, with a rusty iron stove in the middle of the room. The kids were in all grades from 1 to 8 & the teacher was a serious young man of 18 in a gay check jacket, dark trousers, & spectacles. Clem tested the kids in various subjects & at the close of his inspection invited me to say a few words. I talked to the kids for a few minutes about the bay & the islands, the history of the names, & the Indian names for Broad River & the local beach, & what they meant. Then on to Lockport, where in the perpetual sea breeze the climate turned chilly in spite of the sunshine, & the glowing fire in the Crowell's charming living room was a cheerful thing indeed. Ester Crowell; the daughter Betty, 17, a plump, impulsive, mentally-unstable girl, rather a trial to the parents; a young Lockport teacher named Crosbie, & a Lockport schoolgirl who stays with the Crowells. For tea we had a dish I love - fresh boiled lobsters in vinegar-and-butter sauce, baked potatoes, peas. At 8 p.m. we walked over to the vestry of the Baptist church & found it filled with parents & the Lockport teachers, many of them with copies of "Roger Hadden" & requests for an autograph. There was

some business, some hearty group singing from songbooks. Clem introduced me. He had suggested something light & entertaining, so I talked about the stories to be found in our own countryside, giving examples both grave & humorous. They seemed to like it. Afterwards we adjourned to the Anglican parsonage & a crackling wood fire, where the Rev. Jeffries & wife dispensed tea, sandwiches & cake, & ten, or fifteen people, mostly women, made cheerful conversation. Finally back to Crowell's, where I had a fine sleep in a big four-poster.

FRIDAY, APR. 20/45 After breakfast Clem & I drove out to the Western Head, where there is a fine view up & down the coast - McWutt's Island lighthouse very close & clear - 7 miles - Lockeport's west head is actually nearer the entrance of Shelburne harbor than Shelburne town itself, which is 10 miles from the light. The coast is rocky & barren & the waters off Lockeport dotted with black & craggy islets - easy to see why the 18th. century seamen called this place Ragged Islands.

Called on old Dr. Lockwood, still practising medicine in Lockeport after 56 years in the place. He came originally from Canning & was a student at Mount Allison in 1876 & '77. His office ~~was~~^{is} an old curiosity shop, ancient furniture, ancient medical appliances, a titter of old pill boxes, papers, test tubes, vision-charts, all murky with the dust of years. He took us into the house & showed us a stuffed moose head with as big a set of horns as I ever saw, a trophy of hunting at Table River in the early 1880's. There are no moose like that

in Nova Scotia now, even though the season has been closed many years. Lockeport has a frugal air, easily understood when one considers the hard times of the fishery from 1929-1939; yet today the fishermen are prosperous beyond their wildest dreams. Dr. Lockwood told of one chap, owner of a good boat, who cleared \$700 in March. He added that many fishermen are keeping great sums in currency hidden in their homes, fearing that a bank deposit may bring down upon them the income tax collectors.

Drove home with Clem & Ester this afternoon, a sunny, breezy day. News: - London reveals that on April 16th R.A.F. bombers sank the last of Germany's battleships, the "Lutzow" in Schweinemünde harbor on the Baltic. Today is Hitler's 56th birthday but he made no public statement. He had plenty of bad news for a birthday remembrance. Russian troops are only 7 miles from Berlin. U.S. troops today conquered Nurnberg, the city where Hitler loved to hold massed torchlight parades of his Nazi followers. British 2nd Army took Lüneburg 2 days ago, is now outside Hamburg. Canadian troops have taken 25,000 prisoners since April 1st.

SATURDAY, APR. 21/45 Foggy & cold. I have promised to do 3 talks in the C.B.C.'s "Canadian Yarns" series, to be broadcast late in July; am now working on the scripts. The Gopp Clark Co. have written asking me to contribute one or two tales to their Canadian school readers, Grades 4, 5 & 6. I've never written anything for children & think I shall try my hand.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 1945

Cold, overcast, with high wind & drizzling rain.

At Sunlaps' for tea, a Freeman-Sunlap family gathering with Terry's bride & baby for the centerpiece. News: The Russians have burst into Berlin, their tanks have reached Unter den Linden & savage street fighting is going on. U.S. troops on the Elbe can hear Russian guns & the radio voices of Russian tankmen & gunners. French troops took Stuttgart yesterday, & today reached the shores of Lake Constance, trapping thousands of Germans in the Black Forest. R.A.F. hit hard at Kiel & Bremen. Canadians are in outskirts of Emden in Germany, Utrecht in Holland. Charles Lynch described by radio tonight a savage little battle which took place near a Dutch town last night, when about 1,000 German paratroopers on foot attacked a Canadian field battery in the dark. Our men fought it out from slit trenches with Sten guns, rifles & pistols, & their casualties were light. Flame-throwing Canadian tanks turned the tide, & Lynch today counted 400 German dead around the battery. 250 prisoners were taken.

In Italy the 8th Army has broken into the Po plain, took Bologna yesterday, & the Germans are in full retreat.

Russian premier Molotov has arrived in Washington on his way to the San Francisco conference. Canadian 8th Victory Loan campaign begins tomorrow - objective \$1,350,000,000. Canadian war debt so far is about \$850 for every man, woman & child in the country.

MONDAY, APRIL 23/45 Cold & windy. Latest rumor down the coast is that last week a German sub. got inside the steel net across Rfa harbor & torpedoed 2 minesweepers. Austin P. came in tonight to talk over our annual fishing trip up Shelburne River.

News:- Berlin radio ceased today, but the official German news broadcast from Hamburg declared that Hitler & Goebbels were still in Berlin, Hitler in personal charge of the defences.

Today, St. George's Day, England ended its blackout & the lights are on again in uncurtained windows, after 5 years & 7 months of darkness.

In Italy, Allied troops have reached the Po river on a broad front. Our aircraft harrying the retreating Germans yesterday destroyed 1700 vehicles. On the Garonne river in France the last German garrison has been crushed & the port of Bordeaux is now open.

TUESDAY, APR. 24/45 Lovely day. A good walk to Potanoc & back. News:- The French traitors Petain, Deak & Laval appeared at the Swiss-German border today. Swiss guards have orders to refuse admission to all males fleeing from Germany, so Deak & Laval were turned away. Petain was admitted in order to reach France, where he intends to give himself up. In Italy our 5th & 8th armies have taken Spezia, Modena & Ferrara, & pushed on across the Po. In southern Germany, French & U.S. troops have taken

Ulm & have pushed across the Danube towards Munich, meeting little or no resistance. Russians are pushing into Berlin from south & east, hammering the whole city with massed artillery & fighting along the streets with tanks & assault guns.

WEDNESDAY, APR. 25/45 Sunny but cool. This morning I drove Terry, his wife & youngster to Greenfield, where they are staying a few days at Carl Freeman's hotel. Edith came along & we made a day of it, fishing. I tried for trout in various places & about 2.30 old Carl & I went down to his boat & fished long & carefully for salmon in the long pool below the sawmill. No luck, although someone caught a fine salmon there yesterday. Home for tea & then on to the curling rink with "Father" Wilson, Mrs. & Bill, to see a Navy boxing tournament. A good show, lots of action & fine-looking lads. The Jarvis twins, colored, aged 10, of L'pool, provided the comedy element with a slam-bang 3 rounds using 12-ounce gloves. Show is part of a 3-night sports carnival put on by the Navy in aid of the local hospital fund.

THURSDAY, APR. 26/45 East wind & rain. Lt. Com. "Jock" Millet reserved a ringside seat for me at the Navy wrestling show tonight. The first bout or two were the real thing, amateur style. The rest was in the professional manner, half wrestling, half burlesque — grunts, groans, hair-pulling, fisting, gouging, with no holds barred, fights with the referee (who had the shirt torn off).

his back) opponents thrown clean out of the ring quite frequently. Lots of action & lots of fun. I haven't laughed so much in years.

News:- The German war machine is going to pieces at a rate only modified by our own army supply problems. British 2nd Army has taken Bremen after a stiff fight but the mouth of the river is still German-held. Russians today took Stettin & now have about $\frac{3}{4}$ of Berlin, which is surrounded. The Hamburg radio still broadcasts the amazingly frank German war communiques, still insists the Fuehrer is in personal command of the garrison of Berlin. In Italy the 5th Army is in Verona, & Swiss reports say that the Germans have fled from Genoa, Milan & Turin, & that Italian partisans have seized control there.

FRIDAY, APR. 27/45

Wet, cold. This afternoon, carefully & simultaneously announced by London, Moscow & Washington, ~~same~~ news to which we have looked forward many moons — U.S. & Russian troops are in contact along the Elbe river near Torgau. The East front & the West front have met & merged in the heart of Germany.

It came as an anti-climax, because U.S. newsmen had been hinting for days that the meeting had taken place, & that advanced U.S. patrols had been pulled back to the west bank of the Elbe, there to await the official coming of the Russians. In Paris, old Marshal Petain was received into custody today. The guard stood

with arms reversed, a token of his dishonor, & there was no saluting or greeting by the officers, chief of whom was General Koenig, in former days an intimate friend of the aged traitor.

Last night a meeting of C.C.F. enthusiasts, held in the Milton community hall, nominated Rev. J.W.A. Nicholson to enter the federal election for the Queens-Lunenburg seat. Conservatives in Q-L have nominated L.C. Beach, the North-Queens-born man who has conducted the W.T.P.B. office in Bridgewater until recently.

SATURDAY, APR. 28/45 Web, cold. Capt Wallace Ogilvie is here from Nassau, selling some of his furniture & packing the rest for shipment to the Bahamas. He is asking stiff prices for his stuff, but young Bill Wilson told me he (Bill) could get the Ogilvie electric washing machine for \$225 if I wanted it. It is said to have cost \$300 before the war. I was in no mood to quibble over the chance, for Edith has been drudging over a washtub ever since maids & washerwomen vanished into "war work", so I agreed to buy. Last night Burke Douglas arrived home after 5 years overseas & tonight we joined a gathering of friends at Parkers' to welcome him & have a yarn.

News:- A German official radio statement says that Hermann Goering "owing to heart trouble" has given up command of the Luftwaffe. It is stated officially in London that an offer of unconditional surrender to Britain & the U.S. (but

not to Russia) was made a few days ago by Himmler, notorious head of the Gestapo & the real ruler of Germany. Himmler added that Hitler was in Berlin, "ill", & was "not expected to live 24 hours" after the signing of the surrender. (A macabre humor, typical of the Nazis, is in these statements about Goering & Hitler) The offer was made through Swedish Red Cross by an emissary flown from Germany. London & Washington rejected the offer, pointing out that surrender must be to Russia as well. Official German radio today announced that a "so-called Free German uprising" in Munich had been crushed.

Meanwhile the war goes on. The terrific battle in the ruins of Berlin is near a climax. A U.S. column has taken Augsburg & is 22 miles from Munich. A growing torrent of Allied soldiers & sailors, released from German prisons, is pouring back along the lines of communication. More of the ~~the~~ hideous German death-camps for civilian prisoners are falling into our hands.

In Italy the Germans are retreating swiftly towards the Tyrol. Milan radio declares the city is firmly in the hands of anti-Fascist partisans, who have Mussolini & the brutal Graziani under arrest, & have already tried & shot Farinacci, former Secretary-General of the Fascist party.

Late this evening a rumor, repeated by radio, swept all

over Canada & the U.S., saying that the last German forces had given up the struggle. At 11 p.m. President Truman announced that he had been in touch with Gen. Eisenhower — & the rumor was false.

SUNDAY, APR. 29/45. Sunny, cool. To Milton by car this afternoon, & walked "around the bridges". News:— we have kept close to the radio for many days but never so much as now, when the denouement of this long tremendous tragedy seems about to burst upon us. Part of it came yesterday — the Italian climax. U.S. troops reached Milan & found the bullet-riddled bodies of Mussolini & his mistress, with 14 other prominent Fascists (including Farinacci & Scorza) hanging in one of the city squares. The Duce & his henchmen had tried to enter Switzerland, but were recognised (Mussolini was in disguise) & seized by Italian rebels at Como, given a summary trial & shot. British 8th Army entered Venice today, apparently without firing a shot, & a New Zealand division is across the Piave. Nothing remains of two crack German armies in Italy but fugitive groups fleeing towards Brenner Pass. One German division surrendered to the Brazilian corps intact, with over 1000 vehicles. The Berlin garrison is now hemmed into a section about a mile square, centering in the Tiergarten. Hitler is said to be there & a Stockholm

report today declares that the Fuehrer died last night from "a brain hemorrhage". U.S. troops entered Munich today. The city was undefended. It was the birthplace of the Nazi party. A late flash tonight from Rome says that over 100,000 Germans have surrendered since the 5th & 8th armies began their great attack on April 10th, most of them during the past few days.

MONDAY, APR 30/45 Cool, overcast. Made enquiry this morning from the local Westinghouse dealer & others; found that the super-washing machine which Captain Ogilvie proposes to sell, cost him \$140 instead of "over \$300". He said it "had been used only four times". His family had used it 6 years. I checked by phone with Saunders, the W.T.P.T.B. man at Bridgewater, who said that such a machine could not be sold for more than 90% of cost, even in A-1 condition; & if worn much, 60%. I mentioned these facts to gullible Willy, who, it turned out, had actually bought this & much other household equipment at Ogilvie's prices. He went to Ogilvie, threatened W.T.P.T.B. proceedings, & got his cheque back. Captain Ogilvie, reputed to have made a million out of this war, & to have removed it successfully from Canada to the Bahamas (where there is no income tax) is still not above the minor swindle of his struggling days. Dinner at the Pensione. Later to Parkers, talking over a fishing trip to Sobatic.

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1945

cool, overcast. Drove to Greenfield this afternoon to bring back Terry & his family. While there I inspected the Indian cemetery on the west side of the river. It contains 20 or 30 low mounds, marked with chunks of stone at head & foot, and the low stone foundation of a little chapel. I walked down to Link Hunt's, borrowed a claw-hoe, & went over the old Micmac reserve on the slope behind his house. Turned up the turf in many places between the crest & the river bank. Found many shards of European pottery, a clay pipestem, an iron door-hook, some bits of bone & a porcupine tooth. Nothing prehistoric. Link Hunt can remember 2 or 3 Indian families living in huts on the little reserve, in his time. He says the prehistoric camp of the Indians was on the east side of the river, just at the foot of the lake. His father found many arrowheads etc. there. (Old Mrs. Hunt gave them all to Clara Dennis.)

News:- At 5.45, just as we sat down to supper, the radio (tuned to London) announced, "Hitler is dead". Detail followed, all quoted from the Hamburg radio. Fifteen minutes ago the notorious British renegade ^{WILLIAM} ~~JOYCE~~ ^{JOYCE}, (known in Britain as "Lord Haw-Haw") spoke over the Hamburg wavelength, reading an announcement by Admiral Doenitz, head of the German navy. Hitler was killed at 4 p.m. today in the ruins of the Chancellery in Berlin. (Presumably while helping to defend it against the

Russians.) He had appointed Doenitz his successor. "While Britain & America refuse to aid us in the fight against Bolshevism," said Doenitz, "the war will go on."

Russian troops (according to Moscow) hoisted the red flag over the Chancellery last night; but there is still a stiff fight going on about the Tiergarten. U.S. troops in Bavaria have liberated 110,000 Allied army & air force prisoners from one huge camp. U.S. patrols have crossed into the Tyrol from Bavaria & are approaching Innsbruck. In Italy the only German troops now fighting are standing near Lake Garda, at the approach to Brennet Pass. Turin & Genoa are in Allied hands, & New Zealanders of the 8th Army have pushed to within a few miles of Trieste.

Late bulletins from London show much skepticism over Hitler's reported death in battle. That he is dead, no one denies. But some newsmen think he has been dead for months. Some have even held that Hitler was killed in the famous bomb coup of the German generals last year, & that Himmler & Goebbels have been running a bluff ever since. Moscow says flatly that Hitler fled from Berlin before Russian troops surrounded it. If he is dead, he died elsewhere.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2/45. Sunny, cool. Dipping minnows this afternoon at Bill Weagle's old place, for our fishing trip.

couldn't get enough, so at 5 pm. Parker & I went down to the railway marsh, found some kids dipping minnows there, & bought 6 dozen for 75¢. News:— the greatest yet. The Russians captured the last remnants of the Berlin garrison at 3 p.m., & the German capital is theirs. In all, they claim 70,000 German prisoners taken in the fortnight's siege. Other Soviet troops took Rostock on the Baltic. British troops are in Lubeck & Wismar, thus cutting off the German troops in Denmark. But the biggest news is from Italy. Sir Harold Alexander announced that on Sunday, April 29th, in Allied H.Q. near Naples, two German generals signed the unconditional surrender of all troops in the Tyrol & northern Italy. Counting lines-of-communication troops & other rear echelons, Alexander estimates the bag of prisoners will be close to one million men. The biggest German surrender yet, a grand revenge for Alexander, who was the last British officer to leave the beach at Dunkirk.

This surrender of the largest & best remaining German armies occurred 2 days before Hitler's supposed death in Berlin. The whole world is wondering what the Russians found in the ruins of the Chancellory. They were still 300 yards from it when Hitler "died" defending it. In Sweden, Count Bernadotte, who carried to Stockholm the now famous offer

of surrender (see Apr. 28), says flatly that he met Himmler in Lubeck on April 24th, & that Himmler said, "Hitler is dying of hemorrhage of the brain, he will be dead in 48 hours."

In the meantime Hamburg radio announces that the new Fuehrer, Goebbels, has appointed a new foreign minister in place of the infamous Ribbentrop. U.S. troops in Bavaria have received the surrender of some notable Nazi brass-hats, including today the best of the German generals, Von Rundstedt.

Today the French traitor Laval, & his satellite Dieb, arrived in Barcelona in a German plane. The U.S. ambassador promptly demanded that Spain's dictator, Franco, send them back to Germany. Franco compromised. He has "interned" them pending a decision.

In Burma, British forces have landed just south of Rangoon. They can hear the gunfire of our 14th Army coming down from the north.

I think the most piquant comment on the astounding news of the past 2 days was the B.B.C. comment on the passing of the Fuehrer. It was simply a quotation from the closing lines of Shakespeare's "Richard III":
"The day is ours. The bloody dog is dead."

THURSDAY, MAY 3/45 Austin Parker & I went on our annual fishing trip to Shelburne River. P. had a pass through the gate at Kepumkuyik River. (Mersey Co. had to install a

barrier several years ago, after the log roads around Shelburne R. were made passable for motor traffic. (The area was at once invaded by sportsmen in cars from everywhere.) Noticed a dozen cars stopped there, owners presumably fishing the "Kejie" stream.

We had Austin's red canoe on top of my car. Had dinner at Camp One, where Whitman told us the Shelburne River country was full of anglers, friends of Verge, the Mersey woods boss. There was even a party of 5 camped at Little Tobatic, where we had planned to go. So we headed for Pescauwess Lake, where the road is bad for 3 miles and impassable for the last $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. The undergear of the car took some ~~hard~~ knocks in one bad waterhole. Portaged our stuff the last $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. The sky was clouding up rapidly from the east & we lost no time paddling up to the lake head. - 5 miles.

Put up our tent beside the stream flowing from Pescauwess Lake, at a place called Poison Ivy Falls, a charming place despite the name. Fished a little after getting camped for the night, each caught 4 trout. In the night a terrific easterly storm began, with torrents of rain.

Today's news (learned later, of course). The German army falling back on Hamburg & the Danish border went utterly to pieces today, surrendering by whole divisions to the British 2nd Army, which estimates the day's bag

at 500,000. Hamburg was declared an open city by the Germans & British troops went right in. Other British troops crossed the Kiel Canal & began shelling Flensburg. Kiel surrendered without a fight. In a tent on the Lüneburg Heath, Gen. Montgomery finally received the formal surrender of all German forces remaining in Holland, north-west Germany, & Denmark. The surrender was made by 2 admirals & a general.

Eisenhower's Statement

PARIS, May 4—(BUP)—The text of General Eisenhower's statement:

"The German forces on the Western front have disintegrated today. What is left of two German armies surrendered to a single American Division, the 102nd commanded by Major General Frank Keating. In the north, the remaining forces in northwest Germany, Holland, Denmark, and the Frisian Islands, including Helgoland, surrendered to Field Marshal Montgomery.

In the south, Allied troops of General Devers' command and those from Italy have joined up. On the Czechoslovakian border, a Panzer division gave up unconditionally to General Bradley's forces.

"Any further losses the Germans incur on this front are due to their failure instantly to quit. They know they are beaten.

"Any further hesitation is due either to their own stupidity or that of the German Government. On land, sea and in the air the Germans are thoroughly whipped. Their only recourse is to surrender."

In Burma, British troops marched into Rangoon today, found its docks etc. intact except from our own bombing. The Japs had fled April 25th. Thus ends the long & hard Burma campaign, in which our forces killed 97,000 Jap soldiers, captured very few.

FRIDAY, MAY 4/45

An easterly gale of hurricane force blew all day & all this night. Rescauwass Lake lies east

west & got the full rake of it, with heavy "seas" rolling into the small creek where we were camped. I had indigestion & lay in my sleeping bag all morning, Parker went out in an army groundsheet to try for trout up the brook. While he was gone, a big raven stole the 4 trout he caught last night.

In the afternoon, fed-up with lying in the tent, I went up the brook in my old rubber coat & caught 7 trout.

I was nearly blown into the stream bodily several times. The racket in the woods was terrific, with branches & whole trees falling. A sleepless night.

SATURDAY, MAY 5/45 Again a wet & windy day. Only with great difficulty could we get a fire going long enough to heat water for tea. The brook & the lake rose steadily all day & by night almost flooded us out of our tent.

I caught 5 trout today; hard fishing under these conditions but it was better than lying in the tent in sodden clothes. Parker caught 9, using worms.

I prefer fly-fishing, even in a hurricane.

SUNDAY, MAY 6/45 Our last day. Up at daybreak.

Flat calm & heavy mist. Struck camp after breakfast & pushed off in the canoe. Stopped long enough to find the portage to Beaverskin Lake, & walked over it to have a look at the lake. A pretty place. The mist

cleared as we reached the east end of Rescaress. The water was like a mirror & the reflections were uncanny — I never saw such perfect optical effects. We spent the rest of the day fishing at Rescaress Dam, at the brook mouth of Cobliel Lake, & on the rotten old logging wharf, where to my surprise I caught 2 beauties with my flies — in dead black water. I carried the canoe up the road to the car, & we portaged the rest of our stuff in burning heat, the sun blazing & all the woodland steaming.

The water-holes on the road very bad. We stopped before each & waded through it first, placing rocks in the deep holes & cutting brushwood to give traction in the sloughs. Got through all right. Had tea at the road bridge over Rescaress Brook. Our total catch 46 trout, of which I took 19, nearly all with the fly. Stopped at Milton & put most of my catch in the refrigerator at Freeman's. Jerry reported back to Hfx yesterday for duty. The Milton folk had given him & Betty a kitchen shower — 50 or 60 people & all sorts of gifts of the practical sort.

MONDAY, MAY 7/45 Lovely warm day. Gave my lawn the first cut of the season. Kept the radio on all day. About 11 a.m. word came through (from Flensburg, the last radio

station remaining to the Germans) that the heads of German army & navy had signed a total surrender at Eisenhower's H.Q.

There was no official confirmation of this, but we have grown used to receiving news from the enemy, days before it was released by our security-mad brass hats; so about noon everybody began putting out flags. Howland White had a dozen big signal flags, which he & Arthur strung over the street from chimney to chimney. In the afternoon people began to gather on Main St. A great crowd formed at the liquor store but the gov't. ordered all liquor stores closed about 3 p.m. (they only open at 12.30) & many went away thirsty. In the absence of official word no organised celebration could be started, & all afternoon the people simply stood about the business section of Main St., waiting. Finally the Powers that Be announced by radio that tomorrow the 8th would be official V(ictory) E(urope) Day. They also admitted that at an early hour this morning, at S.H.A.E.F., in a schoolhouse at Rheims, the Germans signed a total surrender of all their remaining sea & land forces. A German admiral & the German army chief of staff Jodl were the chief enemy signatories. They were asked several times in the course of the affair if they fully

understood the severity of the terms & they answered "Yes".

Tonight Main St. was very lively, with sailors armed with flags parading in small groups up & down, workmen from the ship repair plants whistling & yelling, girls laughing. The naval shore patrol was watchful, & the Mounties & town police patrolled the business section. The cautious Chinamen closed their restaurants & Howard the jeweller removed his window display.

About 10 p.m. Edith & I went to Longley Fenot's house. There foregathered the Dunlaps, Parkers, Murrays, Williams', & Burke & Marion Douglas. Everybody had saved a bottle for the great occasion, & drank to Victory. Home at 2.30 a.m., a lovely clear night.

The late news was that fighting had ceased all over Europe except in Prague, where the Czechs had risen & were in fierce combat with the German garrison. I heard the B.B.C. re-broadcasting a record of the Czech announcement — a voice speaking in English with a strong Czech accent pleading for Allied help at once, and then a British soldier (a Scot) gave his name, number, rank & regiment, said he had escaped from German imprisonment & was fighting with the Czechs, & asked for Allied planes to be flown in without delay.

TUESDAY, May 8, 1945

Victory (Europe) Day, & a fine May day. At 10 A.M. by radio we heard Mr. Churchill announcing the complete conquest of Germany, asking for thanksgiving as well as rejoicing, & a determination to press the war against Japan. He said that the German surrender at Rheims was being confirmed in Berlin today, with Marshal Zhukov signing for Russia, & Von Keitel as commander of the German armies. German submarines & other war craft on the high seas have been ordered to make for the nearest Allied port, on the surface & flying a black flag.

Churchill's short address was the signal for bells, whistles, air raid sirens, etc. in L'pool & throughout Canada to be sounded - & they were, loud & long. Church services of thanksgiving ended at 11 A.M. & a big crowd gathered in front of town hall. The mayor & others were on the portico with a microphone & loudspeakers. Various returned soldiers were called up & asked to say a few words. They got a big hand from the crowd. Finally about 11:30 a procession formed - the high school cadet band, the Legion with their standards, the fire dept. in their natty dress uniforms just acquired (blue, with white cap covers & a white trouser stripe) & the fire apparatus. We marched to the Fort, then across

the bridge to Bristol, finally to the school grounds.

Along the way many kids & others joined the parade. The Legion had asked for a turn-out of navy men, but the local S.N.O. (Rt. Commander Hope) refused, with the excuse that he had issued orders for two days & could not change them. Actually I think he had orders to keep most of his men aboard their ships; there were serious disorders in Hfx. last night, with a mob looting liquor stores, burning tram cars & a police car — mostly service men in the crowd. Our crowd today was

cheerful & waving flags but there was no cheering or any excitement — Queens County folk are not excitable except in politics.

Naval craft at L'pool wharves include two frigates, 2 corvettes, a big tug & of course the old destroyer Columbia — all very gay with bunting.

Marie & Betty came down from Milton for the day & had lunch (some of my trout) with us. At 4 p.m. we heard the King's address to the empire, spoken with his usual strong & deliberate voice. Also heard addresses by General Montgomery & General Grenat.

Tonight the sky is cool & overcast. "Father" Wilson has his rectory illuminated with floodlights, the flags of Britain, Russia & the U.S. on specially erected

stuffs on the lawn, & a loudspeaker playing marches & symphonies from an open window. Every house & shop has some sort of bunting flying.

11 p.m. Russians have occupied Breslau & Dresden in Germany, & Olmütz in Czecho-Slovakia. German troops continued fighting the Russians until tonight.

German garrison in Prague has surrendered to C.-S. partisan forces. In the ruins of Berlin, Russians have found Hitler's hide-out, a vast underground shelter, luxuriously furnished, well stocked with every sort of food. It was under the Reich-Chancellery with an emergency exit by tunnel emerging in a distant street. No trace of his body. Elsewhere the Russians found the bodies of Paul Goebbels, the propaganda minister, with his wife & children - all had taken poison. No trace of Goering or Himmler.

In Halifax, rioting broke out again this afternoon. A mob largely composed of navy men smashed & looted shops of every sort along Grenville St. Two places were set afire. They stormed through police lines into a brewery & passed out hundreds of cases of beer.

Finally Mayor Butler proclaimed a curfew, set at 8 p.m. & Admiral Murray toured the streets in a sound-truck, ordering navy personnel back to ships & barracks.

WEDNESDAY, May 9, 1945

There was a street dance in front of the Elmwood last night, arranged by the town as part of the Victory celebration. Sailors from all ships in port were there.

About 11:30 a heavy shower broke up the dancing. The crowd by that time consisted of sailors & whores with a fringe of shipyard workers, loafers & urchins from the back streets.

At midnight, by pre-arranged plan, this mob suddenly rushed up Main Street. A large rock was flung through the plate glass of the liquor store from a slowly passing car. Sailors instantly smashed out the whole window & began passing out liquors & beer to the mob. The town police, Mounties & shore patrol made no real attempt to interfere. The entire stock of the store - \$20,000 worth of assorted booze - was looted except for a few cases of Halifax beer (which nobody likes).

There was no other damage in town, but a bunch of back road toughs & sailors evidently held a drunken spree in the old Congregational cemetery on College Hill, where many tombstones were thrown down or flung over the rear bank.

Urchins of no more than 10 or 12 were seen carrying off bottles of beer, & one group had a case of Johnnie Walker. Much of the liquor was hastily hidden when the mob scattered, & today bottles are being discovered in all sorts of strange places. Along the waterfront I saw boys & men on all fours

peering under sheds. Jerry Nickerson's fish-workers found 53 bottles of beer on his wharf & promptly got very drunk. Most of them are Newfoundlanders & they live in a group of shanties & discarded Arctic cabins from ~~and~~ corvettes at the foot of Barten Street. The shacks are called "Little Burgeo" - after the home port of most of the Newfies.

The rioting in Hfx continued last night. The entire business district has been smashed & looted. Damage is estimated from one to five million dollars. 1,000 troops arrived in the city today to support civil & service police. An 8 pm. curfew has been established. At 7 pm. on CHNS, Admiral Murray made a brief statement, alleging that most of the damage had been done by civilians. He was followed by the new mayor of Hfx, Allan Buxter, who recounted the whole affair, stated bluntly that Canadian Navy personnel were chiefly responsible - 7,000 of them were loose in the city - & blamed the admiral for failure to take proper measures to control them.

Tonight in L'pool the usual 10 p.m. curfew bell was rung at 9.30, & all naval personnel was confined to ships & the Elmwood barracks. We held our monthly Legion meeting in the Legion hall on Gorham St. I was presented with an engraved "Past President" medal for my services in 1944. When we adjourned at 9.25 the Main Street

was deserted except for a few civilian loots of 16 or 17, hanging about opposite the liquor store in hopes of excitement.

News:- A few die-hard German units are still fighting the Russians in Czecho-Slovakia, but Russian troops have entered Prague. Moscow celebrated the peace today - Stalin likes to do things a bit differently. In Bavaria, troops of the U.S. 7th Army have Field-Marshal Kesselring and Goering, the fat & evil head of the Luftwaffe, Hitler's right hand man. Goering's wife & daughter with him. Goering told newsmen that on Apr. 24th. he suggested Hitler resign as head of the Reich & permit Goering to make peace; Hitler ordered him shot, but Goering was rescued from the S.S. troops by men of his own Luftwaffe. He & his family have since been hiding in Bavaria.

In France the German garrisons at Rochelle, Lorint, & Dunkirk have surrendered. In Norway, German troops are confined to barracks pending arrival of Allied troops. British warships are at Copenhagen, & today King Christian opened the Danish parliament, with a guard of honor of British paratroopers. The Norwegian traitor, Vidkund Quisling, is in Oslo jail.

Newsmen who were present at the formal signing of surrender in Berlin, say the German capital has been utterly destroyed. The Chancellory is a huge heap of

rubble & no one knows who or what may be buried in the ruins. Russians insist that Hitler poisoned himself many days before his supposed heroic death in battle, & that his body was smuggled out of Berlin & secretly disposed of.

THURSDAY, MAY 10/45 Fine, cool. Walked to Milton & back this afternoon. The 9:30 curfew in R'pool continues, with most of the navy personnel still confined to their ships. All business is at a stop in Hfx, & meals are a problem owing to the damage to restaurants. Today the Hfx police picked up 200 drunks in the downtown area; the police station cells are full, & the Armouries is being used to hold the overflow. Houses in the red light district are being searched for loot, & much stuff has been found. It appears that Dartmouth suffered badly in the same general riot. Liqueur stores were looted in Sydney, Kentville, Yarmouth & R'pool, but there was no other disorder in those towns. In every case the looting was led by service men, assisted by civilians. News: Ottawa announced with iclar reductions in taxation — but the reductions proved to be petty matters & the whole thing a political gesture.

In Copenhagen the remnants of the German fleet — the cruisers Nuremberg and Prinz Eugen, 2 destroyers & some smaller craft, have been surrendered to British warships. British paratroops have arrived in Oslo.

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1945

A stormy night, S.E. gale & heavy rain. A lull in the afternoon, with the barometer still falling; strong N. wind at evening, with drizzling rain. Today in Hfx. the curfew has been put back to 10 p.m. & naval & military men have been released from barracks, subject to curfew.

Admiral G. C. ("Jetty") Jones has arrived in Hfx. to take charge of all naval forces pro tem. Mr. Illsley, acting prime minister during King's absence in San Francisco, has been in Hfx. viewing the riot damage & has appointed a Royal Commission to investigate the affair.

News:— many suicides reported amongst German officers guilty of war crimes, & traitors in conquered countries. Amongst them General Terboven, German commander in Norway, who today blew himself to shreds with a bomb in his H.Q.; and Conrad Henlein, notorious leader of the "Audeten" Germans in Czecho-Slovakia, who slashed his wrists & bled to death in a U.S. army prison camp.

So far 2389 Canadians have been released from German prisons.

New England today was hit by a terrific snowstorm, great damage, 12 inches of snow. Tonight we have a fierce northerly gale & bitter cold, but so far no snow. { But snow fell in North Queensf. }
& there was ice on the puddles

SATURDAY, MAY 12/45

Andrew Merkel blew in this ^{afternoon} ~~morning~~ with a B.U.P. man named Fraser, & Lt-Com. Bill Slater, late of H.M.S. "Kaida". They were on their way to Shelburne, to witness surrender of the first German submarine to reach a North American port. Merkel asked me to go along & of course I was delighted. All had

tea at our house & drove off for Shelburne at 8 p.m. There we found Shellburn's hotel, the shabby & ramshackle Atlantic House, full up.

Drove on down to the naval base. Young Art Merkel is an officer in the frigate "Toronto", which we found high & dry on the slip. Found a great welcome on board - drinks all round, a movie show in progress in the wardroom - Cr. Merkel there, & some Wrens.

Afterwards much talk of tomorrow's historic event. The submarine was first sighted about 300 miles off Cape Race, heading west on the surface & flying the black flag of surrender. H.M.C.S. Sunvegan (which refitted here ^{at Liverpool} last year) & another corvette picked her up, turned her over to the frigates "Buckingham" & "Inchallan" who are escorting her to Shelburne.

I talked far into the night (2:30 a.m.) with "Toronto's" skipper Lt. Com. Anthony Griffin, whose home is at Toronto, too. He is tall, lean, dark, with a gaunt sensitive face, well educated, a keen mind, a charming manner; about 32 or 33. I'm told his officers & men worship him & I believe it, for I think he is the finest type I have seen in the R.C.N. He is much interested in writing, thinks he would like to try it. I slept on board "Toronto" in the cabin of Jimmy the One, who was away on leave.

SUNDAY, MAY 13/45. A dull cold misty day, despite last night's red sunset. A conference this morning at the Base Captain's office, at which the newsmen & photographers were harangued by the brass-hats. Andy & I skipped it. Base captain is a (Bill Selator introduces me as a representative of the London Times. This was so impressive that nobody asked to see my credentials.)

stuffed shirt named Donald, a scowling tall hunch-shouldered man of 50-odd who looks like a buffalo bull about to charge. He made difficulties for the newsmen, later smoothed out by Bill Slater & Howard, the chief navy P.R.O., who had flown down from Ottawa. Lunch on "Toronto", then went down to the jetty & boarded a Fairmile launch. Ev. Merkel wanted to see the affair so we smuggled her (wrapped in big navy sheepskin coat) into the Fairmile's wardroom, to stay out of sight until the F.M. was safely outside the harbour. There were 3 other F.M.'s & a small grey motor launch in our little procession. One F.M. held the boarding party, 8 or 10 ratings armed with Sten guns & two officers with revolvers. Another had the demolition expert, whom I met on "Toronto", a fresh-cheeked good-looking cocky young fellow named Rundle, loud-voiced, assertive, a poisonous type from Ontario. He is one of the best explosives men ⁱⁿ the R.C.N., will go anywhere & do anything, won the George Medal for some sticky job on German mines. He is to jump aboard at the moment of surrender & explore the whole ship for time-bombs or any other attempt to sink her.

We ran outside & lay rolling (& how those F.M.'s can roll) about 12 miles off MacKutts Island from 1-30 to about 2-30, when the submarine was sighted coming straight on, slowly, with two shadowy forms in the mist astern - "Buckingham" & "Inchallan". "Buckingham" went straight on into the harbor later, & "Inchallan" turned back into the mist. About 2 miles off Shellburne Light

This sub was U-889
Displacement 750 tons.

the submarine was signalled to stop. She did. Our L-M's closed in. She was a medium-sized sub, about 500 tons, with twin Bofors (or some similar) guns on a platform abaft the conning tower, & two Oerlikon guns on the conning tower itself. Two or 3 officers in the conning tower, in white caps with large Nazi navy badges & glazed black peaks. Half a dozen seamen on deck, all in peculiar field-grey dress - trousers, long coats reaching the knees, heavy rubber sea boots, & ~~the~~ forage caps of dark blue with the navy badge. It looked more like an army than a navy dress, of some sort of waterproofed gabardine.

Rundle jumped aboard & vanished below. The boarding party followed, 2 men going at once to the Bofors gun platform. Several Canadian officers, chief of whom Capt Myles, R.C.N. called out formally "Do you surrender this ship?" The German captain (a Korvettenkapitan, strictly speaking) said "Yes" in English. There was no saluting. A Canadian seaman cut the black flag out of the halliards (a bit of bunting about 2' square, dyed black apparently with engine-oil & exhaust soot) & ran up the white ensign. About half the German crew were then ordered to board one of the L-M's, which they did promptly, without waiting to gather up their kit, etc. (Total crew, about 57, including 5 or 6 officers). The rest operated the sub on the final hitch, the German captain at the controls, a young handsome man of 26. He & the other officers looked very glum, but

picked up their spirits after their sub. was moored off the navy base. The seamen all looked like kids of 18 or 19; all of them were short, well-fed-looking, their faces pale & hair shaggy from the long confinement below decks. The bosun wore a dark blue jacket not unlike our navy battledress, with a white topped cap and an old-style Imperial navy beard - the only beard in the sub, as far as I could see. The bosun & 3 hands moored the sub to a designated buoy off the naval base, under the careful eye of the young Canadian officer in charge of the boarding party. Then all were taken off, with the first lot, to their temporary prison, an old dredge painted green all over - formerly used as a gate-ship at the submarine net off Sandy Point, & now anchored in the harbour.

Interviewed by newsmen the German skipper talked freely in German (he had only a little English, learned at school) & laughed at some of the questions. He was a Hamburg man. The sub was brand new, sailed from Norway April 4th with orders to operate off New York. He said she did not surface until May 8th. - 4 weeks or more under water, using the "Schnorkel", the breathing-device which can be thrust up above water like a periscope. He had received the surrender order by wireless code from Admiral Doenitz & promptly carried it out. Asked what he intended to do after the war he smiled & said he would like to live in Canada or the U.S. - "after all, your government is very

much like ours." (One newsman remarked, "Another vote for MacKenzie King!") The following remarks of the skipper were most interesting:-
Question: "When did you first feel that Germany had lost the war?"
Answer: "After Stalingrad"
Question: "When did you feel the U-boat war was lost?"
Answer: "It was never lost. We had some bad times, but now that we have the Schnorkel perfected you can't find us, while we can still find you. When this surrender order came through we had many subs at sea or preparing for sea, with plans for a hard-hitting attack on your shipping."

We got back to the jetty about 5 pm. in pouring rain, very stiff & cold. Dinner aboard hospitable "Toronto", preceded by three gins. Captain Donald came in for a drink, unbent a little.

On the F.M. I had a yarn with Brig General White, who commands M.D.N^o 6 at Hfx. He knew my dad, told me he saved dad's life near St. Eloi in 1917 by pressing on a severed thigh artery until someone arrived with a tourniquet & bandages. White was then a young artillery officer.

Left Shelburne in Andrew's car about 9 pm. with Ev. Merkel, Howard, Slater & a young C.P. newsman. Pouring rain. Home at 11.15. (Lieut. Tommy Graham promised me a set of the Navy's photos of this do.)

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1945 Rain. The U-boat prisoners from Shelburne passed through K¹ pool today, under guard, in a separate coach near the tail of the regular train. In the usual habit of the C. P. R. the car was parked right across the main highway while the train was in, holding up motor & foot traffic both ways, & the Germans found themselves the centre of interest. Tommy, who never misses anything, was there. He said "They look just like we do", in a surprised voice, telling us about it.

Understand a special investigator has been in town regarding the looting of the liquor store, & that Hope, the local Senior Naval Officer, admitted telling his shore patrol "not to stick their necks out" if there was any trouble.

In Kfx the police court is busy trying hundreds of looters & some stiff sentences are being given. One looter, a sailor, got 5 years in penitentiary; 3-year & 2-year sentences are common.

News: - German troops in Czecho-Slovakia have surrendered to the Russians. Their resistance after the formal surrender at Berlin was to enable them to move westward into the American zone, but U.S. troops refused to admit them, even as prisoners.

So far 38 U-boats have surrendered, on both sides of the Atlantic. British Admiralty estimates 50 to 80 were at sea when war ended.

25,000 Canadian troops are to remain in Germany with the Allied occupation force, the rest will be shipped home in complete units through this summer. (Later the occupation force was set at 35,000).

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1945. Pouring rain. What a wet & stormy month so far! Advertised in the "Advance" today offering a reward for Tommy's glasses, lost he doesn't know where. Edith sick in bed yesterday & today, so I have become cook & table-maid & chambermaid. No complaints about the cooking so far. The dominion election campaign is warming up. Liberals & Tories have each promised reduction of income tax, & the govt. is doling out a few new concessions each day — today it was inner tubes, which henceforth will not be rationed.

Mr. Bracken's program sounds very fine but the most significant point is that conscripts will be sent to fight the Japanese, as well as volunteers. Mr. King's affection for Quebec had led him to state flatly that no conscripts will be sent out of Canada henceforth.

Today the Admiralty issued a list of R.N. ships lost in the war with Germany, news of which had been "with held for security reasons". Worst single loss was the cruiser "Curacao", cut in half in a fog off Cipe by the liner "Queen Mary", which was taking U.S. troops to Britain — Oct 2/42. 350 men were lost. There were 162 other craft in the list, including 10 destroyers, 61 trawlers, 31 drifters, & various craft such as submarines.

This emboldened Ottawa to admit loss of the Canadian destroyer "Skeena", lost off Iceland by shipwreck last Fall.

Amongst the U-boats which have surrendered in Atlantic was a big one bound for Japan with a cargo of aeroplane blueprints and 3 Luftwaffe generals. Another was coming from Japan with 1000 lbs of rubber, etc.

Yesterday the U.S.A.F. struck another terrific blow at the Jap aircraft centre of Nagoya. They declare the big Mitsubishi plant utterly destroyed.

Tonight Gen. Montgomery broadcast a message to Canada, praising the work of Canadian troops. He added mysteriously "I should like to see the country which produced these magnificent men. And I would come, if I were asked."

Which sounds as if Monty would like the vacant governor-generalship.

FRIDAY, MAY 18/45 Heavy fog all day, with frequent downpours. The unbroken wet weather has caused serious crop & flood damage in Ontario, & to some extent Quebec. In Lpool, the Masonic Hall was gutted by fire last night. Cotech is better today.

In Europe there is dissension between the Allies already, chiefly over the port of Trieste, where New Zealand troops of the 8th Army & Marshal Tito's wild Jugoslavs have come very close to open war. Tito claims the port of Jugoslavia & has the backing of Russia. In Germany, vast numbers of German prisoners are being gathered for transport to

France, Belgium, Holland & other countries, where they are to work on repair of war damage. The Allies have cut the German civilian food ration by $\frac{1}{3}$. Local German authorities have been warned that no food will be shipped in from abroad.

The head of the Swiss Red Cross reveals that in March, Hitler sent an order that all Allied prisoners of war were to be killed rather than left behind when German forces retired. ~~The Swiss~~ ^{The Swiss} made a hurried visit to German I.H.Q., which refused to carry out the Fuehrer's command.

In the Pacific heavy fighting continues on Okinawa, where U.S. staff now admits the Japs proved unexpectedly strong in men & planes & artillery. Australian & Dutch troops have overcome Jap garrison on Tarakan, the oil island near Borneo. British destroyers sank a 10,000-ton Jap cruiser in the Straits of Malacca last night.

Mr. King announced that Canadian army in the Pacific will consist of 30,000 volunteers, who will operate as an adjunct of the U.S. Army, using U.S. equipment, rations, etc. Canadian naval force in the Pacific will be manned by about 13,500. No figures for R.C.A.F.

SATURDAY, MAY 19/45

The 9th consecutive wet day - mist, with frequent downpours. Temp. at noon 45° , at night 35° . Depressing. Optimistically I bought garden seeds - beet, cucumbers, beans, chard,

lettuce - but planting will be late this year. One good thing, the continued rains have lasted through the fire-danger period in the woods. News: - Gen. Alexander in a grave message to his troops has set forth the details of Jugoslav aggression around Trieste & in Carinthia, saying bluntly that Tito's attitude in this matter is like Hitler's or Mussolini's, claiming territory by right of conquest. Tito remains defiant. In the meantime Stalin in a statement to a London newsman, says bluntly that 12 Poles representing the exiled (London) gov't of Poland have been arrested by the Red army for "sabotage". It is clear that the puppet Polish gov't set up by the Russians is going to rule the country with Russian bayonets, if necessary. This, & Tito's moves (obviously suggested by Moscow) look like the rift in the Allied lute on which the Germans had counted for so long. Strong gales & rain tonight.

SUNDAY, MAY 20/45 Temp. at 9 AM - 35°, at noon 45°. Overcast, with strong easterly gale & fine rain. Wind shifted N, bitter cold, this afternoon, but it was good to see the sun. To Milton by car this afternoon & had a long yarn with Lem & Lester Huskins about old logging days, Indian relics, etc.

MONDAY, MAY 21/45 At last a fine day, warm, wonderful. I spent all day in the garden, digging a prodigious crop of dandelions out of the lawn, mowing, clipping, cleaning up. For the past week I have had a septic sore throat, but yesterday I took a couple of 5-grain

sulfa tablets, & a day's sunshine completed the cure. Today for the first time in almost 4 years I had a banana - they are actually on sale in the shops, at 6¢ each (15¢ per lb, but that is how it works out). Once or twice in that time a small quantity of Mexican bananas, miserable little things imported by rail, were on sale here; we let the kids have them.

No sea regulations have been relaxed since Germany surrendered. The familiar & mysterious warning to all lightkeepers on the East Coast - "Instructions A, A for apples, (A pour Alphonse - Exécutez Instruction A) are to be carried out", accompanied by a bar or two of Rule Britannia, is still heard on our radio from time to time.

TUESDAY, MAY 22/45 Overcast, easterly wind, cold. Walked to Milton & had a yarn with Archie the blacksmith. Movies tonight, a poor to fair picture, the place crowded as always in these times. I rarely go now. Several of the men who looted the liquor store here on V-day have been heavily fined - at least 3 were French-Canadians who came here with draft deferments for work on naval vessels.

News:- Situation on the Adriatic has eased, Tito (with much protest) withdrawing his troops from Austrian & Italian territory.

British Labour Party has rejected Churchill's plea that the present coalition govt. continue in office till the end of the war with Japan. Rumors of a general election in Britain in July. The Japs are "bombarding" the Pacific coast of North

America with small balloons laden with incendiary bombs. They are carried across the Pacific by prevailing westerly winds & some have landed on the B.C. coast, as well as the U.S. Ottawa says not many, & no damage.

German I.H.Q. continues to function at Flensburg, on Danish border, under SHAEF & Russian supervision. This is to facilitate the handling & feeding of the 6 or 8 million German prisoners taken in the final debacle.

A telegram from Hazel Freeman to Edith today, saying that Eileen (Freeman) Moore had died at Caledonia, Ont. Eileen & Edith were cousins, went to Acadia Ladies' Seminary together.

WEDNESDAY, May 23/45 Cold & foggy at morning, sunshine later, but the east wind continues, & so does my bronchitis. Drove to B'water this afternoon with Dr. Doug Murray, returned with a sailor named Mac Adam, from Port Joli. H. C. ("Coke") Sawyer was buried at Port Medway today. He was a famous wit & character, for many years a customs officer at L'pool, victim of a slow disease which caused his body to shrink & bones to warp so that he resembled a dark, bow-legged, mischievous little monkey.

THURSDAY, May 24/45 Overcast, cold. Planted my small garden: - beets, beans, lettuce, chard, cucumbers. I gave up tomatoes & squash, a failure last year & '43. Empire Day, flags out but very quiet. A couple of nights ago the "Queens County General Hospital Association" had a large & carefully organised meeting in the school auditorium, decided to build

a \$125,000 hospital in Lpool. It is estimated that \$4,000,000 of Victory Bonds have been purchased in L.C. since the war began. Much of this, of course, bought by shipyard workers, navy people & other transients, but an amazing figure when one thinks of pre-war Queens.

News: - Heinrich Himmler, the much-sought head of Hitler's Gestapo, is dead by his own hand. He was posing as a discharged soldier of the German army, with his small moustache shaved, & a black patch over one eye. He was arrested by British security police near Hamburg & brought to their H.Q. for questioning. He was searched for weapons & poison but managed to conceal a small vial of ^{potassium} cyanide which he crushed with his teeth. Only Ribbentrop now remains to be accounted for, of all the top Nazis. Trouble in Syria, where the arrival of new French troops appears to cancel De Gaulle's promise of independence for Syrians. In fact the French are swaggering quite in their old manner now that Germany is crushed - disgusting when one recalls how quickly they abandoned the fight in 1940.

In the Pacific, U.S. troops are still fighting a ding-dong battle for Okinawa. Chinese troops, doing something useful at last, have driven the Japs out of Tsochow, the port on the Chinese mainland opposite Okinawa. U.S. B-29's, 550 of them, yesterday dropped 4500 tons of incendiary bombs on Tokio. Australian troops are still fighting Japs in the jungles of New Guinea & Bougainville; & in Burma our 14th Army is pursuing the Japs retreating into Siam.

In the U.S., gasoline rations have been increased 50% & automobile companies have been told to proceed with 200,000 new civilian cars. Last night Ottawa announced a 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % increase in Canadian gas ration - 1 coupon now buys 4 instead of 3 gallons; no word about new cars, except that a Ford official says his (Canadian) company will have "limited number" of new cars for sale by next December.

Friday, May 25/45 Fine day. My neighbor George Macdonald has a man blasting boulders & generally going through the same process that I experienced in making a garden in this old pasture land. (Park Street originally was just a cow path - even as late as 1920)

At the Johnstons' tonight with Veinots, Dunlaps, Parkers, Williams, spinning yarns mostly; good fun.

Saturday, May 26/45 Fine & warm. All afternoon painting the garden furniture. Blackflies a pest, even in my garden.

News: U.S.A.F. dropped 8000 to 9000 tons of new type fire bombs on Tokio yesterday & today, & a 70-mile gale did the rest. Tokio radio admits the business & manufacturing district is utterly destroyed, & most of the residential suburbs. Emperor Hirohito's palace was badly damaged.

31 of the big B-29's were lost, most of them to anti-aircraft guns.

Heavy fighting on Okinawa. Swarms of "suicide" aircraft are attacking the U.S. fleet off the island, with occasional success.

Today, somewhere near British H.Q. on the Lüneburg heath, the body of Himmler, wrapped in an army blanket, was buried in an unmarked

grave by a small party of Tommies. U.S. troops near Berchtesgaden have discovered Himmler's private hoard - over \$1,000,000 worth of foreign currency, much of it in gold. British govt. has expressed its disapproval of De Gaulle's action in sending French troops to Syria. Gen. Eisenhower has moved SHAEF. from Rheims to Frankfurt-on-Main. R.A.F. Lancaster bomber, "Aries", on meteorological work in the far North, yesterday flew from White Horse, Yukon, to Shropshire, England, crossing the Pole en route - 4000 miles in a little over 20 hours.

SUNDAY, MAY 27/45 Fine again. Andrew & Jully Merkel drove down from Hfx this afternoon & stayed the night with us. In the evening we were joined by the Merkel's daughter Mary-Alix, & her husband Charles Lynch, the Canadian war correspondent, just home from four years with the Canadian troops, writing for Reuters. I showed them through the old Perkins house, Fort Point, etc.

Andrew's ballad, "Tallahassee", is to be published in book form this summer & he brought the dummy & jacket to show me.

MONDAY, MAY 28/45 Andy & Jully left for Hfx about 10 a.m. I went down to Town Hall with them, & they saw the I.O.D.C. clubroom, & the cutlass from the Tallahassee which Sheriff Mulhall has in his office. News: From midnight tonight the freedom of the seas is restored to all shipping in the Atlantic - navigation lights & all other lighting, wireless, independent voyages - no more

convoy, & "relaxed censorship" - whatever that means. I hear that the RCAF radar station at Happy Landing has had its personnel reduced from a wartime 80 men to an operating crew of 15.

Spent all afternoon & evening painting a second coat on the garden furniture & the porch railings & front door frame.

TUESDAY, MAY 29/45 Rain all day. We had the school teachers, Misses Berringer & McGowan to tea, a great event for Tommy & Frances. News: the British traitor William Joyce ("Lord Haw Haw") has been arrested in Germany by British army police, who shot him in the leg when he made show of resistance.

U.S.A.F. dropped 3000 tons of fire bombs on Yokohama today & the great port is in flames. Photos of Tokio show that 50 sq. mls. of the Jap capital is in ashes. Chinese report a slow but steady withdrawal of Jap troops from south China.

Ottawa announces that 65,000 RCAF personnel are to be demobilised, beginning at once. In spite of British protests against French action in Syria, Paris remains defiant, & the situation in the Levant is serious.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30/45 Fog & rain all day. Liberal candidate, Winters, spoke in L'pool last night. No apparent excitement over the election so far. Ottawa is still announcing small tax reductions, & release of restrictions on certain manufactures, from day to day. News:- German prisoners who were farm laborers

before the war are to be released, & Allied authorities are providing seed - all this to avert the famine which now threatens all Germany. Trieste is quiet. Syria is aflame with organised revolt; & French troops have shelled Damascus. (How well these Frenchmen fight when their enemy is weak!)

THURSDAY, MAY 31/45.

Strong N.W. wind, overcast, & frequent downpours. Temp. at 6 p.m. 36°. Fed up with staying indoors, walked to Milton & back, most of the way in pouring rain. Movie "matinee" this afternoon with Edith - a story of Chopin's affair with George Sand, in color, and (like the star, Merle Oberon) beautiful but dull. Frances sick in bed yesterday & today, her stomach again.

News:- Britain has ordered her troops in the Near East to intervene in Syria & stop the bloodshed. Mr. Churchill has sent a blunt note to De Gaulle, telling him to order his troops in Syria to cease fire & remain in their barracks "lest there occur clashes between British & French troops". Washington has endorsed the British action.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1/45

Strong NW wind with slashing showers mingled sometimes with snow or soft small hail. Brief flashes of sunshine in the grey clouds. Temp. 8 A.M. 32°, 8 P.M. 40°. The coldest & most backward spring ever - we had our June weather in early April, & now we have April weather at its worst.

Walked to Milton & back. Notice much more motor traffic

now that the gas ration is increased & new ^{tire} tubes can be had.

News: U.S.A.F. has plastered the big Jap city of Osaka with fire-bombs. On Okinawa U.S. troops are in Naha, the capital, after a long & bloody battle.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2/45 Cool NW wind but sunshine all day. Had a fine walk around Western Head. Sat for a time in a sunny space in the woods, with shoes & socks off, basking in the sunshine after these miserable wet days, & a ruby-crowned Kinglet came to the tip of a spruce branch & sang to me very loudly and sweetly. Never saw one so closely before. As I reached the Head I saw the old (formerly U.S.) four-stack destroyer "Columbia" leaving the harbor & swinging off towards Hfx, with a tug ahead. She has acted as a storeship (for oil, chiefly) for naval craft refitting in K'pool harbor, for the past year or two, moored to the head of Bartling's wharf - a queer sight, for her bow was stove in when she ran ashore on Nfld., & the wreckage was simply cut away and the gap filled with timberwork, so that it looked like the stern of a dory. I hear she is to be broken up. Our townefolk will not regret her departure, for her oil tanks & pipes leaked badly, and the harbor shores & Fort Point beach have been polluted with black scum ever since she came here.

News:- The great De Gaulle announces that the Syrian revolt was instigated by British agents, & armed with British

rifles. Says the British have 600,000 troops in the Near East, while France has only 6,000. Reuters says British troops & tanks surround the French barracks in Damascus, & have begun to bury hundreds of Damascenes killed in the savage French bombardment.

Election campaign is getting quite hot in Canada, amongst the rival parties anyhow - accusations & denunciations right & left - the public seems unmoved.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3/45 A chill grey day. To Moose Hill this afternoon for a long talk with Lew Coombs about old logging days.

MONDAY, JUNE 4/45 Another cold grey day. I have to light the furnace every morning & keep it burning till afternoon, to take the chill off the house. The Ontario provincial election held today - incomplete returns at 11 p.m. show Premier Drew's Conservatives far in the lead, with a sharp drop in C.C.F. seats & the Liberals coming in third. Mowbray Jones notified me by letter that I was one of a committee of 3 appointed (by himself, of course) to approach the town and county councils for large grants to the new hospital fund. I replied that I could not act. I am not at all convinced that Liverpool needs or can support a \$120,000 hospital on its normal peacetime income; and I feel that something should be done towards a recreation hall for war veterans now.

Another grey day, thick & cloudy. Spent
the afternoon at English House with Colin & wife, visited our work,
& the landscape. Colonel Katsuki & Jintoy. Katsuki visited the
factory to tea & made me take home a mass of news from
Korea. An agreement signed in Berlin today by Chamberlain
& Molotov, & de Staring, etc. finish the career of
negotiation of Germany by the allied armies. Situation
is still very tense. Canadian destroyer "Sagami" has
been left behind for hours, & today the last
Canadian freighter left London, which has been a long
Canadian base. U.S.A.F. bombed & burned a large
part of the big Jap port of Kobe yesterday.

Vote figures on the Ontario election give somewhat
of a liberal 10, b.l. 6, socialist 8. The soldier's vote
may affect these in a few cases. Liberal leader
Walter Dill Scott & b.l. leader Gifford were defeated in
this more constituency. The b.l. had 20 seats in
the last Ontario legislature & this is a bare blow for
the former leader. Sir James Macpherson
is kind. Ken J. W. Richardson is very kind. He
is a candidate. He has put his name (which I saw) into
the party fund. His cause is quite hopeless & I feel sorry
for him, though I have no use for the b.l.

