

MAY 24 - To - SEP 18
1944 1944

Diary.

Thomas Lead Raddall II

May 24, 1944 to Sep. 18, 1944

May 24, 1944.

Frost again last night, & again a fine warm day. A school holiday, so after dinner we drove to Broad River for a picnic. The kids amused themselves catching young eels (2 to 3 inches long) which were thronging up the stream & lying in thick knots in the sunny shallows. A chap came down to dip Kiacks just above the highway bridge; the tole was out & he got only 15 or so, and presented me with four. Supper by the river, where we fried some of my trout caught at Tobatic (our second & last meal of them - gave the rest away). The S.W. wind dropped abruptly at 6 p.m. & blackflies came out of the woods in vicious swarms, so after supper we drove along to Summerville & strolled on the beach. I found a tern's nest with 2 eggs, also a plover's nest with 2 eggs. Home at 8 p.m. The bush fire behind Whynot Loun is burning again.

THURSDAY, May 25/44

Fire still burning towards Town Lake & all day the west wind brought whiffs of brush smoke & the drone of gasoline fire pumps. A Pictou County boy, prisoner in Germany, has written home that the prison library contained "His Majesty's Yankees", which he read & enjoyed. Was:- in Italy the whole "Hitler Line" is broken & conquered, the linked Anzio beach-head force & main 5th Army are pushing on, threatening Kesselring's flanks & rear while the hard-fighting 8th storms the mountain front. The Canadians under Gen. "Tommy" Burns & fighting for the first

time in this was as a Corps, made the first breach in the "Hitler Line" & swiftly followed through. The total of German prisoners in this drive has now reached 10,000. Our airmen dominate the enemy's rear & have wrought havoc in his motor traffic along the narrow mountain roads. Russian front entirely quiet.

Mr. Churchill in a speech to the Commons yesterday affirmed his faith in arms as the sure warranty of peace after the war.

In the course of his review he mentioned the revolt of the Greek forces in Egypt some months ago, against the regime of King George & his cabinet. British troops had been obliged to surround a Greek brigade encamped not far from Cairo, & in the course of these operations a British officer was killed.

The crews of several Greek warships in Alexandria had mutinied at the same time; they too were surrounded by British ships & guns & finally were taken by armed boarding parties of loyal Greek troops after some lively fighting & considerable bloodshed.

The situation in Greece remains obscure, with guerilla bands fighting each other rather than the Germans.

FRIDAY, MAY 26/44 A blazing hot day, cloudless; temp. indoors 80° Fahr. all afternoon. One or two naval men have been busy all week putting the tennis courts into shape for play; with so many of our own boys & girls away the courts have been sadly neglected for 4 years.

This afternoon at 5:15 Margo Dill gave a talk over the National network on the use of archives in writing historical fiction, with particular mention of my work & methods.

SATURDAY, MAY 27/44. Another hot day & again the new fire siren howled over the town as the fire brigade hustled up the ridge behind Whynot Town. Each night there is a heavy dew & the lush fire seems out, & each day it springs up again towards noon.

Today a mysterious wooden box, long & narrow, arrived by express from Montreal. I opened it & found a well-preserved "flintlock musket," "Lower" pattern. A letter in the mail revealed that it was a gift from John H. Chaplin, who is president of "Needle-Rock Inc.," Hartford, Conn. ("largest manufacturers of counting & computing devices in the world"). He has a cottage at Carter's Beach & heard me say, in a casual conversation last summer, that I wanted a flintlock musket for my small collection of firearms. The import of firearms, ancient or modern, is forbidden, but he had managed the thing somehow through his firm's Montreal branch.

SUNDAY,
MAY 28/44 Temperature outdoors this afternoon 90°. Tommy went fishing with the Johnsons at N^o 1 dam & came home triumphantly with 8 or 10 perch. Drove to Milton after tea in our garden, & saw the fishladder full of kiacks. Lorne Clements tells me the fish buyers at Mill Village & vicinity are paying an average price of 1[¢] apiece for kiacks. (Before the war they sold as low as 15[¢] per 100)

Swallows are nesting in Tommy's new birdhouse on the west end of our garage, & a pair of goldfinches are making a charming

little nest in one of our rambler rose bushes.

War: all quiet along the Channel & along the Russian front. Hard fighting south of Rome, where the object is not Rome itself but the destruction of Kesselring's army caught between our Anzio "beach-head" & the advancing 5th & 8th armies. The battle seems at its climax now. German prisoners are now 12,000 & we have taken vast quantities of guns & material.

Our day & night air war over Germany & northern France still grows in violence. In the past 24 hours, 8000 tons of bombs! Here & there the Luftwaffe fights back hard. One huge U.S. air force (over 1000 fighters in the escort alone) attacked a big German army cantonment in Belgium yesterday, lost 43 bombers & fighters, claims 95 Germans shot down.

MONDAY, MAY 29/44 Another glorious summer ^{day!} & this is the finest May I can remember. My chard, beets & lettuce are up & thriving, & today a few squash & cucumbers & carrots appeared.

My lilacs will bloom this year for the first time since I planted them in 1937 (except one which had a few blossoms last year.)

One of the *Deutzia* shrubs seems to have been frost-killed last winter.

The high school cadet corps are drilling very hard these afternoons to the strains of 3 cornets, a bass drum & a kettledrum, which can play only one tune - "You're in the army now". The boys wear a well-cut khaki uniform resembling the "walking-out" dress of the Canadian army, with a red band on the wedge cap. Major Bill Borrett of

radio station C.H.N.S. was in town today addressing the Kiwanis Club. He phoned to say hello & complained that I "bury myself" every time I come up to the city.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31/44 A burning day despite a strong S.W. wind (which was hot itself.) 90° in the shade at noon. Forest fires in Queens are out, but are raging elsewhere in the province. Few or no men to fight them except about Halifax, where the garrison & navy have sent men to save Fleming Park & Melville Cove from a brush fire sweeping down from Spyfield. I planted a new plot of bush beans today. (The ones I planted May 23rd appeared today.)

A letter from young Frank Ellis of Milton, a flying officer with the R.C.A.F. in French Morocco, says he has read & enjoyed several of my tales ("like a breath of home") in copies of Maclean's & Blackwood found in Cairo & while on leave in England.

Received from Andrew Merkel an inscribed copy of his narrative poem "The Order of Good Cheer", just off the press.

War: hard fighting all along the line in Italy, where Kesselring seems to be extricating his centre by tough rear-guard actions. In Burma the reinforced Japs have driven off some of our airborne troops south of Mogaung & are fighting hard for Myitkina; the monsoon rains have begun & transport even by air is very difficult. All quiet elsewhere except one or two German raids in force on the Rumanian front.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1/44 A stifling night, impossible to sleep: I got up at midnight & sat in my den in pajamas with the window flung

wide until 1:30 am, smoking & reading some of Robert Benchley's amusing sketches. In the forenoon the sky clouded & a drenching rain began to fall, but about 3 pm the sky cleared & the sun shone.

A letter from Donald French of Maclelland & Stewart says they are making another printing of the "Red Paper", so I sent today an "author's note" to be included, offering thanks to Blackwoods for waiving their Canadian rights. This was to have appeared in the original Canadian edition but M. & S. strangely "lost" it & printed the book without any acknowledgement to Maga whatever. French also suggests a further book of short stories later on & I've agreed to make a selection & assemble them in M.S.

War: in Italy the 5th Army can see the dome of St. Peter's in Rome; Canadians have taken the important German base of Frosinone. Kesselring has had a severe set-back but it is clear that he has averted disaster by falling back. Cape Breton Highlanders & our own West Norvas have been in the fighting, judging from casualty lists — the front dispatches never mention regiments until long after each action. Today's list includes 3 boys from Milton, one a son of Angus Manthorne. Prime Minister Curtin of Australia today addressed both houses of parliament at Ottawa. His speech was broadcast & I heard it. His Australian twang is not so pronounced as some Aussies I've heard; a forceful speaker but inclined to lose his best points in long involved sentences, & with a bad habit of leaving a phrase in mid-air

& jumping on to something else. His diction is rapid but clear; you get every syllable of every word. Heavy air raids continue, chiefly over France now. Washington says that nearly four million U.S. troops are overseas, & the total will be 5,000,000 by the end of this year.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2/44 Fine & cool. Fog just offshore. My beans are up & everything prospers except the carrots. Tonight I succeeded in persuading Kaddy the carpenter to come & finish his job of laying the plastic tiles on the bathroom floor. He has been promising to come for weeks. De Valera has triumphed in the Irish election with a clear majority over all other parties; although he went to the people on a domestic issue it was clear that his greatest trump was "I kept Eire out of England's war". Ireland has found neutrality a prosperous business.

War: in Italy, U.S. troops have taken the key points of Vallettri & Valmontone in the Alban Hills south of Rome, & cut the famous "Highway N°6" which was Kesselring's lifeline in the Cassino battle. The 8th. army, which includes the Canadians & New Zealanders, is pressing hard on the German retreat. Total German prisoners in this push has risen to 20,000. Today U.S. bombers from Italy struck at targets in Rumania & landed on specially prepared airdromes behind Russian lines, where they were overhauled, re-fueled and loaded with more bombs for the return trip — "the beginning of a busy shuttle service," says Washington.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3/44

Rain this morning & a high wind from NE which kept the temperature close to 40° Fahr. all day - bitter cold after our recent hot spell. The corvette "Orillia" has just completed a refit (her third in Liverpool) & sails for duty on Tuesday. Her skipper, Lt. Com. Sharpe, invited us to a farewell party on board. We went at 9 p.m. She was on the windy side of the Mercy Co's pier at Brooklyn. The little wardroom was jammed with officers' wives, officers from "Orillia" & her fellow ships under refit, & plain civilians like us. The keg on the sideboard was filled with rum punch - & emptied & filled & emptied again.

A merry crowd, ending with a sing-song including such new favorites of the Navy as "I am the keeper of the Eddystone lighthouse," "Throw another nickel on the drum & you'll be saved." Sharpe is a stocky man of about 33, fresh complexion, thick lips, rather shy blue eyes, rather bald with blond side hair, looks a farmer & was in fact brought up on an Ontario farm, although he had been in ships on the Great Lakes several years before this war brought him into the navy. Keeps good discipline in his ship. Perhaps as a result of this, two weeks ago a sailor from "Orillia" went berserk in the South Shore Laundry; he had been drinking beer, & wandered into the laundry to talk to the girls, & spotting a lot of naval officers' uniforms in for dry-cleaning he suddenly slashed one to ribbons with his knife. This cost him \$50 in damages, and 21 days stoppage of leave - which will confine him on board for months. The uniform, incidentally, didn't belong to an "Orillia" officer.

Was. A false report that our troops had landed in France

created some stir this afternoon, later the radio issued a denial, blaming it on a mistake made by "a confused young telegraph operator in London."

SUNDAY, JUNE 4/44. Drove to Hfx alone. A hot day. One of my poor old pre-war tires blew out - completely ruined - on one of the hills east of Chester, & soon after I reached Mother's flat another subsided completely with a shiver of broken glass driven clean through the tread. Andrew Merkel phoned.

War: The Allies are in Rome. An advance force of U.S. & Canadian parachute troops with tank support has penetrated to the centre of the Rome, exchanging a few shots with flying German stragglers. Total prisoners now 21,000.

MONDAY, JUNE 5/44. Asked Merkel to see if he could get me a tire. After lunch I drove to the Nova Scotian Hotel, where Herbert A. Mowat of Toronto was addressing the Kiwanis Club on "Palestine & the refugee Jewish problem". He was a lieutenant in the 8th. Battalion & was present on the battlefield at Amiens when my father was killed. I missed him at the hotel, found him in the doorway of the Roy Building. He dived through the crowd & seized my hand - knew me at once. We went up to the flat so Mum could hear his story, & he talked vigorously & interestingly all afternoon. Afterwards drove him back to the hotel, where he is to address a dinner tonight.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6/44. Awakened 8 a.m. by a newsboy crying "Extra!" in the street - so unusual a sound on Chebucto Road that I knew at once that "D day" had come. Jumped to Mum's

radio & learned that Allied troops began landing at daylight this morning on the east side of the Cherbourg peninsula. Great excitement everywhere. Churches are holding services for intercession, some of them day-long. All usual radio programs abolished & the stations simply broadcasting military music, with a voice breaking in frequently with "news" — always some vague generality; Allied H.Q. has given out nothing but the bare news of the landing. The Germans, with their usual candour, have given out a list of places taken by our forces; they claim 4 Allied divisions landed by parachute well behind German lines (in addition to troops coming in by sea) and that at least one of these divisions was wiped out. Mr. Churchill told the House of Commons that the Allied troops crossed the channel in 4000 ships & many thousands of special landing craft & that "landings have been made according to plan, and what a plan!"

I spent this morning near the radio, typing some of Morvat's reminiscences — checked with him on the phone. Afternoon at N.S. Archives. Afternoon tea with G.H. Bennetts, a New Zealander, professor of English literature at Dalhousie, whose wife Helene was a schoolmate of mine. Evening at Andrew Merkel's with Jim Martell & Fred Fraser, editor of the Nfx. Chronicle. Fraser says he is going to have a chronicle radio station to offset the Nfx. Herald's C.H.N.S., which has long held a monopoly in Halifax.

Merkel had been up most of the night (he is manager for

Canadian Press in the Maritimes) so we left fairly early.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7/44. Archives all day. Pouring rain.

Plenty of newspapers & radio talk about the great invasion but nothing specific except German reports, which say Allied troops are fighting in the streets of Caen & that the 2nd Canadian division has landed & established a beach head. In Italy, our troops are in hot pursuit of German 14th army fleeing from Rome. Gen. Alexander says the Germans in Italy are "broken". 11 p.m. First definite news from France.

H.Q. announces we have captured Bayeux, between Cherbourg & Caen. German air force has stiffened a little but still is doing poorly & avoiding battle in most cases.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8/44. Fine hot day. Archives all day. Little news.

Tonight at 8:15 I was guest speaker of a "Writers' Group" conducted by a Miss Suttis for service men & women in the Murray homestead, Dalhousie campus. About 20 or 30, mostly Wrens, but some W.A.C.'s, & several army, navy & air men. I told them my notion of the art of short story writing & then invited questions. Much keen discussion, although too many of the men seemed to think that the address of a good agent (preferably mine) would solve most of their difficulties. Refreshments, plentiful & very nice. Some stayed to ask more questions after the meeting. My old friend Rev. J. W. Nicholson was there to hear me hold forth, & a news writer named Frank Power came. Home at 11 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9/44

Hot. Archives all day. Dear old J. W. ("Lucky") Logan journeyed there just to say a few words to me. He used to teach at Halifax Academy in my boyhood. He went overseas in the last war with the 25th Bn. & served many months in the trenches although he was then over 50. With this interlude he was 50 years a teacher, retired a few years ago, although he continued to give lectures on the classics at Dalhousie until recently. He is now over 80, short, bowed, sturdy, brown, with a bald dome & grey side hair & a pair of large intense eyes of a dark hue neither black nor green but suggesting both. Said many kind things of "His Majesty's Yankees", quoting extensively from it, & went off to request that the Archives office advise him whenever I came to town. (A fine portrait of him by Leroy Zwicker was unveiled recently in the Dalhousie library)

Home at 5 p.m. to find a simpering female of uncertain years, a Mrs. Lytle, a local poet, awaiting me. She talked about herself & her tragic life for an hour before Mum's broad hints finally moved her out. Tonight at Martell's, talking to Rev. Mr. J. W. Nicholson (chaplain of the Merchant Navy Club), & Andrew Merkel. Afterwards I went to Merkel's & picked up an old tire of his which will fit my car. His efforts to get a new one for me proved fruitless. Theoretically I am entitled to tires & extra gas, as a working journalist. Actually, as I'm a free-lance with no particular paper or

magazine to vouch for me, I'm out of luck.

Was: No detailed news from France. Germans claim to have identified the 3rd. Canadian Div'n. on the Normandy front.
SATURDAY, JUNE 10/44 Hot. Shopping at Simpsons with Mum. Got Edith some stockings & a sandwich tray for the wedding anniversary (yesterday). Persuaded a skeptical garage man to patch my old blown-out tube (an oval hole roughly $7\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4''$) & fit it into Merkel's tire - this for a spare. Tonight a party at Jim Martell's -

Ward & his tall attractive wife, a navy lieutenant named "Web" Mac Donald, Jim's sister "Fran", Mrs. Hastings Wainright, John Laing, a gov't investigator named Tell, a W.R.A.F. librarian and a plump port red-head named Weeks.

The conversation got around to "Nova Scotia versus the rest of Canada", & la Weeks (from Calgary) offered this: -

"British Columbians have money & brains; the prairie people have brains but no money; Ontarians have money but no brains; and Nova Scotians have neither brains nor money."

I enjoyed all this for a time but got into one of my pre-occupied moods & was rather dull, I fear.

Home at 12.30. Was: H.Q. says 3rd. Canadian Div'n. is in action in France. Rommel has thrown in some of his reserves, & the fighting is severe. So far we have 4000 prisoners.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11/44 Drove with Mother to L. pool. this morning in pouring rain. An uneasy journey, gripping the wheel

tight, expecting another blow-out any moment. Vegetation
fresh in the rain, rhodora all in bloom along the low places.
Home shortly after noon.

MONDAY, JUNE 12/44 Lovely day. Working hard assembling a selection
of my short stories for McClelland & Stewart's proposed new
volume. All require a bit of editing for book publication & I am
typing new manuscripts, a monotonous job. Spent part of the
afternoon weeding my small garden, which is flourishing.

Got some small tomato plants from Parker & set them in the
bed. Tommy has dug a small garden of his own, & Frances an
even smaller one. Drove Mum & my family to Milton for a
call & while there discovered another of my tires gaping wide with
the tube bulging through. Took it off, put on my dubious Halifax
spare & got home all right.

War: Allied troops are still gaining ground in Normandy
& the beaches are now out of range of German artillery.
We have about 10,000 prisoners. Gen. Montgomery revealed, in
a confident press conference, that while our troops over-ran the
beach defences swiftly, only one brigade in the whole army
reached its final objective on the first day - a brigade of
Western Canadians. He also said that some wives of German
soldiers fought alongside their men in some of the strong points
& had to be killed. Mr. Churchill, Gen. Eisenhower, Gen. Marshall
& other bigwigs visited the Normandy front today.
In Italy the German 14th army is in wild flight towards

Florence but some new divisions (one all the way from Denmark) have been thrown in to check ~~the~~ out 5th Army's pursuit.

The German 10th army, facing out 8th, is making a steady retreat northward. On the east front the Russians have launched a big offensive against the Finns & are making good progress northward from Petrograd. In Burma the fighting goes on about Kohima & Mjitkima; our H.Q. claims 21,000 Japs killed on this front since this year's campaign began.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13/44

A strange day. Sun & cloud all morning, getting colder & more overcast until about 3 p.m., when a bitter gale sprang up from the north. By dark it was blowing a hurricane, howling about the house & lashing the trees, & the temperature was 40° Fahrt. We had two schoolma'ams to tea, Miss Reid (Frances') & Miss Sandford (Tommy's), & I hastened to light a big fire in the living room hearth. It was like a stormy day in late November. Tonight our bedding is the same as for winter. I wrote L. C. Beach, the Wartime Prices & Trade Board man for our district (his office is at Bridgewater) enclosing Form R-11 filled out, signed by my motor dealer, & requesting permission to buy 4 new tires & tubes. Bain thinks I haven't a chance owing to my low gasoline category (AA - the lowest) but I pointed out ^{to Beach} that my living is journalism and journalists on daily & weekly newspapers are permitted to buy tires.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1944 Sunny but cool all day with the northerly gale slowly blowing itself out. Weather is taboo on the radio & in newspapers but there are some reports of lives lost along the coast yesterday. This morning the fire siren howled & the Liverpool fire apparatus departed in a hurry for South Brookfield - we hear that the big bucket factory there owned by the Bienvenue family & operated chiefly by French labour from Quebec was utterly destroyed by fire & that the employees' homes were in danger. The plant has always been a fire trap. Legion meeting tonight. A mix-up over our proposed celebration of Dominion Day - the local industries uncertain whether to close on July 1 (Saturday) or July 3.

Today I received 2 garden chairs C.O.D. from Simpson's - cost \$5.00 each.

War: Germans are making violent counter-attacks in Normandy, & a terrific battle is raging, particularly about Caen, where the Canadian 3rd Division is engaged. The Russians report great progress in their drive against the Finns & predict Finland will be out of the war by July 1.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15/44 Rain. B.J. Waters, manager of Mersey Paper Co. told me quite bluntly today that he did not propose to displace any of his men to make room for returned soldiers. "We need some heavy labour for such jobs as unloading pulpwood from cars - no other kind." He added that he felt he should resign the chairmanship of the Unemployment committee in

our recently set-up Veterans' Rehabilitation organisation, because he was in effect the largest employer in the County & he did not propose to sacrifice the interests of Mercury Paper Co. in any degree for the sake of employing ex-service men. He told me this coolly & pleasantly when I asked if he could ^{find} some sort of light work for a man recently discharged as physically unfit.

I was tempted to tell him he was living in a dream world & he'd better wake up before the troops come home. Waters is a completely self-centred man who has enjoyed a salary of \$10,000 or \$15,000 a year since 1929. He once boasted to me, apropos of my writing career, "I never read a book, seldom read a magazine, & don't always read the daily paper".

War: stiff German counter-attacks continue in Normandy but Allied troops have made some progress towards Cherbourg.

The big news is from the East, where a big force of American "super-flying fortresses" flying from land bases presumably in China, has bombed several Japanese cities, including ~~Tokio~~ YAMATA. And U.S. troops have landed on one of the Mariana Islands, 1500 miles south of Tokio. Heavy fighting is in progress.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16/44 Dull & cold. The Liberal gov't of Saskatchewan, after 10 years of power, has been utterly defeated in a provincial election, with the up-&-coming C.C.F. party winning at least 43 out of the 52 seats. This will give pause, perhaps, to MacKenzie King, who is rumoured to be springing a Dominion election this summer. War: last night the Germans

commenced bombarding London & other English cities with remote-control air bombs, a sort of small robot plane with which they have been experimenting for months. London says "little damage", but adds ominously that the B.B.C. broadcasts (seldom off the air, even in the 1940 blitz) may be cut off from time to time without warning. Another report says the robot bombardment of England continued all day, & large fleets of our bombers have been over the Calais area trying to hit the rocket-installations from which these things are discharged.

King George visited the Normandy front today, had lunch with Gen. Montgomery & decorated several officers including a C.B.C. to Gen. Keller of the 3rd Canadian Div'n. The battle still rages there, with our troops making small gains & the Germans throwing more & more weight into the fight. In Italy our troops have passed through Terni & are still harassing the German rearguards.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17/44. The whole town was awakened at 2 A.M. by a terrific explosion of thunder, as if several bolts had struck at once. I found myself in the middle of the bedroom floor, convinced that a shell had burst in the street outside & that a whole salvo had fallen in the town. Tommy wailed that he could hear "boards crashing". As usual after a rude awakening, I could not sleep again & sat reading & smoking in my den till dawn. The day was fine & warm after a tropical rain

all night. A letter from the Wartime Prices & Trade Board office in Bridgwater flatly rejects my application for tires - "there is no class or group under which your car can be placed". This makes me mad, as I need my car badly in my work, & there are people getting tires (& higher gasoline rating) who don't need a car half so much.

War: U.S. troops have pushed almost across the Cherbourg peninsula, isolating the big German garrison in Cherbourg itself. Hard fighting continues all along the Normandy front. Washington says U.S. casualties were about 15,000 killed, wounded & missing, in the first 10 days of the battle. So far in Normandy our troops have taken 8,500 prisoners. About 25% of the German formations seem to be foreign conscripts - Czechs, Poles, etc.

The German "flying bombs" continue to fall on southern England & our transports in the Channel. Berlin claims great havoc & the cautiously worded London announcements give one the impression that great damage is being done.

In Italy the Germans are still in full retreat. French troops have landed on Elba & are fighting the German garrison. Ottawa reveals that my old ship "Watuka" was torpedoed & sunk near Halifax last March. She was on her way to Nfz from Louisburg. 1 man lost. Struck at night by 2 torpedoes & sank in five minutes.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18/44 Sunny, windy, cool. At my typewriter most of the day. Mrs. Freeman & Marie came down for

the afternoon & stayed to tea. War: U.S. troops have broken the German defences & cut off Cherbourg with an estimated garrison of 30,000 German troops. Germans continue to shower London & environs with flying bombs. Allied air forces continue heavy bombing of Germany, night & day; a big U.S. bombing of Hamburg included today. Our forces in Normandy now have a total of 15,000 prisoners.

In Italy the Germans are still in flight; our forces have reached Perugia. Most of Elba is now in French hands. De Gaulle has made a rather bombastic speech to his assembly in Algiers, making pointed reference to the U.S. refusal to recognise his party as the true & only government of France. Russians in Finland have broken the Mannerheim Line & are near Viipuri.

MONDAY, JUNE 19/44. Cold & dull. Rain tonight. Temp. 40°. Serious floods in Alberta & Saskatchewan - a great change after so many years of drought. Justice McTague, new national chairman of the conservative party, has demanded that Canada's conscript "home defence" army (so called & so held in deference to Quebec) be sent overseas as reinforcements.

War: U.S. troops are shelling Cherbourg. French troops have all of Elba, with 1800 German prisoners. Germans still bombarding London day & night with flying bombs. These things are 21' feet long, jet-propelled by a gasoline engine, steered by an automatic pilot device, have a speed of 350 miles

an hour, & a range of 150 miles. They are aimed & fired from
a sort of rocket apparatus on the coast about Calais.

In the Pacific there has been a terrific air battle over
Saipan, in the Marianas, where a host of Jap planes, launched
from carriers, attacked the U.S. fleet & transports engaged
in landing troops on the island. The Americans admit only
1 warship damaged & claim 300 Jap planes shot down.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20/44. Temp. 38° Fahr. at 8 pm. The house was like
a tomb; I lit the kitchen oil heater, a big fire in the hearth, & my
office stove, but these were not enough & finally I had to light
a coal fire in the furnace. I can't remember lighting the
furnace so late in the year before. Rain all day, pouring
again tonight. Spent the afternoon judging high school
essays on "Good citizenship." War: U.S. troops have
closed in on Cherbourg. London still suffering from the
flying bombs. Heavy air raids on German synthetic oil
plants yesterday & last night. In Italy our 8th Army
is in Perugia after a sharp fight. The Russians have
taken Viipuri (formerly Viborg) the third largest Finnish
city. Washington has ordered the Finnish ambassador & his
staff to leave, owing to "subversive activities." In the
Pacific, U.S. admiral Nimitz has flashed that the main Jap
battle fleet is approaching the Marianas & it looks like a
show-down.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21/44 Rain & fog all day. Jean Conrad brought me four fine tomato plants which I planted this evening. The June 24th issue of Saturday Evening Post contains a plain & unblushing re-write of my Maclean's article "Three against death"; by Leslie Roberts. Perhaps Maclean's sold their exclusive rights in the airmen's story to this man Roberts - but it's a steal just the same. It was amusing to see the way he had handled some of my pet expressions, at that.

Wat: 1500 U.S. bombers & 1000 fighters attacked Berlin in daylight today & flew on to bases in Russia - the first direct shuttle between Britain & Russia. Lost 43 bombers, 15 fighters. They claim about 50 German fighters shot down.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22/44 Rain & fog. The schools closed today & tonight I was the chief speaker at the high school graduation ceremonies.

The auditorium ~~of~~ was decorated with red & white streamers, & packed with students, parents & friends. Murray & his teachers were in black gowns and mortarboards & the affair was conducted with all the decorum of a college closing. One very pleasing thing was the number of youngsters from poor homes who won prizes, and how nicely they were dressed. Altogether a good-looking & intelligent lot of kids, & I felt confident in my theme - that with the end of the war the world would march on to better things than ever their fathers had known. A letter from Chambrun today: he has an offer of \$2500 for serial rights to "Roger Ludden"

from Adventure Magazine. A wire from Britain says Doubleday Doran are willing to postpone publication in the U.S. until next year, but Maclelland & Stewart are keen to publish it in Canada this fall. Must try to sort this out.

Maclean's Magazine wants me to do an article on Liverpool, beginning a "home town" series.

War: Cherbourg has been bombed by 1000 planes, & leaflets have been dropped urging the German garrison to surrender.

Our troops in Italy have taken 27,000 German prisoners since their push began.

In the Pacific the Jap fleet has fled, before the U.S. carrier planes could really strike; but Washington claims 1 Jap aircraft carrier & 3 fleet tankers sunk, 1 battleship & 9 other warships damaged.

And altogether the Japs lost 357 planes. Washington admits 49 planes lost, & damage to 1 battleship, 2 carriers, but no ships lost.

The Russians, in a summary of the war, admit five million soldiers killed & missing. (No figures given for wounded.) They claim to have killed or captured well over seven million Germans.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24/44 Fog yesterday & today. I walked to Milton & back this afternoon. A newly appointed senator, French-Canadian J. D. Bouchard, has created a sensation by his maiden speech, in which he revealed that the anti-national feeling in Quebec province is largely sponsored by a secret organisation called the Jacques Cartier Society. Its aim is the establishment

of a French-Canadian independent state, & it has the support of a large body of the Catholic clergy. A howl arose at once from all sorts of Quebec politicians. Premier Godbout promptly cancelled Bouchard's recent appointment as head of the Quebec Hydro Commission, others demand that Bouchard be thrown out of the senate. The situation in Quebec has been getting hot for a long time, & the violent anti-conscription sentiment has broadened & become violently anti-British & anti-Protestant. Clashes between service men & civilians in Montreal, Quebec & other cities are frequent & bitter.

Last night in L'pool a man in army uniform broke the window of Howard's Jewelry store with a rock, pulled out a velvet cloth laden with watches etc, coolly examined the loot in the light of a nearby street lamp, & sauntered off with it. All this was watched from a second-story window by Archie Croft, a big husky taxi driver, who contented himself with phoning for the police. When lazy old Bob White finally came on the scene the soldier & the loot had vanished. It happened about 4 A.M. There are a number of soldiers in town, manning the notorious "Sweeney" boats - small motor-ships which have been refitted at enormous expense at Thompsons' over a period of about 3 years. They are intended for target-towing in connection with the Halifax forts & are manned by army personnel.

War: The Russians have opened a big drive towards the

East Prussian border & have already broken the German line near Vitebsk. Mr. Eden has announced in the Commons that the 50 British air officers who were "shot while attempting to escape" - according to the German govt. - were in fact captured alive after a mass escape from a prison camp near Goelitz, & were then taken off in small groups & murdered. The Gestapo had 28 of the bodies cremated, evidently to conceal the atrocious manner of their death.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25/44 Rain & fog all last night & to ^{day} tonight; a thunderstorm tonight, with the electric lights doing some queer antics. This is the 7th straight day of cold wet weather. Indoors all day; worked at re-typing & editing my short stories for book publication - have been at this night & day all this month. War: U.S. troops are storming into Cherbourg against bitter resistance.

MONDAY, JUNE 26/44 The 8th consecutive day of rain or fog. An epidemic of colds - all my household sneezing & blowing. A fire in the hearth tonight. Today at Ottawa, Mr. Mackay brought down his budget. There are no increases in taxation; on the other hand "compulsory savings" is abolished - a sop to Labour, which has been howling at the notion of saving anything for after the war; and all duties & taxes on farm implements (including separators) are abolished - a sop to the C.C.F. West. It looks like an election this summer. War: Hot fighting in Cherbourg; also about Caen, where

British & Canadian troops are gaining some ground after several days of dingdong battle with Rommel's reserves. In Italy our 5th Army has taken the port of Piombino, & there is sharp fighting around Lake Trasimeno. The Russians have taken the big German base of Vitebsk & the rly. junction of Globin in their drive towards the East Prussian border.

With Nova Scotia units fighting on two fronts now our newspapers are filled every day with photos & accounts of men killed, wounded, missing. The number of missing in the Normandy fighting (North Nova Scotia Highlanders) seems large. Major Eric Millard of L'pool, with our West Novas in Italy, writes home that the regt did well in recent brigade sports - "the good old Nova Scotia flag was flying at the mast-head most of the day. When the baseball game began I had to rub my eyes, for there was ^{the} Young on first base, just like old days in L'pool."

TUESDAY, JUNE 27/44 Up at 5 AM, working. Our cold wet weather gave way at last & we had a sweltering day; during the afternoon I walked to Milton & back. Nat: Cherbourg is ours, stormed by the U.S. 7th Corps, & salvage units are already at work to restore the port facilities demolished by the Germans.

The Finns, shaken by the fall of Viipuri, have been visited by egregious Von Ribbentrop, who promised more German troops. In White Russia the Red armies have taken Orcha & are fighting in the streets of Bobruisk & Mogilev. They

claim 30,000 Germans killed or captured in the fall of Nitebak.

In Burma the slow confused fighting goes on at Mujitkinan, where the Japs are holding on stubbornly. Ottawa announces that Canadian casualties in Italy up to the fall of Rome were 11,000, of whom 2,200 were killed, 8,000-odd wounded, & 500 missing. The German flying bombs continue to fall day & night in London & Kent.

Reporters in Normandy found the French people well fed & clothed, & the shops well stocked with, wines, silk stockings, perfumes, cameras & other items long unobtainable in Allied countries. This does not fit the picture long given us of a starving & destitute Europe. In Italy, too, our troops found the shops well stocked with luxury goods, although there the people seemed to live in the normal peacetime squalor & poverty of the country.

It is announced that Allied casualties in Normandy from "D day" (June 6) to June 20th were as follows:-

U.S.	24,000	killed, wounded & missing
British	13,000	"
Canadian	<u>3,000</u>	"
	40,000	

(German casualties in the same period estimated at 70,000.)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28/44. It was hot when I woke up at 7 AM. & by noon the temp. indoors was nearly 90°. Right after lunch we drove off to Carter's Beach, with a garden chair for

Grandma Raddall perched on the front bumper. We held our breath all the way but the old tires held out. Even the beach was blazing, with a hot wind blowing. The kids had a fine time, in & out of the water till 8:30, when we left, very reluctantly. (This is Edith's night at the I. O. D. E. canteen.) War: the Russians are in Bobruisk, Mogilev & Lepel, claim a major victory with at least 30,000 prisoners including 2 German generals. In Italy our troops are approaching Leghorn against stiff German resistance.

At Cherbourg a few German posts are still holding out on the Cap La Hogue peninsula; our correspondents claim at least 30,000 prisoners at Cherbourg including the German general commanding the garrison, & the admiral in charge of the port. S.W. of Caen, British troops are advancing steadily against furious opposition from 3 German panzer divisions.

In Chicago the Republican convention has, as expected, nominated Gov. Thomas Dewey of New York state as their candidate in the forthcoming general election.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29/44 Another burning day. Temp. in my office from noon to 8 p.m. was 95°. We sat on the lawn all afternoon & evening, moving with the shade.

About 6 p.m. John McCalland called up from Toronto, agrees to delay book publication of "Roger Sudden" until Nov. 10, not later. Wants me to attend authors' convention at Hamilton in September, to receive the Governor-General's Award in

person; his firm will pay half my expenses. Wants me to start another historical novel at once, jointly for Doubleday Doran & his own firm. Offered to buy the proposed novel's book rights outright for \$3500, cash in advance, U.S. currency. This would mean \$3850 Canadian, free of income tax (because it is technically a sale of a capital asset) and therefore is equal to at least \$4500 on a royalty basis. I promised to think this over & let him know my decision, but I don't like the notion at all.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30/44 Still scorching weather. 92° in the shade of my birch tree at 4 p.m. At 5 we drove to Scotts Beach on the Western Head road & had a picnic. Even there we found little comfort until sundown, & we stayed till dark. War: So far in Normandy the allied troops have killed or captured 8 German generals, including Gen. Dolman, commander of the German 7th army.

Terrific tank & infantry fighting continues around Caen, where British troops are steadily encircling the town against violent German resistance. Moscow claims the great battle just fought at Bobruisk, Mogilev & Vitebsk has cost the Germans 130,000 killed or captured, declares it is "one of the greatest defeats in military history". Russian troops are now closing in on Minsk, the last large Russian city left in German hands. In S.E. England the German "flying bomb" assault continues & despite the strict British

censorship we hear rumours of heavy civilian casualties & damage.

In the Pacific the Americans are still fighting hard for possession of the island of Saipan, in the Marianas, where since they landed they have suffered 9,000 killed, wounded & missing.

SATURDAY, DOMINION DAY, 1944. A fine hot day for the holiday & we of the Canadian Legion were glad to see it, for we had \$600 invested in soft drinks, prizes for various games of chance, candy, "hot dogs" & what not, for the day's celebration. As president of the local branch I found myself leading the parade, which consisted of: - the Legion, a large detachment of naval men, a detachment of Air Force men from Happy Landing, Murray Jones' Reserve Engineers (knees very white in their new summer shorts) & the High School cadets.

Red Hunt had gathered a remarkably good brass band for the occasion & we marched from the Parade School to the Lost, where all were dismissed to watch the water sports in Ballast Cove. In the afternoon there was a ball game, foot races etc.; & a street dance plus "Bingo" games, wheels of fortune, & so on for the evening.

About 4 p.m. Andrew & Tully Merkel arrived at my house on their way from Hfx. to Digby. Andy brought me another used but still serviceable tire. Edith was in Milton for the day, so Mother & I entertained the guests with coffee, sandwiches & cake on the lawn. They left for Digby about 7 p.m. Andrew's narrative poem "The Order of Good Cheer" is selling well all over Nova Scotia.

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1944.

Another fine day, just cool enough to make the sunshine enjoyable, a relief after the past five days.

War: the Russians are in Minsk & claim the whole German front in that quarter has simply vanished.

MONDAY, JULY 3/44

Fine & warm. I have written McClelland & Stewart (& sent a copy to Doubleday) refusing to write a novel for \$3500 U.S. cash outright. I want to do some short stories.

Legion dance in the School Auditorium tonight. Arrangements were in charge of Legionnaire Gilbert Winters, a poor choice.

Edith & several other wives of Legionnaires were chaperones, & when I drove Edith to the school at 9 pm. I found nobody in charge, & a half-witted veteran named Tom Towles, quite drunk, was attempting to take ticket money at the door.

I got Len Curtis to take over that & went off to locate Winters. His wife said he was "at the school", so I went back to my writing. About 11:30 Edith burst in, said Winters

was drunk, had made no arrangements for refreshments except to gather 300 weiners & some rolls. I jumped in my car & in the legion rooms found Dan & Gil Winters, both drunk.

While Loyal Vaughn of Milton & Romeo Legault made manful efforts to get a lot of coffee heated in a hurry.

I carried up knives etc. to the laboratory in the school, where the chaperones (some of 'em') pitched in, peeling weiners & cutting rolls while heating a pot of hot water (for the "hot dogs") over an oil stove, part of the lab. equipment. We managed to serve 300 people with a "hot

dog" & cup of coffee apiece by 12:30 & they finished just in time for the last waltz - the Shelburne naval orchestra had to leave at 1 A.M. The crowd had a wonderful time & the Legion took in a gross of \$218. At 1:30, after I had made arrangements for the orchestra to get their pay, I drove Carl Hatt, his wife & three young women home to Western Head Home at 2 A.M.

TUESDAY, JULY 4/44 Fine & warm. This evening drove to Western Head, where Hatt provided fishing lines & Tommy & Frances caught a few sculpins from the breakwater. Wonderful sunset, a fat moon rising in the east, a long swell making a high spray along the shore. War: Russians claim over 70,000 German prisoners in the great battle June 24-July 2, & the pursuit continues. Officially announced that our bag of prisoners at Cherboung was 35,000.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5/44 Fine & warm. The annual convention of the N.S. Medical Association opened at White Point yesterday. Our Frances is one of a troop of 12 little girls whom Mrs. Murray has been teaching to dance the Highland fling for the occasion. Edith collected a full Highland costume by borrowing hither & yon, & this afternoon, to the tune of a pipe-major brought all the way from Ufa. ~~for the occasion~~, the kids danced on the lawn at White Point for the doctors & their wives. This evening Edith & I attended the annual dinner, where I had been invited to speak. Cocktails in the cool basement chamber of the W.P. Lodge first & then a fine dinner of

which fresh boiled lobster in the shell was the *pièce de résistance*.
I sat between Dr. McPhedren, head of the Canadian Medical Association
& a Dr. Philpott from Montreal. Our Doc. Wickwire is president of
the Medical Association this year & he made it a point to have
strictly local talent for the evening's entertainment. - another Highland
dances by the little girls to the tune of the bagpipes; a skit by Dave Inness &
one of our school teachers, Grace Reid; several songs by the "Medical Quartet"
- Drs. Wickwire & Murray & their wives, all of whom have fine voices
& are accomplished singers. I spoke on "Early medical practice in
Nova Scotia" & described the smallpox epidemic in Liverpool in 1800-
1801 wherein the local magistrates sent (probably to Boston) for
"Kine pox" matter - the first recorded use of vaccine in Canada,
just 6 months after Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse of Harvard, a friend of
Jenner, had introduced it into America. Many of the doctors
& wives came & spoke to me afterwards; all seemed to have read
my works. Nice old Dr. Corston - my mother's doctor - was there
with the brides of his two sons - Scotch girls, both graduates in
medicine of Edinburgh. Old Dr. John G. MacDougal of Wfx
told me an interesting thing. Ten or 15 years ago he met Rudyard
Kipling while on a winter holiday in Jamaica. Mrs. Kipling was very
ill & Kipling was anxious to take her north to Bermuda, for the
cooler weather & better medical facilities, but the ship's doctor refused to
accept any responsibility, seeing her condition. MacDougal, one of
the best surgeons in Nova Scotia, offered to accompany her & did
so, attending her successfully on the way. Kipling never forgot

it & maintained a correspondence with MacD. untill his death. At one time (it must have been in 1936) Kipling sent MacD. a copy of Blackwood's Magazine in which he had marked my story "Winter's Tale", with the remark, "I thought this would interest you. I consider this writer will go far".

Afterwards Edith & I had a dance or two in the boathouse where an orchestra was playing. A lovely night, soft & still, with a nearly full moon, & we walked the length of the beach ~~to~~ before turning home.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6/44. A sweltering day. At 5 p.m. we set off for a picnic tea at Western Head. Carl Hatt, the whistle-keeper & his wife were very kind; we ate in the shadow of their house on the grass, with the surf breaking on the rocks right before us. After tea we went down to the cove & put off in Carl's boat - Carl, his boy Douglas, my two kids & myself - & had a fine time fishing with a jig a few hundred yards off the breakwater. The kids did most of the fishing & had an exciting time. Altogether we caught 13 haddock & rock cod (worth #3 or #4 at current prices) which Carl filleted very neatly for us.

We watched the full moon rise out of the sea, a beautiful night, & arrived home about 10.15. We kept out a mess of fresh fillets for tomorrow & I put the rest in brine.

War: The Russians are in Kovel, Poland, & still pushing on. In Normandy the Canadians trying to get around Caen have run into furious opposition at Carpiquet, where they took and

then lost the big air field & are now hanging grimly to the village itself. First hand descriptions of the fighting were broadcast last night by Matthew Halton, the Canadian Broadcasting Corps' man in the field, & it looks as if our casualties may have been heavy.

In Italy our troops have run into stiff German defences at Arezzo & it appears that the Hun intends making a stand on that side of Florence. In London today Mr. Churchill made a statement to Parliament on the German "flying bomb" assault. He said that these rocket bombs are falling on London at the average rate of 160 every 24 hours. So far about 2750 have fallen & the casualties are 2752 killed (almost exactly 1 for each bomb) & about 8000 injured.

Deep shelters are in full use again, as in the blitz days of 1940-41, & a voluntary scheme for the evacuation of children has gone into effect. He said that our counter-measures would in no way detract from military operations in France or the heavy air raids on Germany; but he admitted that since the rocket-bomb installations were first observed more than a year ago the Allied air forces have dropped over 50,000 tons of bombs on them - a serious enough diversion of our bombers to satisfy the Hun.

Randy Day is home on leave for a few days after nearly 4½ years overseas with the West N.S. Regt. He was in charge of an escort bringing 1000 German prisoners from Italy to Canada, says the German rank & file admit the war is

hopeless but the officers insist that Germany will yet win.

A bad accident at Hartford, Conn., where the huge circus tent of the combined Barnum & Bailey and Ringling Bros. show caught fire & collapsed with 6000 people inside. About 120, mostly women & children, were burned to death & 250 injured.

It is reported officially that production in the Cape Breton coal mines has now fallen to ~~1,450~~^{1,45} tons per day per man & the cost of production is now equal to the market. The management blames the poor production on indifferent labor, while the unions blame it on everything else under the sun.

FRIDAY, JULY 7/44 Fine & warm. Walked to Milton & back this afternoon, a hot & dusty jaunt. Our milk supply, poor for 2 years, is getting worse. A town man, Francis Wood, has a pasteurizing plant & has acquired more or less a monopoly of the business in Liverpool. He is a shrewd shifty fellow & is making a great deal of money from the supply of milk to naval craft in port. The milk is poor, turns sour sometimes within 6 hours of delivery, & often leaves a sediment in the bottle which looks like some sort of powder. Civilian supply is reduced without notice from day to day whenever additional naval crews arrive. In our house 3 adults & 2 children are frequently, & for days at a time, allowed only 1 quart of this miserable stuff per day. War: Hitler has dismissed Von Rundstedt, his supreme commander in the West, & appointed in his stead Field Marshal Von Kluge, a tacit admission that our successes about Cherbourg have upset

the confidence of the Fuehrer. The Russians are 10 miles from
Vilna & their mopping-up forces have killed 4000 & captured 3000
Germans cut off in a forest east of Minsk. In the East,
U.S. "super-Forts" have again bombed Japan from bases in
China, this time they hit the naval base at Sasebo as well
as the steel mills at Yawata. In Burma the indecisive
fighting about Myitkina goes on. In China the Japs
are recoiling from one of their periodical marches into Hunan,
& as usual the Chinese are following up & claiming great
victories, with Japs slain by the thousand.

SATURDAY, JULY 8/44. A sweltering day with a hot wind from
the west. Temp 90° in my den at 4 p.m. In Liverpool, the
part of the South Shore highway which runs through town,
including all of Bristol Avenue & Market St & part of Main
St., has ~~been~~ been re-surfaced with asphalt & crushed rock, after
five years of neglect; there are many things like this, postponed
till "after the war" but now reaching a state where something
must be done. A photograph of Frances & her fellow dancers in
Highland costume appears in today's Herald. After tea I took
the kids to Milton for a bathe in the river inside Francis
Tupper's island. War: Dempsey's 2nd (British) Army,
which includes the Canadian 2nd Div., is driving hard to
force the Germans out of Caen & terrific fighting is going on.
On the right the U.S. troops, released from Cherbourg, are
fighting toward St. Lo. But the great news is still from

the eastern front, where the incomparable Russians have taken the rail centre of Baronovicki & are fighting in the streets of Wilno (which our last-war geographies called Vilna). They have advanced 250 miles in 2 weeks & decimated a large German army on the way. Flying bombs continue to fall on London, where over 90,000 children were evacuated last week. The population has gone underground.

SUNDAY, JULY 9/44 Another burning day. We packed up a picnic tea & left early in the afternoon for Western Head, where it was delightfully cool. Spent the afternoon making small sail-boats & watching them skim away down the lagoon on the brisk south wind. They annoyed the terns nesting on the islets & we watched some amusing "dive-bombing" attacks. For tea we moved around the head to Scott's Beach, where we boiled coffee & fried bacon & eggs. It was cool enough there for sweaters, yet when we came home about dusk we found the town still sweltering.

At 10 p.m. the temp. in our bedrooms was 84° Fahr. Jimmy is sleeping behind MacDonald's house in a tent with young Gordon these hot nights, & we all envy them.

War: Judging from what our newsmen have gathered from the French in Normandy, the attitude of the French people is exactly what it was in 1940 - "this is no war of ours, and a plague on both your houses". The middle-aged & old think Retain did the right thing in surrender & regard him with respect. The young are divided into 3 groups - the ardent De Gaulleists, the

shrewd Petainists, & the bitter pro-Germans. The latter have given us much trouble in Normandy, in some authentic cases even young women were found sniping at our troops from the houses; & yesterday 2 young Frenchmen picked up in Cherbourg by U.S. police, were convicted of espionage on behalf of the Germans. They were tried in a French court, confessed freely & indifferently, & got off with life imprisonment - which will doubtless be commuted when the Allies are safely out of the way. Today our forces have been after a long & terrific battle; Canadian armor & infantry stormed in from the south, British troops from the north; they met in the centre of the town. U.S. troops have cleaned up the last German posts in La Haye des Puits, on the west side of the peninsula. Our airmen say the Germans don't attempt to use the roads behind their front between dawn & dark; our bombers are too vigilant & hard-hitting. Canadian airmen alone have destroyed 600 German vehicles on the roads since D-day, & shot down at least 135 German aircraft. In Italy the Germans are now fighting stubbornly, well in front of a line across the peninsula from Leghorn through Florence to Ancona. On the east front the Russians are now within 80 miles of East Prussia & still going strong. Also they have opened a new drive between Kovell & Lwow, apparently aimed straight at Warsaw & Cracow. In the Pacific, the last Jap resistance on Saipan in the Marianas has been crushed, after a long & bloody battle which involved strong forces on both sides.

MONDAY, JULY 10, 1944

Fine The 14th straight day of burning weather. We wake up hot at 7 a.m. & by 10 a.m. the day is like a stove-hold. After lunch we fled once more to Scotts Beach, this time with Marie Freeman added to our family. Fog was hanging off the Head, & the fog horn blew dismally all afternoon; & now & again a waft of ice cold air came along the shore from the fog-bank, delicious to our languid flesh.

~~Mr~~ Randolph Day, a captain of the West N.Y. Reg't, back home on leave after 4½ years overseas. In August he goes to Vancouver Island to instruct troops in "combined operations".

Premier Godbout of Quebec has opened his provincial election campaign by boasting that his influence alone has prevented the full application to Quebec of the Conscription Act; and he has made a flat promise that any farmer's son in Quebec can now obtain exemption from military service merely by obtaining a certificate from his local mayor or any "agronomist" that he is a farmer's son. Sons already called up can get release from the army in the same way, & even deserters can be exempted if they will give themselves up for some "slight" punishment. This, he says, he has arranged with Premier King!

War: the German submarine campaign has been so utterly defeated that shipbuilding programs have been sharply reduced everywhere. The great Kaiser yards in Oregon & California are now turned to the construction of better ships than the

famous "Liberty" type, & the new ships take much longer to build. No more "Liberty" ships are being built.

Our capture of Caen has been followed by another stroke against the forces of Rommel; it continues to be a pitched battle with our troops forging slowly ahead by the aid of terrific air & artillery bombardments & the most determined courage on their own part. It is clear that the best German troops & material have been gathered to resist our forces in France. But this has weakened their long East Front to the danger point & the great defeat at Minsk is a result. The Russians have by-passed Wilno & are now well into Lithuania. The great forest east of Minsk is still yielding up thousands of beaten & bewildered Germans including a number of generals.

TUESDAY, JULY 11/44. Another fine day. Picnicked this afternoon at Carter's Beach. Fog came in at 7 p.m. & we came home to find the fog general ^{and} the temp. down to 55°.

Was: total German prisoners in Normandy so far, 54,000. Our attacks from Caen are held firmly by Rommel. General Eisenhower predicts a long & bloody battle. In the U.S., after keeping mum till the last minute, Roosevelt announces he will run for a 4th term if nominated by the Democratic party convention - a foregone conclusion. Today we heard over the radio the reception given General De Gaulle at Ottawa. He spoke in French & English. His English is fluent but so strongly French-accented that it is difficult to

to follow. His voice is even & he does not draw out his ultimate vowels in the fashion beloved of Quebec orators. De Gaulle's trip to the U.S. was a success politically; Washington has consented, after long doubt, to accept De Gaulle's organization as the recognized civil authority in France until such time as the French people can vote once more for candidates in free election. Premier Godbout of Quebec has retracted part of his sensational statement of yesterday, but insists that a certificate signed by a parish priest is all that will be required to exempt a man from military service - the certificate will attest merely that the man is needed for farm work. The power this places in the hands of the R.C. clergy is obvious and typical of Quebec politics.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12/44 Overcast, muggy; fog at night. Legion meeting tonight. Bill Joudrey reported a gross take of \$2300 on July 1st a net profit of \$1300. Six new members initiated. Many pension claims coming up from men discharged from the army in the past year or two as medically unfit. Some are obvious lead-swingers but all cases have to be taken up. It is clear that under a scheme of voluntary enlistment, when men become more & more difficult to obtain as the war goes on, there is a tendency on the part of examining doctors to pass a man so long as he looks healthy & has the right number of eyes, toes, etc. A great many of these pension claimants are poor physical specimens

even to the common eye, & never should have been accepted for army service. The Legion's provincial command, at Ifra, has decided against holding a provincial convention this year. Our responsibility as host to the convention carries over to 1945.

War: today in daylight a great fleet of U.S. bombers dropped 3000 tons of bombs on Germany, mostly in the Munich area. 26 bombers lost, of which 7 turned up in Switzerland.

In Normandy, in Italy, our advances have been stopped by strong & well-equipped German forces. In the east, too, the Germans are now pouring in reserves & the Russian plunge towards East Prussia has been slowed. It looks as if Germans are about to quit Latvia & Lithuania in order to avoid being cut off. Germans admit they were taken by surprise at Minsk; they had expected a big Russian thrust farther south. Altogether the Russians bagged 23 German generals in the Minsk victory. Our forces in Normandy have killed or captured 10 generals, so the Nazi brass-hats are beginning to suffer first-hand defeat.

U.S. forces suffered 15,000 killed, wounded & missing in the conquest of Saipan. They claim nearly 20,000 Japs killed or captured; & 9000 Jap civilians have given themselves up. This will make a handy base for air & submarine attacks on Japan's home shipping.

THURSDAY, JULY 13/44 A heavy shower of rain this morning, the first in weeks. Towards evening the weather cleared & the air was soft.

& delicious. War: it is announced that 15 warships were lost in the Normandy landings - 8 British, & U.S. Most were destroyers. Savage fighting continues about St. Lo (U.S. front) & Caen (British front) where a very heavy concentration of German armor remains a stumbling block & a menace. In Italy, U.S. troops are within 10 miles of Leghorn. On the east front the Russians have annihilated the German garrison of Vilna - 8000 killed, 5000 prisoners. They have pushed to within 45 miles of Brest Litovsk & are only 12 miles from Kaunas, capital of Lithuania. A German official broadcast to their troops warns them that this is Germany's gravest hour - "the holy soil of the fatherland is directly menaced". One London military critic predicts that (a) the Germans must soon strike a blow at Allied forces in Normandy in an attempt to drive them into the channel, (b) strike a counter-blow at the Russians to stave off invasion of East Prussia, (c) concentrate their widely scattered occupation troops by retiring to the Alps in Italy & to the Danube, abandoning the Balkans.

Today 1000 U.S. bombers struck at industrial targets near Munich for the third successive day. Last night 1300 R.A.F. bombers hit targets all over Northern France.

German newsmen describe Allied artillery & air-bombing in Normandy as "terrific", "nothing like it in the history of war".

The "buzz-bomb" attacks on London continue but not so steadily. Perhaps our bombers have found their weak spot at last.

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1944

Fine, with a refreshing breeze. Am working on an article about Liverpool for Maclean's. Forgot to mention that on July 12th, Hfx police resumed dragging the N. W. Arm for the body of Commander Frank Johnson, R.N., who murdered his daughter Nadia & disappeared on Dec 1/43. The grappling irons fetched up his body after less than an hour of the renewed search, & only 50 yds. from where Nadia's body was found last winter. He was fully clothed & his pockets were full of stones. Yesterday the body was buried beside Nadia's in Camp Hill cemetery, with full naval honours according to navy regulations - a 48-piece naval band, a 26-man firing party, a 29-man guard of honour with rifles & fixed bayonets preceding the hearse containing the flag-draped coffin, & an escort of 200 R.N., R.C.N. & Wrens marching behind. Chief mourner was Lt-Com N. M. S. Seeger^{SEGER}, who commanded the R.N. shore establishment at Hfx. ("N.M.V. Canada") at the time of the affair, & who subsequently was transferred from the scene, like my brother-in-law Bill Kibble, for reasons best known to the Admiralty. Six R.N. and R.C.N. commanders & captains were pallbearers. Amongst the 7 wreaths was one sent in Vera's name. She is still in an insane hospital on Welfare Island, New York. A great fuss over a man who had never let duty interfere with pleasure, & who had stolen a great sum of Admiralty money - & couldn't face the consequences.

I was sorry to see in today's despatches from Normandy

that my good friend Theodore Roosevelt Jr. was dead of a heart attack. He was a major-general with a U.S. division which he had led in the landings at Algiers, Sicily, Italy & finally Normandy.

He noticed an historical tale of mine ("At the Tide's Turn") in Blackwood, obtained my address & in April 1940 wrote & asked me to do a history of N.S. during the Revolution, for Doubleday Doran, of which firm he was a director. I replied that such a work was for an historian & he then urged a novel along the same lines. I put him off but finally wrote "His Majesty's Yankees" & subsequently received a charming letter from him, written in North Africa, full of praise for the book.

His brother Kermit died on service in Alaska last year.

War: General De Gaulle flew straight from Montreal to Algiers, where yesterday he took the salute at a Bastille Day parade. The ding-dong battle around Caen goes on, with our troops gaining a village & losing another & so on.

The Russians have taken Pinsk on the road to Brest Litovsk.

U.S. troops on Ijisan report that among the Jap dead were two admirals; one of them, Nagumo, was C. in C. of the Jap navy in the Central Pacific. He was the man who commanded the Jap aircraft carriers in the famous "sneak attack" on Pearl Harbor.

SUNDAY, JULY 16/44. Fine & warm, with fog wisps hanging off Coffin's Island. A wooden steamer, apparently new, ^{ONE OF THE "SWANAGE" BOATS} anchored close in-shore off Ballast Cove Harbour dotted with whalers & yawls from naval craft in port, sailing briskly back & forth under stained &

"RIPPLE"

worn sails "Father" Wilson's yacht "Ripple" cruising between Fort Point & the fog fringe in the stiff S. breeze. Many bathers at the Fort, Brooklyn breakwater & elsewhere.

War: The Russians have stormed Grodno in their drive towards East Prussia. In Italy the 8th Army has taken Arezzo after a fight lasting 2 weeks & our troops have crossed the Arno.

Object of the stiff (& so far successful) German defence along the base of the Cherbourg peninsula is now very clear - our invasion army is unable to deploy. One U.S. officer puts it thus - "It's like trying to swing a Sunday punch in a phone booth"

Montgomery is still grinding away, however, & the prospect of further landings must be keeping Rommel worried.

MONDAY, JULY 17/44. A fine hot day with thunderheads piling up in the sky. I spent the entire day running about town with MacAulay the photographer, getting photographs (as requested by Maclean's) to illustrate my article on Liverpool. Had to get naval permission to take photos in the harbour (granted by Naval Intelligence, Hfx, through our local V.N.C., Commander Mac Donald). A picnic tea at Scott's Beach, where we boiled & devoured a bucket of clams dug yesterday at Summerville by an energetic naval couple staying at Johnson's.

War: today is Hitler's birthday but there was not the usual celebration in Germany. There was one in Moscow, where 60,000 German prisoners from the Minsk-Vilna battle were marched through the streets under the eyes of

a million Moscovites, all standing in utter silence under a special command from Stalin. It is revealed that since last autumn numbers of fast well-armed British merchantmen with special crews have been trading with Swedish ports, an audacious enterprise but clear proof of the waning of German power, even in narrow waters.

TUESDAY, JULY 18/44 Fine, with a refreshing NW breeze. Walked to Milton & back this afternoon. A dipper dredge, with attendant tug & barges, has been busy in the bar channel for 2 or 3 weeks. Our kids go bathing at the Fort almost every day; they are as brown as Indians. War: In Normandy, U.S. troops have taken St. Lo; & British & Canadian troops after a terrific preliminary bombardment which included 6000 tons of bombs dropped from the air, have broken German positions south of Caen. In Italy, U.S. troops have outflanked the port of Leghorn, British troops are pushing up towards Florence, Polish troops are attacking Ancona. On the east front the Russians' ~~not~~ new thrust towards Lwow (Lemberg) has advanced 30 miles; in Lithuania the Germans are throwing in reserves of all sorts & seem to have halted the Russian drive towards East Prussia. It is announced that the Germans have shot 33 more British airmen "while trying to escape" - another cowardly murder.

In Japan the loss of Saipan with its entire garrison has produced another shake-up in the high command. A

new naval chief has been appointed, & Premier ~~St.~~ ^{St.} ~~Lo~~ ^{Lo} ~~Jo~~ ^{Jo} has given up his post as army chief-of-staff.

In Quebec the most bitter provincial election in history is being fought out, with all 3 parties (Liberals, Union Nationale, Bloc Populaire) vying with each other in their denunciation of Canadian participation in the war, & in their bold promises of freedom from enforcement of the Conscription Act in Quebec. All of which makes sour reading to the rest of Canada, already drained of young men & still subject to the most rigid application of the Act - & not complaining.

It is announced the Air Force casualties are now so low in comparison to those anticipated, that there is actually a surplus of air crew personnel. The Navy reports much the same. So for the first time the Army has priority over all other demands upon recruits now coming into service. So Ottawa announced today.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19/44 Fine. The shrubs in my garden lovely now, roses, weigela, deutzia, elder, honeysuckle a mass of bloom, the smell of the honeysuckle very sweet at evening. But my lawn, like every other in town, is mottled with dead brown patches which spread as the dry weather continues. Tommy, & Jack Dunlap, went to Milton today for what they are pleased to call their "vacation" - staying with the Freemans & Marie Bell.

War: In Normandy, Montgomery's terrific attack from Caen seems to have staggered even the powerful forces Rommel had

massed against him. We cover the air so completely that Germans have nothing but ground observation & Monty says "we achieved tactical surprise". In Italy, U.S. forces of Clark's 5th Army are in Leghorn, where they took 2000 prisoners of no less than 11 German divisions, a sign of the confusion still prevailing in Kesselring's army. At the Adriatic end of the line, Polish troops are in Ancona, where they too garnered about 2000 prisoners.

Air bombing of Germany & Northern France continues furiously, with particular attention to the jet-bomb launching ramps & to targets in the Munich area, while from Italian fields U.S. airmen continue to hammer the Rumanian oil refineries at Ploesti.

In the Pacific, U.S. forces are still bombarding Guam, & their submarines have sunk 14 more Jap transports of various kinds.

In Tokio, the entire cabinet has now resigned, admittedly because of Japan's continued disasters on all fronts.

On the east front Russians are shelling the outer defences of Brest Litovsk & have broken the outer defences of Lwow.

THURSDAY, JULY 20/44. Fine. My old car battery conked out, had to get a new one - \$15.50; also had the carburetor cleaned, points examined, brakes overhauled, & sent an old tire away to have a bad break vulcanized. War: Dramatic news today. Hitler in a broadcast to the German people said that yesterday an attempt on his life had been made by a disgruntled group of German army officers. A time bomb had exploded within

2 yards of him while ~~he~~ was conferring with his personal staff (as distinct from the German general staff). He had suffered only burns & bruises, but 15 officers of his staff were injured & 1 had died. The conspirators, he said, had been "exterminated" & he had placed the German ^{home} army under Heinrich Himmler (the notorious head of the Gestapo). He hinted that the conspirators had been spreading discontent in the army itself & that he was taking measures to stamp it out.

All this lends color to broadcasts from Moscow, in which German generals captured at Minsk openly blamed their military disasters on the Fuhrer, and a report from Athens 2 days ago which said that a group of German officers there had staged a brawl in the Hotel Bretagne over German military policy, & that pistols had been drawn & 6 officers shot dead. It certainly looks as if the German machine is cracking under the strain of military defeat, just as it did in 1918.

FRIDAY, JULY 21/44

Very hot, though there was a shower last night & fog this morning. Sailors decorating Main St. with flags for Navy Week. A run of striped bass has appeared in the river ~~at~~ ^{below} town bridge, & anglers on Inness' wharf & elsewhere report good sport. War: A strict censorship hides the true state of affairs in Germany but there are rumours via Stockholm of a bloody purge of army officers hostile to Hitler. Hitler in his radio broadcast yesterday declared that the

attempt on his life was plotted by a "little clique of generals dismissed for incompetence in the field". He said the bomb was planted by Count Von Stauffenburg, & that Stauffenburg & Col. General Von Beck, a former chief-of-staff, had been executed already. He added that forged orders had been given to certain regiments at Berlin, commanding them to seize the govt. buildings, on grounds that the Fuhrer was dead & the army about to take control. This move had been detected & frustrated by the Minister of Propaganda, Goebbels, who asked Hitler to speak to the regimental commanders by phone to prove that he was alive. After Hitler's broadcast Goering pledged the faithful support of the Air Force, and Admiral Doenitz spoke for the Navy — but nobody spoke for the army. Today, on the wave length of Frankfurt radio, an unnamed German officer addressed himself to the army, saying that Hitler lied, that the revolt of the officers had not been crushed, & that no orders should be taken from Nazi party spokesmen. Similarly Gen. Von Seidlitz, a prisoner in Russia, spoke from Moscow urging the German army & people to overthrow Hitler before Germany is destroyed.

In Normandy our 2nd army continues its pressure on Rommel, who is fighting back fiercely, assisted in his defence by torrential rains. R.A.F. struck heavy blows at German targets in France & Belgium & hit Hamburg again. Lost, 40 bombers, all in night ops. Today U.S.A.F. struck in force at industrial targets in south Germany, flying

from bases in Britain & Italy. Cost 33 bombers, 11 fighters.

The Russians have crossed the Bug river in force between Lvov & Brest Litovsk, & have cut the railway between Dvinsk & Memel. In the Pacific, U.S. forces have landed on Guam after 17 days' bombardment by sea & air.

Lord Beaverbrook has flown direct from London to Washington in a Liberator bomber. Time, a little less than 20 hours. Distance, 3750 miles. There are reports of rioting at Petawawa, Calgary & other army camps between "General Service" ~~and~~ troops and the "Gombies", most of whom are French-Canadians. Col. Ralston admitted this in the House but tried to minimise the nature of the disturbances.

SATURDAY, JULY 22/44. Fine. Took the boys to Eagle Lake for a long-promised over-night trip - Parker, Smith & I, with young Billy Smith, Jackie Dunlop, Dougie Parker & Tommy. By punt up the pond & the up-hill walk of a mile, which the kids took in their stride. Our friends the bears had taken another swipe at the camp privy, tearing off a large patch of the slate-surfaced siding, otherwise all was well. The many mousetraps we set up last winter were mostly untouched, but in 4 we found neat white skeletons picked clean by ants. The kids had a fine time with fish-poles, catching perch & hornpout. We pitched a tent for the 3 older boys, Dougie P. slept in the camp with his father & ^{me} Smith slept on the verandah. The camp radio battery proved very weak but we learned tonight that in Normandy our 2nd. Army forward thrust from Caen

has bogged down in torrential rains. In Italy, U.S. patrols have entered the outskirts of Pisa. R.A.F. made night attacks on oil refineries in Czechoslovakia, & caught a German convoy off Heligoland in the dark - 40 ships - of which 4 were definitely sunk by air torpedoes, 4 set afire, the rest damaged to an extent not known. The Russians are nearing Lublin & have outflanked Brest Litovsk.

SUNDAY, JULY 23/44 A hot day spent all of it in, on or beside the lake, where a breeze made things pleasant. Gave Tommy some swimming lessons & later he & Jack were allowed to take a canoe & paddle up & down under our watchful eyes. We got our meal outdoors under the trees. Very few mosquitoes, but deer flies ("green heads") were troublesome at times. The beaver dam has kept up the lake level to some extent but the brook is the lowest I've ever seen it & all the woods are parched, even the bogs. We came out in the cool of the evening, saw a fish hawk in the old nest of sticks at the edge of the flowage, & an eagle flew out of the knoll above N° 3 as we approached.

MONDAY, JULY 24/44 Fine & hot. Many bush fires. One started in the scrub woods just east of Meadow Pond Road 2 days ago: the fire dept thought they put it out but the soil burns like peat now & today it sprang up & burned briskly on the SW wind. Smoke poured across our street. I went up in the afternoon & became one of a pump crew working on the flank of the fire. Everything turned up after a while - the Liverpool motor-pumper, various A.R.P.

equipment & a fire ranger's crew from Milton. The mayor sent up some sailor volunteers from corvettes in port & by 5.30 we had the fire under control. By that time another bad fire was burning between Hill's Grove & the railway on the east side of the river; Mersey Paper Co. (they own the pine grove) rushed up pumps & crews & some of the town & fire rangers' apparatus was diverted there. Plenty of hands for that, so I came home & took my family for a promised picnic tea, foggy & cold towards Scott's Beach, so drove to Mill Village & picnicked on a little point just below the cemetery, at the river side, a lovely place. After tea drove up to Charleston bridge & slowly back. All the gardens along the Midway look healthy in spite of the long drought.

War:- All quiet in Normandy. In Italy our troops preparing to attack the German line along the Arno. King George has flown from England to Naples & will inspect Allied troops. Last night R.A.F. made a terrific attack on Kiel, dropping nearly 3000 tons of bombs: Mosquitoes attacked Berlin & the Ruhr. Our total night's loss - 6 planes. Today the U.A.F. was over Western Germany in force attacking air fields, trains & other "opportunity targets".

The Russians are crossing the great Polish plains at a speed which suggests that German armies have gone clean back to the line of the Vistula. Lublin, Jaroslav & Siedlce are in Russian hands, & German garrisons in Brest Litovsk & Luovon are cut off hopelessly. Moscow claims 500,000 Germans killed, wounded or captured since the great Russian advance began a month ago.

The situation within Germany remains a mystery. Goering has ordered all German soldiers to use the Nazi salute & no other. The old military salute is abolished. There are rumors of civil war, of mutinies at Kiel & elsewhere, but on the face of it Hitler seems to have nipped his generals' revolt in the bud. Prisoners taken by our troops in Normandy professed to be aware of the plot and affirmed their loyalty to the Fuhrer.

TUESDAY, JULY 25/44 Fine, hot; thunder showers at evening. Went with Mr. Bain this afternoon on one of his car-hunting expeditions, stopping at farms in Labelle, Chelsea & Buckfield, while he tried to persuade farmers to sell their cars. They have shrewd faces out that way — Turners, Bakers, Henleys, Keddys — famous horse traders in the pre-gasoline age, & men who take good care of their cars & like car-trading too. Mr. didn't get a car. A slick bird all the way from Digby (where naval officers on the "Cornwallis" station will pay anything for a car) had been in the district last week & bought five at fancy prices. There's a W.T.P.T.B. "ceiling" on used car prices but this is blandly ignored by buyer & seller).

The field crops still look good but all the countryside is parched & many wells are dry. Haying is done, & oats mowed in many places & the stubble fields are brown as rust.

War: Heavy R.A.F. raid on Stuttgart last night. In Normandy our troops are butting away at Rommel's positions. Some ground is gained, often lost at once to stiff German counter-attacks. "Monty" seems to be playing with the enemy, as none of these attacks seem to

be made in great force, except that the air bombing & artillery barrage are terrific. Russians are fighting in the suburbs of Bialystok. Today 16 German generals captured in the Minsk fighting made a radio appeal to the German people to stop the war.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26/44 A shower last night. Very hot all day. Tommy returned from his "vacation" at Milton. An executive meeting of the Legion tonight, afterwards Brent Smith & I went to the movies. News reel showed some wonderful pictures of air bombing. Showers late tonight. Slept on the couch in my den, as I often do, these hot & breathless nights. I spent most of this day correcting the first batch of galleys of "Roger Sudden".

THURSDAY, JULY 27/44 Fine & hot. Walked to Milton & back in the afternoon. Tuesday night's showers seem to have settled the fires. War: In Normandy the U.S. troops under Bradley have made a sharp attack, using much armor, & we hear they have "broken through" - whatever that means - & have 22,000 prisoners so far.

In Italy the allied troops continue their light probing attacks against Kesselring's "Gothic Line" - Pisa, Florence, Ancona. But still the Russians are doing the biggest things; today Stalin announced (with separate salutes from the Moscow guns) the captures of Swinsk, Bialystok, Lwow & Stanislawof - an advance along the whole east front from the Baltic to the Carpathians.

Washington has denounced the present military government of Argentina as "a collaborator with the enemies of the United States".

FRIDAY, JULY 28/44

Rain all night, a thunderstorm at 5 A.M., thick mist all day. The dry earth drank up all the rain - not a puddle this morning. Confering at the Elmwood this afternoon with Com. MacDonald, "Father" Wilson & Mowbray Jones re a parade & drum-head service next Sunday to open Navy Week. The slow re-modelling of the old hotel by the Navy continues; partitions ripped out, new hardwood floors, new lighting, new heating, new painting & decorating. Three new buildings (wood) are under construction at the rear. When finished the establishment will contain quarters for naval personnel (especially crews whose ships are undergoing refit in the port), together with the various offices, the dentist's establishment, the sick bay - all of which are now scattered about the town in rented rooms. Also there will be a web canteen. All of this should have been done 3 years ago. A young petty officer in the hallway told me - "as it is, we won't have it finished till December, & by then the Atlantic war will probably be washed up."

War: U.S. armored forces have reached Coutances in the Cherbourg peninsula, claim 4000 prisoners. Gen. MacParr was killed while watching the battle. British & Canadian forces have been stopped outside Caen & have lost ground in savage German counter-attacks. The Russians have taken Brest-Litovsk, Przemyśl & Jaroslav - famous names in World War One, & have pushed along the right bank of the Vistula to within 20 miles of Warsaw. At home, in Halifax,

3000 shipyard workers have been on strike since Monday, with ships anchored in the harbor awaiting repair. In Ottawa, the much-debated Family Allowance Bill has been passed; it will give cash grants to parents for every child under 16. This looks like a sop to the prolific French Canadians, but it may stimulate the birth rate in the English-speaking population.

SATURDAY, JULY 29/44. Overcast, cool. Correcting proofs of "Roger Sudden" most of the day. Canadian Authors' Assoc'n. wants me to give a talk at their regional meeting at Sackville, N.B. in the latter part of August, but I can't spare the time. The C.A.A. (national) want me to attend their dinner at Hamilton Ont. Sep. 2, & receive my Governor-General's Award in person. McCalland & Stewart offer to pay half my expenses. This, too, seems out of the question in these days of indifferent transportation.

War: In Normandy the U.S. armoured forces of Gen. Bradley seem to have broken through the German pocket on the west side of the Cherbourg peninsula; they are 11 miles beyond Coutances & have over 6000 prisoners, with many other Germans cut off & surrounded. Over 250 German tanks were destroyed by our fighter-bombers alone. The Russians are in sight of Warsaw, & have pushed so far into Lithuania that the German position in Estonia & Latvia (not to mention Finland) seems hopeless. It is clear that Hitler must win another Tannenberg to save East Prussia if not the whole east front.

Last night R.A.F. smashed at German industries again, lost

62 bombers. Today the U.S.A.F. struck at the big oil refineries at Merseburg, Germany, with 1100 bombers, of which 23 were lost. The Luftwaffe was up in unusual strength but lost heavily.

In Italy, King George today visited the U.S. 5th Army. While lunching with Gen Clark there was an explosion ~~300~~ 300 yards away - a U.S. soldier had stepped on a pair of linked German mines & was blown to pieces. Berlin says our 8th Army has opened a heavy attack on the German lines before Florence. In the Pacific area, U.S. bombers operating from China fields have hit Jap industrial & chemical plants about Mukden in Manchuria.

SUNDAY, JULY 30/44 Rain, night & morning. A big parade & drum-head service at Fort Park (to open Navy Week) had to be cancelled at the last hopeless minute & I was kept busy phoning my Legion men. To Milton in the afternoon by car, & I walked "around the bridges"; very muggy. The paper mill is running only 5 days a week, as commanded by the paper production control at Montreal (which now allocates orders to all Canadian mills) & the Power Commission shuts off the water at N^o 1 dam from Friday night to Sunday night, glad of a chance to conserve the supply in this dry summer.

Tommy found a small salmon-trout high & dry in the Milton fish ladder, & had it fried for his supper. Tea on the lawn, where we have eaten most of our evening meals since the hot weather began.

MONDAY, JULY 31/44

A sweltering day. Sent off the final batch of galley proofs for "Roger Sudden," examined & corrected. A picnic tea at Scott's Beach. Saw the gov't steamer "Lady Laurier" anchored off Western Head landing & boats plying to & fro. She was an old ship when I came ashore from Sable Island in her in 1922 (built in 1902) but looks as sturdy as ever.

I drove over to the landing & watched a gang of sailors unloading 45 gal. drums of gasoline, bags of hard & soft coal, a stove, stovepipe, a pair of brooms, batteries, carboys of sulphuric acid, etc. for the fog alarm & radio beacon stations on the Head. The sailors were very young, some not more than 17 or 18, mostly from Cape Breton and (these chattered in French) the Magdalen Islands; they were in hip rubber boots (the tops folded down) & worn blue dungaree trousers & various shirts, all filthy with oil & coal dust. One or two had round navy caps, the rest (including the bosun) plain cotton workmen's caps. The bustle about the boats, the swell making things difficult, the nature of the cargo, the old ship - all were like a vision from my youth.

War: German prisoners in Normandy say Field-Marshal Rommel was severely wounded a few days ago when our fighter-bombers strafed his H.Q. at Lisieux. The whole Cherbourg peninsula is now in Allied hands & the U.S. troops have taken 10,000 prisoners since July 27. British & Canadian attacks near Caumont have gained some ground but Germans

Rommel was injured, right enough. But evidence at the Stuenberg trials in January, 1945 revealed that he was implicated in the plot against Hitler's life (see July 29/44) & after he recovered from his injuries he was given the ^{choice} of hanging or prison. He took prison on Oct. 15, 1944 & was given a military funeral.

are counter-attacking continually with considerable success. 2000 U.S. planes (incl. 1200 bombers) attacked the Munich area today & dropped 3300 tons of bombs. They report attacks by a new type of German fighter plane, jet propelled, with terrific speed. The Russians are fighting in the suburbs of Warsaw, have captured Kovno, reached Mitau, & have crossed into East Prussia — a momentous event, which they mention quite casually in their communique.

In the Pacific, U.S. troops have landed in Dutch New Guinea, completing isolation of the Jap army already cut off in northern British New Guinea.

TUESDAY, AUG. 1/44 Hot. To Milton this afternoon, picked up Bob Kirkpatrick at Minard's & drove around town pointing out places of historic interest. Tea in the garden. Bill Wilson up tonight; tells me "Father" Wilson plans to sell "Ripple" & buy "Eskasoni" a deluxe 50-footer owned by Jack Mc Kean, Hfx. Mc Kean, & Dobson of Royal Bank, have several times sailed to the West Indies in her & once competed in the New York - Bermuda race.

War: In Normandy the U.S. armoured columns are still plunging ahead, have reached the boundary of Brittany. British & Canadians still battling hard for little gain south of Caen. Prisoners since July 27 now total 18,000, mostly taken by the U.S. troops. In Italy the Germans are fighting hard before Florence. The Russians have reached the Gulf

of Riga west of Riga city, & the German armies in Estonia & Latvia have no escape except by sea. In Finland, President Kekki has resigned & General Mannerheim, ardent pro-German commander of the Finnish army, has taken charge of government.

Turkey has ordered all Turkish ships in Bulgarian ports to leave at once.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 2/44 Hot. At 2 p.m. we picked up Jack Dunlap & drove to Port Medway where for 3 hours we picked blueberries on the barren behind the cemetery. Then along the shore of the harbour $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Port Medway church, to a small sandy cove inside a small island called Bohoon's Island. A picnic tea there, & the kids bathed. We got fresh water from a 1914-18 war veteran (85th Highlanders) named Tom Reinhardt, who lived with his aged mother in a small house across the road. Home at 9 p.m. a lovely evening with a moon nearly full & heat lightning playing on the northern horizon. Navy Week is in full swing & tonight the Kuwanis Club have a carnival in Main Street between the Mersey Hotel & the Elmwood: Bingo, hoopla, hot dogs, wheels of fortune etc, & a street dance to phonograph music played over a loud-speaker system. War: Turkey, deeming it safe now to comply with an old Anglo-Russian request, has broken off all diplomatic relations with Germany. In Normandy, U.S. tanks are plunging on towards Rennes, British tanks are approaching Vire. A military court of inquiry, after finding the bodies & questioning French civilians, announces that 12

(These were men of the Winnipeg Rifles)

Canadian soldiers & 1 officer, prisoners of war, were murdered on June 8th near Bayeux by soldiers of a German S.S. division. They were stood against a wall & machine-gunned.

Mr. Churchill in a speech on the progress of the war, made to the Commons today, said that so far about 5340 tons of robot bombs had fallen in London; 4700 people killed, 14,000 injured, 17000 houses destroyed, 800,000 houses damaged. About one million Londoners have been evacuated. In Italy, New Zealand troops of the 8th Army are ⁱⁿ sight of Florence but the going is still very tough. The Russians have crossed the Vistula south of Warsaw & are well beyond it.

One thing must be said for the German army's official bulletins (as distinct from Dr. Goebbels' "news" propaganda) - throughout the war they have been more informative than ours, which so often contain half-truths or vague ~~things~~ nothings. One could explain this easily in the years when German arms were triumphant everywhere & they had no need to conceal the truth as the Allies had. But now, with everything going against them, the Germans in the same cold crisp manner report every Allied attack, every town & village lost, after days before our security-mad staffs release the news. The German navy & the Luftwaffe have lied absurdly about their successes & failures ever since war began; but in this one respect the German army has shown an unswerving virtue which puts our own tortuous military minds to shame.

THURSDAY, AUG. 3, 1944. The hottest day yet. Edith & Tommy spent the day in Annapolis with the Johnsons. Frances & Grandma Raddall spent most of it in Fort Park, Frances bathing. Tonight the Navy Week committee under Commander Jack Miller, (a pudgy, freckled, middle-aged Scot on the shore establishment) had advertised a parade of decorated floats, torchlights and "Mardi Gras" - whatever that might be. Frances was in one float with her Highland dancing troupe, plus Miller in kilts. Best was Thompson Bros. large float illustrating their ship-repair work - welders, electricians, riveters, painters, all very busy. Mersey Paper Co. had a "primitive paper mill" in operation, with a hand-turned grindstone making pulp, etc. Two or three corvettes in port contributed floats, one containing a Bofors gun & crew, another portraying a "Pacific isle", with sailors & dusky "maidens" lolling under a potted palm, another giving a skit on the shore patrol (3 or 4 vociferous "drunks" being dragged off by a truck); and of course one of the garages had its service truck with a rather nonchalant "litter" dangling by a noose from the crane. The "torchlight procession & Mardi Gras" simply didn't materialise, and a street dance was organised at outside the Mersey Hotel to provide something for the waiting crowd.

War: big news. The U.S. armoured forces have broken clean through the German lines across the base of the Cherbourg peninsula, have taken the vital centre of Rennes in Brittany

✓ are driving towards St. Nazaire in an effort to cut off all the German forces in the Brittany peninsula. British forces are still meeting stiff resistance but they have taken Vire ✓ large German forces appear to be caught between Vire ✓ the U.S. thrust. They are in hurried retreat, leaving everything behind - 163 tanks have been counted in the booty so far. Berlin confirms that General Rommel received grave injuries in an Allied air raid some days ago.

Over 5000 Allied aircraft attacked German targets in France ✓ Germany today. The Germans sent over the greatest bombardment of "robot bombs" yet. In London 10 hospitals were hit. The Russians are fighting hard for Warsaw ✓ south of it they have crossed the Vistula on a broad front - the last natural barrier before the German frontier.

FRIDAY, AUG. 4/44

Hot. Many too-hasty marriages during the war have resulted in separation and worse; we notice this in F. pool ✓ Milton where many girls of the poorer class married young soldiers ✓ during the years of separation have been amusing themselves with the gallant tars of the R.C.N. Last week's "Advance" contained 4 notices by husbands, of the "not responsible for debt" sort, and this week the paper contained flippanant replies from 2 of the wives. Amusing, but disturbing, too. What a scramble this war has made of simple lives! Tommy ✓ Frances bathe every day at the Fort, both are as brown as Indians ✓ Tommy can swim a little. My minute garden prospers despite the drought.

We had our first cucumber today, & some of the bush beans are ready to pick. War: U.S. columns in Brittany have reached Loudac, St. Malo, Morpain & Fougères, & report only slight German resistance except at St. Malo. One bag of prisoners in German uniform proved to be a troupe of night-club entertainers from Berlin. Opposite the British front, between Caen & Vire, the Germans counter-attack our every move with strong forces & it is clear they regard this sector as the pivot on which they must swing if there is a general retreat to the line of the Seine.

Our air attacks continue all over France & Germany, with special attention to the robot-bomb launching platforms and the robot-bomb experimental station at Penemunde on the Baltic. In spite of these efforts the rain of explosives continues to fall on London & the destruction is terrific.

It is announced that so far this year in the Atlantic we have sunk 5 U-boats for every merchant ship lost.

Hitler, who first announced that the plot against his life had been made by a small group of disgruntled officers, now declares there were others involved, & these will be purged from the army by special courts. In Burma, Gino-American forces have taken the Jap base at Myitkina after 6 weeks' attack.

In Italy, British patrols have penetrated Florence as far as the Arno river, which flows through the city. The Germans have prepared positions all along the Arno, which they call their "Gothic Line."

SATURDAY, AUG. 5, 1944

Warm, with a refreshing W breeze. Tea on the lawn as usual. War: German forces in Brittany seem to have faded & vanished. One U.S. armored column has driven straight through to Brest, another has reached the mouth of the Loire, thus cutting off the whole peninsula, a third has wheeled eastward & crossed the Mayenne river near Laval. There appear to be small garrisons of Germans cut off here & there — one is holding St. Malo. The main German force remains concentrated opposite the British 2nd army, in front of Caen, but today it began an orderly retreat eastward leaving a thick screen of mines. Allied casualties in France up to July 30th were 115,000 killed, wounded & missing — U.S. 69,000; British 39,000; Canadian 6,500.

The Russians have taken Stroj in the Carpathians, & are now fighting on German soil in East Prussia. No word of the 20 German divisions cut off in Latvia & Estonia, or the 10 divisions in Finland. There is reported to be sharp fighting inside Warsaw between the Germans & bands of Polish patriots. The leader of the Polish gov't in London (which is not recognised by Russia) has flown to Moscow in an attempt to reconcile his party with the Polish group there.

SUNDAY, AUG. 6/44

Sultry & overcast. The Parkers & Dunlaps suggested a picnic at Port Joli & went. We followed later in the afternoon but the surly old farmer, Theriault, who owns the approach

to the beach there, declared that we couldn't light picnic fires, even at the water's edge; so we Raddalls returned as far as Baster's Beach & had a fine picnic, fire & all. Many cars & people there.

Afterwards, noticing John Chaplin's flag flying beside his cottage, I went in to thank him for the flintlock musket he sent me, & he insisted on the whole family coming in. We sat on the porch over drinks & talked, while a succession of local people came to call. Chaplin & his slim dark grey-haired wife Shirley are lively & hospitable, & our kids had fine fun with their small daughter Jill. Home at 10 p.m.

War: In France, U.S. columns are storming Brest, St. Malo, St. Nazaire & Nantes, & a powerful force swinging east towards Le Mans has taken Mayenne, Laval & Chateau Gontier.

The Germans slipped 2 convoys out of Brest, probably evacuating U-boat personnel; 1 convoy was driven into St. Nazaire; the other, 7 ships in all, was destroyed, all by R.N. & Canadian warships.

Since D-day 98,000 Germans have surrendered - 15,000 to British & Canadian forces, 83,000 to U.S. forces. Allied air forces today attacked Berlin, Kiel, Hamburg, many targets in France, including large oil storage at Bordeaux.

In Italy, most of Florence is now in our hands. Russians announce the capture of Sobrovich, the largest oil-well district in Poland.

In the Pacific, U.S. warships & aircraft have bombarded the Bonin & Volcano islands, 600 miles from Tokio, & in addition sank 41 Jap ships of all sorts including 5 destroyers, 1 oil tanker,

5 merchant ships & smaller craft. Loss, 16 planes. In Burma, Allied troops are pursuing the retreating Japs. All of which is tremendous & exhilarating news after these long & weary years. Bets are up that Germany will be finished by Oct. 31. & Japan within another 12 months.

MONDAY, AUG 7/44 Hot. Awoke at 5 a.m. suffering severe intestinal cramps, which lasted several hours. Felt better at noon & at 2 p.m. set off on foot for Western Head; turned past the schoolhouse & saw that the house of Colp, who murdered young Coolen some time ago, had burned recently, nothing left but the cellar stones. Herb Tarr's son bought it last year but his wife found it lonely (& weird, I should think) so Tarr "sold it to the insurance company".

All this from a cheerful old man living down the road, who suffers from a dropsical condition in his legs & supports his movements with a pair of short T-handled walking sticks.

I followed the beach, had to wade the creek - a full moon tide had filled the lagoon & it was still rushing out - stopped on the Gull Islands road for a few words with shifty old Austin Medicraft, who vowed that he'd discovered on his land a lead of gold-quartz 5 feet thick which assayed # 7 to # 10 to the ton. Picked a few blueberries, raspberries, blackberries along the way to quench my thirst, home along the main highway at 5.45. I got some beer today - Keith's, from Nfx, the poorest stuff sold by the N.S. Liquor Commission - #360 per doz. quarts. Nothing else in stock.

We are now allowed only 2 doz. quarts a month - when & if procurable. The "No Beer" sign seems to be in the liquor store window most of the time.

War: The usual "security" curtain has fallen on the big events in Brittany & parts east. U.S. troops appear to be attacking German garrisons in the chief ports, & it is announced that Germans in Lorient have offered to surrender to the Americans "but not to the French" - i.e. the Maquis, the French "underground movement" which has now come into the open, attacking German troops, communications & supplies.

All this armored flood of U.S. troops has poured across Brittany & into Maine through a 20-mile gap torn in the German line about Avranches. Today the Germans made a powerful armored thrust to close this gap; they re-took the village of Morpain & for a while things looked serious, but a whirlwind of R.A.F. & R.C.A.F. planes came on the scene - all rocket-firing Typhoons - & they caught the German armor in the open. At least 59 German tanks destroyed, over 100 others put out of action, terrific havoc amongst the transport - about $\frac{1}{2}$ the armor of a panzer division destroyed or damaged in one fell swoop.

The Canadian corps in Normandy is heavily reinforced & is now the Canadian 1st Army, commanded by Gen. Crerar. It is fighting about Caen on the left of the British 2nd Army.

The Russians have paused after their tremendous advances, no doubt to improve their communications for another leap.

TUESDAY, AUG. 8, 1944.

Fine, with cool breeze, delicious after the long heat. To Port Medway this afternoon & picked 6 quarts of blueberries on the little ridge behind the cemetery. Then on to Tom Reinhart's place opposite Cohoon's Island for a picnic tea. The tide well out; the kids paddled & dug clams, & a pair of blue herons stalked minnows in the tidal shallows. Beautiful sunset; we admired it all the way home through Eagle Head & Beach Meadows.

Provincial elections today in Alberta & Quebec. There were riots in Montreal between gangs of young men apparently representing the Liberal cause & that of the Union Nationale; 19 persons wounded by pistol fire, others beaten. Police made 71 arrests.

War: Preceded by a barrage of bombs from 1000 R.A.F. & R.C.A.F. planes (an estimated 6,500 tons of bombs) the Canadian 1st Army has driven several miles into German positions east of Caen. Mr. Churchill flew over to confer with allied commanders & watch the fighting. Mystery surrounds the great U.S. sweep towards Paris. Berlin says they have reached the Sarthe river, which puts them close to Le Mans.

Reports from the Spanish border say that all German troops have gone from there, leaving only a few S.S. troops at the border posts. Allied aircraft caught another German convoy apparently evacuating troops & material from the region of St. Malo, & sank 6 ships, damaged 6 others.

Berlin reports that 8 German officers, some of high rank,

were hanged today for complicity in the plot against Hitler.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9/44

Fine, cool. Grandma Raddall took the kids to the C. of E. garden party this evening, as Edith was busy at the I. O. O. F. club for service men, & I had to conduct the regular monthly meeting of the Legion. We are having the Legion rooms re-decorated; they were very dingy.

The Quebec election has resulted in a stalemate: -

Union Nationale 46, Liberal 38, Bloc Populaire 4, C. C. F. 1, Doubtful 1.

In the best tradition of Quebec politics, the returning officer for the "doubtful" constituency has disappeared, taking the ballot boxes with him. Union Nationale is led by Maurice Duplessis, a rabid Anglophobe; but Bloc Populaire, which wants an independent French-Canadian state, made no headway.

In Alberta the Social Credit party was returned with a greater majority than ever. Apart from their quaint financial theories, they seem to have governed honestly & carefully. The C. C. F., regarded as their chief opponents (very few Liberal or Conservative candidates) did not win a seat.

War: Canadian 1st Army is within 5 miles of Falaise, after an advance of 10 miles with Germans contesting every foot.

U. S. troops are in Le Mans. Gen. Eisenhower has moved Supreme H. Q. to France. On the east front the Germans are making local counter-attacks all the way from Warsaw to Riga. It is officially announced that British & U. S. navies have sunk more than 500 German submarines since war began.

THURSDAY, AUG. 10, 1944. Sunny & pleasant, with a cool breeze.

The C. of C. took in a gross of \$2300 at their garden party yesterday.

At the theatre tonight we saw in the newsreel the Canadians fighting about Caen & the Americans at Cherbourg. Some remarkable pictures of Germans emerging from pillboxes & forts waving white flags, hands up, abject & scared.

War: Germans yielding ground foot by foot between Caen & Falaise, where the Can. 1st Army & British 2nd Army are still having a tough fight forward. But in the vast countryside to the west & south there seem to be no Germans but small parties of stragglers who are being rounded up chiefly by the French patriot forces, armed with abandoned German weapons.

The U.S. armored columns swinging up from the base of the Brittany peninsula have reached Chateaudun & Chartres, only 50 miles from Paris. In Brittany, German garrisons hold out in Brest, Lorient & part of St. Malo, but U.S. troops are in Nantes. All today the Allied bombers struck at bridges etc. on the far side of Paris - no bombing west of it. The only considerable German force in evidence is their 7th Army, fighting hard east of Caen.

In Italy there is a lull, but Canadian troops are back in the line at Florence, after a rest. Robot bombs still falling in London; they now contain incendiaries as well as explosives, & are fired in large salvos. Evacuation of London proceeds. Russians report German counter-attacks all

along the line, especially in the region of East Prussia, where the Germans have been making feverish preparations for defense, the entire civilian population digging trenches.

In the Pacific, President Roosevelt is in Honolulu, where he has conferred with Admiral Nimitz & General MacArthur.

U.S. bombers ("super-forts") have struck at the Jap naval base of Nagasaki from bases in China. U.S. submarines have sunk 16 more Jap merchant ships. On Guam, all organized Jap resistance has ceased. In Burma the slow Jap retreat continues. U.S. planes have bombed Davao in the Philippines. It is confirmed that in New Guinea & other isolated island positions, whole brigades & divisions of Jap troops are perishing of starvation & disease, the logical outcome of U.S. sea & air command in those parts, but amazing none the less.

FRIDAY, AUG. 11/44 A sweltering day. The Freemans & Aunt Marie Bell came for the afternoon & evening. Tea on the lawn. I was too hot to eat. In Quebec the Union Nationale now has 47 seats, the Liberals 37, & Duplessis will take office.

A cyclone, 2 days ago at Ramsack, Saskatchewan, in 2 minutes destroyed \$2,000,000 of property. 3 people killed, many homeless.

The govt. has brought down its War Services Gratuities Bill; all men & women who have served outside Canada will benefit at war's end: - \$750 for every 30 days' service in the Western Hemisphere, \$15 for every 30 days' service overseas (including Aleutians, Greenland

& Iceland) — plus 7 days' pay & allowances for each 6 months' service overseas. And a "re-establishment credit". And a clothing allowance of \$100. (The "re-establishment credit" is roughly equal to the amount of service gratuity.)

MacKenzie King said, incidentally in the course of debate, that Canada should have a flag of her own. He also mentioned a matter he had never revealed before — that when he visited Hitler in 1937 he warned the Fuehrer that Canada would fight at Britain's side if war came.

War: — I heard by radio the voice of General Montgomery giving a message to his troops. He said the greater portion of the German army in France was now in a serious predicament — "we have got around their flank & are in some cases behind them" — & urged his troops to strike hard to prevent a German escape. Germans are fighting furiously to hold our thrust towards Falaise which would close the trap. All correspondents speak of bitter & bloody battle on the British-Canadian front. In the meantime a U.S. column after taking Nantes & Angers has crossed the Loire heading south. Mystery surrounds the main U.S. thrust towards Paris; some rumors place them 50 miles away, others say they have reached the outskirts. "Monty" says allied troops have taken over 100,000 German prisoners since D-day. It is revealed that Can. 1st Army now contains the 2nd Division, which fought at Sieppe, and that a Polish

armored division is now in action on this front. Mr. Churchill is inspecting troops & battlefields in Italy. Germans say they have evacuated Florence, "to avoid damage to historic centres of art". Our troops report bands of Fascist snipers in the city, using German arms. Russians report advances in Esthonia but it seems clear that no Russian troops are yet on East Prussian soil, despite rumors to the contrary.

SATURDAY, AUG. 12/44 The hottest day yet. Temp in my den at 5 p.m. was 95°, the outdoor thermometer registered 105°. In the afternoon we fled to the little beach at Moose Creek, off the Western Head road, where there was a delicious cool breeze & the kids bathed. Teca on the lawn at Parker's. A cool evening, Gott sei danke.

War: British & Canadians still advancing slowly upon Valaise; the other arm of Monty's pincers - the mysterious U.S. armored force from Le Mans, has reached Alençon, according to Berlin. The 7th German army is making no attempt to withdraw from its now perilous pocket, is holding grimly to Morpain, near Avranches, & Vire. The R.A.F. has sunk or damaged 6 more German merchant craft off Brittany, & is dropping 12,000 lb. bombs on the huge concrete submarine docks at Brest & Lorient to prevent escape of U-boats. Fleet Air Arm planes from carriers hit a 50-mile stretch of the Norway coast. 1000 bombers from our Italy bases have bombed German defence works along the French Riviera. Florence has been completely occupied by our troops. Russians have begun to

thrust forward again, in Latvia & Poland.

In Montreal a demand for a "closed shop" by the union, & a refusal by the company, has tied up the tramways for days; today the Can. govt. stepped in, ordered the men back to work on Monday, ordered the Co. to confer with men. There has been no such action in Hfx, where (over the "closed shop" issue) 3000 shipyard workers have been 3 weeks on strike. About 1500 of these have taken temporary employment at other jobs.

SUNDAY, AUG. 13/44 Hot. Afternoon & evening at Moose Creek beach, with a picnic tea. Learned today that our war-rich ex-citizen, Wallace Ogilvie, has bought a fine estate called "Trade Winds" in the Bahamas.

War: Supreme H.Q. revealed tonight that a powerful U.S. armored force, after sweeping around the German left flank via Le Mans & Alençon, had taken the vital town of Argentan, almost in the German rear. The German 7th Army, estimated at 20 divisions, is thus caught in a dangerous pocket. Their only escape is via Falaise & Lisieux, a route already menaced by British & Canadian guns. The roads are jammed with retreating German transport & our airmen have had marvellous targets for 2 days & nights.

Our troops in Florence have met with a mixed reception; welcomed in some quarters, received sullenly & even sniped at in others. 750 heavy bombers struck at shore defences along the Riviera again today.

MONDAY, AUG. 14, 1944. Stifling hot. Hard to say which is worse, night or day. There is no relief except between 3 AM & 5 AM. When I arose at 6 this morning the temp. was 75° & climbing fast. By 10 AM. my den is too hot for work - 85° & by 5 P.M. it is anywhere from 95° to 105° . The need to conserve gas & tires forbids us flying to the shore each afternoon - & by shore I mean the outlying coast; anywhere along the harbor is like an oven.

We sit in the garden, following the withered shade of our small birch trees as the sun shifts towards the west. At 6 P.M. it is down far enough to cast a solid block of shadow from the garage, & we move our chairs there eagerly. The lawn is brown & dying. We give the garden 4 buckets of water every second evening & so keep it alive. (Town Lake is low & the mayor has asked citizens not to water lawns, wash cars, or waste water in other ways.) Wells are dry all through the country & Milton folk depend chiefly on the river water, polluted though it is. Men come to the river at evening with barrels in wagons & motor trucks, & fill them from the stream.

The sky is a pale dry blue all day, without a cloud except at evening when a few wisps of cirrus appear in the blaze of sunset. Sometimes there is a breeze, fitful & hot; but that is gone at sundown. This evening we took Francie to Milton, where she wants to stay a week with Grandma Freeman. She & Tommy can now swim quite well in a furious and breathless fashion. Not many naval craft in port just

now, & the streets look strange with so few naval uniforms - about 100, I'm told. War: - Gen. Eisenhower has asked the Allied troops in France to strike hard, that an important victory is in their grasp. Canadians are pushing in on Falaise in terrific fighting. It is estimated 100,000 Germans are in the pocket. Mystery surrounds operations in western France. Presumably allied troops are landing at Nantes in considerable force. There seems to be no real attempt to storm St. Malo, Brest & Lorient. A French armored division has arrived "on French soil" - the first French troops to arrive.

Our bombers from Italy pounded the French Riviera again today, & 1500 U.S. planes raided German industries, meeting little or no opposition. The R.A.F. & R.C.A.F. bomber commands are chiefly occupied in blasting the German retreat at Falaise - Lisieux. Russians have taken the Polish fortress of Ossoretz near the East Prussian border.

Lord Beaverbrook has returned to London by direct flight from New York in a "commando" bomber - 3400 miles in less than 18 hours.

TUESDAY, AUG. 15/44 Another stifling day & night. People move along the street listlessly as if drugged. Bad forest fires in N.B., the town of Minto burned, trains stopped, Fredericton dark because 2 miles of power line poles destroyed.

War: early this morning powerful French, British & U.S. forces landed along the Riviera. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson's official

communiqué says vaguely "between Marseilles & Nice" but the Germans (more precise, as usual) say "between Toulon & Cannes". Only slight opposition. Germans have been predicting the move for weeks & had obviously decided not to fight stiffly for the coast.

In Normandy, part of the German 7th Army has escaped through the Falaise^{gap} but it is estimated 50,000 are trapped. Part of the Canadian failure to take Falaise must be blamed on the R.A.F., which by some terrible error dropped 800 tons of fragmentation bombs on our forward troops. (U.S. airmen made a similar mistake some weeks ago, when Gen. McParr was killed.)

It is revealed that the U.S. 3rd Army, which made the spectacular dash to Nantes & then up to Argentan, is commanded by Gen. George H. Patton ("Old Blood and Guts") whose hard-driving methods with his own personnel got him into trouble in Italy last year.

Mr. Churchill was at Maitland-Wilson's H.Q. in Rome when the expedition left for southern France. Most of it had been assembled in Corsica & Sardinia. (He witnessed the landings.)

Canada's parliament adjourned today & will not meet again until February.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 16/44 Blazing hot. Movies tonight with my family.

War: Canadian troops are in the suburbs of Falaise. Germans say a U.S. armored column from Normandy has reached Chartres, 40 miles from Paris. No further news from the Riviera.

Last night 1000 R.A.F. heavy bombers hit airplane factories &

synthetic oil plants in Germany. Today there were large U.V.A.F. raids also. Today there was a heavy bombardment of London by flying bombs. Germans have attacked Russians near Warsaw & driven them back across the Vistula - the first sign of German strength on this front in many months.

British planes, flying right across Germany, have dropped arms & ammunition to the Poles who have risen in Warsaw against the German garrison.

THURSDAY, AUG. 17/44 Cooler, thank God, with fog all morning and again tonight. This afternoon we drove to Summerville, where Tommy will stay a few days with the Ralph Johnsons at their cottage. Met Mr. & Mrs. Mc'Clave of Wolveville, also Prof. Joe Neater (formerly of Brooklyn, now teaching at the City College of New York) & his wife. Returned in thick fog at 9 p.m.

War: Canadians are still hammering the German 7th Army. U.S. armored forces have taken Dreux, Chartres & Orleans & are within 22 miles of Paris. Gunfire can be heard in Paris & there are rumors of a rising in the city.

On the Riviera front the troops are mostly U.S., under General Patch. They hold a 50-mile stretch of coast, including Cannes & at some points are 30 miles inland. The Germans had withdrawn much of their artillery from the coast, & resistance there consists of rearguard actions. Patch's men have taken 2,000 prisoners.

Buckingham Palace has been damaged by a flying bomb.

The German counter-attack from Warsaw continues, but further north the Russians have reached the East Prussian frontier.

Canadian corvette "Regina" lost with 28 men while assisting landings on the coast of France.

Friday, Aug. 18/44. Thick fog all day & a heavy shower of rain in the afternoon. Margaret Ellis & Marion Gilroy spent the afternoon & had tea with us, leaving by bus for Barrington at 8 p.m.

(The bus, as usual, jammed with people; & the girls standing.)

War: U.S. troops have reached the Seine 32 miles N.W. of Paris. Canadians, with Polish, Belgian & Dutch detachments are grinding away at the trapped German 7th Army. In the south, Allied troops have swept in a wide semicircle about Toulon.

In Brittany the German garrison of St. Malo surrendered.

In Italy, Allies have shot 16 Italians spying for the Germans.

In Poland the Germans are still making thrusts from Warsaw, but the Russians now hold 75 miles of the Vistula to the south of the city & are pressing beyond.

Where are the British (United Kingdom) troops? There is one army in Normandy, one in Italy, one in India — none of them very large, all of them including large units of empire & allied troops.

Is Churchill saving the great bulk of the U.K. army for some spectacular new landing on the Belgian or perhaps the Dutch coast?

Anti-British propagandists (including French-Canadian) are making much of the small showing of British troops in this war so far, compared with the efforts of Russia & the U.S.

SATURDAY, AUG. 19, 1944 Lovely sunny day with a cool west breeze, a tinge of fall in the sky. Walked around Western Head this afternoon. Dropped into Parker's this evening for an hour or two to see Hazel (Cushing) Winters. War: We must admire the German 7th Army which, devoid of air cover, & out-gunned, out-armored and out-numbered, has fought so stoutly to save itself in Normandy. Its fierce fight around Falaise enabled many thousands to retreat towards the Seine. But our air forces have wrought havoc with the traffic on the few roads east - 3500 motor vehicles destroyed in 2 days. The bridges over the Seine were destroyed weeks ago by our airmen & all attempts to build military bridges & use barges have been demolished. Now a U.S. column has passed over the Seine near Mantes & is attacking elements of the German 15th Army on the east side - well to the rear of the retreating 7th. Other U.S. troops are in the outskirts of Paris.

In the south, the French & U.S. troops under Maitland Wilson are beginning to roll forward in force. They have suffered less than 1,000 casualties so far & have taken 12,000 prisoners.

SUNDAY, AUG. 20/44. Sunny, windy. Tommy, still at the beach, sent home his morning's catch at Broad River mouth - 2 flatfish, 1 small pollock, 1 rock cod. This afternoon we picked up Frances, & Marie Freeman & picnicked at a lovely spot in the lee of No. 1 dam. A smell of burning brush, faint but persistent, & a smudgy sky in the west - a bush fire in Digby County. I hunted along the west bank all the way to Indian Gardens, but didn't find a single arrowhead.

Home by way of the old Garden road, which is in excellent shape, & the "country road". Stopped at Freeman's for Francis's baggage & a dish of sherbet. War: Part of German 7th Army, trapped west of Argentan is being slaughtered by artillery fire from all sides. The rest is making for the Seine, abandoning guns, vehicles, stores en route, under constant Allied air attack.

In the south, Allied troops have reached Aix-en-Provence, well behind Marseilles, & report only scattered German troops of second-rate formations. Rumors that the Petain gov. has fled from Vichy. On the east front, German garrison of Warsaw still counter-attacking smartly. Russians have begun a drive in Rumania near Jassy. Pacific:- U.S. bombers struck again at Yawata, steel centre in Japan.

MONDAY, AUG. 21/44. Fine, windy. Another bush fire burning near Town Lake, with a haze & a smell of burning brush all over the town. A special detective of the Lands & Forests Dept. has arrested a 40-year-old half-wit named Pickle, who lives in a shack behind "Whynock Town"; Pickle has confessed to setting several of the bush fires on Town Hill this summer.

Ottawa announces that 938,000 men ^{would} have enlisted in the Canadian services since war began. Many of these have been discharged for medical reasons, leaving a net of 756,000. Of these Nova Scotia has supplied 56,000 = 46% ^{N.S.} of all males of military age, the highest enlistment rate in Canada. The lowest is Quebec of course, with 22%.

Total Canadian casualties in all services to July 20th =
46,000 (about $\frac{1}{3}$ of Can. casualties in 4 years of the last war.)
of which 6,500 occurred in Normandy since D-day.

Representatives of Britain, Russia, China & the U.S.
are meeting at an estate called Sumbarton Oaks, to draw
up a post-war policy for the Allies. (this is near Washington.)

War: Our forces have nearly crushed the portion of
German 7th Army cut off west of Argentan. 25,000 have
surrendered, including 3 generals, & it is estimated that
10,000 remain fighting. U.S. troops have passed the
Seine on both sides of Paris - at Mantes and near
Fontainebleau, & Germans say the capital is in a state
of anarchy, with mobs of citizens fighting the Vichy-govt.
police and German garrison. Our airmen report streams
of German motor traffic pouring out of Paris towards Metz.

In the south Allied troops are fighting in the streets
of Toulon & our fleet is bombarding the forts. The whole
of south-west France, including Bordeaux is said to
be empty of German troops & in the hands of Maquis
irregulars. Behind Marseilles our patrols are reported
to be near Arignon. Apparently anticipating an
early loss of the whole Channel coast, the Germans have
been making a terrific bombardment of London with flying
bombs. Severe damage & heavy casualties.

On the east front Hitler seems to have thrown in the

reserves which might have saved his position in France. Germans are fighting aggressively about Warsaw, while at Riga they have driven the Russians from their foothold on the Baltic coast, thus easing the position of German armies in Latvia & Esthonia. In the Pacific, U.S. planes have bombed Nagasaki again, & U.S. submarines have sunk 19 more Jap ships, including 1 light cruiser.

TUESDAY, AUG. 22/44. Overcast all morning, with a light shower. Then a humid afternoon & evening. For the past 3 weeks naval ratings in port have been permitted to doff their blue blouses & walk the streets in their white neckless shirts; petty officers too were permitted to carry their jackets; but the officers appear in full uniform or in mufti. Our local reserve unit ("Jones' Engineers") returned from Aldershot yesterday after 1 week. The 3 companies of Jones' force (L'pool, B'water, Lunenburg) mustered about 50 men for camp. The average parade of the L'pool unit is 15 men, out of a paper strength of 105. All are fed-up & wondering why the govt. doesn't disband the Reserve. There is still a staff of 5 permanent N.C.O.'s in Jones' L'pool unit, drawing full pay & allowances; & the curling rink is still rented by Govt. for a drill hall.

War: Canadians are in Lisseux, Belgians in Seauville - 4 miles from the Seine mouth. The last Germans in the Argentan pocket have surrendered - numbers not yet counted. U.S. troops are driving down the west Seine bank from Mantet

trying to cut off what's left of Kluge's 7th. Army. Other U.S. forces on the other side of Paris have reached Sens, on the edge of the Champagne country. No further news from the U.S. & French troops under U.S. Gen. Patch who are fighting behind Toulon & Marseilles. A rumor that Allied troops have landed at Bordeaux. Mr. Churchill still in Rome.

On the east front Germans still fighting to clear communications of their troops in Latvia & Estonia. In Rumania, Russians have taken the railway center of Jassy.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 23/44 Hot. Dr. Rhodenizer, who teaches English Literature at Acadia, came to see me this afternoon. A short, shoe-cropped grey man with very odd glasses, and very lame. He hadn't much to say, apparently came to see what sort of creature I am, stayed about an hour. Firemen's Fair tonight, with Court Street roped off & full of stalls, a Bingo game in full blast with loud-speakers for the spellers, & the town band tootling furiously. Grandma Raddall took the kids & brought them home wearing paper hats & full of hot dogs.

War: The big news of the day was the liberation of Paris, announced by De Gaulle's H.Q. this morning. But since the Americans crossed the Seine on both sides of Paris some days ago it was obvious that the Germans couldn't hold it, and the news came rather as an anti-climax. No Allied troops are in the city. The Paris mob, aided & abetted by the police, who went on strike 4 days ago, have been attacking the last German parties

as they left the city; and they have occupied all the government buildings, arrested all the Vichy officials who had not fled, & hoisted the tricolor everywhere. De Gaulle has appointed General Koenig governor of Paris & is expected to make a triumphal entry in a day or two. Much more important is the attempt of British, Canadian & U.S. forces to crush the badly mauled German 7th Army before it can retreat across the Seine between Mantes & Le Havre. Canadian H.Q. announces that the 12th Regiment of the German 12th Panzer division (whose men murdered 13 Canadian prisoners near Bayeux - see entry Aug 2/44) was "utterly destroyed" in the Argentan pocket; a sweet revenge for the banucks.

Marseilles fell into Allied hands today, but the German garrison in Toulon still holds. Patch's U.S. troops, pushing hard northward, have reached Grenoble. A terrific bombardment of London last night & today by flying bombs.

8 German ships were sunk today between Brest & Lorient by R.N. ships & the Canadian destroyer "Iroquois".

Tonight the Rumanian govt. suddenly & dramatically announced by radio that it had accepted Allied peace terms & that all Rumanian troops had been ordered to cease fighting.

And the Bulgarian foreign minister, in a speech to the Bulgar parliament, has informed it (and the world) that Bulgaria's declaration of war on Britain & the U.S. (she has never declared war on Russia) was a "mistake" - how ludicrous it sounds!

THURSDAY, AUG. 24/44. Fine. Our kids & their Park St. friends held a sidewalk bazaar today in front of White's house, selling lemonade, garden vegetables, "grabs" (containing unwanted candlesticks, toys & what not rummaged in their homes) & canvassing the street for cash donations. Great excitement & a rushing business.

This afternoon I ushered a delegation of 4, including Tommy & Frances, down to the Advance office to present the proceeds (\$18.50) to the Queen's Fund for bombed-out Londoners. Editor Day informed us that donations to this fund in the county now total over \$9,000. It was started 3 years ago & sponsored by the newspapers of Canada. Understand the Firemen's Fair last night took in a gross of \$3000.

Troops have been sent to fight forest fires in New Brunswick. The Hlx shipyard workers, still on strike, are beginning to howl for the Govt. to step in. It is dawning on them that pretty soon the war will be over & no more ships will be wanted.

War:- De Gaulle's announcement of the liberation of Paris turns out to be premature; fighting is still going on between German troops & the populace, & the French 2nd armored division moving up to restore order in the city has encountered German troops defending the outskirts. A U.S. column of Gen. Patch's army, pushing up rapidly from the Riviera via Grenoble, has reached the Swiss border near ~~Geneva~~ ^{GENEVA}. The important scene, however, is still the region between Paris & the sea. U.S. troops have moved down the left bank of the Seine as far as Elbeuf, opposite

Rouen, & British troops are at the Seine mouth. The German 7th Army, or what remains of it, is somewhere between, trying to cross the river under constant air attack & threatened hourly with encirclement. Our ships & aircraft have sunk several German ships attempting to leave Le Havre.

In Rumania the situation remains obscure. The Germans are trying to set up a puppet gov't to keep Rumania in the war, but it seems definite that Rumanian troops have quit.

Only the German forces there are now opposing Russian advance.

Large British & U.S. air fleets are swarming over Germany, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, striking particularly at oil storage & synthetic oil plants.

FRIDAY, AUG. 25/44 Fine & cool. Tea on the lawn at Russell's, with the Johnsons & Kings; a charming sunken garden. Corn on the cob & weiners, boiled & roasted over an outdoor fireplace.

War: Patch's forces in southern France have captured 20,000 Germans so far, most of them in scattered groups, apparently thrown in hurriedly to delay the Allied advance. A U.S. column of Patch's army has turned along the Riviera, taking Cannes & Antibes, apparently heading for the Italian frontier. A few German posts are still holding out at Marseilles but 2 German generals & 5000 soldiers have been captured there. Germans still hold some of the outlying forts at Toulon. U.S. & French troops are in Paris, where scattered groups of Germans & Vichy-French are still resisting capture; but nearly all of the city is now liberated, and

De Gaulle has made a speech to the populace in front of the Prefecture. Aided by low clouds & rain, the remains of the German 7th Army have escaped across the Seine to Rouen & Le Havre, leaving a few rearguards to be mopped up. Canadian troops are in Honfleur at the Seine mouth. The situation east of Paris remains obscure. U.S. troops are rumored to be in Troyes & Rheims. Petain, Laval & other members of the Vichy govt. have fled to Belfort under German guard.

In Rumania the Russians are advancing towards the Danube & report over 100,000 prisoners, mostly Rumanian.

In Rome, Mr. Churchill has conferred with the Pope on matters connected with peace terms.

SATURDAY, AUG. 26/44. Fine, cool. The sky filled with piled black clouds from the NW very rapidly about 4 p.m., & there were sharp explosions of thunder, but nothing came of it. The bush fire still burning beyond Town Lake sent up a pale column of smoke against the blackness.

War: Allied troops are across the Seine on a 200-mile front & Paris is in a frenzy of celebration. The battered German 7th army is still about Rouen, with a great mass of its transport & guns jammed in the loop of the Seine there. The Canadian 1st Army is pouncing them hard, & the Allied air force is making the most of it. The Luftwaffe sent in a part of its carefully hoarded reserve to protect the crossings, but the German planes were out-fought completely & more than 50 shot down.

Movements of Allied forces from the Riviera are still masked

by the censorship but German reports say they are well along the road to Lyons. It is clear that all the German garrisons in western France are hopelessly cut off. The R.A.F. sent a huge force of bombers over Germany last night & lost 75 - proof that the Luftwaffe keeps much of its fighter strength on home defence. Rumanians are now fighting their late allies in Bucharest & elsewhere & the Russians have reached the Danube. 12 German divisions are cut off in isolated positions between Jassy & the Danube, & the Russians are grinding them to pieces. Bulgaria has asked Britain & the U.S. for peace. The rest of Germany's shabby allies in those parts - Hungary & Slovakia - are holding special cabinet meetings. What a debacle!

In Halifax, the 3500 shipyard workers returned to their jobs on Monday on the old basis. The dispute is referred to the regional war labor board. The whole thing was needless.

Lord Louis Mountbatten, C. in C., South East Asia, has made a statement on his operations so far in 1944. The whole scheme for the Burma campaign, based on amphibious operations, had been washed out when the sea transport was sent to the Mediterranean. The Jap had struck a blow at India, which was repelled after long & severe fighting, & our troops had pushed through the jungles & over the mountains into Burma as far as Myitkina. All these operations, carried out in the monsoon rains, had resulted in a terrific sick list - 250,000 - mostly from malaria. In the actual fighting,

the British lost 10,000 killed & 20,000 wounded, and they had killed 40,000 Japs.

SUNDAY, AUG. 27/44. Fine, cool. This afternoon I showed Mother the little museum in the Perkins house, also the collection of naval souvenirs in the town assembly hall, where the I.O.D.E. ladies maintain their recreation room for service men. Drove to Milton later. Verence Freeman is anxious to get his bride out of London & hopes to get passage to Nova Scotia for her. According to Lord Halifax, the flying bombs are destroying or damaging an average of 700 houses in London every 24 hours - & the attack is now in its 73rd day!

Paris is still in a ferment of joy - and danger, for although 10,000 Germans have surrendered to Gen. LeClerc of the 2nd French armored div'n, after holding out in the Ministry of Marine, the Sorbonne & other large blocks for 4 days, there are still many snipers, most of them apparently Vichy-French partisans. Last night German aircraft bombed the city & killed 110 people. Today De Gaulle rode in triumph to the Arc de Triomphe at the head of a long column of French armored cars. They were shot at from roof tops in various places, & later while attending a Te Deum in Notre Dame, firing broke out inside the cathedral. De Gaulle was unhurt. Later in the day Eisenhower arrived with some of his staff & received a tremendous ovation from the crowds. C.B.C. correspondent Matthew Halton, speaking from Paris tonight, expressed the regret that we all feel - that the British & Canadian troops, who have done the hardest

✕ Bloodiest fighting, were not able to participate in this reception.

Canadians have crossed the Seine about 8 miles above Le Havre & are hammering away at Kluge's 7th Army. U.S. troops 15 miles east of Paris have reached the Marne. But new German troops have appeared about Troyes & resistance there is stiff.

Mystery surrounds the Allied movements from the south & from Bordeaux. Toulon is wholly in our hands, & the total of German prisoners in the south is now 24,000 including 4 generals.

In Italy the Germans have begun a slow & stiff retreat, apparently to their much-touted "Goth line" but perhaps all the way back to the Austrian Alps. All day Berlin has been

broadcasting urgent appeals to German troops in Rumania to "stand firm", but the Russians are in Galatz & pushing on for Bucharest, 75 miles away. Last night the R.A.F. bombed Königsberg, flying across Germany & back, & lost 29 planes.

Today the R.A.F. made its first big daylight raid on Germany, escorting the bombers with long-range spitfires. They hit the Ruhr & returned without loss. U.S. aircraft also were busy over Germany, & sank a German light cruiser in Brest harbor.

MONDAY, AUG. 28/44 Fine, cool. A good hike around Western Head this morning. All the fields look parched & every third farmer seems to be digging his well deeper in the hope of striking water. Fishermen have had a wonderful summer - fine weather, lots of fish & prices high. Only the swordfishermen complain; some of the boats are back from Cape Breton already, report a poor catch although one or two were lucky.

A provincial election in New Brunswick today. Tonight the return of the Liberal govt. is conceded.

War: Patch's swift advance up the Rhone valley from Marseilles seems to have cut off German forces retreating from the Biscay coast. Germans attempting to fight their way out have suffered heavy losses. East of Paris U.S. forces have reached a historic battlefield - Chateau Thierry.

Russians have occupied the Danube delta, have pushed into Transylvania, are well on the road to Ploesti.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29/44. Cool, with light showers & for several hours a gale blowing from N.W. In the afternoon I fetched Grandma Freeman & Aunt Marie from Milton to have tea & spend the evening. We have had the Legion rooms re-decorated. The house committee decided on a gorgeous color scheme - red, white & blue, & the stairs are painted a delicate mauve. Anglers in the harbor are still taking striped bass - a kid caught one weighing 6 lbs. a day or two ago.

War: British have launched a heavy attack from their bridge-heads across the lower Seine. East of Paris, U.S. forces (estimated at 200,000 by the Germans) are romping along with slight opposition. Today they took Chateau Thierry, Chalons, Vitry & Soissons & are now less than 50 miles from the Belgian frontier. It is estimated that Germans killed, wounded & missing since D-day are at least 345,000, in France alone. The Russians are in Constanza & claim to have destroyed or cut off large German

forces. The Hungarian cabinet has resigned & is replaced by pro-Nazi die-hards, mostly army officers. Mr. Churchill is back in Britain. In New Brunswick the Liberals are back in office with an increased majority. They have 36 seats, the Conservatives 12. The C.C.F. ran candidates in 41 ridings but didn't elect a man - 21 of their candidates lost their deposits.

The gasoline-coupon racket is still flourishing in Montreal. A man arrested the other day (the 12th this month) had no less than 320,000 counterfeit coupons in his possession.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 30/44. Warm, overcast, thunder showers.

War: British thrust beyond the Seine has crumpled German rear-guards. Our troops are in Beauvais & Germans have evacuated Rouen. U.S. troops today took Rheims & Laon without a fight - they report no German front at all in that region.

Other U.S. columns thrusting towards Nancy are reported near St. Dizier. In the Rhone valley the plight of German troops & transport withdrawing from western France gets worse every hour.

The "Maquis" are in arms everywhere, ambushing small parties, shooting stragglers, & allied bombers are having some wonderful targets. Kesselring's army in Italy seems the only strong German force left in the west; he has pushed troops into the French Riviera to ward off an American column which threatened to turn the whole Italian flank. Last night R.A.F. &

R.C.A.F. hit Stettin. Mosquitos hit Hamburg & Berlin. Total cost 41 bombers. Patch estimates 40,000 prisoners taken by

his forces in southern France so far. In Rumania, Russians have over-run the Ploesti oil fields & have seized 5 passes through the Transylvanian Alps. Bulgarian delegation has reached Cairo to receive armistice terms. Unrest in Slovakia, & German troops have moved in to "keep order".

THURSDAY, AUG. 31/44 Fine, cool. Walked to Milton & back this afternoon. This evening went to White¹⁰¹⁷ Lodge & dined with Bill Wilson. Mrs. Moray (of Charleston) came over & wanted me to meet some friends who were keen about "His Majesty's Yankees", a Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Perry, of Adrian, Michigan. Perry, a short quiet man with white hair parted in the middle, a roman nose & calm blue eyes, insisted on Bill & me coming down to their cabin, where we spent the evening. Perry is proprietor of two newspapers, a member of the board of the Associated Press. He is also one of the committee who pass on awards for the Pulitzer prizes. He astonished me by saying that had I been a U.S. citizen he would have no hesitation in recommending "His Majesty's Yankees" for a Pulitzer Award. Home at 11 p.m.

War: Canadian troops entered Rouen today & got a tumultuous welcome from the people. A British armored column has thrust across the Somme & taken Amiens - where my father was killed in battle 26 years ago. U.S. armored forces have crossed the Meuse & reached Sedan - a fateful name in 1870 & 1940, perhaps in 1944 as well. On the Riviera U.S. troops have taken Nice without a fight. Eisenhower is back in England for

a short visit, says Montgomery & Bradley now have equal status one commanding all British forces in France, the other commanding all U.S. troops in France. He sticks to his prediction of last year that the war with Germany can be won in 1944. Official estimates now put German losses in France so far at 400,000 - of which 200,000 are prisoners. The toll of tanks & trucks destroyed, & cannon captured, is still uncounted, but it is estimated that the Luftwaffe has lost 3500 planes in France since D-day, many of them destroyed on the ground. Eisenhower says the German decision to stand & fight it out in Normandy cost them almost the entire 7th Army & the whole of France.

In the east, Russian troops are in Ploesti & Bucharest.

All this wonderful news, to which we have looked forward nearly 5 years, seems like a dream now that it comes; People sit about the radios, listening with the unemotional faces of dreamers.

FRIDAY, SEP. 1/44 Overcast, cool. Busy all day putting in 3 cords of firewood & stowing it on the far side of the cellar. Tommy & his gang were quite a help. The wood is good but is green. I bought it from Whynot at \$13 a cord - \$4.50 higher than the pre-war price.

War: German resistance in France has collapsed, they are in full flight everywhere. The Canadian 2nd Div. is in Dieppe, where it fought so gallantly & unsuccessfully in 1942. British armored columns under Gen. O'Connor have passed Arras. Near Amiens they caught the commander of the shattered German 7th Army, Gen. Eberbach, at breakfast. Our troops have over-run or cut

off many of the mysterious flying bomb batteries, & the fire on London today slackened noticeably. German heavy gun batteries shelled Dover across the Channel today, as if determined to shoot off their ammunition before capture. Patton's U.S. columns have passed through Sedan, Verdun, St. Mihiel, with very little fighting. German forces from southern France are still struggling towards Lyons, stopping to fight off Patch's U.S. troops here & there, & suffering heavy losses all the way.

In Italy, the 8th Army has broken into the Goth Line near the Adriatic in heavy fighting. In Rumania, the Russians have reached the Bulgarian border. About 1,000 U.S. airmen, shot down in raids on the Ploesti oil refineries during the past 2 years, were released from prison camps at Bucharest, & have now been flown to Italy by a special fleet of 40 Liberators. The Bulgarian gov't. has fallen, & the peace negotiators at Cairo are now without official standing, so all the proceedings have been suspended.

In the Montreal area 3500 workers in small-arms ammunition factories have been discharged, the plants closed. Many of these workers are transferring to heavy-ammunition plants.

Five years ago Hitler invaded Poland & started this war. I wonder what he thinks about it now!

SATURDAY, SEP. 2/44. Our persuasions have failed to induce my mother to stay with us this winter, so today I took her back to Halifax. Edith & the kids came along. Pouring rain all the way. Thank

Had the old tyres held. Dinner in a Chinese cafe on Quinpool Road. Tea at Mum's flat. Spent the evening at the Nova Scotian Hotel with George Foster, my Canadian publisher's representative. Howard Bendeliet came, & we sampled a bottle of Seagram's whiskey. Much talk of the prospects for "Roger Sudden". Foster was under the impression that I was giving up novel writing permanently to devote myself to the magazine field. I assured him that I intended to write more novels & would begin another perhaps in the summer of '45, certainly before the end of '45. Some discussion of a title for my second book of short stories, no decision. Parted on Spring Garden Road, outside the Lord Nelson, in the downpour of rain - Foster on his way to Bendeliet's for a midnight feast - T.B. is an amateur chef of imagination & some skill. They wanted me to come along but I can't digest food, cooked with whatever skill, at midnight.

SUNDAY, SEP. 3/44 Sunny & humid. Dinner with Carl & Jean Conrad, who have a "pre-fab" bungalow in Edgewood, the govt. housing development in the big hollow (known to its war-time residents as "Skunk Hollow") just south of Willow Park, between Windsor Street & Bayers Road. The bungalows are neat & well designed but the ground remains pretty much as the construction graders left it. Here & there a tenant has cleared the stones & planted flowers, but in general the tenants seem content or resigned to the weeds & rocks. Most of them are from other parts of Canada & expect to leave Hfx. when the lucrative war work ends. Carl is a welder at Halifax Shipyards, says most of the men were against a strike, but gave in

to a small group of ardent unionists who used all sorts of arguments from golden promises ("it will all be over in 3 days, so don't worry about holding up the destroyers": - they are building 3 "Fribals" at the Shipyards) to threats of violence (several patriotic workers, attempting to enter the yards after the strike was called, were badly beaten outside the gates, while Halifax police looked on.)

In the afternoon, drove to the main gate of Point Pleasant Park, left the car there & walked through the woods to the Point. Passed Fort Ogilvie on the way; it contained wood- & grey-tar-paper barracks built during this war but they had a shabby & neglected air & there was not even a sentry at the gate. Lovely in the sun on the Point, with a fresh sea breeze, small yachts skimming about the mouth of the Arm, one lone minesweeper cruising back & forth on the seaward horizon, the grassy places dotted with young service men & women - the girls were mostly Wrens - making love very happily & unabashedly, smart members of the Riding Club jogging along the wooded roads in twos & threes & sometimes a whole troop. Over all a calm & happy air, as if all knew the war would end tomorrow & all the shadows were gone.

A fine chicken dinner at Mums, a book & then bed.

War: Allied advances in France have become a point-to-point race. Canadians at Dieppe found 880 dead of the 2nd. Div., killed in the 1942 attack, buried in a neat cemetery behind the town.

British armored columns found the Canadian memorial on Vimy Ridge undamaged, raced on to Mons & entered Brussels tonight.

Before quitting Brussels, the German radio announcer thus warned citizens "not to be too hard on German stragglers or on Belgians who had collaborated with Germans - because some day we shall be back."

U.S. armored columns have entered Namur & Metz, with little or no fighting. Patch's U.S. troops have pushed up the Rhone valley to Lyons; they are on the heels of a fairly strong German force withdrawing from south & west of France. In Italy the 8th Army is well inside the Gothic Line at the Adriatic end, & the 5th (U.S.) Army has taken Pisa entire - without damage to the famous leaning tower. Finland has decided to give up fighting & "has asked German troops to leave" - a move to propitiate the Russians, who are not impressed. Germany must be calling in her troops to defend the homeland. We wonder about the German garrisons in Norway.

MONDAY, SEP. 4/44. Labor Day. Sunny, with masses of cumulus cloud drifting across a deep blue sky. Left Hfx. about 10.30, stopped for lunch at Miss Laura Strom's, ("Green Shutters") Mahone. Mahone's shipyards very busy, still building wooden landing-barges & tugs. Drove on to Lunenburg, pausing long enough for a view from Blockhouse Hill. "Camp Norway" now flies the white ensign - the local shore establishment of the Canadian navy. Up the Lahave to Bridgewater - saw two hulls of sailing vessels in the process of being re-topped at the Dayspring shipyard. Bridgewater celebrating the holiday with a fair at the exhibition grounds, & horse-racing on Sweeney's track; hundreds of cars.

Home about 4.30. Tea on the lawn.

War: Canadians are in Abbeville. British 2nd Army has swept on from Brussels, taken Antwerp & pushed into Holland as far as Breda. This cuts off all German troops on the coast between Dieppe & Ostend; the number may not be large, there are signs that the Germans have cleared out, except for a few demolition parties & covering units at the ports. No flying bombs have been discharged towards London since Friday.

No further word from Patton's U.S. forces but rumors say he has taken Nancy, is approaching Belfort (to cut off the German 19th Army retreating from Lyons) and has sent patrols into Germany itself near Liege. The Germans appear to have crushed the insurrection inside Warsaw, & the fate of these brave Poles can only be guessed. The R.A.F. flew right across Germany to drop arms, ammunition & supplies to the Warsaw citizens. The Russians, a few miles outside, did nothing. They do not love the Poles, & they do not recognise the Polish govt-in-exile in London.

Rumania is now completely in Russian hands & the Red armies are now only 50 miles from the Jugoslav border. German troops are said to be withdrawing hastily from Greece.

Finland has given German troops until Sep. 15 to get out of Finnish territory. Canadian troops in the 8th Army have taken a distinguished part in the assault on the Gothic line & are already approaching the Adriatic port of Rimini. West Nova Scotia Regt are in the thick of this fighting.

TUESDAY, SEP. 5, 1944. Fine & warm. Walked to Milton this afternoon.

Schools opened - an exciting day for the kids. Tommy now in Grade 4, Frances in Grade 2. The Parkers returned from a week's spree at a ^{summer} camp near Sigby with the Donald Smiths, the Larry Seldons, the Rawson Nickersons. In a week they drank 30 quarts of spirits. Since the liquor ration is only 2 quarts a month, & there were 8 people, there must have been some wangling of liquor-ration books.

A severe earthquake this morning at Cornwall, Ontario, did a million dollars worth of damage. It was felt in Montreal.

Washington has announced that following the conquest of Germany, "almost unlimited" production of civilian goods will be commenced.

War: Canadians are advancing against stiff German resistance 3 miles from Boulogne. R.A.F. dropped 1,000 tons of bombs on the German garrison of Le Havre. A Polish armored brigade with the Canadian 1st Army has taken St. Omer. 9,000 Germans cut off S.W. of Mons have surrendered to U.S. troops. Another considerable German force is surrounded in the area between St. Quentin & Cambrai. Swiss rumors say U.S. troops have passed through Luxembourg, are fighting in Aachen & Strasbourg. Patch's troops from the Mediterranean have reached & passed Macon, 50 miles north of Lyons. A few salvos of flying bombs were launched against London this morning, the first since Friday; quiet since. Sweden has announced that it will not harbor any war criminals. Russia has declared war on Bulgaria, apparently intends sending troops through Sofia to

get at Germans in southern Yugoslavia & Greece. (Bulgaria declared war on Britain & the U.S. long ago, but observed a state of "neutrality" towards Russia.) R.A.F. has been busy along the Norwegian coast, apparently anticipating a German withdrawal. 21 ships sunk or damaged, & they had another cracked at the battleship "Tirpitz", long derelict in a Norwegian fiord. In the Pacific, the U.S. fleet & aircraft have made another damaging raid on the Bonin & Volcano islands, 700 miles from the Jap coast. Fighting continues in Burma.

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 6/44. Pouring rain all night & day. Thunder in the early morning from 4 to 7 kept us awake. War: Our forces mopping up German troops cut off near Channel coast have occupied Ghent & Courtrai in Belgium, Lille & Merville in France. Canadians have surrounded Calais & Boulogne, which are held by strong German garrisons. R.A.F. & R.C.A.F. dropped 1700 tons of bombs on Le Havre & dropped leaflets advising garrison to surrender. They refused. Germans are still holding out in Brest, Lorient. Cherbourg remains the only useful port we have on the whole Channel coast. Germans retiring up the Rhone valley have reached comparative safety at Dijon & seem to be making a stand. Patch's Franco-U.S. army took 65,000 German prisoners up to this point, counting garrisons of Toulon & Marseilles.

Swiss rumors insist that U.S. troops are in Germany. Supreme H.Q. simply says U.S. patrols crossed into Germany & withdrew after a short reconnaissance. Russian troops reported across the Yugoslav border. Queer business in Transylvania, where Rumanian troops are now

fighting Hungarian troops. (Hungary has decided to stand by Germany.)

British home secretary Herbert Morrison announced cheerfully today that on Sep. 17th. the lights will go on all over Britain (after 5 years of darkness), that fire-watching duties will be ended, except in the flying-bomb zone, & that there will be no more compulsory service in the Home Guard. On the German home radio the chief military commentator Dittmars has admitted that "the Allies have turned against us with great technical perfection the weapons which once we forged ourselves" and that Germany has only third-line troops to defend herself in the west. Germans' one hope is in the present levy en masse, with which they propose to defend every house & ditch.

THURSDAY, SEP. 7/44 Fog & showers. I was visited this morning (while writing away in pajamas & dressing gown) by a huge young man in air force uniform - F/O William Burke, who had read my books & was keen to meet the author. An Albertan, he is touring the province in a jeep inspecting arrangements of the civilian Aircraft Detection service. I picked him up in my car after lunch & took him around Liverpool & Milton, pointing out various scenes in "His Majesty's Yankees". He took a number of photographs. Movies tonight, a melodramatic Hollywood version of the massacre at Lidice in Czechoslovakia; but a good newsreel of the fighting in Normandy, taken from ground & air. I got fed up with the "picture" & walked out. Went to the Red Cross clinic & donated blood; a painful business this time, Doc. Wickwire had to keep punching away at the vein to keep the blood flowing.

properly. Afterward I stopped for a chat with one or two of the nurses, over a cup of good coffee & the usual fat doughnuts.

Although the full moon is nearly a week past, there are very high tides in the Bay of Fundy, & the dikes, especially about Banning, have been broken with resultant floods in the marshes & danger to cattle, not to mention damage to the roads.

War: It is revealed that Allied forces have crossed the Adriatic, landed in Jugoslavia, & with Tito's partisan troops are now pushing east to join the Russians. Object, to cut off all the German garrisons remaining in the Balkans.

Russians are striking hard at German lines NE. of Warsaw.

In the west, our forces have come up against new German armies & there is heavy fighting from Antwerp to a point 15 miles from Liege, & especially along the Albert canal. Similarly the U.S. troops under Patton are fighting a stiff battle along the Moselle. They retain a foothold in Metz, & have a second good bridge-head; but the 3rd. bridgehead at Pont A. Mousson was crushed by German counter-attacks & the Americans lost heavily.

There has been a rising of Jap prisoners in a camp in Australia; 900 of them armed with mess knives, baseball bats etc, attacked the guards & raised hell for a while. When all was over, 230 Japs were dead - 40 of them by suicide - & many others in hospital.

FRIDAY, SEP. 8/44 Fine & cool. This morning with a small delegation of Legion men I drove to the Mercury's Co's lodge up-river, where old Col. Jones is staying for a few days under the care of Ike Smart

and a nurse. I had not seen Jonesie in two years or more. He has been very ill, his health is gone, & his pudgy 250 lbs. have shrunk to a scrawny 144. His movements are halting, his voice quavers; he is only a ghost of the hard-drinking, food-stuffing, wenching business executive we knew for so many years. He is 70. He still dyes his hair & moustache but I don't suppose he wears his corset any more. We had a drink of rum (he took water - hasn't been allowed alcohol for 2 years) & had a few yarns, & then I made a little speech & presented him with the "Past President" medal of the Legion, with his name & his ten years' service (1931-1941) engraved on the back. He seemed pleased.

I came away feeling that he has not long to live. He is still nominally president of Price Brothers & Co, as well as Mersey Paper Co, & spends practically all his time in his big apartment at Quebec. Mrs. Jones has lived in the big company house, "Hillcrest", in Liverpool ever since Mersey Co. came here, & their married relation has been stiffly nominal for years. She is a handsome dark woman of 60 or so, very deaf.

War: The battles in Belgium & along the Moselle are going well. ^{U.S.} ~~Our~~ troops took Liege today, & the U.S. forces have made 3 more bridgeheads across the Moselle. The Franco-U.S. advance up the Rhone has reached & taken Besancon. In western Belgium & North-eastern France, columns of German troops & vehicles, hopelessly cut off, are wandering about in confusion, & our troops & aircraft are harrying them mercilessly. Boulogne & Calais are under siege, & today Canadians took Ostend

without firing a shot. Today the R.A.F. heavily bombed Brest & LeHarve again, & the U.S.A.F. dropped 1500 tons on German cities behind the much-vaunted Siegfried Line which Hitler built during the period of the "phony war" in 1939.

Goebbels is conscripting German men of all ages for the army, women & children down to 14 years for labor on defence work.

Russia has forced Bulgaria to declare war on Germany, & Russian troops are pouring through the country; they are already at the Greek frontier & have pushed some distance into Jugoslavia.

In Italy, Canadians are keeping up their pressure on Rimini, but they report a stiff resistance from well-equipped German troops.

In Canada, preparations are under way at Quebec for another conference between Roosevelt & Churchill. Canadian munition factories have made 100,000,000 artillery shells so far in this war. Ottawa announces Canadian casualties in this war are 33,000, of whom 9,800 were killed & 28,000 wounded. (WRONG.) How different from the last war, when in 4 years Canadian losses amounted to nearly a quarter million killed wounded & missing!

SATURDAY, SEP. 9/44. Fine & cool. Walked to Milton. Met old Francis Supper on the west side near Supper's Island. He got off his bike & asked me to accompany him to the spring in the woods on the hillside. When we got there the water in the little well was too low to reach without a cup. He lay on his back with closed eyes, groaning & looking very ill. I found a clean coffee tin & got him a drink. He talked, incoherently, about many things, from the history of

Milton to the fact that Queens County people were dark, 50 years ago, & where were all these blond children coming from? He looked very ill & I begged him to have a doctor. He insisted he could doctor himself. I sat by the spring with him an hour & finally got him on his feet. He tottered down to the road, got on his bike, & wobbled away towards the bridge without another word. Always eccentric, always ragged & unkempt, but with a mind in some ways brilliant, he has been writing his Chronicles of Queens County for the Liverpool Advance, in weekly instalments. His mind is stored with authentic tales of the early days, but he cannot resist putting in notions of his own, sometimes humorous, sometimes merely silly, & these make the work valueless to an historian.

On the way home met Mrs. Jerry Pickerson with ^{her} short dark Wren, Lieutenant Paget of Vancouver, now stationed at Deep Brook, Anna Co. (H.M.C.V. "Cornwallis") where, she informed me, there were 5 copies of "His Majesty's Yankees" in the library, all in constant demand.

War: British 2nd Army has established 2 crossings over the Albert canal 25 or 30 miles S.E. of Antwerp. U.S. troops are beyond Liege, where they took 1 general plus 1,000 prisoners after a short fight yesterday. In Italy, the 8th Army's drive on Rimini has been stopped by German counter-attacks; both sides have lost heavily. A new gov't in Bulgaria has declared war on Germany & is said to be moving 20 Bulgarian divisions towards the Yugoslav border. The big Italian liner "Rex", famous on the

North Atlantic run in pre-war days, was sunk today by rockets from R.A.F. "Typhoons". Germans were towing her to Trieste, apparently for the purpose of blocking the harbor. Princess Juliana of the Netherlands has arrived in England by plane, in readiness to return to Holland. She & her children have been living in Ottawa for 3 years. German submarines have lost the use of all bases in France & Belgium, must now operate entirely from Germany, Holland, Denmark, Norway, running high risk in the narrow waters of the North Sea. Our convoys report few or no signs of U. boats in the North Atlantic.

SUNDAY, SEP. 10/44. Fine & warm. Parker, Smith, Dunlap & I to Eagle Lake this morning, taking lumber to repair the camp verandah, which is rotten. Found more decay than we bargained for, & spent the whole day tearing the verandah off, beams, posts & all. Cut a hemlock, & junked & peeled it for new beams. Home at dark.

War: Winston Churchill arrived at Halifax today by sea, accompanied by his staff & Mrs. Churchill. Hundreds recognized "Winnie" & his cigar, & crowded about his special train, where he made a little speech & led them in singing "When The Lights Go On Again", "Tipperary", "O Canada" & "God Save The King". He is en route to Quebec, where the entire Chateau Frontenac has been taken over for the great conference.

In Belgium, German forces are attacking the British 2nd Army's bridge heads across the Albert Canal. U.S. troops have entered the duchy of Luxembourg. Today U.S. guns fired their

first shots at German soil, somewhere near the Saar. Canadian troops are in the outskirts of Zeelbrugge. In Italy, Germans are still counter-attacking each move of the 8th Army.

MONDAY, SEP. 11/44 Fine & hot. Temp. dropped sharply to 42° at night. Announced today that there will be no more practice blackouts in N.S., but outdoor illuminated signs, floodlights, etc. are still forbidden; so our poor old town clock amongst other things will have to remain dark. War: British 2nd army is inside Holland, after the battle of the Antwerp Albert canal. U.S. troops have entered Germany via Luxembourg, are 5 miles inside with slight opposition so far. The 7th U.S. Army under Patch has linked up near Dijon with the 3rd, & the re-conquest of France is almost complete. R.A.F., R.C.A.F., & U.S.A.F., are making terrific raids night & day, all the way from Berlin to the immediate rear of German armies. Today the Germans released some of their reserve planes for a terrific attack on a U.S. bomber force of 1000, accompanied by 800 fighters. The U.S. planes claim 150 Germans shot down, but their own loss not given.

Churchill & Roosevelt and staffs are meeting in Quebec.

In the Pacific, a big U.S. naval force with carriers has bombed Mindanao, Philippines, claims 90 Jap ships sunk or damaged, air fields & other shore installations destroyed, no Jap opposition.

TUESDAY, SEP. 12/44 Fine & warm. Put in the 4th & last cord of firewood bought from Stephen Whynot. The price, \$13.00 per cord, nearly twice the pre-war cost. Peter Glode, Indian, came with a long

THURSDAY, SEP. 14, 1944. Overcast & very sultry, occasional showers. Weather Bureau has issued a hurricane warning to the Nova Scotia coast. It is expected to reach us tomorrow. It left Atlantic City half flooded, with the famous steel pier snapped in two, & tonight is battering New York. My barometer still high at 11 p.m.

The Region needs a list of war veterans buried in local cemeteries, for memorial-day marking ~~events~~, & I spent most of this afternoon with Edgar Wright, going over old records of his undertaking business since 1919. (Local churches keep no record of burials, only the sale of burial lots.) In the course of this Edgar told me that in his 35 years' undertaking in Queens County he had buried nearly 10,000 people; it seemed preposterous, but he's had more-or-less a monopoly & the deaths in the county must have run to that figure.

War: U.S. troops are 1 mile from Aachen, & another column has entered Germany 40 miles to the south, near Prüm. They report the German villages received them calmly if glumly, with white flags hung on every house & the villagers standing at their doors holding white flags. U.S. 3rd. Army seems to have won the battle of the Moselle river & is 18 miles beyond it at one point.

Although British forces have crossed into Holland in 1 or 2 places the Germans are still battling hard on Belgian soil to cover the estuary of the Scheldt. While they hold it we cannot use our marvellous prize, the huge port of Antwerp, captured intact. Canadians have crossed the Leopold Canal, NW of Bruges.

German prisoners report that Von Kluge, commander of the

German armies along the Channel, was killed 2 or 3 weeks ago.

Hitler has hanged 6 more Germans prominent in the plot against his life, one of them a former mayor of Munich.

The Russians have taken Praga, the suburb which lies across the Vistula from Warsaw. In the Pacific, MacArthur's troops have landed on Morotai, the northernmost island of the Halmahera group, on the sea road to the Philippines. At the same time U.S. aircraft carriers have struck another blow at Jap transport in the Philippines; in a 3-day battle they have sunk or damaged another 84 ships of all kinds, & destroyed another 233 planes.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 15/44. The wind began to blow at 6 A.M., from the S.E., & by 9 A.M. was at its height, tossing the trees in furious gusts. About 11 A.M. the wind sprang around to the W. and blew very hard all afternoon. Not much damage locally. I noticed part of the copper roof torn off the post office tower. By radio we learned that the hurricane center passed up the Bay of Lundy. The Valley got some scatter from the hills ~~but~~ and lost only 10% of the apples on the trees. Much damage at Yarmouth, where the wind force reached 85 miles per hour.

I learn that old Francis Supper took my advice Sep. 9th. & sent for a doctor - who promptly bundled him into Mrs. Brown's private nursing home for proper care. He is off his head as well as physically ill, & is, I hear, an obstreperous patient. War: Canadians were driven from their bridgehead across the Leopold Canal but attacked again, now have 6 crossings. This battle of the Belgian canals makes slow work

of our advance into Holland. U.S. troops have liberated the town of Maastricht in the lowermost tip of Holland, & are now pushing into Germany along the whole front from Aachen to Trier. Aachen itself is surrounded & parts of Hitler's "West Wall", the vaunted Siegfried Line, are in U.S. hands.

Farther south, in France, U.S. & French troops have taken Nancy & Epinal; but Metz, where U.S. patrols were said to have penetrated some time, is wholly in German hands, in fact 8 miles behind their lines.

A few flying-bombs fell on London yesterday after a long lull. Our own air offensive against Germany is now something unimaginable; we are told that the daily and nightly bomb load dropped there averages 4 tons a minute.

Today is the deadline set by the Finns for the final evacuation of German troops - who have ignored the request to leave. Today German troops tried to seize a strategic Finnish island in the Gulf of Finland & were beaten off by the garrison. Russian troops, pouring through Bulgar territory have entered Greece.

SATURDAY, SEP. 16/44

Charlie Copelin came in tonight. He returns to Londonderry by air next week. I had not seen him for 3 years. Copelin, Roland Harris & Hubert MacDonald, all former employees of Mersey Paper Co's. marine dept. skippered the first 3 flower-class corvettes built in Canada for the R.N. ("Hepatica", "Trillium" & "Windflower") & did stout service in the Western Approaches in the old bad days. All have done well in the navy; for the

past year or so Copelin has had an important administrative post at Londonderry, where he tells me the base personnel is about 85% Canadian. The war has rolled off Copelin like water from a duck; he is the same small, bald, rabbit-faced, bright-eyed, ~~egg~~ sly, humorous little man. We imbibed nearly a quart of Trinidad rum (Siebert's Bouquet) & parted very merrily on Church Street about 1 A.M.

SUNDAY, SEP. 17/44. Lovely day. To Eagle Lake with Parker, Smith, Dunlap, Gordon & young John Freeman, (son of "Jack" Freeman) who is ~~he~~ a lieutenant in the corvette "Sault Sainte Marie", in port here. Parker, Smith & Dunlap, who are experts at carpentry, built the new verandah on the camp with lumber we carried in. No. visible damage to the trees in the big wind, but the big fish-hawk's nest in a tall snag at the mouth of Eagle Brook, a landmark for years, was blown into the water. Home about 9 pm, picking up Jack Dunlap & Tommy at Grandma Freeman's on the way - each with a dozen horse-shoes from the forge, "for luck".

War:- An allied air-borne army has dropped in Holland, apparently in the great bend of the Rhine near Nijmegen. Paratroops first, then gliders with infantry, guns & light tanks. Their attack was preceded by air assault on a huge scale.

U.S. troops have broken completely through the Siegfried Line east of Aachen. They found it held by oddments of German troops hastily gathered & thrown into the elaborate positions; many of the pill-boxes were empty for lack of men to man them.

Near Nancy, U.S. troops have taken Lunerville. Far to the rear, south of Orleans, 20,000 Germans cut off by the fall of Paris have at last surrendered. Gen. Montgomery, in Brussels, says the total German prisoners taken in France & Belgium by allied forces now is over 400,000. Canadians are attacking Boulogne with self-propelled guns & flame-throwers.

MONDAY, SEP. 18/44 Sunny & cool. The rains have turned my brown lawn green again. Ottawa announces the rationing of tea & coffee will end tonight; they have been rationed for 2 years. General Motors (Canada) announce that they can start producing civilian cars within 6 months of gov't. permission to re-convert their plants. When this permission will be given no one knows.

War: British 2nd. Army has made a terrific attack into Holland & has already joined parts of the air-borne army near Eindhoven, which is still in German hands. Whereabouts & progress of the rest of the air-borne army (which is mostly U.S.) are still a secret. Farther south U.S. troops which broke the Siegfried Line have by-passed Aachen & are close to Duren on the direct road to Cologne. Germans have thrown in troops from the Russian front & there is stiff fighting. In Italy our troops are still battering their way inch by inch towards Rimini.

Russians have opened a big drive in Latvia & Estonia & are very close to Riga. Berlin admits a "grave situation" there.

In China the Japs are making another of their periodical drives & several U.S. air bases have had to be given up.



