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**VALCARTIER IS VISITED**

Earl of Athlone And Premier King Inspect Forces

QUEBEC, Oct. 17: (CP)—The Governor General, the Earl of Athlone, and Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King visited the great military training camp at Valcartier yesterday, trudging

through muddy fields to inspect the troops and witness their activities. Mr. King called on Premier Godbout and Cardinal Villeneuve during the morning and lunched with the Governor General.

Premier King left last night for Halifax to inspect Atlantic defences. The Governor General and Princess Alice leave Friday to be in formal week-end guests of President and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt at Hyde Park.



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**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO HEAVY MAIL FOR TROOPS**

Edith Cavell Faced German Firing Squad After Trial By Military Court in Brussels

By H. H. GORDON  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
On the scroll of the world's heroine's the story of Edith Louisa Cavell adds a golden lustre to the record of British womanhood's bravery and sacrifice. Twenty-five years ago Saturday the gracious English nurse died a martyr's death at Brussels—shot by a German firing squad.

Today Nazi bombs rain on the countryside where Edith Cavell's body lies enshrined in Norwich Cathedral. It was brought back from Belgium in 1919 and interred there after a memorial service in Westminster Abbey. Near London's Trafalgar Square a statue stands as an enduring memorial and, at the same time, a reminder of one of the world-shocking incidents of the First Great War.

Edith Cavell, then 50 years old, went unflinchingly to her death October 12, 1915, after being found guilty by a German military court of aiding more than 100 British, French and Belgian soldiers to escape from Belgium in the first year of the war.

In no sense was she a spy and all her activities sprang from a desire to help the distressed and injured. Her execution has been described in many quarters as "judicial murder" and, even if legally justifiable according to German military standards, it was nevertheless a blunder.

Political considerations may have figured in the German court's decision. Against deference to her sex and allowance for humane motives, her judges may have weighed a demand for a severe sentence to assure obedience of the Belgian population.

**Cared For Wounded**

As head of the Birkendael medical institute in Brussels, Miss Cavell led a band of nurses and others in caring for German wounded as well as soldiers of the Allies. Included were a number of British and French soldiers stranded in Belgium when they were cut off from their units in the 1914 retreat.

Suspicion fastened on the Englishwoman when Allied soldiers were successfully spirited out of the country into Holland. On August 5, 1915, she was arrested and placed in solitary confinement in St. Gilles prison.

Nine weeks later Miss Cavell was one of 36 prisoners arraigned before a military tribunal. The proceedings were conducted in German though a French interpreter was provided. The English nurse was defended by Sadi Kirschen of the Brussels bar. His defence was hindered by the fact that he had not been able to see Miss Cavell before the trial and was not allowed to inspect documents.

The prosecution appears to have had no evidence that she had succeeded in enabling military refugees to reach Britain, but her admission at the trial that she had received letters of thanks from repatriated men was made much of.

The interval between the imposition of the death sentence, October 11, and her execution the following morning found United States Minister Brand Whitlock and the Spanish minister active in Miss Cavell's behalf. They pleaded vigorously for her life before German officials.

Baron von Lacken, civil governor of Belgium, and General von Sauberzweig, military governor of Brussels, proved adamant. It was General von Sauberzweig who gave the order that "in the interests of the state" the execution of the death penalty should be carried out immediately.

**Visited by Clergyman**

The United States minister succeeded in obtaining permission for Rev. H. S. T. Gahan, chaplain of Christ Church, Brussels, to visit Miss Cavell before the end. It was in a talk with her after he had given her Holy Communion that the brave woman made the remark, "patriotism is not enough"—words that rang around the world. She faced the firing squad with the same dignity and fortitude that marked her deportment throughout the long imprisonment and trial.

Reared in the quiet atmosphere of a Norfolk vicarage, there was nothing in her early life to portend the event that only intensified previous reports of German ruthlessness. Edith Cavell was the daughter of Rev. Frederick Cavell, vicar of Swardston and his wife, Louisa Sophia Walming.

After graduating as a nurse she

Postal Service Looks For Very Big Business With Overseas At Christmas

OTTAWA, Oct. 17: (CP)—The flow of mail into the United Kingdom from parents, relatives and sweethearts, to those serving with the Canadian Active Service Force, has added tonnage to the mail bags to be sent by men of the Canadian postal services.

The outlook, according to C. C. McGrail, district postal director, is for an especially brisk time during the Christmas season when volume of mail takes a big jump anyway.

"The Christmas season will be a tough assignment but there's no need to fear that holiday mail won't reach the men overseas in plenty of time," said McGrail.

He would make no estimate of increased mails that might be expected, summing it up this way: "One word does it—tonnage."

When war broke out extra help was taken on in the postal service to be ready to handle the "mail blitz" that would come when the Canadian troops went overseas and the base post office was organized in Ottawa to take care of this flow of mail.

Ottawa's base post office, handling mail for men overseas, dealt with 7,886 bags during August. The mail bags are forwarded from Ottawa to Montreal for shipment overseas. They are "two-in-one" affairs. The outside bag serves as protection to the inner one which contains the letters.

An official of the Post Office departments said the base post office now handles 255 bags a day as compared with 15 bags daily a short time after war started.

So strenuous has the work been up to date, McGrail stated, that a few members of his staff have been confined to bed from injuries suffered while loading base post office packages.

held various positions in England and in 1906 went to Brussels to assist in establishing a modern training school for nurses. A year later she was appointed the first matron of the Birkendael institute, the success of which soon made it of national importance. Miss Cavell was in charge of the institute when the Germans overran Belgium. They gave her permission to continue her work and the institute became a Red Cross hospital.



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**FRANK TALK ON SUBJECT OF DISEASE**

One of British Columbia's Major Social Problems Discussed Before Local Service Club

Veneral disease constitutes one of British Columbia's major health problems but the provincial board of health is realistically attacking the menace which has been a long-neglected public health tragedy, one which defeatism, prudery and vesting interest have kept the citizens from seeing in its true light, the Prince Rupert Gyro Club was told in a luncheon address yesterday by Dr. Donald H. Williams, director of the provincial veneral disease control board. Dr. Williams spoke frankly on "Problems of Veneral Disease Control in British Columbia," gave some startling facts in regard to the incidence of syphilis and gonorrhoea and then some reassuring revelations as to results being obtained by means of government-sponsored efforts to check the ravages of these treacherous maladies. Incidentally he unqualifiedly advocated, through eradication of the third party aspect, the elimination of bawdy houses which he described as "strategic bottle necks through which virulent syphilis and gonorrhoea is imported into Canada and spread throughout the western provinces by the migrations of diseased women." Declaring that the danger of the house of prostitution could not be overemphasized, Dr. Williams condemned commercialized prostitution as an "alien fifth column" which assisted Hitler by undermining the health of potential recruiting material in British Columbia. It was one of the purposes of the Provincial Board of Health, the speaker declared, to associate in the public mind the inseparable intimacy of veneral disease and the bawdy house or public fornicatory.

The enormity of the problem of veneral disease Dr. Williams impressed upon his listeners by figures from the report of the Division of Veneral Disease Control for 1933. There were 2613 new notifications of veneral disease during the year. Admissions to the public clinics totalled 4,689 of which 1639 were found to be diseased. In addition to free clinical services, free medication amounting to 32,203 doses was distributed to private physicians for their patients. During the past ten years 390 persons with syphilis-riddled brains had entered the Provincial Mental Hospital at Essondale. Each year the Provincial Division of Laboratories performed over 100,000 tests for syphilis and gonorrhoea. Ten percent of deaths from heart failure were attributable to veneral disease. The disease also resulted in numerous miscarriages, still births and imbecile births.

**British Columbia Program**

The Scandinavian countries, the League of Nations health department and other health experts had demonstrated how the appalling public health situation outlined might be readily and satisfactorily dealt with. A four-point program, based on public education and enlightenment, was being launched which would reach every community in British Columbia.

First, Dr. Williams said, the prevention of innocent infection of young married women with syphilis could be accomplished by pre-marital blood tests for both parties. Much syphilis acquired by young men had such mild early signs that its presence was never suspected. Its presence could only be detected by a blood test. Adequate treatment by the family physician would permit marriage with safety at a later date.

Congenital syphilis, the most tragic of all forms of the disease, could be eliminated almost completely, continued the speaker, if every expectant mother would visit her physician before the fifth month and request a blood test. Regular weekly treatment until the baby was born would guarantee the child almost a 95 per cent chance of being healthy and non-syphilitic.

Suppression of quackery was a move to prevent the exploitation of diseased, fear-ridden citizens by unqualified persons whose remedies drove the disease deeper in and the only benefit of which was the monetary one accruing to the quack.

Another line of campaign was the suppression, as provided for in the Criminal Code of Canada and approved by health authorities, of commercialized prostitution. This unsavory commerce which by fraud-

ulent and deceitful means clothes its highly diseased state with a superficial veneer of apparent good health, was the principal cause of the high incidence of veneral disease in the male occupational groups including loggers, miners and fishermen.

**Soundness Proven**

The institution of the Provincial Board of Health program in many communities was already proving its soundness. There had been great results in Vancouver and Nanaimo. Veneral disease was being strikingly reduced by public education and co-operation.

Dr. Williams was thanked for his address by the president of the club, G. A. Hunter. Guests were Ted Harcastle, Dr. Neal M. Carter, William Garriek and Dr. C. H. Hankinson. The attendance of Gyro members was large.

W. M. Watts read to the club a letter he had received from one of the members, Lieut. Orme Stuart, now on convoy service with the Royal Navy on the Atlantic. Lieut. Stuart gave some impressions of visits to London and Edinburgh including experiences in air bombing.

A letter from Greg Yorke of Vancouver, district governor, Vancouver, announced intention of visiting Prince Rupert in January.

Congratulations were extended to one of the members of the club, H. McLean, on becoming the father of another son.

Arrangements were reported getting well under way for the Grey Hallowe'en hoedown dance which promises to be an outstanding novel affair.



**Ralston Postpones Trip To England**

OTTAWA, Oct. 17: (CP)—J. L. Ralston, minister of national defence, has postponed his trip to England on account of the session of Parliament opening November 5. He had intended visiting the Canadian forces in England and conferring with British military authorities.

ver, announced intention of visiting Prince Rupert in January. Congratulations were extended to one of the members of the club, H. McLean, on becoming the father of another son.

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