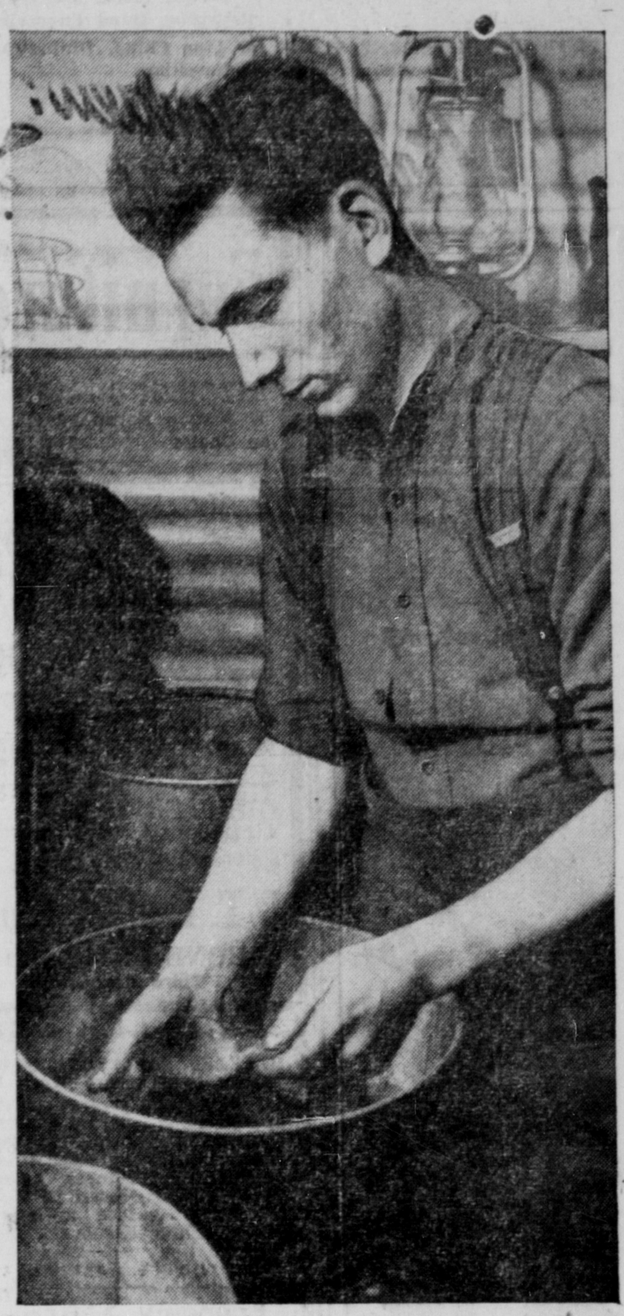
Canada's Fighting Men Stand Poised for Action on Empire's Frontier

Using his bayonet in an unorthodox fashion, Lance-Corp. J. W. Calut ow Newcastle, N.B., in camp somewhere in England, opening a parcel sent to him by his mother.

An American-built tank manned by Canadian soldiers of the famous Fort Garry Horse Regiment speeds over rough ground during manoeuvres. The unit has reached a fine peak of efficiency in a division that is regarded as one of the most powerful in the Empire's forces. As it is in Canada, the army in England is being expanded and re-organized.

A range table is set up afield as the troops af Canadan field artillery plots the range for firing. At the table are (left to right) Gunner O. L. Davis of Aylmer, Ont.; Gunner Ed. MacLinden of Toronto, and Mayor H. B. Hayden, of Cobourne, Ont. Included in group are: Gnrs. Tom Whiting and Stan Hart of Toronto, Lieut. C. Tapley, St. John, N.B.



Pte. W. Kenney of Newcastle, N.B., appears to be deep in thought as he goes about the serious business of washing out a pair of socks in a bucket during the noon recess.

Influence Extended—

UNCLE SAM AND VICHY RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, May 13 — The United States has extended its armed protection and assistance to other parts of the French empire now under control of the Free French movement in addition to the strategic island in the southwest Pacific, New Caledonia, authoritative sources have revealed. What additional territories are concerned is not disclosed.

concerned is not disclosed although, doubtless, Martinique in the Caribbean is one of them.

At the same time while the United States recognizes Gen. de Gaulle and his movement as representative of the French military resistance to the Axis, there is no question of recognizing the de Gaulle national committee in London as a political entity, these same sources added.

These semi-official disclosures are regarded as particularly important diplomatic developments at a time when relations between Laval's puppet government at Vichy and Washington are maintained, in Secretary of State Hull's own words, upon a day-to-day basis."

There was a revival of rumors concerning the Free French movement here following a lengthy conference between Adrien Tixier, representative in Washington of the Free French national committee, and Mr. Hull.

No Recognition

Although there was no formal announcement, American newspapers were permitted to reveal afterward that there was no question of American recognition of the Free French committee as a political government for Frenchmen. In this it was said the United States prefers to follow the people of Great Britain which, while assisting Gen. de Gaulle in every way possible, does not exchange formal diplomatic representatives with his accredited committee.

Both countries prefer to await ultimate victory whereupon the French people would be able to devise a government of their own choosing, neither a military committee nor a quisling regime such as that of Pierre Laval.

Canada, of course, has a direct interest in these developments because, lige Washington, the Dominion maintains the pretense of relations with Vichy and has not formally recognized de Gaulle.

Ottawa Follows U. K.

The Canadian policy in respect to Vichy has followed Washington, presumably with the full approval and understanding of the British foreign office.

At the same time the United States has taken important steps to assist the Free French committee in its resistance to Hitler. Some of these steps, hitherto diplomatic secrets, are reported to be as follows:

On Nov. 11, 1941, President Roosevelt in a formal letter directed that the defence of the Free French movement was essential to that of the United States, thereby clearing the way for full lend-lease assistance.

In addition to the consular representation established in French Equatorial Africa, which already has stirred protests from Laval — the United States has dispatched naval, military and state department missions there to determine the needs of the Free French forces.

Under terms of the President's letter, Free French vessels of war can be repaired and supplied in American harbors even as "men-of-war of Great Britain of Canada." Meanwhile, the American Red Cross has dispatched to the Free French forces drugs and medical supplies.

Ready Take Measures

In connection with these steps, it is recalled that the President in his broadcast assured the world that the United Nations stood ready to take military measures if necessary to prevent any parts of the French empire now under Vichy control from falling into the hands of the enemies of the Allies and of France.

Diplomatic sources also indicated information reaching here suggests a crisis is impending in the affairs of the French national committee in London. The issue is said to be whether Gen. de Gaulle will be content to remain the symbol of military resistance or become, as he desires, a political entity. It is this issue, according to information received here, that caused the break between Vice Admiral Emile Muselier, the commander of the Free French naval forces who seized St. Pierre and Miquelon, and de Gaulle.

Muselier, it is said, favored a continuance of the present status, while de Gaulle wished to go further and set up a political government in the name of France which he hoped in turn would be recognized by both Great Britain, the United States, the dominions and the governments now in exile in London.

Won't Exchange Representatives

The British foreign office, it is said, has informed Gen. de Gaulle that there can be no question of exchanging accredited representatives for such would be recognition of his political status. This course has been raised officially.

In the American view, it is said de Gaulle as the figure representing military resistance to the Axis can continue to enjoy the confidence of the French people and of the United Nations. As a political figure there would be no such unanimity of opinion among Frenchmen at home or abroad.

TILLIE THE TOILER

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BY WESTOVER

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