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Canada's War Chiefs

MAJ.-GEN. J. H. ROBERTS
Commander 2nd Canadian Division

Maj.-Gen. J. H. Roberts has only been commanding his Canadian infantry division since last fall but it has developed in that time to such a remarkable degree that it now is recognized as one of the top formations in the United Kingdom. A lot of credit for this achievement goes to "Ham" Roberts, who at 51 looks back on a steady and successful career. He's been a soldier all his life, with emphasis on artillery. His ability has been demonstrated by a rapid rise in rank since the start of the war when overseas as a lieutenant-colonel he brought the 1st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.

A man of action and spare with his words, General Roberts is powerfully built and looks like a football middle wing. He is a forbidding looking officer on first appearance, but get to know him and he has a ready smile and an easy manner behind his austere front.

He hates making speeches and usually starts off conferences by saying "now I'm not making any speech here, let's get cracking and down to business." And the conference really knuckles down.

Gen. Roberts has surrounded himself with a group of young staff officers, acknowledged to be as brilliant as any in the overseas army, and the divisional headquarters is a going concern.

Part of his fighting creed is a belief that not a bit of military equipment should ever be sacrificed. When he went to France for a few days in June, 1940, with the 1st Field Regiment and then was ordered to withdraw to England, through Brest, he made sure that every field gun in the unit came back with it, even under heavy air attack. His was the only artillery outfit in the British army to save all its guns. Roberts even brought back a couple of Buckshee British field guns and the unit still has them.

In the First Great War, Roberts served in the artillery and won the Military Cross. He stayed in the permanent force after the war.

He is a native of Pipestone, Man., and is particularly well-known in Kingston, Ont., and Ottawa.

UNNECESSARY SHOCK

LONDON, July 29: (CP)—The War Office has decided to drop the words "Casualty Branch" from routine letters sent to verify next-of kin lists. Relatives of men in the forces complained of the unnecessary shock on receiving letters with these words on the envelope.

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Noted Comedian Dies After Show

Billy Bennett Left Sick Bed to Play Leading Role

BLACKPOOL, Eng., July 29 (CP)—Billy Bennett, 55, British music-hall and radio comedian, died following a heart attack after the first performance of George Black's "Black Vanities," in which he was the leading comic. He left a sick bed to take part.

His humor, ill-fitting dress clothes, flowing moustache and catchphrase "Almost a Gentleman," were known to thousands. He served with the British army in the First Great War and was awarded the D.C.M., the M.M. and the Belgian Croix de Guerre. He began his career as the rear end of a stage donkey but it was in France during the last war that he made a hit as a funny man and became what he described as a "Canteen Comedian."

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GIRLS ENJOY SERVICE IN THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS

Girls from every part of Canada, now arriving in the Canadian Women's Army Corps and performing the important job of releasing able-bodied men for combatant duty, are definitely happy in the service, as these pictures show. The Corps, which will triple its strength within the next few months, is employing girls in many of the jobs available to their sisters in civilian life. In every department of the Army, women are proving they can work efficiently and well. The Corps is headed by Major Joan Kennedy (1) centre, formerly of Victoria, B.C. (2) LEFT TOP shows genial Vol. K. Priestly, of Montreal, reading a letter to Vol. J. Rogers, also of Montreal, while the latter shines her buttons. (3) TOP RIGHT attractive mechanics at work; L.-Cpl. E. Reid and Vol's. P. Robinson and E. Davis servicing one of the station wagons at the Canadian School of Army Administration at St. Marguerite, P.Q. (4) LOWER LEFT—It's not all work and no play, because here are Sgt. D. McDonnel, Cpl. J. McKee and Vol. P. Robinson riding on the vast deEsterel grounds at St. Marguerite; swimming, fishing and tennis also help pass spare hours. (5) LOWER RIGHT—shows a pretty C.W.A.C. typist taking dictation from Capt. Brown. A few months ago she joined the ranks, but has earned and received speedy promotion. Those interested in joining can get information at the nearest recruiting office.

—(Canadian Army Photo)

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