

BRUGES CELEBRATION: Belgium's ancient city of Bruges will celebrate the fourth anniversary of its liberation on September 12, and 18 Canadians who took part in the fighting that ousted the Germans from the old Flemish town will be present to take part in the ceremonies. They will officially represent the Canadian Army, and Army Headquarters announced September 3 that they will leave Dorval airport by RCAF "North Star" Tuesday, September 7.

Heading the party will be Maj.-Gen. H.W. Foster, CBE, DSO, who commanded the 4 Canadian Armoured Division during the Canadian sweep through Belgium, and with him will go Col. R.W. Moncel, DSO, OBE, commander of the armoured brigade of the division at that time, and Brig. F.N. Cabeldu, DSO, ED, whose 4th Brigade of the 2 Canadian Infantry Division supported the armour in the Bruges attack.

(Gen. Foster is now General Officer Commanding Eastern Command with headquarters at Halifax. Brig. Cabeldu, now retired from the Army, is a well-known business man in Victoria, B.C. Col. Moncel is Director of Military Training at Army Headquarters, Ottawa).

UNITS AND NAMES

The remainder of the party, all members of the Canadian Army Reserve Force, are former officers and other ranks of units of the 4th and 2nd Divisions which fought at Bruges. Their units and names are:

18 Armoured Car Regiment (12 Manitoba Dragoons) -- Capt. H. Sinclair, SQMS R.V. Andrews, and RQMS B. Conroy, all of Virden, Man.

Lake Superior Regiment (Motor) -- Maj. H.G. Dawson, DSO, CSM (WO II) G. Halstead, and CSM (WO II) K. Morrison, all of Port Arthur, Ont.

Algonquin Regiment -- Maj. G.L. Cassidy, DSO, of Haileybury and Cobalt, Ont.; A/Sgt. H.H. Anderson, Kirkland Lake; and A/Sgt. A.G. Couture, Timmins.

Royal Regiment of Canada -- Maj. H.W. Caldwell, Sgt. N.N. Gough, and Cpl. L.E. Osler, all of Toronto.

Royal Hamilton Light Infantry -- Capt. T.W. MacDonald, MM (a sergeant at the time of the liberation), RQMS W.H. Monk, and Sgt. V.J. Bleakley, all of Hamilton.

Major C.C. McDougall of Ottawa, now in Northwest Europe taking photographs of Canadian graves, visited Bruges recently and reports that the Burgomeister, Victor Van Hecstenberghe, was delighted to hear that Gen. Foster and party will be able to attend the anniversary ceremonies -- the more so since Gen. Foster is an honorary citizen of the town, having been so honored at a special ceremony in the town hall in 1944 shortly after the liberation. Maj. McDougall continues:

"The celebration this year will take place on September 12 and will be marked by the unveiling of a memorial bridge by the Hon.

Victor Dore, CMG, Canadian Ambassador to Belgium. It will be named "Canada Bridge", and stands on the site of the old bridge over which troops and armour of the 4th Canadian Division entered the town four years ago.

"At one end of the bridge, two bronze buffaloes have been erected on large stone bases, one on each side of the roadway. One of the stone mounts bears the Belgian coat of arms and an inscription in Flemish, while the other bears the Canadian coat of arms and the same inscription in English: "This bridge was erected in memory of the Canadian Forces who liberated the City of Bruges on September 12, 1944".

"It is intended at a later date to have the roadway lined with Canadian maple trees.

TOWN HALL RECEPTION

"On the morning of the 12th, at 11 o'clock, a reception will be held by the City Council and the Town Hall, to be attended by the Canadian Ambassador and members of his staff, by Gen. Foster and his party, and Belgian state and civic officials. A procession formed from local societies and military organizations, and perhaps including the Canadian representatives, will march from the Town Hall to the bridge, a distance of some two and one-half kilometres, for the unveiling ceremony. After the unveiling, the national anthem of Belgium, "God Save the King" and "O Canada" will be sung, and flowers will be placed at the site.

"Luncheon at the Town Hall in the afternoon concludes the official activities".

COMMERCIAL FAILURES: Commercial failures in the first six months of this year totalled 425, a larger number than in the same period of any year since 1941, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. The increase over the same period of last year was 60 per cent. Failures, however, were considerably lower than in the same period of pre-war years, comparing with 717 for the first half of 1939. Estimated current liabilities for the first six months aggregated \$7,123,000 compared with \$4,534,000 in the similar period of 1947, and \$7,782,000 for the first half of 1939.

During the first six months of this year, there were six failures in the Maritime Provinces compared with six last year. In Quebec and Ontario, the number rose from 212 to 323 in the former and from 32 to 67 in the latter. Twelve failures were shown in the Prairie Provinces, compared with six the preceding year, and an increase from 10 to 17 occurred in the Pacific Province.

In trade failures totalled 154, compared with 74 in the same period of last year. Failing manufacturing establishments increased from 77 to 92. Nine failures were reported in the primary industries where nine failures also occurred in the first half of the preceding year. Thirty-seven failures were reported in construction and 16 in transportation.

FEED SITUATION: In contrast with the fairly tight situation throughout the 1947-48 crop year, a relatively easy coarse grain supply situation is in sight for 1948-49, states the Bureau of Statistics in its quarterly review of coarse grains.

The first estimate of production released by the Bureau on August 17 placed probable outturn of oats at 338,000,000 bushels and barley at 146,000,000. Both these estimates represent increased production over last year's levels, amounting to 60,000,000 and 5,000,000 bushels, respectively. Carry-over stocks of oats in all positions at July 31 were 47,200,000 bushels, 22,400,000 lower than on July 31, 1947, while barley stocks of 31,000,000 bushels were up slightly over last year's carry-over of 29,100,000 bushels.

While potential supplies of oats and barley for 1948-49 are considerably below the abnormally high levels of the war years, they compare favourably with supplies in the pre-war period, and are also significantly greater than the quantities available during the crop year just completed. Of great importance, too, is the fact that production in 1948 is more evenly distributed between eastern and western Canada, with Ontario anticipating an oat crop of 76,000,000 bushels in comparison with last year's low outturn of 41,500,000. With production east of the Lakes improved this year, it is expected that requirements for western feed grains on the part of eastern feeders will be much less during 1948-49.

Live stock populations in Canada have declined sharply from the wartime peak. As a result, domestic requirements for feed grain have dropped accordingly and, should current 1948 crop prospects be fully realized, significant quantities of Canadian oats and barley will be available for export during 1948-49.

The August estimate of production places the 1948 rye crop at 26,000,000 bushels, almost double the 1947 outturn. A near-record Canadian flaxseed crop of 18,000,000 bushels is also expected. Last year's flaxseed production was 12,200,000 bushels, while the largest flaxseed crop ever harvested in Canada amounted to 26,400,000 bushels in 1912. Carry-over stocks of rye at 727,000 bushels were a little below last year's holdings but flaxseed stocks at 3,300,000 were up sharply from the July 31, 1947 level of 800,000.

WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTION: Canadian wheat flour production in the 1947-48 crop year amounted to 24,244,000 barrels, a decline of 15 per cent from the record output of 28,588,000 barrels established in 1946-47, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Output for July was 1,814,000 barrels as against 2,251,000 in the corresponding month last year.

Wheat used in the manufacture of flour during the crop year was 110,206,000 bushels

compared with 127,775,000 in the preceding year. The figure for July was 8,337,000 bushels compared with 10,110,000 a year ago. Stocks of wheat in flour mills at the end of July amounted to 1,854,000 bushels.

DEATH OF DR. BENES: Mr. St. Laurent, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, on September 3 issued the following statement on learning of the death of Dr. Benes, former President of Czechoslovakia.

"The name of Eduard Benes is written large in the history of Europe and takes honourable place among those who, during our lifetime, have been foremost in the fight for freedom.

"A disciple and friend of Thomas Masaryk, whose successor he was in the presidency of his country, Eduard Benes was one of the principal architects of that free, democratic Czechoslovak republic to which he dedicated his whole life of public service.

"From the day when, as a young man of 34, he became Minister of Foreign Affairs; through long years of careful and constructive statecraft as President after the retirement and death of his beloved master, Masaryk; in exile after the humiliation of Munich; as President-in-Exile, and as President again of a restored Czechoslovakia - Eduard Benes worked tirelessly and with infinite resource for the best interests of his country.

"Twice in his lifetime, in 1918 and again in 1945, he led his countrymen out of the bondage of foreign oppression. Twice in his lifetime he was forced to witness the destruction of their freedom.

"Addressing both Houses of Parliament in Ottawa on June 3, 1943, Dr. Benes declared his allegiance, and that of his countrymen, "to the democratic way of life, to the principles of spiritual and religious freedom, and to the ideals of peace and peaceful international collaboration". Those were the noble principles that guided until the very end, the life of the great man whose death all Canadians lament. He was a patriot and a statesman, a fervent believer in national and individual freedom, a great European and a good citizen of the world."

CARLOADINGS: Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended August 28 rose to a new high for the year at 84,995 cars compared with 80,250 in the preceding week and 81,553 in the same week last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Increases in grain, live stock, coal, petroleum and mine products sparked the advance of 3,442 cars or 4.2 per cent over the 35th week of 1947. Grain rose from 8,297 to 9,640 cars, while live stock jumped from 1,926 cars in 1947 to 2,973 in response to American demand, and coal increased 907 cars to 6,630 for the week.