

What's Cooking (By Paddy)

FOURTH YEAR OF WAR

On Friday, Sept. 1, 1939, Hitler struck. In only two days Britain was in it. In one more week Canada, too, went to war.

Certain events stand out clearly and with unforgettable sharpness. The fall of Poland, the "phony" war, the invasion of Norway, the smash into the Low Countries, the debacle at Sedan, the retreat from Dunkirk, the collapse of French military power, the fall of France, the gallant but hopeless stand of Greece, the growing change of temper in the United States, the sudden assault on Russia, the magnificent leadership of Churchill and of Roosevelt, the treachery of Japan as displayed at Pearl Harbor, the entry of the United States into the war on the side of the Free Nations and the formation of an Allied Supreme War Council.

It is worthwhile to recall now at the moment when a desperate battle is being fought in Egypt and Russia is fighting with such courage to stop the Nazi hordes and to prevent the taking of her vital oil wells, that in the summer of 1940 after the fall of France it was hardly believed that Egypt could be held.

Winston Churchill in that memorable speech after the collapse of France, declared that Britain would carry on the struggle for a free world practically alone if the Germans succeeded in their purpose of invading England. The British people would fight from village to village, from town to town, not one inch of territory would be given, and further, he declared, that if it need be His Majesty's Government would be removed across the sea and the battle would still continue. British armies would carry on the war on the frontiers of India if necessary.

The memory of those days should nerve us to face whatever the present has in store and the recollection of perils survived when the British Empire fought alone should carry assurance of victory now that it is backed by powerful allies.

His Majesty's Armed Forces have been tried, as if by fire, and it truly can be said they have not been found wanting. In regards to the R.A.F. and later the R.C.A.F., their conduct is beyond praise. The Battle of Britain when finally recorded in history books, will prove beyond question that the brave men of the R.A.F. was the front line

of defence not only for Britain, but for civilization itself. Without those daring and gallant knights of the skies, long night would have settled over the world.

The Navy and Merchant Marine are constantly performing their duties and all honor to them. Without their help we could not hope to survive.

The Army have been the cause for pride by all free people. The magnificent courage of United Nations troops recently at Dieppe but reminds us that we have not put our confidence in them in vain.

The prospect for victory is brighter, the sorrow over the losses of our own brave Canadians is lessened by the realization that there is no other road to freedom save that strewn by sacrifice and stained with blood. The spirit of a free people does not quail before the news of its losses. This, we may be sure, is the temper of the Canadian nation today. So let each one of us do our part and see to it that we do it well.

The following verses written by Edgar A. Guest may well be taken as a pledge:

We can do it if we will,
We've the courage, we've the skill,
We've the manpower, we've the hammers
And the wrenches and the drills,
We've the money and the means
For the guns and the machines,
And we'll waste no working minute,
To complain about the bills.

On the land and on the sea
Where they fight for you and me,
In the skies where they are battling
Forces greater far than ours.
This is dreadful truth I speak,
War runs seven days a week
And the boys must stay on duty
With no thought of wage or hours.

We can do it if we will
Longer stay at lathe and drill,
Faster feed the mighty presses
Making ships and tanks and guns.
And with that self-same devotion
Shown on sky, on land and ocean,
We can share the war for freedom
And the victory with our sons.

—RCAF—

"KEEP PEELIN"

The Negro soldier had been peeling potatoes until his hands ached. Turning to a fellow K.P. he said: "What dat sergeant mean when he call us K.P.?"

"Ah dunno," replied his co-worker, "but from de look on his face, Ah think he means 'Keep Peelin'."

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