Glenn McPherson Fonds

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all the way to Vancouver and in 1939 opened the Lions Gate Bridge, a historical fact recorded on the concrete abutment on the east?*end of the bridge. On the trip back from England we followed the British battleship, I think it was the Hood. This battleship had been assigned to escort the King and Queen, but there was another reason for having a warship of this size make the trip under the cover of the King and Queen's visit to Canada. I had been associated in London with the Board of Trade people and Treasury people, and was aware that something was going on, and that the British Government while talking about peace were actually starting to prepare for an inevitable war. One of the closely guarded secrets, as far as Canada was concerned and the Canadian people, ~~McKenzie King still stating at every opportunity that there wasn't going to be a war~~, was the fact that the British took this opportunity of moving all of the gold bullion and securities out of the Bank of England aboard the battleship and the battleship took these British securities and the gold to Quebec or Montreal, I am not sure what the transfer point was, but I know that when the King and Queen were driving through the streets of Montreal, under the cover of that parade, the authorities were busy moving the gold bullion and securities off the ship into the vaults under the Sun Life Building. Later on I found out that the Share Certificates had been deposited originally in the vaults of the Sun Life and the gold bullion had been taken to Ottawa and put into the Bank of Canada vaults during the parade in Ottawa.

On our arrival back in Ottawa we didn't see Dr. Coleman because he was in charge of the Royal Tour and travelled across Canada with the King and Queen.

In spite of McKenzie King's public announcements that there wasn't going to be a war and he was supporting the Chamberlain government in this public

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view, King had set up a War Committee to prepare legislation for the War, and it was quite obvious to me that he believed that there was going to be a war, and I personally having been in Europe, certainly thought that it was just a matter of time. King established a inter-departmental committee, I think it was chaired by Mr. Johnson of the Finance Department, perhaps he was the Deputy Minister of Finance at the time and I was appointed to represent Dr. Coleman on this Committee. As a result of this, Johnson assigned the job of drafting the Economic Warefare Regulations, which became known as the Trading with the Enemy Regulations to me because I was the only one in Ottawa at that point who with a legal education, who had the knowledge, and had made a study of the same type of regulations as enacted in the First World War. I knew where the pitfalls were, what protection Canada required and had some new ideas about how to get control of property in Canada that belonged to the enemy and to prevent other Governments from contending, as they had after the First World War that the assets in Canada had been vested prior to the Canadian Governments seizure of same. All during the summer of 1939 and certainly in August, this Committee was working daily, the members were all assigned specific jobs to do for instance, the representatives from the Bank of Canada were already drafting regulations for foreign exchange control. All of our work was done in great secrecy and I was working perhaps 18 hours a day and certainly working on weekends. When Coleman got back after the Royal Train Tour , I stayed with Coleman for sometime and had many meetings with him and Watson Sellers who I think at that point was the Controller General and by September 2, when the British declared war on Germany after the occupation of Poland, our Trading with the Enemy Regulations were all set and ready to go.

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McKenzie King had summoned Parliament in order to get a mandate to conduct the war and Parliament met and Canada declared war on September 10th. I think the War Measures Act was still in existence from the First World War, but in any event the necessary legislation was in place and the Trading with the Enemy Regulations which were by Order-in-Council were adopted at this time. From my point of view one of the exciting moments of this period was working in the office and getting a phone call from Dr. Coleman who wanted to know if I had my car, and I told him I did, he had just come from Parliament where they were sitting discussing the question of Canada's Declaration of War and I went up to his office and we drove out to the Government House late at night. The Governor General had retired and I remember he got out of bed, in dressing-gown, and Dr. Coleman got the Governor General to sign the Declaration of War. The Governor General was Lo-d Tweedsmuir and one of the comments he made to Dr. Coleman was that he had had exciting times as Governor General of Canada, that he thought that he was the first Governor General to be appointed from the middle classes as it were, that he was not a member of the aristocracy, the Royal Family, he was also the first Governor General to be in office on the Coronation of a King, the Abdication of a King, and the Coronation of George VI, and now he was signing a Declaration of War. He commented parenthetically that that the only thing that had never happened to a Canadian Governor General, was to die in office. Lord Tweedsmuir subsequently died in office.

Lord Tweedsmuir

I note from my diaries that on August 5th, 1939 the new legislation was assigned to me by Mr. Johnson and that I had worked all that night and worked all day on the 6th and the war situation was extremely bad. By August 9th I was having meetings with Dr. Coleman and Watson Sellers, and

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he 28th August, I had completed the drafting of the legislation and delivered it to the Committee.

An interesting note is that the next day, that would be August 29th, I went to Montreal to see the great French-Canadian Counsel Ami Geoffrion At the end of the First World War in the files that I had read, I found that the most effective lawyer ~~making claims~~ and handling claims against the Custodian was a French-Canadian lawyer named Ami Geoffrion who would be a comparatively young man at that time. He had been very successful in defeating the Custodian in several lawsuits and I had convinced Dr. Coleman that the mose knowledgeable lawyer with whom we might have arguments in the future would be Geoffrion because he had a reputation in Montreal and he had the experience of the First World War. I suggested that the Custodian should retain Geoffrion on a fixed retainer for the duration of the war, this would prevent him from acting for Banks, Trust Companies and other interests that might oppose the application of our new Trading with the Enemy Regulations. Coleman agreed and I went down to Montreal to meet the great man. He certainly was an impressive counsel, and there is one famous story told about him when he appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada. He was a man who talked very rapidly, he was completely bilingual. He had a very knowledgeable and experienced secretary who was used to dealing with him and who typed his briefs. He took many cases before the Supreme Court and when she would be typing the briefs she would insert a blank page every now and then in the brief with the single french word "retarder" typed across it. This would be a sign to Ami to slow down as he talked very rapidly and some of the Judges were included shall we say to "doze off" during Counsel's presentation, and she wanted to slow him down so that there would be no question

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that at least the Judges would have an opportunity of hearing him and understanding what he was saying. On this particular occasion, Ami had come up to Ottawa to present a brief and there were regular trains running between Montreal and Ottawa, right into the heart of Ottawa by the Chateau and lawyers from Montreal could come down for the day and get back to Montreal late in the afternoon. Ami had made up his mind that he was going to presetn his case to the Supreme Court and be out of the Court in time to catch the 4:30 train to Montreal. Well, as he was on his feet making his presentation, he had his watch on the table beside him and he kept glancing at his watch and seeing that he was running out of time, primarily because of interruptions of various members of the Bench. Mr. would be rushing through his presentation, would suddenly come to the blank page with "retarder" and this would slow him down a bit, but he was annoyed because he thought that he was making a clear and concise presentation, and one Judge in particular would interrupt and say "Mr. did I understand you to say" would then flip back several pages of his brief, find the reference and repeat for the Judge's benefit what he had previously said. After he had been interrupt-ed several times and was racing to complete the brief in order to catch the train, the Judge once again interrupted him and said "Mr. did I understand you to say" Mr. then in complete disgust said thumbing through his pages said "it is so long ago My Lord that I have forgotten.".

By August 30 I had been having meetings with Mr. Finlayson, the Superintend-end of Insurance as to how a Custodian would get the control of enemy insurance policies in Canada and any benefits that might accrued therefrom.

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Coleman was expressing hope that there wasn't going to be a war and in the meantime I had send my draft regulations over to Graham Towers at the Bank of Canada, who were busily preparing for exchange control regulations in secrecy. There is a story here which I think is worth recording.

Because of my experience in reviewing the Treaty of Versailles work and the regulations of the Custodian of that day, I had found that the great weakness in the Canadian position was that we had to make a prima facie case that any vesting orders we applied for were based on some facts that would indicate an enemy interest. I felt that this was wrong, that in wartime the whole English rule that you are innocent until proven guilty should be waived. I knew that this was a real departure from British judisprudence and I knew that some of the Cabinet would probably object. However indrafting the regulations I put a clause in, that in effect said that all German owned assets in Canada automatically vested in the Canadian Custodian as of the date of the issuing of the Orders-in-Council, giving effect to the regulations which would be I think September 10th or 11th, as it happened. This became known as the Canadian Automatic Vesting Provision. We didn't have to prove anything, the law said that if the assets were enemy owned they vested. Then to get some control and be able to go into chartered banks and look at their records and obtain banking information which is usually considered

I also had a provision that all a Custodian had to do was to advise the holder of such assets or the party controlling same that he had determined that the assets were enemy owned and it was up to the other party to prove that they were not. Obviously with a war going on and no direct communication with German interests there would be no way, that for example a Canadian

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hartered Bank could get evidence out of Germany, that the assets were or were not German owned. The only information they would have would be the information that they had been given for example by a Swiss bank, who were always careful to say that the interests in Canada were either owned by unknown parties because they were numbered accounts or they were owned in Switzerland. I also recognized that one of the other major problems was that when Germany occupied a country in the First World War, like the Netherlands and Belgium, they gained control of the banking and financial structure in those countries, and they took action to try to take over assets held outside of those countries, for example in Canada, the United States etc. I was determined that we should have a provision that would first of all prevent the Germans from taking any action in Amsterdam to transfer assets or shares in Canadian companies held by Dutch banks for German to Swiss parties, anticipating that Switzerland would not be occupied and would remain neutral, and the Germans could then run their companies through that country. I therefore put a clause in that any country or territory that was occupied by Germany would be considered for the purposes of the regulations as enemy territory.

There was an obvious political danger in this because it meant for example that if France was occupied, as it subsequently was, all French assets in Canada would be considered as enemy assets and that French Quebec would not like this terminology applied to France, nor would the French Ambassador. It did create some problems for me pater, particularly with Mr. Hillsley who called me into his office one day in a great rage because he had just found out, months after the regulations had been in effect, that I had had the audacity to say that the Netherlands and Belgium which had been occupied and Poland were enemy territories. We had a discussion about it and he

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who called me into his office one day in a great rage because he had just found out months after the Regulations had been in effect that I had had the audacity to say that the Netherlands and Belgium which had been occupied and Poland were enemy territories. We had a discussion about it and he finally agreed that it was the only logical thing to do and that since the purpose of the Regulation was to protect the assets of these people in these countries against Germany seizing them, he thought that the Government would have to live with the political problem. We didn't really have any problem later on with financial institutions who recognized what we were trying to do. In other words, the Regulations as I drafted them, were designed first of all, to make sure that there was an automatic vesting of all assets in Canada that were directly or indirectly beneficially owned in Germany and secondly to vest automatically all assets in Canada of any person who was in a country that was occupied that was by the Germans. This vesting being for their protection of their assets and as events showed it wasa wise steps because at the end of the war these assets owned by people of occupied countries were returned to them and they might have been lost to them if it hadn't been for our Regulations.

Later on when I was appointed as Canadian delegate to the International Reparations Agency in Brussels after the end of the war, and was selected as a member of a committee of experts on German external assets I was delighted to find that the British representative on the Experts Committee Mr. Blank said that the British Custodian had been very upset with the Canadian Custodian when they found that the Canadian Regulations and the Automatic Vesting provisions prevented them from taking over companies in England that were German owned and thereby getting ownership of Canadian subsidiaries of those companies as they had done in the previous war.

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He thought that the automatic vesting provision was an excellent one and he regreted that they hadn't thought of it in 1939 and brought it into effect 8 days before we were in the war. They followed the old system of having to get vesting orders and of course found that our vesting was automatic as of September 10th I believe.

NOTE: Matthew and I went to Europe on March 18th and we returned on May 21st so that will tie in the dates of the Queens visit I hope

For historic purposes I also note in my dairies on August 22nd, 1939 Russia and Germany signed a non-aggression pact and this of course had a ~~disasterous~~ ominous effect on the morale of the Western World because Hitler now was in a position to fight a war on one front. Hitler entered Poland on August 31st and that was when the British Government under Neville Chamberlain finally decided that the appeasement policy hadn't worked and they along with France declared war on Germany. The rest of 1939 and all of 1940 were hectic times for me with travelling across Canada to set up agencies for the Custodian where we appointed agents in all of the major cities. We also were responsible for the enemy blacklist, this was a list of people who were in neutral countries who were found to be trading with the enemy. There was a great exchange of information in this regard between Canada and the British Board of Trade, and Frank Delot was appointed as responsible for the list and it was a card index system and I remember that it was kept in my office and I was very worried that we were going to be bogged down in red tape but Frank and I worked together and the list became a very effective weapon in economic warfare and in posing an economic blockade As soon as a neutrals name was put on this list in Canada and/or in England we tried to keep the lists identical, then noone in Canada could trade with that person directly or indirectly. One of

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the most famous cases I think, was the case of Axel Wintergram who later came to British Columbia and Mr. Bennett gave him what became politically as 'Wintergram land' where he was going to build a mono-rail and do all kinds of development in the Rocky Mountain trench. None of this ever materialized, by that time I was in British Columbia and had known Wintergram from war days and had no confidence that he was any more than a promoter and not too respectable a one, even at that.

Early in the war we found out that Wintergram who had built his fortune around the electrolux vacuum cleaner in Sweden. He was a Swede and they were neutral. He had developed in some of his plants somewhere what became known as the Bofors anti-aircraft gun. Wintergram wanted to market this with the combatants on both sides and had no reluctance to do so. The British were able to buy the gun, and the Germans were able to buy it through Switzerland. When we determined that he was trading with the enemy he was in a neutral country we put him on the enemy list and then we started out to try and embarrass him wherever we could throughout the world with all the other Custodians that had been appointed, particularly in the British Empire countries. We were even able to bring some pressure to bear on him I believe in one of the South American countries. However, in the meantime Wintergram had a boat called the [illegible] blank something Star I will have to remember it. This ship was on the face of it as far as the world was concerned being used to take refugees out of various countries or exchange prisoners of war, and we were concerned about the ship because it kept turning up suspiciously in areas where there was a great deal of German submarine activity, and we felt that the ship might being used either for re-supplies of submarines or that it was carrying contraband throughout the world in the interest of Mr. Wintergram. We found that he was a very difficult man to deal with and years later as I said, when I was in Vancouver, Mr. Bennett had created 'Wintergram land', there was a large reception held at the Vancouver

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Hotel, for Axel Wintergram and I was invited to the reception presumably because I was an investment manager for Great West Life at the time and the business world was to meet the great industrialist. I can well remember my feeling ~~on~~ of walking into the cocktail party and going through the lineup and being introduced to Axel Wintergram and actually shaking hands with him. I wondered at the time what he would have thought and would he have shaken hands with me if he had known that I was one of the principle instigators of having his name added to the British and Canadian enemy lists during the war. My comment here about Axel Wintergram and Sweden in general is that there was a great feeling and there still is a great feeling that Sweden played a major part in supplying both sides with war materials, that they took advantage of their neutralism of their neutrality much against the better interest of Norway and there is certainly is no love lost today between the Norwegians and Swedes and when one looks at Switzerland and Sweden and talks about their economic situation one should keep in mind that in the case of Switzerland ~~some~~ our countries have fought two world wars to protect their neutrality and in the last war in a major conflict with Hitler we protected Swedens neutrality so why shouldn't they have come out of the war in better financial condition than those countries that were ~~lead~~ bleed economically in fighting a war on their behalf.

During this period I note that in 1938 I travelled on government business about 10,000 miles that year and in 1939 I travelled 16,000 miles according to figures kept by my Ottawa secretary. The Readers should appreciate that setting up the Custodians office in Ottawa was a major undertaking. We had to recruit staff and it was difficult to get competent confident staff, the recruting was going on in all of our three services However, an organization was built and we decided as a matter of policy not to have organizations of government employees outside of Ottawa, but to appoint basically

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chartered accounting firms in various cities across the country to act as agents of the Custodian and I travelled back and forth across Canada, sometimes with Dr. Coleman and sometimes without him setting up these offices and educating the principle member of the firm on exactly what the regulations were intended to do and what our powers were. I remember appointing Frances G. W inspear in Edmond of the Winspear Hamilton firm that did a fantastic job for us and on the other end of the scale down in Halifax, we appointed Mr. Cromwell I think was his name. He was a chartered accountant. In Montreal we had P.S. ~~Touche~~ Ross & Sons and in Vancouver we had Frederick Field & Sons. In addition to searching out and taking over enemy property and administrating it, on behalf of the Custodian we had another problem, because of the war histeria as it were some prominant Canadian citizens of German extractions were arrested and put into Internment camps Perhaps the outstanding or ~~the~~ best known one in eastern Canada was Frances Sheeney. ~~By this time~~, By the time that Italy was in the war, Frances Sheeney who was an Italian and certainly the Dean of the Italian community in the Toronto area was arrested and put in a concentration camp up or near Capuscasey ing as I recall. Nothing had ever been proven against him or that he was sympathic or ~~that~~ he would do anything against Canada's interest, that is that he was sympathic et ic to Mussolini but there was proof that he had given Mussolini a white horse. Frances Sheeney was an interesting man, he was in the construction business on the outbreak of war he had offices in Toronto and Montreal, and when he was put in the concentration camp along with all other internees a special order had been passed which ~~past, that~~ made the Custodian responsible for the assets of anyone arrested and put in a concentration camp. This created additional problems for us.

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Here we were taking over the administration of properties belonging to residents of Canada some of whom were Canadian citizens. Frances Sheeney at the time, and I am jumping ahead of my story, but when he was put in the concentration camp he was actually building ships at a Frances Sheeney shipyard in Toronto harbour. These were minesweeper types, small ships and he also had a big cement plant in Quebec, I think it was across the river in Wakefield. Cement kilns were in short supply and cement was needed and moves were made by the Canada Cement Company in Montreal that Bob Howie's brother, Howie I have referred to long ago as having been a progressive and cabinet minister (in the Government with Dad), his brother was one of the top officials in the Canada Cement Company and they were anxious to get a hold of the kiln owned by Frances Sheeney and as they said put it to work in the war effort. Some of us felt they were just as interested in getting a hold of the kiln so that when Frances Sheeney got out of prison he would not be a competitor. Frances Sheeney had a beautiful home on the banks of the Saint Lawrence, I think it was somewhere in the area of Oshawa or Brockville, he had a complete bowling alley in the house, he had stables and riding rings with tanbark on the grounds for the horse. He had developed a breed of horse, he really was a very wealthy man and because he was put in jail we suddenly found that his home and everything that he had owned had been vested into the Custodian. I can remember going down to Toronto and then going out to his home with our Toronto agents to check over the property and obviously we had to make a complete inventory and had to protect the assets. There wasn't any possibility of renting the place out but we had to lock it up and have a security guards to make sure that people might feel that his assets were fair game now that he had been declared to be an enemy and put in a concentration camp, that we could protect the assets against such people.

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I remember that in the house he had several pictures of Mitch Hepburn who had been a Premier of Ontario for many years, he was a Liberal Premier, and there had been some question as to the relationship between Frances Sheeney and Hepburn, suggesting that Frances Sheeney had brought most of his contracts from the then Liberal Government. He was in the heavy construction business and it was reported to me that on one occasion somebody had said to Frances Sheeney when Mitch Hepburn was finally defeated "now what are you going to do then your friend Hepburn has been defeated." Frances Sheeney made the statement that "governments may change, but politicans never."

Another story about Frances Sheeney and my troubles with him that may be of interest to the reader, one of the assets that he had in northern Ontario was a hotel, I think the hotel may have been in a small mining town, but anyway it was well known as a hotel that was shall we say of ill-repute The hotel never made any money for Frances Sheeney and during the summer all his realtives went up and stayed at the hotel because it was in a nice area, lakes and wooded area, it was good fishing and they never paid their bills. The moment the Custodian took over, we were then faced with the problem that in the first place the hotel was a known shall we say as I have said before a house of ill-repute, but we had to try and make some money out of it The question that I was faced with was what to recommend to the Custodian, should we continue to operate it, charge Frances Sheeney's relatives as if they stayed there and put it on a profit basis. I can well remember going up to the Minister's office with Dr. Coleman and I said to the Minister do you know who is operating the biggest whore house in Northern Ontario. He of course said "no who" and I said "you as Custodian" In any event we did operate the hotel and we did make money out of it and while I don't have the letter in my file I can well remember Frances Sheeney writing to the Custodian and addressing it to me personally, and thanking me for having kept him informed

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of how his assets were being administered and he was particularly pleased to hear that we were making money out of the hotel. Don't ask me and I won't record what happened to the ladies in the hotel, but be that as it may we did make money and Frances Sheeney was grateful.

Another story about Frances Sheeney, and again I am jumping ahead in my diary was the fact that he owned a ship yard in Toronto and the Custodian had of course taken over its administration but we did not know anything about building ships, and we left the people who were building the ships for Frances Sheeney to run the Company. I was called up to Mr. Howe's office and he was there with Desmond Clarke who was a dollar a year man working for Mr. Howe, and Mr. Howe who was a man of a few words and a man of great action, wanted to know what we were doing with the Frances Sheeney shipyard, and I said it was operating under the management that Frances Sheeney had, and he said that it wasn't good enough, that he wanted the ships that they had built down the Saint Lawrence and into the Maritimes before the ice formed. He told me that he wanted me to go down and find out what was the matter because the ships were tied up at the dock in Toronto and nothing seemed to be happening. I can well remember going down to Toronto the next morning no doubt, on orders of Mr. Howe, and I went out to look at the shipyard, at that point I did not know anything about shipping or the building of ships, so I wandered around kind of incognito on the docks at first and then went and dug up the manager, general manager, of the plant and said that I could see that there were a lot of ships tied to the dock and they appeared ready to go and I wondered why they were not going down the Saint Lawrence. He said that the only reason was because that he didn't have any engines. I was amazed at this and said "well why didn't you order the engines when you were building the ships" and he said "that he had ordered the engines

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but the engines had all been ~~cancelled~~ in Montreal by Vickers who were building the same type of ships, and they had the engines in the plants in Montreal, and the docks, but they hadn't built the ships yet, and he couldn't get the engines from Vickers . That was enough for me, I went back to Ottawa, ~~went in~~ was in to see Mr. Howe the next morning, gave him my report, and said that there wasn't any problem except that there was no engines in the ships that the engines were at Vickers in Montreal. I can well remember Mr. Howe picking up the phone, calling and unknown to me in Montreal, and the conversation was short and abrupt, and all Mr. Howe told him to do was to get those engines down to Toronto that the Frances Sheeney shipyard, as they had the ships built, and he wasn't putting up with this nonsense of keeping the engines in Montreal for ships that Vickers were going to build. So the engines arrived in Toronto and I am pleased to report that all of the ships built up to that time by Frances Sheeney shipyard under our control were down the Saint Lawrence and into the Maritime ports before the freeze-up.

By the outbreak of war I was living at the Gatmall Golf Club with Clarence Mark? and Bill Armarod?, we were living in what you would call pretty old buildings, they were something like "H" huts, but they had very small bedrooms ~~and~~ with bunks, and there was a light hanging from the ceiling. Players was playing a lot of golf as soon as the war broke out he had attempted to enlist, he came from Kitchener which in the First World War was known as Berlin and had changed ~~its~~ the name to Kitchener, and his family was of German extraction, and there was a story ~~which~~ that he loved to tell about how in 1939 he had tried to enlist in the airforce, but was turned down as being medically unfit, then he tried the navy and the army and they all turned him down and he couldn't get in. I think it was perhaps in 1940 or 41 that they were

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really looking for people for the airforce, and he went down again to enlist in the airforce and while they had rated him medically unfit the first time he was examined they, now accepted him. He contended that I had been in touch with the Superintendent Babbin who was the head of the RCMP Security at the time, and that I must have put in a good word for him inspite of his German name. He eventually went overseas and was on the run, conveying Russian convoys from the Shetland Islands to Ver up in the north They were shot down at one time, at sea and he was the only survivor from that crash. They were flying in Catalina flying boats on coastal patrol. I remember that after one of my trips to England during the war I found out that he was out of the hospital and when I sent him a signal or wire suggesting that he might like to come down to London and spend a weekend with me, he really created problems at Canada House by sending a telegram back saying that he had received my telegram and would be delighted to spend a weekend with me and signed it "Clare". That was his real name but it could have been a girl's name and I took a bit of ribbing around Canada House, everybody wanting to know who my girlfriend from Scotland was. During this period I was making numerous trips to New York and also went to Washington because by this time the British Minister of Economic Warfare, which was under the Board of Trade had established an office in Washington, although the Americans were not at war, it was in the British Embassy, and they had sent over a Mr. McCombe, who was in charge of that office. He was interested in the same problems that I was, namely locating German assets abroad and imposing contraband control and fighting an economic war. One of the major projects that all of the Custodians in the Empire were envolved in and certainly Mr. McCombe was concerned with, was the hunt for gold. There was a feeling in England that Hitler

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while Hitler would not have put any assets out of Germany, that some of his collegues such as Von Ribben? Himler and Goerling may have secreted gold abroad, and so the hunt for German gold was on. I mentioned that the Custodian had appointed agents in various cities and in Montreal we had Pete Marwick and Mitchell and also Price Waterhouse and the P.S. Ross firm. The head of P.S. Ross was a Guy Holt and Guy and I became great personal friends, working closely together, and he had an inquisitive mind and was just as interested as I was in tracking down German assets. I'll never ever forget Guy's arrival in Ottawa, I think he arrived in Ottawa the day after Canada declared war, and he advised the Government and certainly my ministry became aware of it, that the Partners in P.S. Ross were prepared to work in the war effort for the duration at $1.00 a year and not charge any fees for their services. His senior partner, I think his names was he was the $1.00 a year man, with Mr. Howe and the Atheana when it was torpedoed, and lost his life and Mr. Howe was saved. One of the situations that Guy and I really got involved in was the Bata Company. To give you a little background, and why we were so interested in the Bata Shoe Company, Mr. Bata Senior who was the head of the Bata Empire, was killed in an airplane crash in Czechoslovakia before the war. His son Tommy Bata was in London going to school and by the time he got back to Czechoslovakia, he found that his Father's half brother Jan Bata had taken effective control of the entire empire. they had 40,000 employees, they were manufacturing small air craft for training. Tommy's father had started the shoe plant, and he had an office in the elevator, and he could move his office from floor to floor simply by pushing buttons. He got the idea that they were being held up in the puchasing of rubber for tires and shoes, and that the rubber cartel was charging outrageous prices so Bata went off and brought some rubber plantations in the Far East

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I think in Sumatera or in that area of the world. I think you may be interested in knowing how the Bata Shoe Company started in Canada. Tommy Bata has told me the story and it shows a great deal of planning by his Father. His Father was convinced that Czechoslovakia would be occupied by Germany and while it had the best army and airforce in Europe at the time, to fight the Germans, and had the type of terrain that would make the German blitz tatics, later shown in their occupation of the Netherlands and Belgium, Bata's Father was convinced that they would be overrun. After he died, Tommy went to Switzerland to see his Father's Swiss lawyer Dr. Weitstein? who practiced law with Mr. ~~Eurka~~ JUCKER. Weitstein told him that his Father before he had died had, had discussions with him about the expanding the company and going to Canada and that he thought that Tommy should go to Canada and build a Bata shoe plant there. Tommy told me that he told Dr. Weitstein that he didn't think there would be a war and that in any event Czechoslovakia would not be occupied because of ~~its~~ The Treaties it had with England and France. Weitstein pathetically told him that there wouldn't be a shot fired in defence of Czechoslovakia. and how right he proved to be. In their discussions Weitstein said they had looked over suitable locations in Canada and had come to the conclusion that the plant should/be built in Quebec, even though the labour was cheaper there, because of the uncertain political future of Quebec which was also an indication of how far ahead that Tommy's Father and Weitstein had planned. He said that they had selected a possible site which would be near the Saint Lawrence river for shipping purposes and would be some town on the Trent Canal, I have forgotten the name of it, and FRANKFURT Bata had the town named Batawa ? This was a combination of Bata

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because
and Ottawa in bringing the plant to Canada they had received a great deal of help from Ottawa and from Mr. Howe. The plant was designed to make shoes, many of the key people in fact, all of the top executives, were Czechoslovakian, a lot of the people were machinetool people because the Bata Shoe Company had always made a habit of building its own shoe machinery so it didn't have to lease the machinery from the American United Shoe Machinery Company. When the war broke out of course these artisans and ~~partisans~~, technical people were invaluable to Canada and eventually the plant was building gyroscopes for British torpedos and other similar equipment. On the outbreak of war young Tom Bata went down and enlisted in the Canadian Army as a private and gave his private airplane to the airforce, who were delighted to receive an extra plane. The Government predicting Mr. Howe's department came to the conclusion that Tommy Bata was too valuable to be allowed to be in the Army as it was essential that with all of the Czech employees who were very loyal to the Bata family, he should remain in charge of the Bata plant, and so they took him out of the Army and put him back into the plant. However with the occupation of Czechoslovakia under the Custodians rules the Bata plant was owned by people in occupied territory so it was therefore considered an enemy plant and was taken over by the Custodian. We appointed a Special Committee to co-operate with Bata and operate the plant, which was done for the duration of the war. In the meantime Jan Bata who had taken control of all the world plants and Bata had plants all over the world, came to the United States, and established a plant at Baltimore, Maryland, I think it was out of a place actually called ? It was built to the same plans as the Batawa plant as they had plans for every plant all very similar in design. The Custodians in the Empire for example in India had taken the same action as we had with reference

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to the Bata plants, more to protect the assets against the Germans occuping authorities and prevent any change in the ownership of the plants. Jan Bata, after the occupation of Czechoslovakia had gone to the United States which was still neutral, and Jan Bata was a personal friend of Herman Goring and used to go hunting with him. He was a very large man, looked not unlike Tito of Yugoslavia, and, in fact had a oil painting of himself hanging in the hall of his home at Belcamp? and I thought it was a painting of Tito. Guy Holt and myself got involved in discussions with Jan Bata, first of all we were interested in the gold that the Bata Company had in Canadian Banks and we knew there was gold in the United States. and we didn't want Jan Bata getting his gold out of the United States, perhaps to the benefit of the German war effort. We were all convinced that somewhere in the world there was a large gold deposit either privately owned by Hitler colleques or owned by the German government and put abroad in appropriate countries to operate the intelligence organization and sabotage organizations of the famous Mr. Carnous? who was the head of German Intelligence. At some time in this period I had been introduced to a Mr. Richard Cort? (COIT?) from New York. I remember meeting him at (in) Dr. Coleman's office and being told he was working in the British war interest and that I was to co-operate with him, that he was living in New York and I was told that I would be getting requests from him for information about our investigations and that I was to cooperate and give him any information I could. Cort was interested in such companies as E.K. Farbe & Company, they had a subsidiary in the United States which at the outbreak of war was known as the American E.K. Farben Company and the name was quickly changed to General ANILINE & Film (American - now AGFA ANSCO) Corporation. It had some very prominent Directors including Edsel Ford and it had some subsidiaries in Canada such as Bayer Asprine

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and Afra Ansco, perhaps I am wrong about the Bayer Company but certainly Agfa Ansco was one of its Subsidiaries and we had seized this company and the American State Department had protested the seizure through External Affairs. External Affairs were not too impressed with what the Custodian was doing and interferring with their good relationship with the American Government, but we stood our grounds and said that the Agfa Ansco Co. in Canada was German owned and that it was owned by the ~~E.K.~~ I.G. Farben ~~and~~ Co. through General Aniline & Film Corporation. To get complete control we had listed General Aniline Film Corporation as ~~an enemy~~ company and we seized its assets in Canada, and I have forgotten the names of other companies, but they had several subsidiaries in Canada. After making contact with Mr. ~~Cort~~ who was working for an organization that I didn't know anything about in New York, but he had been vouched for by Dr. Coleman, he suggested that it would be very helpful to the British cause if we could convince ~~Tom~~ Jan Bata and the Bata empire to make themselves available as an intelligence organization for the British. The Bata Company had plants around the world, some of them in enemy territory, but some of them in countries favourable to Germany and a lot of useful intelligence could be obtained from the Czechoslovakian people who were running these plants. Tommy Bata of course had no control over any of the plants outside of the British Empire, these were all controlled by this time by Jan Bata who was safely in a neutral country, namely the United States, and was building a major shoe plant in Belcamp? Guy Holt and I went down to see Jan Bata and we had a very interesting series of meetings with him. I think one of the reasons that we became particularly interested in Jan Bata and his operations was not only because of the request from the British to see if

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we could make any arrangements for the Bata organization to cooperate with British Intelligence, but because we had found a large stock of gold bars in a bank in Montreal which were held for ~~Woo~~Wolf dstein Euka & Meyer? Law firm in Zurich, Switzerland. We knew all about the contact of this firm with young Tom Bata and also that it was the Bata Shoe Company and that they also were closed to Jan Bata or at least we assumed that they might be and an effort was being made to move this gold to the United States. I had very friendly relations with John Reddy of Barkley's Bank in Montreal where the gold was located and he gave me a call one morning to inform me that there was a Swiss lawyer in Montreal who had been to the Bank that day and was presenting them with orders to release the gold into his custody and transfer it to New York. I took the first train to Montreal and went to Barkley's Bank and meet Mr. Euka in Mr. Reddy office and Mr. Euka made out an argument that the gold was owned by Swiss interests and not by German interests and we didn't have any right to seize it. I read him our regulations and he being a lawyer recognized that unless he proved who actually owned the gold there was no way he could get it out of Canada. In any event Guy Holt and I went to Belcamp and had a meeting with Jan Bata and came to the conclusion that he was no friend of our side, he was reported to us as travelling on Goering Passport and this meant his passport while Czechoslovakian was endorsed by Herman Goering. We considered him an enemy we had listed his plants outside of the empire as on our enemy list and we at this point put him on our enemy list on our return from Belcamp ~~on account~~ in view of his failure to cooperate in any way with us. We will never forget the terminating disucssion where I had asked him is the Company around the world would cooperate with Canada and with the British Intelligence and he informed me quite bluntly that it would not. He said there was no way that England was going to win the war. That Germany would win the war

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and in that event he could show he had not cooperated with us and he would get all of the plants back in the countries that Germany had occupied They having plants in Czechoslovakia, ~~Italy~~, France the Netherlands etc. I told him that we were going to win the war and what would he do ~~was he going to do~~ then, and he said that well if England won the war they were a forgiving lot and he didn't anticipate any problems. We told him that we could not

Canada and I would be recommending to the Minister that we immediately put him personally on the enemy list and no Canadians would be allowed to trade with him or with any of the Bata plants outside of the plants controlled now within the Empire. He laughed at the suggestion and said that he was in a neutral country and in effect we wouldn't dare. We did ~~in~~ exactly what we said and I recall that just prior to Pearl Harbour he had gone to Brazil and was establishing a plant down there and he left the United States immediately after Pearl Harbour and never returned during the war and we opposed with the help of the America/blockade an economic on his plant in Brazil. We got him to the point where we were told he couldn't even buy show nails He did set up a plant and had his own ranch in which he raised cattle for the leather for the shoes and was able to get rubber through the blockade. He and Tommy Bata of course had never been friends since he had taken over the plants that Tommy felt were his as his father's son. I think even Bata would agree today that the Custodian in Canadian and Custodians around the world saved the Bata Empire for him and there were many law suits after the war with Jan Bata trying to get control, but in all cases where the plants had been vested by Custodians and the plants given to Tom Bata at the end of the war, Jan Bata was unsuccessful. He might have done better if he had cooperated with us and with the British.

I remember on one occasions when we were investigating a company in Montreal

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the Domestic Fuel Company, which had German interests as well as the Catholic Church in Quebec, who had invested in it, presumably to get fuel for their buildings, they had an unloading bridge in Montreal for unloading coal which was urgently required I think it was in Hamilton, and the Custodian seized the Company as German owned and sold the bridge to the Hamilton Company, where it was required in our war effort, and no more German coal was coming into Montreal so the bridge was of little use there. This created some political problems and I remember I had to go to Montreal and have a meeting with members of the Catholic hierarchy including a number of Priests. As part of our investigation I went down to New York, down to the offices of the German Company that were shipping the coal in, and that had a share interest in the Canadian Company. They were in one of the towers in the Wall Street area and it was on the Hudson River side up perhaps 30 or 40 stories and you had a great view of the New York Harbour where the British shipping was coming in and ships of the size of the Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Mary, so as a German intelligence centre it was a very useful office. I had a meeting with the German man in charge and when I got up to leave his private office and leave the offices I found the door was locked. He then called someone to open the door for me and let me out and my departing comment was that, when the next time I came to see him I would bring a parachute along.

There were other interesting investigations that we made and seizures arising from those investigations and one of them related to the Aluminum Company of Canada. The Aluminum Company was making aluminum by the process which had been paterned by the Norwegian Aluminum Company I think it was called and these paterns were considered invaluable from the point of view of producing aluminum by the electrolysis process. Norway had been

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occupied by the Germans and under our rules any rights that the Norwegian Company had in Canada belonged to the Custodian so we seized the paterns and claimed the royalities from Alcan. Alcan and ourselves had many debates and I meet Scottie Bruce who was their representative in Ottawa and we made a friendly agreement that all royalities would be paid into a block bank account and the ownership of the royalities determined at the end of the war. At the end of the war we were able to turn over all the royalities to the Norwegian Company in which there was no German interest but we had protected their royalities against any efforts that the Germans might make during their occupation ~~getting~~ to have the royalities transferred to New York.

There was a plant being built somewhere along the Saint Lawrence River, I think the Aluminum Company were building it, but we had no knowledge of this ~~because~~ as this was part of C.D. Howe's industrialization program, all that the Custodian was interested in was ~~co~~operating with the Custom to see that no German goods were being brought into Canada. The Customs official ~~were~~ are pretty smart and we got a report that there was some huge crates coming in through the United States into Canada that indicated that they had been manufactured in Switzerland and the shipment was coming from Switzerland. They contended that the crates were not made in Switzerland because of the structure and other identification information they had about German crates, so they told us that they were convinced that these crates had originate in Germany. The Custodian immediately seized the crates and this created a row with Mr. Howe's department who then came to us and wanted to know in no uncertain language why the Custodian was holding up Canada's war effort. We said we were not aware of what the machinery in the crates was, but that it was German original. They then informed us of course it was German origin, and they had arranged through

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various channels to get the German machinery shipped to Canada through Switzerland and the contents were machinery newly developed in Germany for stamping-out propellors/Canada which needed because we were then building aircraft and the air commonwealth training scheme was then getting underway. and what Alcan was building was aluminum propellor manufacturing plant. As soon as we found this out the equipment of course was released, but it does indicate that our Customs people were on their toes ~~and~~ That the Custodian was carrying out his job, and if we had had the whole story we would never have stopped the shipments.

I referred to the fact that one of the problems the Custodian had was in seizing a Canadian company to try and identify who owned the company when we had no information from across the water. One of the prime examples of this was in the financial world of holding company where within the group of companies all Canadian companies there was considerable assets and these were as I recall it investments in Canadian stocks. I think that a man by the name of Willie , who was a German refugee living in Montreal has actually wrote a book, a copy of which he gave to me and which I have in my library, he professed to be very anti- German which I wouldn't doubt, because he was Jewish, and I would suspect that the transaction I will describe or the set-up I describe probably was set up to protect the Jewish financial interest. What we found was that there ~~was~~ were five companies and each one of the five companies owned all of the shares of the other company, so you could never find out who the share holder was. I remember at the time I said that this was the best example I knew of of a circulist at the end of the ~~world~~ war I no doubt, that it was determined

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who owned the assets of the companies, but the way that we solved the problem temporarily was by liquidating each of the companies until we got it down to one company and then we were stimede because we did not have any information and W meyer contended that he did not know who owned the stock.

Some period during this time Bill Armorod and Clarence Moth and I moved into an apartment in downtown Ottawa and this was more convenient for me than having to drive out to the Golf Club on the Quebec side of the river. We had a great time living together. We found that Clare who was very facetious did not like to get his hands wet spent a great deal of his time grooming himself, which we couldn't object to, but it seems to me that we did all the dish washing and Clare tidied up a around the place. On one occasion I got up early in the morning to go down to New York on some special mission, and as I was going out the door Clare yelled at me to bring them back a shower curtain, as the shower curtain we had in the apartment was worn out. In those days I would go to Montreal and fly down on ~~Eastern~~ Colonial Airways which operated from New York to Montreal and it was a very good operation. I went to a meeting down in Wall Street and was coming back by taxi to my hotel when I went by Massey's department store. I stopped the taxi and asked him to wait and rushed into the store and purchased the shower curtain. I think it cost $5.00 or thereabouts. I then went to the hotel and checked out and flew back to Montreal and arrived in Montreal the same day. By a coincidence the Customs inspector was an observant fellow apparently because I didn't go through Canadian customs going down but he did recognize me and said hadn't he seen me in the airport that day. I said yes I had gone to New York. He wanted to know what I went to New York for and I said I went down to buy a shower curtain. He just laughed and said take your bag and get out of here which I did with the shower curtain for Clare.

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To go back to September 1939 just after war was declared, I ~~mentioned that~~ was having ~~I used to have my~~ lunch at the Honeydew in Sparks Street, and an interesting situations developed one day at lunch when I walked in, and Mr. Beckett and some other Government employees that knew me, were sitting at a table and I sat down with them and their was one stranger at the table who I don't think was introduced. We went on with our lunch and of course the talk was all about the war and somebody said what do you think is going to happen Glenn because you were in Amsterdam/before ~~the~~ just before war broke out and you travelled around in Europe a bit and were also in London. I commented that from what I had seen I was convinced that Germany would push on through into France and that the French ~~would not fight, that they~~ would collapse, that they were morally, financially corrupt, that the ~~marginal~~ Maginot line would be no protection for them and that if I were the British I wouldn't give the French any military secrets. The stranger then announced that he was Detective Sargeant Scrogg of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and that he could have me interned for my remarks. I ~~said that I was delighted to meet him~~ replied, that my remarks ~~still~~ stood, and that I thought that France would collapse ~~and that it would collapse~~ by July 1st. 1940, ~~and I undertook~~ and that if ~~it~~ there hadn't collapse ~~by July 1, 1940~~ then I would ~~be prepared to walk across~~ go to his office in to the Justice Building and surrender ~~myself to Detective Sar~~ Scrogg ~~for internment~~. [I must admit by ~~the time we got around to~~ the 21st June, 1940, when France fell, I was getting a little worried ~~because I was running out of time~~. [As a result of ~~this~~ the meeting with Scrogg we became good friends and exchanged a lot of information ~~because~~ as he was on Superintendent ~~Babins~~ BAVINS staff. ~~who~~ was the head of the RCMP Intelligence, and the future of Scrogg is ~~rather interesting in that~~ I lost track of ~~him~~ for a while when I went to New York to work, but he wrote me a letter which I still have, and informed me that he was ~~now~~ then working in the RCMP filing room in Regina.

As I put this story together from information I obtained

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apparently in his enthusiasm as a security officer to prove that the security in Halifax wasn't any good went on board a ship in the harbour, hung a jacket in one of the cupboard and came off and made an anonomous phone call to the RCMP that the security wasn't any good and if they would go aboard the ship they would find a jacket in such a such a cupboard with an explosive pencil in it. The explosive pencil was not there of course but the RCMP did find the jacket and somehow they were about to track down Det. Sgt Scropp and in spite of his efforts to prove that security should be tightened up he was transferred to a filing clerk in Regina. After the war he was out of the RCMP and practicing as a private investigator in Montreal. Since that time I have lost track of him, but the story shows that you don't want to be too enthusiastic. It also shows the difference between the RCMP and British Security. I can recall being sent to Washington by Bill Stephenson ~~Stevenson~~ on an occasions and he told me he would be interested in whether or not security was being maintained in a British Government office connected with the Embassey there as the United States wasn't at war at the time, and I went into the office and had the name of one official who was working there and said I would like to see him and the girl at the desk told me that I couldn't get into the building unless I had a pass. I asked her what the passes looked like and she pulled a pad with passes on the pad and said that is what I had to have and I asked he if she had a pen and she gave me a pen and I filled out the pass using a fictious name handed it back to her and said to her if that what she wanted and she said "yes" and I walked in. When I got back to New York I reported to Bill but I don't know what happened to the young lady or whether security was tightened up, but it is an example of how you can get around security if you walk in and appear to own the place and not have any

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From 1939 on until 1940, the war effort in England was known as the phoney war period. Nobody really knew what Hitler was going to do or how far he would go and I guess in fact they were buying time to get armament plans going and build aircraft etc, they had a homeguard ~~that~~ who had nothing better than hunting rifles and shot guns, pitch forks, they actually made what looked like cannons made out of wood and put them on the east coast. The situation as far as their armament was concerned was very bad, they had gone through prior to the war a ~~serious~~ series of governments between Labour and Conservative Government, the MacDonald and Baldwin were playing musical chairs as it were with the Prime Ministership of England and neither one of them were doing anything about building up England's defence, in fact they were cutting the defence budget year after year in the interest of cutting taxes and winning votes. There was one arisocratic lady, I can't remember her name or title, but she had been financing the British efforts before the war to retain the air speed record in the famous Snyder Cup Races and it was through her efforts and her money that the Napier ? Plane was developed which won the Snyder Cup Races and won the cup away as I recall from the Italians. The engine built for this race was the forerunner of the Merlin Engine which later was used so successfully in the Hurricanes and the Spitefires and if it hadn't been for her, history records that the Hurricane ~~or~~ and the Spitefire wouldn't have been in time to fight the Battle of Britain. In any event in Canada we were gearing up for war. Mr. Howe as a power house in this industrial effort of Canada's, and if a monument is ever built to him it should be inscribed as "Canada's Industrial Architect." In the Custodians office the first problems of organization had been overcome and we had an organization going and we were operating quite efficiently I think across Canada and I came to

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the conclusion that it was time that I enlisted. I well remember going to Dr Coleman and offering him my resignation pointing out that I taken flying in Winnipeg prior to my accident and had been hoping to get into the 112th Squadron there, which in those days as I recall was were flying Lysanders and I now wanted to go back and enlist in the airforce. I had my pilots license, but Dr. Coleman told me that I was more useful where I was and that as far as the Minister was concerned if I wanted to resign and enlist in the airforce I could do so, but they would immediately have me posted back to the Custodians office. I think my children and grandchildren may wonder on occasion why the 'old man' wasn't directly involved in the fighting services, so it is worth recording that in those day you did what you were told, but later on when McKenzie King who had won an election and one of the slogans he coined was "conscription but not necessary ?" decided that there should be conscription and he could not help but remember what happen to the Conservatives after imposing conscription in the First World War. What had happen was that there had been problems in Quebec and from that day to this the Conservatives were never able to really make any headway in Quebec, the Liberals holding practically all the seats in Quebec in every election except but one where Dief got his landslide. King didn't want to be tied to the consription issue so when consription was brought in it was brought in on the basis that you were going to be conscrited but you could not be consripted for service overseas and the consequence conscripts became known I think as 'zombies'. They lead a pretty rough life in the army and I haven't seen any figures but I would think as a result of the professional soldiers training them, the overseas enlisted him men who enlisted voluntarily must have given them a pretty rough time in the camps and I would suspect that the vast majority would have switched to the overseas battilions. In any event as soon as this system was set up even though I was by this time 30 years of age, or maybe it was 1941, I am not sure

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when conscription came in, I got my notice in the normal course saying I was to report for medical examination and be conscripted into the army. I went up to see Dr. Coleman, told him that I felt I should not be conscripted that I would resign and I would like to enlist voluntarily. Dr. Coleman told me to apply for deferrment and I said that I would not apply for deferrment but I thought that if he felt or the Minister, or Government felt I was essential it was up to them to have me deferred. The records show and I still have some of the correspondence that on every occasions where I got a notice and they came out as if out of a computer, more or less regularly over the war year, everytime one would come to me the Minister would make special application pointing out how invaluable I was. I note that I was a little surprised at one point in my career in the Government service when I thought I was so essential to Canada's war effort that I couldn't enlist. I continued my work in the Custodians office doing a great deal of travelling . In 1940 I travelled an estimated 12,000 miles on Government work and 1941 about 20,000 miles. In the beginning of course there was no Air Canada flying across Canada so ~~most~~ all of the travelling was done pretty much by train and Dr. Coleman and I did a great deal of travelling together. My friends who knew Dr. Coleman and his pecularities often wondered how I could travel with Dr. Coleman who was a man of few words who would sit and smoke and read and never speak to you. I explained that we got on the train say enroute to Vancouver and he always had a drawing room he would sit and read and I would sit and ~~go through~~ read my files and perhaps take time out to sit in the club car and the Doctor never really carried on any long conversations. I grew used to his x He was a very proud man and was very proud of his family, particularly his brother ~~E.W. Coleman~~, D.C. Coleman who was the president of the Canadian Pacific Railway. This association

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was invaluable to us at a later date particularly during the two Quebec Conferences that I attend, but there is one story about Coleman and the CPR ~~which~~ that I think is priceless and will give you some idea of the man and the pride he had in his brother and the CPR. I had noted ~~when~~ as we had travelled in the train and had breakfast in the dining car that Dr. Coleman as a matter of course always ordered two eggs for breakfast, they were boiled eggs, he described exactly how he wanted them prepared, and the waiter would bring us our breakfast and I would watch Dr. Coleman eat one of the eggs. Dr. Coleman would eat the egg and then finish his breakfast and I kept wondering why he didn't eat the other egg, and he didn't say anything, didn't call the waiter and ask him where the other egg was until on one occasion I couldn't stand this any longer and I said to Dr. Coleman why don't you eat your second egg, and Dr. Coleman said they didn't bring it to me, and I pointed out to him that the other egg was under the eggcup. He then lifted the eggcup and lo and behold the second egg materialized. Now if you can imagine a man ordering eggs for breakfast and putting up with being getting one egg as he thought and being too proud to criticize the services of the CPR, He wouldn't raise the question with the Chef because he wouldn't like to think that the Chef or the waiter on the CPR train could ever make a mistake. From then on he ate his two eggs.

The Custodian inherited many problems, not the least of which was the seizure of a Circus in Nova Scotia, I think it was. Any way Mr. Dean of Dalhousie Law school representative down there reported that a German immigrant who owned a circus had been picked up by the RCMP and sent to a concentration camp, and the circus was in a bad way ~~naturally~~ financially, the Trapeze artist, a girl had run off with the elephant handlers and taken all of the trapeze equipment with her. He wanted to know what to do with the circus and it was in winter quarters. We said

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well we ~~would~~ will have to liquidate it eventually, but you had better try and run the circus and see that the animals are feed for the winter at least. In the midst of all this, believe it or not, Lyndee, which was one of the circuses greatest attractions Lyndee the Elephant, up and died, right in the middle of winter. Crowl who had a keen sense of humour then sent us a report that, said the elephant had died and the ground was frozen and he didn't know what to do with the body, he had had the idea that it could be feed to a fox farm where they were raising silver foxes, but they found that the fox couldn't eat the flesh, so there didn't seem to be any way to dispose of the elephants body, without digging a monsterous hole in the frozen turf. Subsequent to that time, a man by the name of Vince McDonald had been working in Ottawa as a $1.00 a year man and was associated with the Custodian's office in some capacity which I forget, had return to Dalhousie University where he was the Dean of the Law School. I wrote him a letter about our trials and tribulations and the story of Lyndee and asked him for his advise as to what to do with it since we could not bury it in the unfriendly soil of Nova Scotia. I remember I got a ~~rather~~ long and amusing letter back from the Dean and I think it is still in my files. But this is an example of some of the problems we had.

In the west we had Frances G. Winspear who was our agent in Edmonton who reported that a man, (we will call ~~him~~ Nick) who had died, he was a witness of ~~Jeavoh~~ JEHOVAH. Witnesses of JEHOVAH, believe it or not had been declared to be illegal. This was rather an amusing mistake of the Department of Justice who at the instructions of the Government who were upset with Judge Rutherford and his organization and considered them a suversive element. I think they were a group that were preaching against war, against voting and everything else so that the Government decided to declare the Witnesses of Jehovah illegal.

Actually what they wanted to do was to declare the organization as illegal

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and it was the Watchtower and Bible Society, but the first Order-in-Council came out and declared the individual members as illegal. This legal mistake was corrected in due course, but it did cause some embarrassment to the Government. In any event we had to seize their holdings across Canada and Mr. having died but being one of those having been declared illegal under the first Order-in-Council Winspear having got involved nobody wanted to put up the money to bury him so Winspear called us and wanted to know if he was authorized to purchase a coffin and arrange with an undertaker to bury the man. At this point during the war, these were certainly the dark days as I would call them, and by this time we thought England was going to be invaded, everybody was a bit brown, and Tommy Stone who later became an Ambassador for Canada abroad at various stations including the Hague, and he was the High Commissioner, I think in South Africa he was in External Affairs and he was one of the few sensible and practical people in that Department outside of Norman Robinson who was the Deputy Minister of whom I had the highest regard, and Tommy and I had an agreement in the tense days after the fall of France that we would try to cheer one another other up each day by calling and telling a story. You can imagine when I heard about Nick in Alberta and the fact that we had to find a place to bury him this gave me a golden opportunity to call Tom Stone, which I did. I told Tommy that the Custodian's office was over crowded and that we were looking for more space and I needed an area about 6ft. long and about a foot and a half wide and two or three feet deep, and Tommy Stone immediately fell over backwards in his chair, so he told me later, and said "my God McPherson you have seized a body." Well that carried us through over a couple of days.

During the period from '39 to some time perhaps early in '41, or during 41 I had been supplying British Security with a great deal of economic or intelligence, and had been performing other services for them, the documents that I have in my file show that I was always receiving by hand, confidential requests from

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New York, ~~a~~ signed or coded and these requests would involve things like my finding for them German Marks or Belguim Francs and getting them confidentially out of Canadian banks, buying certain items of equipment that had been manufactured in Germany or in occupied countries, obviously all the material that I was acquiring and transferring to New York was to be used by Agents they were arranging to drop in behind the enemy lines. It was interesting and it was being done in the dark as far as I was concerned. I have never been to the New York offices, all I knew was a man by the name of COIT and I think by this time I had meet John Pepper one of Bill's agents who came up to Ottawa on occasion, but generally speaking I was working in the dark for the British Intelligence. It came as a surprise to me however, and I don't know the date ~~however~~, but it did come as a surprise to be called to Dr. Coleman's office one day and meet with Mr. COIT and be told that the Government had arranged to loan me to the British organization, and that I was to pack up and move to New York for ~~good~~ with. This I did, and I arrived in New York to go on Bill's ~~Stevenson's~~ STEPHENSON'S personal staff. That is the beginning of another chapter.

During my dictation up until the time I ~~went to~~ left for New York there are a couple of items that might be of interest that I will insert here for future editing.

BATA

When I talked about the Bata Shoe Company and the work that I did in unravelling some of the problems for Tom Bata, who was fighting ~~the~~ a battle to keep control, at one time I went to, I think it was Boston, with Tom Bata and WILF PARRY his Toronto Counsel, ~~and~~ we went there to meet an American who was at that point supporting Jan Bata, and was trying to get control of the gold that was in Montreal. The meeting there I think was ~~where~~ when I meet Mrs. Bata Senior, I know I either meet her there or in New York and it may have been in New York when I also meet JAN MASARYK, who later became the Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia. In any event at that time, the United States was neutral

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she had come over I think with permission of the Germans to visit Tom and Tom was trying to convince her to stay in Canada and not return to Czechoslovakia. Mrs. Bata contended that the Bata workers were part of her family, and that she felt that at least one of the Bata's had to remain in Czechoslovakia to do what they could under the German occupation. Mrs. Bata was a very strong woman and my recollection ~~was~~ is that she took off and went back to Czechoslovakia and stayed there for the duration of the war. // Early in our work in our efforts to get the Bata worldwide organization involved with British Intelligence we started referring to the Bata employees as Batonians and that in effect they had ~~a~~ were loyality to the Bata Family. There is no doubt in my mind that they were and there was no doubt in my mind that in the movement of these Executives during the war they would have been a very useful tool ~~to~~ for the British, but we were unable to bring it about, but Tom Bata did his best to supply us with information with the help of his far flung Empire, and it was through his efforts that we found out that there was gold for example in South Africa and we were able to get the South African Custodian to seize that gold to prevent Jan Bata or the Germans from getting control of it. As a part of this story, during the Quebec Conference Sir Richard Pime, who was the head of the Irish Constabulary and who was now in the British war effort in some senior position was in the British Delegation to Quebec and I meet him and he got talking about the weather they had in Ireland where he lived and that he was looking for a pair of good snow boots for his wife. I had Tom Bata make a pair of snow boots for Mercia sometime previously they came high up on the leg and they were about the first high boots that I had seen in I seen women wearing/. While Bata made cheap shoes and there moto was to put shoes on the feet of everybodies ~~feet~~ in the world, they could make very good shoes, and the shoes Mercia had were excellent. I asked Tom Bata to make a pair for

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Mrs. Pime and Pime gave me her estimated size. There was some mix up about the size and in any event when Mrs. Pime got the shoes they wouldn't fit her and at a later date during the war when I was in London I meet Pime again and he told me the sad story about the shoes ~~and~~ he gave me the pair back and I went to Tilbury down the Thames where Bata had a big plant and Mr. Churney was the General Manager of this plant, I think that was the name of the Czechoslovakian, but in any event we were interested in getting a new pair of shoes made for Mrs. Pime and I gave the other shoes to Mercia's Mother, and they fitted her perfectly. The story of Sir Richard Pime is interesting as it show what a small world we live in. Only this year, that is in only last year in 1959 in the month of December, Jimmy Sinclair youngest daughter Betsy was married to an English boy, Mercia and I were invited to the wedding and reception and we entertained the Bride and Groom in our home after the wedding, prior to their departure back to England to live. Relatives of the groom had flown from Australia and from England for the wedding and one of his Aunts, her names escapes me at the moment was at our home and we having a general chat about England and Ireland and she was an Irish lady and I commented that the only Irishman I had meet that I could remember and identify was a man ~~o~~by the name of Sir Richard Pime. You can imagine our surprise when she says that Sir Richard and his wife , Lady Pime, were great personal friends of hers, and then I told her the story about the Bata Shoe Company and the shoes. She said that when she got back to Ireland she would be seeing the Pimes and she would certainly remind them of the story, and tell them that she had meet us and that we were doing fine." It's a small small world after all."

The Bata organization under Tom's father was a very well organized outfit and Tommy told me a story about how they were always having problems in getting

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Glenn McPherson

information about recent developments in the shoe machinery business and the automation of it and on the market conditions, so his Father used to send a group of the keymen from on a tour of America once a year. They would all come over on a ship together, have meetings on board the ship and layout a strategy for dispursing on landing in New York and covering the whole of the United States and visiting the shoe plants and in this way seeing what type of machinery had been built by the United Shoe Machinery Company. There seems to be a running battle between Bata and this Company because the American organization never sold any shoe machinery, equipment what they did was they lease it and you paid them a royality for the use of the equipment and which Bata felt was absorbadent and was capable of making machinery as he had the machine-toolist, as the Americans were. The group would spent some time going to various plants in the States reassembled in New York, board the ship for the trip back to Europe, and during the trip back would hold meetings and exchange intelligence they had obtain both as to the modernization of equipment and the automation of American shoe making plants, and decide what changes had to be made in their plants and particularly in the Plant in x This was certainly quite a industrial intelligence idea. As far as the plants were concerned Mr. Bata had a set of drawing which I saw in ~~Ottawa~~ BATAWA and they laid ~~in~~ out in complete detail exactly how to build a Bata plant and where to put the machinery etc. These were the plans that Tommy Bata brought with him to Canada when he built Batawa.

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TAPE 6

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... and I have been talking about the Bata Shoe Company. I think it is an interesting story, my association with Mrs. Weltstein the widow of Dr. Weltstein, Bata's father's lawyer, who resided in Switzerland, his partner as I have mentioned as Mr. Jucher, the man who came to Montreal and tried to get the gold out of Barkleys Bank and tried to take it to New York. Dr. Weltstein, was a very famous international lawyer and had many clients including the Bata client. We kept running into the Weltstein, Jucher & Meyre law firm's name in investigations that we were involved in, and because he seemed to turn up on many occasions and we could never really find out much about the firm or whether they were completely neutral or working for both sides, or just exactly what their real interests were. I christened him for the purpose of identification, having in mind Sherlock Holme's stories, Dr. Moriarty, and felt that throughout the war I was raging a personal battle with this known, residing in Switzerland. As it happened, subsequently when I was on rhe military mission to the Allied Control Counsel in Berlin and I was based in Frankfurt, Germany, in charge of the Canadian Detachment there, which was in the American zone in Frankfurt, I was working in

which was a British conclave in the American zone, and Tommy Bata, it being after the war, was trying to pick up the threads and put the empire together and he was travelling a great deal. On one of his trips from London he sent a signal asking if I could join him at the Frankfurt airport as he would be flying through in his personal airplane which was a de Havilland Dove as I recall, and he would like to take me to Switzerland to St. Moritz. At that point I was able to get away and I think I took a Colonel Manus with me, who was on the British staff at Hertz, We met Tommy at the airport, took off and landed in Zurich and then we went up to

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St. Moritz. Before we went to St. Moritz we went to Mrs. home in Zurich, and it was a very lavish home, and one of the things that I particularly remember is that it was a home that was full of electrical and electronic gadgets. She explained that he husband, the Doctor, had been very interested in electricity and electronics and he had even, prior to the war, something we did not hear of in this country until a while after the war, a recording system hooked up to his telephone so that no matter where he was away from home for the evening, if you called, you could pick up a message from his phone which would tell you perhaps where he was, maybe not, but it would leave a message and at least ask you to leave a message as to who was calling. He had it hooked up in such a way that if he was at the Opera between Acts he would go out and using a coded number would dial his own phone, and inserting the code in the dialing system, he would then get all the messages that had been dictated onto the tape at the house. Noone else could get these messages unless they had the necessary code. I marvelled at this as being a completely new idea and today of course it is a common piece of electronics to have in the home and they are readily available on the market. In any event, during the meeting with Mrs. , she told us that her husband had died of a heart attack hiking in the mountains during the war and she knew that he would be particularly sorry not to have met me. I was intrigued with this idea and asked her why her husband was so anxious to meet me. To show you how good their intelligence was, she said that during the war he husband mentioned to her that if there was anything he would like to do after the war it was to go to Canada and meet a fellow by the name of 'McPherson" who was creating a great many problems for him and sho had christened him Dr. Moriarty. Well in any event, I regretted that I never met Dr. because we had certainly locked horns on many occasions during the war and it would have been interesting to see just what kind of a man he was. Tommy and I went on from there to St. Moritz with Mrs W. and she said that unfortunately they

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didn't have a very large home ~~in~~ of ~~San~~ ST Moritz~~z~~, which was nonsense, because when we arrived there the Prince of was renting or at least occuping I would ~~suspect~~ it he was paying any rent, I expect he was a guest of Mrs. W stein ~~and~~ but he was occupying one floor of the so called small chalet. It was on this occasion that Sonia Bata Mrs. W. daughter came home, I believe unexpectendly, I believe she was going to school somewhere, and she came up to ~~San~~ ST Moritz and meet Tommy Bata. They, as children apparently had known each other before the war, but hadn't meet since and out of this meeting developed a love affair and finally Tommy and Sonia were married. Sonia and Tommy now live in Toronto and she is a very active woman in the Shoe Company and in the designing of shoes and she is also on the Design Council of Canada, and I think is a Director now of the Bank of Montreal. A very fine woman, and they make a very fine couple and have a wonderful family. One of the boys has stayed with us in Vancouver and ~~has~~ gone skiing with Mercia at Whistler Mountain. We have endeavoured to keep up our contact with the Batas and Tommy usually gets in touch with us ~~when~~ if he goes through Vancouver on one of his world tours. And in any event my association with the Bata family both during the war and since the war has been a very interesting one, and I am proud to say, that I consider Tommy Bata a personal friend.

Another thing that happened to me in 1941, and it was early in the year, when I was on the train riding in the parlour car coming to Vancouver and sitting in the car, a man sitting across from me was reading a newspaper and I noted that he put the paper down and studied me for a few minutes and then he came across and said are you any chance Glenn McPherson, and I said I was, I didn't know him and he introduced himself, and he said that he was just reading about you in the paper. I was surprised and said, well what ~~what~~ are have you read about me, and he said well you have been awarded, you have been given an award by the American Junior Chamber of Commerce as one of America's Ten

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Outstanding young men of the year along with Olsen Wells and some others. I of course was astounded I had had no idea that anything like this was in the wind and I was not an American citizen, and I was not working in the United States. I later found out that the whole idea had originated in Ottawa and that ? Lowe a lawyer practicing in Ottawa who I had known and who was a Director of Colonial Airways had acted for them had put up the idea to the American Chamber of Commerce that my contribution to Canada's war effort should be recognized by their Chamber and so it came about ~~and~~ I considered it a great honour, particularly being a foreigner and there never having been any one other than an American young men honoured ~~by~~ with this award

Now I would like to get back to early 1941 and I am not sure of the month or the date, but sometime early in the year I had the meeting referred to with Dr. Coleman and Mr. Cort and packed up and moved to New York. It was about this time ~~that~~ I think that I shipped the car I had to Dad as I couldn't ~~leave it and~~ see that I would have ~~no~~ any use for it in the United States.

The instructions that I got from Mr. Cort at that time was that I was to tell noone what I was going to New York for or the organization that I would be working with and that I would be expected to sign a British Oath of Secrecy. I of course was intrigued, that the British Government would ask for me to work with this Organization and I asked him what about their own Security and what did they know about me. He then told me that they knew all about me, that MI5 in London had made a study and all the history of my family, knew that my Father was a Judge in Manitoba and they had all the background information that they required to be sure that first of all I was supporting the British war effort which was obvious from my work, and secondly that the weren't taking any chances ~~of~~ on bringing a foreign or double agent into their organization

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.When I speak of MI5 and British Security it reminds me of the story told about the head of German Intelligence during the war, who is reported to have said that the best Intelligence Organization in the world was the British, because the English agent always appeared to be stupid and wasn't. During our time in Brussels after the war Mercia and I met a Mr. Ducaine who was the head of the Bank of Brussels at that time and was the Belgium delegate to We spent some considerable time with him and visited their beautiful home at and he told me a story about British Intelligence that I found and I think you will find makes the point that was making. In the First World War, Ducaine was a very young man and Belgium was occupied and the British set up an underground as they did in the Second World War and had many agents operating in Belgium. Ducaine was one of those agents, and the Germans broke his cover and he was arrested and sentenced to be executed. He was put in prison awaiting execution and British Intelligence arranged to stage a breakin and rescue him and he arrived through the British underground in London and was in pretty bad shape physically as he had been badly beaten and tortured during the interrogation . His nose had been broken and he had some other fractures but the story revoles around the broken nose. The British put him in a hospital and tried to re-build him as it were, and the Plastic Surgeon, in those days being a new profession, had a discussion with him as to what kind of a nose he would like. He told the surgeon that he was going to go in the banking business eventually and he would like a bankers nose. Eventually his treatment was completed he never went back to Belgium during the rest of the war, and remained in England, but at the end of the war went back to Belgium and when the Second World War broke out and

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Belgujm was overrun, he was a banker in the Bank of Brussels, and by this time was a elderly man. Several times he had men come to call ~~and~~ to see him at his office who would tell him that they had just parachuted in from London and that they knew that he had worked for the British in the previous war and they were trying to set up an organization in Brussels and they wanted him to work for British Intelligence. He on every occasion said to these men ~~that~~ who contacted him that he was an old man ~~and~~ he had no intention of getting involved in this war, he was operating in his bank, and living in his home, and would sit out the war, that he had done enough in the last war. Sometimes these people would arrive at his house in Turnhout at the dead of night and wake him up and tell him a story about coming from England. His wife became disturbed about the fact that he always said that the people ~~that~~ who were coming to his house and to his office were plants by the Gestapo trying to trick him into agreeing to serve with the British in which case they would have another case against him. When this didn't work, he was eventually called to Gestapo head-quarters and the Head of the Gestapo told him that they were satisfied that he was ~~not~~ it working for the British, that they would leave him alone if he would just go on living the way he was and working in the Bank. The Gestapo member also reviewed his past history of the First World War, knew that he had been sentenced to be executed and had escaped, but he said that "if you behave yourself you have nothing to fear from the German occupation authorities." In the meantime chatting with his wife, they used to talk about whether or not at least one of the people trying to contact him may have been a British Agent, and he told his wife that he knew enough about the British Intelligence to know that if they wanted to get in touch with him he would know whether or not the contact was a genuine British agent. Time went on until just before the landing on D-Day. As he told us the story, one evening in Tour?

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when they were just finishing their dinner, they saw a man on a bicycle riding up the driveway. He came to the front door and leaned the bicycle against the wall and knocked on the door. His butler went to the door, the man asked for Mr. and the Butler asked him to wait and went in told Mr. that there was a stranger who wanted to see. Mr. then invited him in to the living room, and the man introduced himself as a British Agent and said that he had parachuted into Belgium with his bicycle, and that he had the job of contacting Mr. and getting him to work for the British. then told him that he was nothing but a Gestapo plant and that he wouldn't have anything to do with him and he had already told the Gestapo that he wasn't interested in getting involved in the war, and that he had done his job for the British in the First World War and he certainly wasn't interested. The stranger told him that this was exactly what British Intelligence had told him before he left England would happen, that Mr. would refuse to recognize him as a British Agent and would tell him that he wasn't interested in working for the British, but he said that I was also told to ask you a couple of questions and that in effect the questions I will pose are questions that I want you to ask me and when I answer the questions you will know that I come from London. Well said he couldn't see that he had anything to lose, and that it might be an interesting game, so he said alright what's the first question, so the stranger said "what was the name of the surgeon who worked on you when you arrived in London after your escape from Germany in the First World War?" said "that would be very simple for the Gestapo to know the answer to that question because they knew everything else about him but in any event he said to the British Agent what was the name of the surgeon.

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The British Agent immediately gave him the name and address of the surgeon and his office in London, and it was correct, but this didn't convince " that the stranger was a bone fide. The stranger said alright the second question, what did the British Ambassador say to you on the day that he left Brussels when the Germans were occuping Belgium. Well said that he had a problem recollecting what he did say, but he did recall that when the Germans were pushing on to the outskirts of Brussels, he as the head of the Bank of Brussels got a call from the British Ambassador and went to the British Embassy and the British Ambassador had a secure room and took him into it and there was noone else in the room and he remembered that the British Ambassador had to told him that he wanted to get his hands on a large supply of Belgium francs in small denominations that would be used by British Intelligence in Belgium, and if he could get perhaps a few hundred thousand dollars worth of these francs he would have then stashed away and they would be available to the British Agents who would eventually be working in Belgium and setting up a network of spies. thought about this question and because he knew he had been alone with the Ambassador and the Ambassador had left immediately for London he figured that the Gestapo didn't know the answer to this question and said to the man what was the last thing that the British Ambassador said to me on the day he left Belgium. The stranger then told him that the British Ambassador had asked him to get a large amount of Belgium francs in small demoninations that would be left behind and used by British agents. He even had the exact figure. This really stopped who began to think that maybe this was a genuine British agent so he said what's the third thing, and the stranger said Mr. when Dr. was examining

... may have been the Congress

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you and was debating how to fix your face up, he asked you one specific question. He asked you what kind of a nose did you want? Well of course thought there is no way that the Gestapo would know that he answer to so he said to the Agent, he said well alright, when I was talking to the Doctor he asked me what kind of a nose I want, so now you tell me what I said, and the agent said Mr. you said ~~you~~ I wanted a bankers nose. It was then that realised that the British Intelligence had kept track of him from 1914-17 until the Second World War and ~~had~~ never lost his file and figured that some day he might again be useful. At this point having been convinced that this was a genuine British agent asked him what they wanted him to do and he told him that the Allies would be invading Europe and that they would be moving on into Brussels and that the Germans would start to blowup bridges across the canals to stop the British advance and that there must be one bridge left that would support heavy equipment including tanks. Mr. was then told that he was to contact certain other agents and arrange to destroy a small bridge, that on the face of it would not support tanks, they were to run into this bridge with a barge, and break the centre span of the bridge and then replace it, and ~~when~~ in replacing the bridge with a beam, it being a wooden bridge, they were to put steel rails into the centre of the beams, and right under the German eyes they would rebuild the bridge as labourers and the Germans would use the bridge to move their infantry and light equipment across but wouldn't bother blowing it up because they would assume that it couldn't be used for tanks, so they would blowup the other bridges and leave this one for their retreating forces, and believe it or not this was exactly what they did and what happened according to Mr. an interesting story of British Intelligence don't you think.

United States Senate or I believe it was or it may have been the Congress

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This then was the organization I was about to join in New York. Its original cover in the United States when the war broke out was a British passport control office and this cover had been used in the First World War when Wiseman was the head of British Intelligence, but Bill Stephenson's organization, which operated out of the 35th floor of the International Building of Rockerfeller Centre, was known as British Security Coordination and as the United States was not at war the people joining this organization were suppose to be registered in Washington as Foreign Agents. I do not know whether we were all registered, but I believe we were suppose to have idenity cards because the FBI under Mr. Hoover was very much opposed to the organization to be allowed to exist in the United States which was neutral as he felt that this would interfer with his authority. He became more enraged against Bill Stephenson and the organization when President Roosevelt decided to establish the OSS, that is the Office of Strategic Services under General Donavan, who was known as Wild Bill Donavan in the First World War, and who became a great personal friend of Bill Stephenson and the idea of setting up the OSS was that it would operate similar to the British Intelligence and was the forerunner to today's CIA. I can well remember that there were meetings between Bill and ~~and~~ Wild Bill Donavan about how the organization should be set up and our office supplied Donavan with an outline or an organizational chart as it were in great secrecy as to how it should be done. I know that Bill was horrified to find that about a week after the information had been given to Wild Bill Donavan a more or less complete report of OSS and its setup was published in the Chicago Tribune, by Mr. MacCormack, who hated the British, was a man who believed passioniately in America first, and in America's isolation policy, which existed between the two World Wars. In fact the isolation of America had become so great after the First World War that most people forget that the United States Senate or I believe it was or it may have been the Congress

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refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. While Bill's organization was being established in New York in a neutral country, which created some problems in itself, to be in a country that had been following a policy of isolation for years, made it more difficult and ~~more~~ particularly in view of the fact that the organization was not designed to operate wholly in the United States, but STEPHENSON had under his control the Western Hemisphere and was also using the organization for the recuiting and training of Agents to be dropped into occupied Europe. When I was recuited I was told that I must not disclose to anyone what I was doing or what the organization was doing, or why it existed, and we all had to sign an Oath of Secrecy which Bill pointed out was effective for life. This created some problems for me, particularly psychological problems. Here I was unmarried, 29 years of age, as of the war date, for draft purposes, was not in any military service, and was unable to explain even to my own family what I was doing in the interests of the war effort to justify my not being in military service. As I have explained while working in Canada for the Custodian, it could be assumed that I was on essential war service otherwise I would have been in the military service and I have explained about the draft notices, but when I left Canada I had the feeling that it was going to be very difficult for me to explain to my friends why I had left Canada and gone to a neutral country. This bothered me, but as the saying goes you never explain your friends don't need an explanation and your enemies wont believe it anyway. In one sense I was grateful for the fact that in 1941 as I referred to previously I was awarded by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce an award as one of America's ten outstanding young men, and the award stated that it was for distinguished contribution to his nations welfare. For obvious reasons I kept no diary during the time I was living in New York ~~nor did I keep~~, or make entries

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in subsequent diaries on any work that I was doing for British Security. When I arrived in New York it is my recollection that I first lived at the Barbazon Plaza, there were two Barbazon Plazas, one was a hotel for ladies and the other was a general hotel and some of the staff, the ladies were living in the Bazbazon Ladies Hotel. One of the jobs that I had was to recruit safe Canadians to work for the British and one of the Canadians that I brought to New York was Gavin Young of Thunder Bay. Gavin/incidently now lives in Thunder Bay, his Father was I believe a newspaper man there, and Gavin is a lawyer, and I have seen him on a couple of occasions since that time. Once in Thunder Bay and once in Vancouver when he was out here as Chairman of the Canadian Ski Association. In any event Gavin and I rented an apartment from a New York showgirl, we rented it through her agent, she was having to get out of town in a hurry for some reason, and the apartment was a so-called penthouse on the top of a very old building I believe it was on the corner of 56th and 7th or 6th Avenue, but in that area and was within walking distance for us. Perhaps you would be interested in a short discription of this apartment because it was really quite a sight The apartment had a outside patio on the roof of the building with a big awning over the patio, there was a living room and a bedroom and a kind of a kitchen which was part of the living room. The bedroom was interesting because the walls were mirrored, and there was what appeared to be an ermine bedspread on the bed, the drapes were also of some type of fur material, I would imagine it was rabbit or something like that, but it was made to look something like ermine. In the living room there was a record player which was something new to us. This machine could play 24 records by setting the proper buttons, it would play one side of all records and then turn them all over and play the other side, or it would play alternate sides

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of each record as it went through the machinery. She had all types of records from jazz to classical, we found that the machine on occasion would act up and grind up a few of the records. She also had a very interesting library with many excellent books and a lot of junk. The kitchen was interesting in that it was the first time I had seen a kitchen were all of the pots and pans were copper. We inherited with the apartment a very nice darkee? lady who was kind of maid and house-cleaner We cooked our own meals and she showed up during the day to tidy the place up. We thought that she was also a watchdog for the landlord. In any event during all of the time I was in New York except for the short period of living in ~~a~~ the Barbazon, I lived in this apartment with Gavin Young. I can remember reporting to the office on the 35th floor and meeting Bill Stephenson/Sol I would say he occupied a very high position in the minds of all those who worked for him or came in contact with him. He was an amazing man, with an amazing personality and he had one trate that impressed me and I have never forgotten it and that was that in meetings that I attended or when you went into his office he always sat behind his desk and waited for the other person to speak. This had a kind of ~~phy~~ psyco logical effect as far as I was concerned that if you went in to see him about some thing you were immediately put in a kind of defensive position. He sat there and looked at you and obviously you had come in to talk about something and he wasn't going to start the conversation. You had to start the conversation and I always felt that people who were going into his office were always thrown a little off balance by this tactic. I think it is an excellent one, but one that I have never been able to practice for obvious reasons. myself

Up until the last few years Bill Stephenson and his entire organization were a mystery to most people and certainly to Canadians, Government officials

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to some extent were knowledgeable about what was going on in this organization during the war, but the number of contacts in Ottawa and the people who really knew about it were very limited. The RCMP were fully informed of course, as was Norman Robertson of External Affairs, who was the Prime Minister's right hand man, and the censorship group were working with and supplying information to this British organization, but generally speaking I don't think they had any real knowledge of what went on. I don't think until long after the war when stories began to come out that there was more than about 10 people in Canada not associated with Bill at any time who knew anything about the "country" that was the camp that was set up in Ontario where agents were trained in sabotage and those that were going to be dropped into Europe into enemy occupied territories were trained on parachute jumping, the use of radios, codes cypher etc., It was a real training camp for enemy agents, as written up in lots of fiction stories about spies. The secret was so well kept, that even the people in the area thought that it was a development with reference to the forerunner of the CBC. This actually was the cover that was used. One of the jobs we had in New York in recruiting agents of nationalities that would fit in with the countries that they were going to be dropped into, was to arrange travel for these people out of the United States a neutral country into Canada, a country that was at war, where they were to take this training without anyone being aware of what was going on. Bill Stephenson himself was a man of mystery in so far as the press was concerned. I don't recall every seeing a picture of him anywhere and he was very determined that no pictures would be taken, he was convinced that an attempt might be made on his life and this resulted in an interesting development as far as I was concerned, but with reference to the question of a picture

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being taken of him I well remember one trip that he made to England in a bomber when he became very upset to see another passenger sketching, and he walked up to see what he was doing and here the man was actually making a sketch of Bill Stephenson It turned out that the artist was a man in the organization at the British end, but Bill convinced him to tear up the sketch and that's the only occasion that I ever heard of anyone trying to take a picture. He was about 5' 6" in height, if that, was of slight build, had penetrating eyes and strangely enough a very dynamic presence, when you walked into the room you could feel that he was studing you and I always had the feeling that when he asked a question, he knew what the answer was going to be or at least what it should be, and he was certainly a good judge of people and their abilities, and more important from his point of view their weaknesses. We were of course all indoctrinated into the organization and told that under British law once we signed the Oath of Secrecy it was effective for life. I never discussed any of the work that I did for Bill or the information that I was given or obtained because of my association with him, and this is my first record of any details as to people and what went on that I have ever made. I wouldn't have been putting this on the record if it wasn't for the fact that there have been several books written about Stephenson and his work, and in later years he has given several interviews. The best story I think was written by ~~Mongonmery~~ MONTGOMERY Hide, it was called the "Quiet Canadian" and Montgomery Hide had been in the Far East at the time of the fall if Singapore and he wrote a book entitled "Singapore Goes Off the Air" a copy of which I have in my library. Hide wrote a very factual story about Bill and his organization whereas Bill Stevenson, his name being spelt differently to SIR Bill STEPHENSON, wrote the book that became the best seller called "Intrepid". As far as I was concerned on reading this book I came to the conclusion that a great deal of it over romatized shall

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we say the operations, a lot of it wasn't factual and when it was made a television story and presented on Canadian television I was more than a little disappointed as it appeared that Bill's whole operation was based around getting Madeline into French territory and her love affair with a British soldier. It showed Bill flying off to London on many occasions and talking to Mr. Governs, who was put in the position of appearing to be a Bill's inferior, but as far as I was concerned Governs was one of the top men in British Intelligence in London and I don't think Bill was his Boss as the TV movie indicated. I in fact have a letter from Joan Knight (BRIGHT?) I will refer to her later as the result of the Quebec Conferences, Joan was the Secretary to the War Cabinet and worked very closely with Mr. Churchill. I wrote to her after the book Intrepid came out and she wrote back saying that the book was full of inaccuracies, that she was aware of ~~and~~ one was Bill's relationship with Governs and the second was a reference to her going into a Cabinet meeting carrying a brief case full of secret documents which she said never happened. I have kept her letter and it is in my scrape book, (and) it is quite interesting to read as far as Intrepid is concerned. "The Quiet Canadian" does not disclose a lot of the operations we were engaged in, but what it does say is true and factual as far as my knowledge is concerned. It is the best of the two books.

Bill had a girl friday, Eleanor Flemming, who was a Canadian, she later married and English navy type called John Grundy, we got to know them very well after the war. I saw Eleanor several times in Canada House in London where she worked for Massey when he was the High Commissioner and eventually the Grundy's moved to Toronto (then in ?) and we visited their apartment there, he working for a British company and she was busy writing the memoirs of George Drue

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a former Premier of Ontario and former leader of the Conservative Party. She told me that one of the problems in the book 'Intrepid' was that Stevenson who was no relation to Bill Stephenson and had never meet him during the war, appeared to have got a lot of his information from Herb Roland in Toronto. Roland was one of the staff people in New York, my recollection is that he was in charge of personnel, and I don't think he had any real inside information as to what was going on, but whether he supplied Stevenson with the information or not I don't know. There were other people in Toronto that Stevenson might have contacted, not the least of whom would be Professor Bailey who is an electronic genius and who was in our organization, and Tommy DRUBROOK who was in a big brokerage firm, and while he never worked in New York had a great deal to do with setting up of the "Country" in Canada and often appeared in the New York offices. My first impression of the New York office was that it appeared to be at least on the surface pretty disorganized There was an English lady who was in charge of the girls and also in charge of accounting and finance and Bill told me that I was to oversee the expenditure of funds in the organization and these were substantial. I also was given the job of recruiting reliable people to work in the administrative side and as a result of this I looked around Canada for some of my old friends and people that I could definitely vouch for, and was instrumental in getting Tom Hill my cou sin, who was then editor of trade magazines in Toronto for Macleans ~~McLeans~~ and was a very good writer. Tom has been referred to by me before at DElta, we were fairly close as cousins and so I asked him if he would come to New York and work for Stephenson. One facet of the organization was propoganda and Tom got involved in this in view of his ability to write and his original thinking. He went on with Bill after the war working with him on the development of a Cement plant in Jamica. Tom ~~had~~ actually

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had graduated in engineering in Manitoba and was and is a very bright person. He organized and built the plant for Bill, I think he also worked in South America building a plant there after the war and they had an office in New York called General Cement I think. There were several companies that Bill incorporated and a lot of the people that were in the Association, particularly the English people, ended up in various endeavours with Bill, some of which I will relate, as they may be of interest to the reader, and indicate that not all of the people were spending 110% of their time on the war effort, but were looking to the future and peace-time endeavours. This included several who came over from England and worked in the organization and married wealthy New York ladies.

But to come back to my recruiting, I have mentioned that I recruited Gavin Young, who I had known in Ottawa, Eleanor Little had been a secretary in the Aikens firm in Winnipeg, who Father was a Magistrate in Dauphin, she came from a very large family, I had known her for years, she was a competent secretary and Bill wanted someone to work with Eleanor Flemming, Eleanor Little came down and the two Eleanors were different personalities and I believe that there was some jealousy and some clashes between them, particularly in view of the fact that they were both shall we say in love with their boss, Bill Stephenson and both felt that they were his principal secretary. Through Eleanor we recruited a girl Margaret who was a very large heavy set girl, who was another secretary, she eventually married Mr. lawyer and they are still happily married. In the case of Eleanor, after the United States came into the war, she meet a man by the name of Boris Goodman, who had been working ~~for~~ for I think the FBI on the West Coast and who had created some problems for us when the United States was neutral, and she married him and went to the

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West Coast and married him, but the marriage didn't last and she came back and ~~re~~-married an Italian by the name of and lives in New Jersey. I also recruited a girl who had no first name, she was just known as J.C. Smith, she had worked in the Custodians office in Ottawa and June Rowe who had been a school chum of mine and a girl ~~who~~ that I had gone around with in Portage LaPrairie also came down, her sister May was recruited and was working for Superintendent ~~Babin~~ BAUIN in the downtown office, where she was the secretary to Babin, Babin was responsible for all British shipping coming into New York harbour. There were several other Canadians in the organization including Herb Roland ~~who~~ that I have referred to, but I have forgotten the other Canadians that I recruited for Bill. Owing to Babins efficient work we never lost a British ship in New York harbour, and the French lost the Normandy, which burnt at the dock.

End Side 1

Side 2

Winnie ~~Cox~~ Potts another? was there, an Ottawa girl whose husband had been killed in the air-force,, There was a Commander of the British Navy there, I can't remember his name, but he had created some problems for us on the West Coast and had left San Francisco to come over to New York and work in protecting British shipping with Babin. I got involved with him later on on D Day as I will explain. At this point in my memoirs I would like to make some corrections for editing later. When I talked about the United States being isolationists between the two wars, I mentioned that they refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles I think this is wrong, I think they did sign the Treaty of Versaille, but they voted against the Presidents recommendation to join the League of Nations. The feeling in the United States was divided, there was the isolationists

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who didn't want to get involved in the European war and there was of course a feeling among some people that it was a British Empire war, that Britain was fighting for the Empire, and this was typified by Joe Kennedy of the famous Kennedy family. He was the American Ambassador in London to the Court of St. James at the outbreak of war and he was certainly pro-German and very anti-British. He got into so much trouble as the Ambassador with indiscrete remarks that Churchill had him recalled by Roosevelt There were American organization set up all over the United States which were designed to keeping a note of the war, then the Chicago Tribune was particularly about Britain and advocating that America keep out of the conflict . Roosevelt had a tough time trying to bring America into the war, he organized to England because he couldn't supply arms and he knew/ he could not get a vote through Congress that would authorize sell arms to England, so he leased military aid to England including the Destroyers. Bill Stephenson was involved in these negotiations and in exchange for the four-stackers the Americans were given military base rights in I believe in Jamaica, and certainly in New Foundland, which at that time was a British colony. The Americans couldn't forget that in the First World War the British had stopped an American ship at sea and removed from that ship the head of German Intelligence in the United States who was returning to Germany. Part of Bill's job was to bring Roosevelt and Churchill together and this was a very difficult task because of the divided feeling within the United States. Churchill did come ove and address the American Congress and stayed with Roosevelt and there is a classic story told about Churchill at that time. Churchill was a man who, the story goes, believed that after he had a bath he should walk up and down the room and dry off rather than towel himself and on one occasions in the morning, there was a knock at the door and George who wheeled Mr.

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Roosevelt around had Mr. Roosevelt in his wheelchair, when Churchill opened the door to see who knocked and in came the President of the United States and there was the Prime Minister of England, stark naked. Churchill not to be nonplused immediately pointed a finger at the President of the United States and said you see Mr. President only last night I was telling you that we Britishers have nothing to hide.

Another correction I would like to make is I think I referred to the International Building as being the building that we had our offices in, but I don't think it was called that I think it was called the British Empire Building or something like that. It was a Louer Building in the centre of the Square.

When I refer to Montgomery Hide and his book the "Quiet Canadian" I recall I first saw this book on the newstand in one of the airports and I wrote to Bill Stephenson, I was back in Canada by that time and said I had seen the book, and that being a Scot I would appreciate, while I would be interested in reading the book I didn't feel I should spend any money in buying a copy. at the outrageous price then being charged. In a matter of weeks I received a copy of the book suitably autographed by Bill Stephenson, the "Quiet Canadian" I told Bill in my letter that I thought that the title was excellent and that sometime in the future I proposed writing a book and I would probably call it 'The Noisey Canadian"

The principle job I had to do for Bill outside of acting as a kind of personal assistant was to work with John Pepper and the a German refugee called George Meuller, I think I referred to him earlier as going with June Rowe but in any event this is the man and he had worked for the E.K. Farben Industry, the big chemical trust in Germany I think his father was a scientist in the company prior to Hitler's days, I don't know if George was Jewish or not, but he was very knowledgeable about the tenicles of E.K. Farben thoughout

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the world and with the knowledge that I had as the result of our investigations we were able to put quite an elaborate chart together showing E.K. Farbens interest through a meriade of companies, a lot of them having a connection with Switzerland. I remember there was a company called ~~E.K.~~ I.G. Cemi, and I think that was the Company that owned the shares of the American ~~E.K.~~ I.G. Farben Company referred to earlier, that changed its name on the outbreak of war to General Aniline & Film Corporation, they owned the Ag Company that at some date I guess it was in the 42 or around then after Pearl Harbour the General Aniline & Film Corporation having been vested by the First American Vesting Order claimed that it was American as the result of that vesting order and Ansco should be released to the American parent company The Company's headquarters were I think in Windsor Ontario and they were represented in Canada by the Honourable Earl Lawson who had been in one of the Federal Cabinets as a Conservative, and he raised a few problems for me at the political level in Ottawa, particularly when External Affairs were anxious to improve relationship with the U.S. State Department. They were pressing for release of the subsiduaries of General and the Custodian was quite right in refusing to release same. We got involved in a law suite in Windsor and I remember that Mr. Mc who was then the Secretary of State, had a partner in his law firm in Windsor who was given to too infrequent trips to the bottle and I was sent down to Windsor to act as Junior Counsel for this politically appointed lawyer. The lawyer didn't know anything about the case and I think that on occasion when we would be having meetings to discuss strategy and I would be explaining the evidence that I had collected both through the Custodians office and through Bill Stephenson's organization, he would be a little the worst for weather. While I remember we had Court hearing and we went back to the hotel at the luncheon adjournment, and we were going to have sandwiches in our room

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and I had ordered the sandwiches and coffee and he walked into the room and said that somebody had stolen the cork out of his lunch. In any event he was a clever counsel and we won the case. Apropos of the General and the Custodian it is interesting to record that when the Americans were setting up their Canadian property Custodians office after Pearl Harbour and I had come back to Canada on loan to Bill to the Secretary of State because of the Japanese situation I was asked to go to Washington as an advisor to the American Property Custodian and explain how wer had set up the Canadian office. Prior to the Pearl Harbour date there had been a great deal of pressure to release the assets of General as I stated and we continued to argue that it was German owned, the American denied that it was German owned and pointed to the prominant New York businessmen who were on the Board of Directors and were quite incensed that we would dare to consider this company as German owned. It is interesting to record that after Pearl Harbour the first vesting order issued by the United States government was an order to seize General as a German owned corporation, and there were many battles long after the war about its subsidiary companies about and/getting the company released from the American Property Custodian rather than liquidating it in the interests of turning the funds over to the American Government as reparations. I never kept track long enough to find out what eventually happened because I went off to Europe as a Delegate to the International Reparation Agency where we did deal with Germany's external assets and I will deal with this situation later.

When I referred to the book "Intrepid" and mentioned Joan Bright and the questions she had raised about the accuracy, one fact that I know for sure is for sure that in the movie that was on our television it showed Bill Stephenson as being at the Camp in London, outside of London where the agents

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were collected who were going to be dropped in Europe and it showed him as being there the day of Pearl Harbour. I know for a fact that this is not true because I was with Bill on the Day of Pearl Harbour and that's a story I will tell later, but this is an indication of the accuracy of the book. In addition to the industrial work that I was doing with George Mueller we were of course all interested in trying the track down the funds, the gold that I referred to that we were sure was stashed somewhere in the world to finance the German Intelligence Organization, and Bill's organization in addition to gathering intelligence was also involved with us in this special operation, and this involved the training of saboters and the directing of sabotage in various areas. I well remember one case where a chap I will call Ivar Bryce who had a bad limp, I think he had a clubbed foot disappeared for a few weeks and we all watched with interest to see ifthere would be any newspaper announcement about an explosion taking place somewhere that had destroyed some Italian facilities. In due course the explosion took place and Ivar returned to the New York office having done his job.

We had a lot of interesting people who would pass through the New York office come in, get their instructions go off and get some training and come back again and then it would be arranged to get them to England on their way to Europe. Some of them were kind of misfits, but there was one in particular that impressed me and we spent a little bit of time together and that was Bill Deacon, he had been a Don at Oxford and after the war worked on Churchill's war memoirs, and is referred to in those books. Bill took training at the "country" and I had a drink with him and to show you how secreative as to what he was and noone in the organization talked to anyone else about what they were doing, except those that were associated with them, Bill didn't tell me

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where he was going, but we had a farewell drink together and he told me he was leaving and then I found out that he had gone off to Yugoslavia and had parachuted into Yugoslavia to work with the partisans. There were two factions in Yugoslavia , the faction backed by the Catholic Church which was lead by a Yugoslav by the name of and there was the other faction, the Communist faction or socialist faction lead by Tito. Another British agent, the author who has written many spy stories his name escapes me at the moment had parachuted in and was trying to bring these factions together so that they could fight a united war against the German occupation. Bill Deacon was the man credited with having brought Tito onto the side of the Allies and of course they harassed the Germans for the rest of the war. When Deacon got back to England I do not know but he was a very interesting member of our organization and is I think back in Oxford.

We had a young fellow in the organization, I was never too sure of what he was doing, he was I think in his twenties and he later became Lord Berstead, his father having died. I recall some years later being in the Savoy in London and seeing Tony Samuals sitting at another table and as I walked out I leaned over his shoulder and said "How's New York these days?" We then had a chat and that was the first time I had seen him since he had disappeared from New York, where he went and what he did I have no way of knowing.

We had a group in the office that was developing propoganda war and in the period of the so called phoney war they came up with a lot of what I call screwball ideas. There was a time when the British airforce instead of dropping bombs, perhaps they didn't have them at that time, but in any event they were dropping leaflets over Germany and the Pyscologists had said that the German people would revolt against Hitler because of the lack of food and so Eric who was a playwright and had written the play "At the

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He was working with us and I recall the occasion he called me into his office in great glee because he had some beautiful coloured photographs of a huge roast of beef covered with pineapple rings and obviously delicious gravey pouring over the beef and he informed me that they were having these printed by the thousands and they were going to drop them out of the bombbays of the aircraft over Germany and when the German people read them they would obviously revolt because they were starving Of course it didn't work, it was an example of what some divisions of the organization were involved in. I think Tom Hill was working personally with at that time and I recall that Noel Coward word for British Intelligence in London, but I think he was in the office on occasion. What he was doing I ~~had~~ did not know.

The organization was also interested in the economic warefare that was going on, particularly with South America, and the efforts that were being made to make the British blockade effective. Chris Wren, who was the grandson of Christopher Wren who built Saint Paul's Cathedral, was an interesting character who was involved in very hush hush work in the United States and he was an odd-ball who eventually went back to London and I was in London in November of 1944 and met him walking down Fleet Street. We had lunch together and my records show that he left a briefcase with me giving me the code number to open it and I was to deliver it to somebody in London, I have forgotten the details, but I asked Chris when I saw him again after the war what he had been doing and he casually remarked that he had just got out of jail. He didn't bother to tell me what offence he had committed if any, and I didn't bother asking him. We had a fellow by the name of Ellis who was short stocky fellow, who was very closed to Bill and who was suppose to be an expert on the Middle East. He wasn't a man that I was too impressed with he was

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kind of aloft and scholarly kind of a fellow, the last time I heard of him he was in the Middle East and I would assume he was still working for British Intelligence at that time.

We had a lawyer by the name of Helburn who was a British Counsel and his side-kick was another lawyer. Helburn was a Russian refugee and he did a lot of work as did with the ethnic groups in New York. I think that one of his projects was recruiting refugees from Europe who had a hatred of Germany and who were prepared to go back into their respective countries and assist the Allied wareffort and work for British Intelligence. I saw him several times in London in later years, and found him an interesting and very intelligent gentleman.

Prior to Pearl Harbour, and because the Organization was under attack from Hoover we were very careful to be descrete and to see that the staff people and particularly the girls did not associate with Americans and while I was not directly informed I think there was no doubt that the girls were more or less staying together in apartments or in the hotel were under surveilance either electronically or otherwise just to make sure that there were no leaks.

After Pearl Harbour, the situation eased considerably in so far as the Americans were concerned and Hoove had lost his power to interfere with Wild Bill Donovan and OSS. The Americans now being committed, but Hoover on occasions still created problems, one of which I will resight when I deal with the Custodians affairs and the Japanese in Vancouver, he having been the cause of Bob Alexander having fled from California and come up to Vancouver to work with me in the Custodians organization there.

As these memoirs will record, even after I had come back to Canada I was still working for Bill Stephenson as far as he was concerned and he made use of the

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Custodians office in Vancouver for various purposes, one of which was the kind of place to put Bob Alexander for the time being. Bob was born in Edmonton, Alberta, and as a bady had gone to the Far East with his father, who as I recall it was a missionary teacher and Bob had been brought up in Japan, he could speak Japanese, and write Japanese, he was an excellent chess player and had very valuable collection of stamps, in fact he was one of the top in the United States after the war and used to give lectures on stamp collecting. How did he get to Canada, well it is an interesting story in itself. Boris who I have mentioned had got on to Bob in California, Bob working for Stephenson and this was before Pearl Harbour and after Pearl Harbour both thought that Bob would be alright in California, but Hoover's boys had taken a dislike to his activities among the Japanese there before the evacuation of the Japanese by the Americans, and Bob created some problem for the FBI, I don't know any details about it, but I got a call from New York telling me that a man would arrive in Vancouver, he would be at the Vancouver Hotel at a certain time on the front steps and they wanted me to go to meet him and look after him. They told me his names was Alexander and that I would be able to identify him (I have forgotten what he was to be wearing, but in any event I did as I was told and went down to the Vancouver Hotel at the appointed time and day and there was this stranger standing on the steps. He was a professor type looking individual tall, gaut and had a great moustache and wore big glasses. I walked up to him and asked him if he was Bob Alexander and he said he was and I told him who I was and that I wanted him to come down to my office and he said what are we going to do about the fellow in the corner and I asked him who the man on the corner was and he said that that was an FBI agent who had tailed him all the way from California, and so I said lets

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go over and talk to him, and so we went over and I introduced myself to the FBI agent and told him that I was a government official and would appreciate it if he would go back to the United States, that Alexander was now working for the Federal Government. Bob then joined the Custodians office and because of his of the Japanese being able to speak their language was invaluable to me and we had a long personal association which has continued today. He is now living in Washington.

After the war inspite of the fact that he had been chased out of the United States he went back to the States and worked for the OSS or the CIA in Washington and I visited him there on several occasions.

Unknown to me when I was working in New York for Bill he had already had an agent planted in Vancouver, I think his name was Young and when I went out to Vancouver on Japanese problems for the Federal Government the following year I was immediately put in touch with Mr. Young and worked with him in so far as obtaining intelligence activities of the Black Dragon Society and certain Japanese that were suspected of being Japanese agents not the least of who was a man by the name of who seemed to have his finger in many pies in the Japanese community, and from the information that I obtained was greatly feared by many of these people, but I will refer to that when I tell the story about the movement of the Japanese.

Perhaps the most interesting man in Bill's organization that I meet was Mr. Cort, I was particularly interested and impressed by him ~~xxxxxxx~~ perhaps because he was the first one I met prior to my coming to New York and he was a man who had had a varied career. He had been an industrialist was known to Bill before the war, he ran a huge gambling casino I think it was in a place called and he also had interests in Brazil. We had a lot of interest in Brazil because Brazil was a neutral country and there was a big German settlement there. Cort was useful because of his knowledge of Brazil.

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He was a large man, always smiling, looked like a cupie doll and had a very pleasant personality, but in meetings that were held that I attended with him I was impressed with the fact that inspite of his benign appearance he was a very ruthless man and had little concern for human life, as I will explain later He was a very wealthy man and his contacts in Brazil were particularly valuable because the Italian were flying across the South Atlantic, I think from jump off point in Northern Africa occupied by the Italians and they were running a regular air service to on the Brazian coast on the bump of South America. We were of course interested in this airline operation because it was not only flying agents into South America, but was taking contraband, breaking the British blockade, by flying certain types of equipment out of South America to Italy and presumably into Germany. We were very interested in this air operation and took some action against it. Richard Cort had a very charming English wife and a daughter of the marriable age. I was entertained by the Corts on various occasions and got to know him fairly well. He was always looking for commercial ventures that might be profitable after the war and I can remember that we had a meeting in Bill's office, John Pepper was at the meeting and so was Cort and some other Englishman, and the meeting was called because I think it was a Czechoslovakian engineer had turned up at Buenos Aires and he had a new invention that Pepper and Cort had found out, it hadn't been paterned in the United States and it was a new method of writing with a fountain pen. This particular pen that he had developed later became known as the ballpoint pen. The meeting was called because Bill was trying to get this Czech refugee into the United States and negotiations conducted with him resulted in Bill Mr. Cort, Mr. Pepper and some others making a deal under which they were going to get patern rights to this new pen and I suspect that one of the conditions was to get the inventor into the United States. A company was being organized and Bill wanted to know if I wanted a

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a share of the company. Having worked for Coleman for $250.00 a ~~year~~ month and even those I was getting $600 tax free as a non residence of the United States and a non residence of Canada working for the British Government, I hadn't accumulated enough money to get involved and said that I felt rather than get into this deal I would prefer to sit it out. Bill then made the deal with the Czech and they got the right and it was interesting to note that having obtained the rights, I think it was the Eversharp Pen Company, it may have been a man by the name of Reynolds who brought the rights before they had even produced any pens and I think that they got $1 M., for these rights so it was too bad that I couldn't join in the deal.

I was also a bit strapped for money because sometime previously as a result of a -iscussion with Bill who felt that someone ought to have a car, and I don't think any of the Englishmen had cars, I undertook to buy a car and this is a story in itself. I went down to the Chrylser Building and saw a De Soto convertible the first one of its kind I had ever seen with the headlamps and head shields over them that you opened for night driving and it had a power top. I think Gavin Young and I went in and we found out that this car could be brought off the exhibition floor in the building for $1,360. I brought the car and had to borrow some money from Bill to do it. The money of course was later paid, but in any event I then had this De Soto convertible and to tie the story all together at the point I brought the car, although I will be jumping in time, I well remember that the Grey Cup Game in 1941 which was the last game played during the war, I think the game was played between Edmonton and the Argos and if my memory serves me right it was to be played on the Sunday, so Gavin and I decided we could leave work on Friday night and drive up to Toronto getting there early on Saturday morning, we would have Saturday in Toronto and Saturday night see the game on Sunday and leave again after the game and drive back to New York in time for work on Monday morning. Gavin was going with Lilian Gardner

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who was an Ottawa girl and he arranged for her to meet him in Toronto for the game and I think that she was accompanied by Admiral a girl I had taken out on occasion in Ottawa when I was living there, the idea was that we would meet in Toronto and have the weekend together. They had arranged rooms I think at the Sherton Hotel in Toronto, that may not be the correct name. Gavin wanted to bring his financee a present so he purchased a dressing gown or housecoat for her that was made out of some new synthetic material I think it was unheard of in Canada at the time and he thought it would be a nice gift for Lilian. Judge daughter Isobel who I had gone out with on occasion in Ottawa when I lived there had been married so I decided to bring a wedding present to her, and I purchased a champagne bucket made out of wood and had metal bands. These two items created a major problem for us at Custom at Niagara Falls. We took off on Friday night and arrived at the Custom as I recall about 3 o'clock in the morning and of course there was nobody else there and the Custom's men had nothing better to do than to ask us questions. We had put the two presents on the backseat of the car and when we were asked if we were bringing anything into Canada we said that we were and they wanted to know what Gavin had and he told them he had a dressing gown as a gift for his financee, they asked me what I had I disclosed the information about the ice bucket and then they took the two presents into the Customs office and started to look through a great book to determine what duty if any we should pay. The Customs men were particularly intrigued with the ice bucket because they didn't have any classification they could find that would specifically refer to a champagne bucket. I suggested to them that it was just a bucket like amilk pail and my recollection was that they agreed that a wooden bucket could be brought in duty free so my bucket was cleared. However as far as Gavin was concerned

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I assume that there was the customary protection for Quebec textiles and that perhaps it was illegal to bring in without duty a dressing gown which was competing with Canadian textile industry and particularly since it was made out of a synthetic. Gavin had a great argument with the Customs man as he was anxious to bring the gown in so they said he could bring it in and I have forgotten what the duty was, but Gavin refused to pay it and said he wouldn't import it. Canadian Customs said well he could leave the dressing gown on the American side of the border and pick it up on his way back to New York. We then took the gown back across the border to the American Customs and arranged to leave it with them on the promise to pick it up on Sunday night on our way home. You can imagine when we got to Toronto how disappointed Lillian was and she had to be satisfied with the statement that he would bring the gown into Canada at the first opportunity. At any event we went to the hotel were the girls had a room and we asked for our rooms and we were told that there had been a mistake in view of the Grey Cup Game and they didn't have a room for us. We made a bit of an argument that we had made a reservation and it was confirmed and that we were entitled to a room. We were more than a little pleased for them to assign us to a suite, my recollection is that it had a piano in it and this came in handy for a party that we had after the Grey Cup game. Incidentally we paid a rate for a double room for the suite which pleased my scottish heart. After the game we had a great party and the party went on sometime and after the party we took off for New Yrok. I can well remember doing all of the driving and we came across the George Washington Bridge early in the morning just as the sun was cameing up. We had time to go back to our apartment and make some breakfast and go down to the office to start another week. What about the gown?

This would be sometime in November. During this period and approaching the

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day of Pearl Harbour December 7th, 1941, the British organization and particularly Bill, had working hard seeing Roosevelt, trying get the Americans to come into the war on the side of the British, and over on the other side of the world Japan was flexing its muscles and history records that the British Intelligence was warning the United States that the Japanese were getting ready to declare war and join the Germans. The Americans of course didn't believe it, they were carrying on diplomatic negotiations with Japan, they had taken some political action against Japan which escapes my memory at the moment and they had sent to Japan in protest a special emissary to Washington to talk to the State Department and he was in Washington at the time of Pearl Harbour. The fact that he had come to Washington had delayed the American fear of an attack by Japan and of course they were not anticipating any attack on Pearl Harbour. To refer again to the Desoto convertible that I had brought, this car became a car-albatross as far as I was concerned. I was now in the position that I was living in the United States as a non resident and a British agent, there was no way that I could bring the car into Canada duty free until I had been out of Canada I think for a minimum of one year and then I could bring it in as effects. Mercia reminds me that when I meet her in Vancouver and we were courting for 6 weeks before we were married, she asked me if I had a car, I had told her I had worked in New York, but hadn't told her who I had worked for, and I told her that I had a beat-up old car, but it was transportation, and she says that when we went to New York and I had the car in a garage there I asked the garage man to bring the car to the delivery rank for me. Mercia was standing there and say this beautiful Desoto. convertible almost brand new and got quite a thrill out of that car. Subsequently Mercia and I drove it from New York up through the to Ottawa when I was being moved back to work for the Canadian Government This was in May of '42 so it more or less sets the date that I went to New York originally it must have been May of '41 and I had brought the car as settlers effects.

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Subsequently we took this car to Brussels when I moved the family over and we had no difficulty getting it into Belgium as Diplomatic property, and we used it to take a lot of baby food to Brussels with us. The trunk in fact was packed with baby food and I drove the car to Halifax and meet the family there and put it on the board to England. We docked at I think at Manchester or Liverpool and I drove the car down to London and we then went on to the south coast to Ostende. Subsequently when we left Belgium to return to Canada it is interesting to note that driving home after we had decided to leave Brussels I stopped at a Belgium filling station and the car was an outstanding car in Brussels because there was a shortage of automobiles and talking to the garage man when I was having the gas tank filled I asked him if he would like to buy the car. I sold the car to him for the equilvant of $3,000.00 and it was then 7 years old, the $3,000 came in handy to liquidate all of the debts that we had with the Belguim francs that we had received. Mercia cried when I arrived home and told her I had sold the beautiful car.

I think that the British that were trying to convinced Roosevelt that Japan were going to attack the United States and were going to come into the war and wanted the United States to join them in the war against Germany wasn't accepted by the United States as there was still a great deal of distrust between the British and the American people. It reminds me of the story told about Baldwin and McDonald. You will recall that I mentioned that prior to the war that England's defence forces had been reduced to almost nothing because of McDonald and Baldwin playing musical chairs. Churchill was the only man in British politics at the time speaking out about the state of Britains arms and armforces, he was in disgrace within his own party because

TURN ON

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he was attacking Baldwin and Baldwin's military policies and after Baldwin was defeated, and the war had broken out, Baldwin was asked why he hadn't told the British public the truth. He had all the information from British Intelligence as to what Hitler was doing and Baldwin made the remark, which is typical of a politican, that if I had told them the truth they wouldn't have voted for me. Later they made him Lord and I was of the personal opinion that they should have shot him. After Dunkirk and a few other things and what went on at Pearl Harbour it may be a good idea to consider exterminating the top military brass after every war so they won't be around to make the same mistakes another time.

a little strong

"how about retiring"!!

One typical mistake made during the war was the case of the British shipping locomotives to Egypt to support their war effort and they loaded the ship in England and when the ship arrived in Alexandria they found that the cranes in Alexandria couldn't lift the locomotives, but the British had anticipated this and had loaded the cranes on board the ship. So the cranes could be assembled and lift the locomotives off. Unfortunately the cranes were in the hold of the ship and the locomotives were on the deck so the ship had to turn around and I understand went back to England and was reloaded. This is a typical example of the blunder made by the planning people.

At this critical time other events were taking place on the West Coast that were to have a material effect on my life. They had a British navy commander on the West Coast who had got into trouble with the FBI and they were trying to catch him having broken his cover as a British Agent, the United States being neutral and he arrived in New York. Bill was anxious to get him out of the country as soon as possible and we had a meeting in his office ~~with~~ which I myself attended. Mr. Cort had the very simple solution that he could be found dead somewhere, run over by a taxi or he could arrange to have him found in the

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East River. Bill felt that this wasn't a satisfactory solution shall we say having in mind that the Agent had been valuable to the British in the Orient and had done a good job. I knew the Commander and we decided, or Bill decided I should say that he should be told that the two of us were going to catch a ferry to Halifax and go to England on some fictious mission. I was to accompany him to make sure that he got on the boat, the intention was that we would ship him off to England and if the boat was torpedoed that would be too bad, but I would return to New York. The day before Pearl Harbour these arrangements were finally agreed to and the two of us took off in I believe a Colonial Airlines plane for Montreal where we would transfer to a plant going to Halifax. When we were in the air approaching Montreal, the CAptain informed us that Pearl Harbour had just been bombed . In Montreal my friend and I got off the plane and I went to a telephone booth and called Bill Stephenson in New York and he informed me that he had already been in touch with Dr. Coleman and because of the number of Japanese living in the Vancouver area Bill had arranged that I would go to Vancouver immediately and prepare a report for him on the Japanese situation. He told me that on my arrival in Vancouver I would be contacted by a British agent who was already there. This turned out to be Mr. Young and we cooperated not only during the short period that I was there up until Christmas in 1941 but subsequently when I went to Vancouver to live, and administered the Japanese properties. Bill informed me that I should proceed to Ottawa, Coleman had agreed that I should go to Vancouver under the cover of the Custodians office and I would continued to be an employee of security. I asked him what I was going to do with my partner and he said arrangements had been made and I was to go down with him to the Windsor Hotel but I was not to disclose to him that I was going to Vancouver. At

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the Windsor Hotel Bill gave me a room number I was to go to and there would be someone there to meet us and after we had meet I was to leave and proceed to Ottawa and the party in the room would look after my friend. We proceded into Montreal and went to the Hotel and the room and were greeted by a man in civilian clothes who I assumed was an RCMP intelligence officer and after a little chat I excused myself and left. I don't know whether my partner arrived safely in England, but I assume that he did. In any event I then went to Ottawa although what happened there I am not sure, but presumably I would go to Ottawa and see Dr. Coleman and then I proceeded to Vancouver and my recollection is that I arrived there the day after Pearl Harbour. My expense account shows that I stayed in the Vancouver Hotel and paid $6.00 a night for my room. The hotel was practically empty as the American tourists had all gone home (if there were any) and the hotel itself was not finished as I recall above about the nineth floor except for theroom where the Panarama Grill was functioning.

End of Tape 6.

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TAPE 7 SIDE 1

Dec 8 1941

I have now arrived in Vancouver the day after Pearl Harbour. I have previously stated that the Custodian in administering German assets had agents across Canada and I think I referred to the fact that in Vancouver that Frederick Field was our Agent. This was not correct, our agent in Vancouver at that time was a Mr. Gilles of Price Waterhouse and Company. He was responsible for the Custodians work in Vancouver with reference to Germany and occupied countries and Dr. Coleman and I had been to Vancouver and had meetings with him prior to this time and I had also met Douglas DEWAR who played a major part in my life at a ~~future~~ later date. Douglas Dewar was in charge of the Foreign Exchange office in Vancouver and he originally having been in Ottawa for sometime with the Bank of Canada as a $1.00 a year man. To digress for a moment Douglas Dewar had been a senior partner of Peat Marwick & Mitchell in New York and just prior to the war had retired and come to the West Coast to live. He had a home in Cauchfield where his mother-in-law also had a house. ~~and~~ He also had built a summer home at Bramberry Point Penticton, the home being located just south of Penticton on the lake and it was called Bramberry Point, in a beautiful setting on Skaha Lake. Douglas had built a very nice home and to the side of the home and a safe distance from it he had constructed what he had called a "doghouse" this was a small sitting room, had toilet facilities and of course a bar. He also had a telephone there and he use to because of his interests in New York and his investments, spent a great deal of time on the long distance phone. They had two children and the children use to annoy him in the big house by running through the house when he was trying to make a call, hence he built the doghouse for himself and there were stricked rules that noone was allowed into the doghouse except by invitation and this was his hideway. As soon as the war broke out he sent a telegram to Ottawa, I beleive to Graham Towers

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the head of the Bank of Canada offering his services for the duration of the war at no cost to the Government. Douglas is one of the few people I know who operated as a $1.00 a year man for total war period and paid all of his own expenses which included a great deal of travelling to and from Ottawa. He never presented a -bill to the Government for any of the expenses, but he always was annoyed by the fact that he never received the $1.00 which he would have like to have framed. I think I had his experience in mind later when I had retired from Okanagan and from the Board of Directors of the Air Transportation the Association asked me if I would act as a special advisor to the Board and they said they couldn't pay me anything but they would pay me $1.00 per year. The first year I insisted that I be given the dollar signed by all the members of the Board of Directors and duly received the dollar which I now have. I think I did this in memory of Douglas Dewar I well recall that the next year when I continued to act as advisor the Board of Directors without any prompting presented me with another $1.00 with six one cent pieces attached. They said they were unable to increase my salary, but the 6 cents would take care of the 6% increase resulting from inflation. I any event Douglas Dewar and I became great personal friends and he was instrumental at a later time in getting me involved with Okanagan Helicopters.

When I arrived in Vancouver I stayed at the Vancouver Hotel and my notes indicated that a room in that hotel at that time was $6.00 a day. The hotel was practically empty there were no tourists of course, war having broken out with the United States and any Americans that had been at the hotel had left for home. The hotel itself was not finished above I think the 9th floor except that the Panarama Roof was in full operation. Next door or at least on the corner of Granville

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and Georgia that is the south west corner was the old Vancouver Hotel which had been taken over by the army and was full of soldiers. I may be premature it may be that the army took it over after Pearl Harbour but it was certainly used for troops collecting in Vancouver. The people in Vancouver were naturally very upset, disturbed about the war with Japan and they were particularly concerned about some of the Japanese living in their midst and having such a large fishing fleet, radio equipped. There were all kinds of stories about Japanese spies and attempted sabotage and so on, but none of this actually occurred and there was no real evidence to substantiate anything at that time that there was a Japanese spy operation set up in Vancouver. Shortly after I arrived I was contacted by Mr. Young who had been living in the Japanese community for some time and was I think some way associated with a paper being published in Vancouver called the Herald. He was certainly well known to some of the reporters. In any event my job was to assess the situation, try to determine what the attitude of the public was to the Japanese and prepare a report for Dr. Coleman and one for Bill Stephenson. Frederick Field at this time had been doing some work for the Custodian, I don't know what it involved at the time, but he was one of my contacts and I spent a great deal of time with Frederick Field discussing the situation and meet one of his partners Bob Ray. This meeting played a part in changing my life style shall we say. Ever since 1937 and the death of Peggy I had decided that I was going to be a batchelor and I wasn't going to get married. This doesn't mean that I didn't go our socially or have any girl friends, but as far as I was concerned there was nothing serious in any of these relationships and I had pretty well become a confirmed batchelor at 32 years of age. From December 8 or 9th when I arrived in

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Vancouver until the 22nd when I returned to New York I recall that I was busy every day and most evenings seeing people and discussing the problem of the Japanese. I became aware that there were Canadian born Japanese who in the States were called Japanese and there were Japanese from Japan and the question was "Where did their loyalities lie? There was a much more serious question and that was "what was the attitude of the non-Japanese people to these huge onclave of 25,000 Japanese on the West Coast. I found that feelings were running high,that many people were afraid that Japan would occupy the Aleutian Islands and move down through Alaska and that they might even land on the West Coast of Canada. It did turn out of course that the Japanese did occupy some of the Aleutian Islands and the Americans in preparations to defend Alaska and move military equipment in built the famous Alaskian Highway, with the help and concurrance of the Federal Government. This was a major engineering triumph because it was built in the shortest possible time, I have forgotten how many months, but they certainly went to work and built that Highway. They also started the Oil pipeline project which was to move oil strangely enough up to Alaska. We all talk today about moving it out of Alaska but the purpose for this pipeline was to move oil from the Coast into Alaska.

In any event by December 22 I was ready to return East and had drawn my own conclusions as to what might happen. I was convinced that if the Japanese continued to be successful and to move in through the Aleutian chain that feelings would run very high in Vancouver and it was a possibility that the so called white people in the area might vent their feelings on the Japanese who were particularly vol as they were so very easily identifiable. Mr. Young, I think that was his name, it may have been a fictitous name or

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or I may not have his name correctly, but Mr. Young was convinced that there was a spy ring organized in the business community in the Japanese section and that the leader was a man by the name of He was calling this organization the Black Dragon Society and he contended that a lot of Japanese businessmen were involved and that they couldn't be trusted and something had to be done. In California where there were a lot of Japanese the American people were actually taking action against them such as breaking windows in their homes and generally terrifying these Japanese many of whom were American born, and they were determined to move them off the Coast. By DEcember 21 I was pretty well beat as far as work was concerned and I well remember that Bob Ray suggested to me that as I was leaving for Seattle early in the morning and going back to New York that I should at least go out for one evening and that he was going to a party at the Commodore Dance Hall. I said I didn't know anybody in Vancouver and wasn't too interested, but he said that he had a friend who he was going with, they had been friends for many years and he was going down to pick her up and she would get one of her friends to be my partner and he insisted that I go to the party. xxHaxing This being my last night in Vancouver and not having any social life I agreed to go and we went down to the Westend where Mercia was living and I well remember Bob when we entered the building turning and saying to me, "remember the blond is mine". We went up to Mercia's apartment where she was living with her brother Ernie and I meet Mercia and a friend of Mercia's Laurel Stevens was there and in effect I was her blind date. The four of us went to the Commodore where we meet other friends for the party they were having and in the course of the evening being a well-trained gentleman I of course danced with all of the ladies present. I well remember asking Mercia for a dance and as we were dancing, she asked

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me how the family were and I told her they were fine, then she asked me about the children, and of course at this point I realized that something was up and asked her how many children I had and she said that Bob had told her I had 5 children. I then enlightened her on the situation and told her I was a batchelor living in New York and then went the dance was over I told Bob that he wasn't playing cricket according to the rules. In any event they drove me back to the Hotel in the wee small hours of the morning and when I was leaving I asked Mercia if it would be in order if I ever returned to Vancouver to give her a call and she agreed that it would be and I think she gave me her telephone number. I took off for New York and made my report to Bill. I think I spent Christmas in New York but I am sure that I went up to Ottawa probably between Christmas and New Years and made a report to Dr. Coleman. I well recall that in reporting to Dr. Coleman I told him about the tense situation that existed in Vancouver and thought that Government was going to be faced with a very serious problem of what to do with the Japanese and I thought that they would have to evaacuate them. Dr. Coleman told me that this was absolutely politically impossible and there was no way that the Canadian Government would move the Japanese off the Coast. He recognized that the RCMP Intelligence might well get involved in the question of espionage on the Coast, but he discounted completely the idea that the situation was dangerous toward the Japanese in view of their comparatively small number and the fact that they were so easily identifiable It was also dangerous from Canada's war effort point of view because of the railways coming through the Rockie Mountains it would only be necessary to blow up a couple of railway bridges and you would tie up the supplying of defence materials to the West Coast. This was a real danger I thought and in view of my information through Bill's organization I was convinced that if there wasn't

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a spy ring in being as it were actually operating, there were very important people in the Vancouver community whose symphathies were with Japan and if was the leader or the representative of the Japanese intell igence community he would be working to organize sabotage groups and espionage groups in the interests of his homeland as he was Japanese born Dr. Coleman said that he was prepared to bet that the Government would never move the Japanese and as he was not a betting man I realized that he was quite serious in his view point but I was just as serious in mine that there was no other solution and if the war went in favour of the Japanese and any Canadian troups were involved there would be major problems in Vancouver. I went back to New York and the year ended, my being back with the British organization and my living in the apartment with Gavin Young.

My records indicated that I certianly had a very busy year and that I had travelled approximately 20,000 miles that year on various missions. There is no doubt in my mind that when I got back to New York I was filled with these stories about the girl I had meet at the party and the modern generation don't believe in any such thing, there was no doubt in my mind that I reviewed the question of my batchelorhood.

Mercia recalls that I wrote her from New York and sometime I hoped to be back in Vancouver and I wanted to look her up and that when I addressed the letter I didn't even know her last name, although I had her address that she had given me the night I had left Vancouver. I addressed my letter simply to Miss Merci, in other words I didn't know her last name and I didn't know how to spell her first name, so you can see that I was a little confused, but I did know from Bill Stephenson that there was a job to do for him in Vancouver and it depended to a great extent to what the Canadian Government did with

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the Japanese. He had indicated that I would be going back to Vancouver representing British Security but the time of my departure was uncertain. As it happened his problem of how he was to get me into Vancouver was solved by Dr. Coleman. Sometime, certainly before January 7th, because I arrived back in Vancouver on that day, Coleman called Bill Stephenson and told him to tell me that I had won my bet, in other words the Canadian Government had made a major decision and that was to move the Japanese from the Coast. This obviously would create many problems and in talking to Bill he said the Custodian was going to be involved because the Custodian had been given the responsibility of taking over and administrating and protecting the Japanese assets on the Coast when the individuals were moved and that in view of my experience the Custodian wanted to know if Stephenson would loan me to the Canadian Government, for an indefinite period to go to Vancouver and set up the organization to take over the administration and the protection of Japanese property. Of course Bill was delighted and informed me that I was to procede to Ottawa to receive instructions about the job for the Canadian Government, but I was to keep in mind that I was still on his payroll and was still working for him and he would expect me to keep him informed and to report to New York on occasion. This then was the deal that was made and I left New York presumably on a temporary mission and went to Ottawa to be briefed by Doctor Coleman. I can well remember the short briefing I got from the Doctor, he simply told me that the Government had taken this very serious step and that the Japanese property must be protected, the Japanese would be collected and shipped off the coast into camps in the interior and that this job, that is the physical job have been given to the Japanese Commission which would be headed by Austin Taylor, a Vancouver Industralist and other members of the Commission as I

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recall them were Asst. Commissioner Meade who had retired from the RCMP, and John who was the head of the B.C. Provincial Police. At that time I think there was a ~~Provincial~~ B.C. Police Force, it had not been absorbed into the RCMP with whom the Provincial Government had a contract for police work, so was on it and they had a staff, and I have forgotten the names of all the people they had on staff, but they were all prominent business men, and their job was to register the Japanese and took them into a camp that was being built in the Exhibition Grounds and move them to camps in the interior where it was considered that they would be out of harms-way and they would also be far enough away from the Coast so that they could not engage in any activities. Japan now being an enemy within the Trading with the Enemy Regulations of the Custodians office it was obvious that all Japanese owned property in Canada and particular on the West Coast belonging to Japanese Corporation or individuals residing in Japan automatically vested in the Custodian and there were branches of Japanese corporations in Vancouver such as the Japan and Canada Trust Company run by a man named there were other Japanese interests, direct or hidden in various companies operating logging camps and sawmills, in addition to this the Japanese of course were great fishermen and they had a very large fleet of fish boats, radio equipped , and the Government had decided that one of the first jobs was for the navy to seize all of these boats and tow them to safe anchorages in Ports up the coast and in the Fraser River and Vancouver Harbour. The navy had to this operation and I don't think they had a great deal of experience in towing small boats and they would take and put two big seine boats, one on each side of a gillnetter and as they towed them the gillnetter would be damaged and eventually would sink and I think the records show that this was one of the greatest naval victories in the Canadian navy history as they sank somewhere around 112 fish boats for which of course damages were

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later paid to the Japanese owners.

The problem that the Custodian was faced with was a staggering one, the I tried to get Coleman to give me a definite instructions about my job but Coleman said that the Minister's instructions were that I was to go to Vancouver I was to set up the administrative organization and take over the administration of the Japanese property and protect the property and the only instructions the Minister had given Dr. Coleman was that McPherson must not get the Minister or the Government involved in any political debate, that if he did "off comes his head" as Coleman quoted to me. That was the extent of the instructions I got of setting up a very complex organization not only to seize but to find the Japanese assets and then to take them under control and then try to protect them for some considerable time when the Government decided what to do with the assets. Dr. Coleman realized that in wartime it would be very difficult to recruit competent staff in Vancouver all of the comparatively young people were in the military services and the older people were working for defence plants and there was practically noone unemployed so a major problem faced us was to get the personnel to staff the office. It was agreed that a certain level of the Custodian staff from Ottawa who were trained and experience in this type of work would be made available and moved to Vancouver. Among these were Edger T. Reed who was a chartered accountant and had been working in theCustodians office He went out to Vancouver alone at first and then his wife moved out later Edger T. Reed was working in the Custodians office in Ottawa, was alawyer and was one of my Professors in law school and Dr. Coleman had brought him to Ottawa to work in the Custodians office I think about the time I went to New York. There was also a young fellow called Corbett Druary who had been in the Manitoba Law School and was then in Toronto and I don't know what he was

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doing, but in any event Dr. Coleman had contacted him and he was going out to Vancouver to work in setting up the organization as he had been in a Life Insurance Company, I think in Toronto, and was suppose to have considerable expertise in management organization. Before I arrived in Vancouver, Druary had arrived and they had established offices in the Royal Bank building, which was the same bulding as Frederick Field's offices were in. Frederick Field had been retained as the representative of the Custodian in so far as checking finances and accounts etc., and doing general auditing and finance work in regard to the Japanese assets. I well remember shortly after my arrival in Vancouver that I was waited upon by a group of Liberal lawyers and some representatives of the Accounting Profession, but one lawyer in particular whose name I forget, who was very incensed that the Liberal Government would have appointed Frederick Field as the Custodian's Agent in these matters when Fred Field was a well-known Tory. To quote Mr. Howe I suggested to him that this was not a Liberal war.

I think that the Japanese evacuation from the West Coast deserves a special chapter in my memoirs due to the fact that there has been so much misinformation so much and lack of appreciation of the conditions that existed at the time of the events. I read several books and lots of newspaper articles by Japanese who were evacuation and by the typical newspaper reporter who was only interested in stirring up controversy, I therefore feel that because I was so directly involved that it is time that somebody set the record straight and dealt with the position of the Federal Government of the time and the problems they were faced with.

From the point of view of the Custodian it was a very difficult situation because of course we had to recruit staff in an area where little competent staff was available that was not already employed in the war effort or in business in the Vancouver area. Some of the personalities that were involved in the Custodian's

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office were certainly intriguing and interesting people. Fred Reed I think I mentioned was a Professor at the University of Manitoba, a very serious professorial type of gentleman, about 6' 2" in height, a lean and he had been working in the Custodians office in Ottawa as a lawyer having been brought there by Coleman to assist us in the administration of enemy assets in that office. We also had Paul Russell, where he came from originally I don't know, but he was an Englishman and he joined the Ottawa staff. Edgar T. Reed/I have referred to was also a member of that staff and when I went to Vancouver in order to have some knowledgable people in the Organization, I requested that these men be transferred to Vancouver and this was done.

On my arrival in Vancouver I must record at this point in case I forget it that the filing system had already been set up and I was astounded to find that the filing system was based on the alphabet rather than a numbered system with a index. You can imagine the confusion this caused when so many of the Japanese names began with the same letters such as all of the "Y's" and "O's" and you can imagine the number of files under W, Y etc. It was obvious to me that the system should have followed the system in the Ottawa office and be a numbered system, so the whole filing system was changed after my arrival.

The set-up basically was that the administration was being run by Mr. Sheers Druary merely came out to help us set it up and then left after a short time and while I was the senior officer in charge of the total operation I devoted most of my time to the investigations in dealing with the Commission and the Boat Committee that had been set up to handle the fish boats that had been seized by the Navy. I was also dealing directly with/the Japanese many of and Bob Alexander who I referred to came in very handy at that time with his knowledge of Japanese, which for sometime we did not disclose to the Japanese business community when we were having meetings and they would be talking in

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Dec 8th 1941 –

Y Mercia & our meeting falling in

love & marriage starts here

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Japanese and Bob would be sitting in the room with me and then they would speak English to me and after the meeting Bob would be able to tell me exactly what had transpired between the Japanese themselves and in this way we were ableto get a great deal more information. It did not take long however until the Japanese bacame aware that Bob Alexander was an expert in their language.

a Love Story - Mercia & I met

I would now like to deal with the development of my relationship with Mercia. When I left Vancouver on the 21sr of December to go back to New York, I had only seen her on one occasion and she was with Bob Ray and we had as I recall it had had a couple of dances at the Commodore. On my return to Vancouver having made up my mind that this was the girl of my dreams to put it in a romantic way that my idea of remaining a batchelor for the rest of my life had pretty well gone out of the window. I talked to Bob Ray about his relationship with Mercia and had told him that I was interested in her and I wanted to know whether or not he was going to marry her. Bob was very frank and said that he had known her for about 7 years that he was certainly interested and wanted to marry her but she wouldn't marry him so they were just good friends. I told him that it was my intention to marry her and he as I recall and laughed and wished me luck but he didn't think it was possible. Having cleared the way with Bob who had become a friend of mine and not wishing to create any problems between us I then was in touch with Mercia and proceeded to shall we say in the old-fashioned way court her on any occasion that was possible. I was extremely busy in setting up the Organization and hiring personnel, I remember that I hired my Uncle Ian who was retired and lived in Vancouver for sometime and who had tried to establish an Art Gallery but this had failed and I was aware that my Father was assisting in his maintenance. The job to him of course was a Godsend because he worked in the Custodians office throughout the war and was able to save considerable money. I mentioned him at this point as he played a part in the relationship

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with Mercia and I.

Unknown to me he kept my Father advised about developments and I had written to him according Dad telling him that I though I was in love with this Vancouver girl and probably would marry her. I have no doubt that he estold Mercia's virtues to Dad and Mother because he was very fond of her as was Jean his wife. It was a strange courtship because we were working solidly all day, working most of the evenings and had regular meetings at the Vancouver Hotel following dinner. Most of the key personnel were living in the Hotel and that is an interesting story in itself when one considers what it cost to stay in the Vancouver Hotel or any other Hotel in 1980. When I arrived in Vancouver in January of 1942 and was proposing to move staff from Ottawa, this staff had to be accommodated for a fairly lengthey period of time, and I went to the Manager of the Hotel and told him that we would be requiring a large number of rooms and he took me up to one of the floors and we walked down the corridor and I said to him "what would you take for all of the rooms on that side of the corridor to my admazment at the time he said do you think that $75.00 per month would be reasonable and so we made a deal.

Because of the pressure of work and the number of staff people living in the hotel with me we usually ate our meals together, it was difficult for me to break away to see Mercia alone except to walk her home in the evening. She was also working with May and they were operating a beauty salon so she was busy all day. However, she would come over to the hotel to have dinner with us in the main dining room at night on many occasions and she likes to tell the story about how I would invite her to have dinner and she would arrive and find that there were six or seven men around the table and she was the only ~~woman~~ LADY and of course the major discussion of the evening was the problems that

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were arising in the Custodians office in dealing with the Japanese The Japanese were not restricted to the Vancouver area, they were scattered up through the Fraser Valley where they had small farms, they grey a lot of strawberries and it was customary to say that they could pick the strawberries fairly easily because they were built so close to the ground, but when their farms evacuated we had a major problem because we could not find people to take over the operation of this type of farming and perform labour as it were. I made several trips up the Valley as well as trips around the coast visiting their herring canneries and sawmill operations etc. and Mercia loves to tell the story about how we have never been alone together and I called her on a Sunday morning and asked her if she would like to go for a drive up inthe Valley where I wanted to inspect some of the Japanese properties. She was delighted and I asked her because she had a B.C. license if she would rent a car which I would pay for and pick me up at the Hotel, and we would spend the day in the Valley. She thought this was a great idea and so in due course she arrived at the Hotel. You can imagine her feeling which were not exposed to me at the time, and her disappointment when I walked out of the Hotel with two or three other men and we all climbed into the car and went off for the day to make the necessary inspections.

I have always had the feeling that she got back at me by insisting that I climb Grouse Mountain and stay on top of the Mountain in a cabin that Ernie had. This to me was a real coming from the flat prairie I had no interest in climbing mountains, but in any event it was decided in the interest of my romance that this was one way to get away for the weekend. In those days there were no lifts on Grouse Mountain, there was no road to the top so the procedure was that you got on a Streetcar in the westend

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you went to the dock where the ferry ran across to North Vancouver, then you got off the ferry and went on the Lonsdale car and went to the top of Lonsdale. Having arrived at the top of Lonsdale you then had the long climb to the village on the top of Grouse Mountain. I well remember that on arriving at Mercia's apartment that she had a large packsack for me to carry loaded down with groceries and I think my contribution was a bottle of rum at the least. At any event whether it was on this occasion or on another occasion I am unable to say, but I do know the story about her brother Ernie, who decided what they needed in the cabin was a gramophone You young people will not be aware that in those days gramophones were either or Victor and they were in huge upright cabinets, they had a crank on them and you had to crank up the spring to get the machine to play the 78 records. Ernie's pals tied the gramophone to his back and off he went onto the streetcar, believe it or not, down to the dock, across on the ferry, up the Lonsdale Streetcar line to the end and then he carried that gramophone on his back to the top of Grouse Mountain. A real test of phyiscal stanamar I would say. Ernie and I got along very well and as we do today I think his sister Dorothy was a little worried about the relationship between Mercia and myself and of course I think there was a feeling that I was an easterner, dressed like an easterner and somehow or another did not fit into her vision of the type of person that Mercia should be running around with. To go on with the story, about climbing the mountain on this weekend we had together. It as usual in Vancouver was pouring with rain when we left Mercia's apartment at night. Mercia had had to work during the day and we took off sometime in the evening and arrived at the foot of Grouse Mountain in darkness. People were carrying umbrellas and skis rather in congress combination in my opinion and I have no doubt made some

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slighting remarks typical of an easterner, who in the first place had no bloody use for mountains and in the second place thought this was a crazy experdition While we climbed for some considerable time and Mercia who was in excellent physical condition was enjoying the climb and I was more or less gasping for air. She agreed to stop and rest at one point and we sat down on a log in the rain and I opened the backsack and got the bottle of rum out and we both had a drink of rum. At that point I told her that there was no way that I was going to go on climbing this mountain and that we should go down and that I proposed that if she would agree to go down the mountain we would get married. There was no way you were going to devert Mercia ,from the climb to the ski cabin and so on we went and spent a very happy weekend at the cabin. and of course I had to admit that the trip was well worth the effort.
After we were married, Mercia told me the story about her reaction to our meeting the night of the Commodore party. That was the first evening she had ever seen me and the following weekend she was visiting her friend Mrs. MacDonald, called Mrs. Mac, a very lovable elderly lady, and she told Mrs. Mac that she had just meet the man she was going to marry. Of course I didn't realize it and I might have as well acceptedthe fact at that time. In any event I have come to the conclusion that she was the girl I wanted to marry and it was just a question on how to get back to Vancouver and promote the romance with the desired results.

I had returned to Vancouver on January 7th and lost no time in getting in touch with Mercia. I think the night that we sat in the rain on the log on Grouse Mountain was the first time that I suggested that we get married, but in any event the courtship continued with our spending most of our time with staff members of the Custodians office and having the opportunity of escort her home in the evening from the hotel.

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I would say that while we didn't get married until April 15th which would be about 3 months or a little better, the time we actually spend together could be telescoped into about 6 weeks and I always like to say that we had know each other for 6 weeks and then we got married.

Sometime in April we really got down to a serious discussion about getting married and during this period I made at least one trip back to Ottawa and New York and I think it was on the trip I made to Ottawa at this time that I was appointed to a special committee working in Washington assisting the Americans in setting up their organization. This story may have been referred to earlier, but this is when I really got to know Mr. McCoombe of Treasury who was working in Washington and we on the special committee spent a great deal of time with the Americans so that this time would be taken out of the courtship. Sometime at the beginning of April another event occurred that really put the question of our getting married to the fore. I had gone to school in Portage with Bill Montgonmery who I have referred to in these memoirs and Bill and I as school chums had agreed that at some future date when we were getting married, the first one to get married would request that the other one be the bestman at the wedding and no matter where we were or what the circumstances we agreed that we would carry out this promise to one another. In April I got word from Bill that he was getting married, that the date of the marriage was set and would be on April he was getting married on the 18th and he expected me to honour the commitment and come to Winnipeg and be bestman at his wedding.
I told Mercia this story and then I had to leave to go to Winnipeg for the Wedding and I would be leaving on the 15th. I think we had this discussion at dinner on the night of the 14th at the hotel and I suggested

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our marriage →

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that we get married the next day. As we had known each other for such a short time and neither one of us knew the others family, we thought it would be a good idea to have a chat with Edgar T. Reed, who was an elderly statesman as it were and in the talk with him, he was enthusiastic about the wedding and felt that we were very much in love and that the marriage could certainly work out. Mercia then wanted to talk to her sister Dorothy so we went over to see Dorothy the same night. Dorothy felt that we hadn't known one another long enough and felt we were rushing into marriage and she didn't really agree or support the idea and tried to discourage Mercia. In any event we decided that night to get married the next evening and the two of us would travel to Winnipeg on our Honeymoon. The matter could not have been too well settled because in the morning at 8:00 o'clock I phoned Mercia at the Boardinghouse she was living in and asked her or not if she was agreeable that we should get married that night. I remember that Mercia said that it was impossible to get a license in less than 3 days in British Columbia and that I could not get the license. I told her that I thought I could get the license and if I could get the license would she agree to meet me at the Hotel and we would get married in the Chapel of Christchurch Cathedral by Dean Swanson. Mercia agreed to this and she went down to their shop where she had commitments and she had to work during the day. I went off to the Courthouse to see some sympathic Judge who knew me and I have forgotten who I saw, but in any event I explained the situation and pointed out that there was a war on and we didn't have time to wait the three days and that I thought he should issue a special license. Fortunately for me the special license was issued. I well recall coming from the Court house and walking up to Granville Street and there was Mercia walking across

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our wedding →

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the street. She had gone out to buy a suit for her wedding and I rushed across and asked her to come into Birks with me to pick out the wedding ring. She refused to do this, saying that I was to get the ring and she went back to the shop where to that time I don't think she had told her partner May that she was getting married, but in any event she broke the story to May by asking her whether or not she would like to go to a wedding. that night and May said that she would but asked who was getting married. and Mercia told her that she was getting married and she wanted May to be her bridesmaid. I think I got in touch with Dean Swanson and asked him if he would marry us and he agreed, I then went off to the office as I had a lot of meetings going on and took the opportunity of seeing my Uncle Ian and asking him if he would like to go to a wedding with me that evening and he was intrigued and wanted to know who was getting married and I told him that Mercia and I had decided that we were going to get married and I wanted him to be the bestman. He was elated and thought it was a wonderful idea and for some strange reason we didn't invite Alice Jean to the Wedding. I think the reason was that we didn't have time and there were a lot of other people we didn't notify. The total list of guests were somewhere around 12 or 14 and as Mercia and I recall it the following meet us at the Church, Uncle Ian and May, Dorothy, Ernie, Edgar T. Reed, Cobb Druary, Frederick Field and his son Fred and of course Mercia's old friend Mrs. Mac, Leanore and her mother Mrs. Mitchell, Ray Alexander who was very pregnant and who had her baby that night and blamed Mercia for that event. In any event all parties were notified by telephone or personally and asked to meet at the church at 6 o'clock.

End Side 1

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Side 2

I had asked Mercia to get her own corsage because she was selecting a new suite and she did this and arrived at the Church in a beautiful blue suit with a huge wide brim hat, I am convinced was the most beautiful bride my world had ever seen.

There are a couple of other amusing incidents occurred at the Wedding First of all I had been very busy and didn't realize that I had a hole in one of my shoes and when I knelt down in the Wedding ceremony this hole was quite obvious. This triggers in my memory another story about my shoes at which I will insert here in case I forget it. Years later Mercia having taken a hand in seeing that I was properly groomed and dressed for all occasions, wrote me a letter when I was away on a trip somewhere and started the letter by saying that its time you got your shoes half-soled. Who ever I was with I put the letter down and said that this is ridiculous, Mercia writes me and tells me to get my hair cut and now she is telling me to get my shoes half-soled. There is nothing the matter with my shoes. The other party said well let me look at your shoes and sure I turned my foot up and low and behold there was a hole in the sole of my shoe. Shades of my Wedding Day.

After the service we went into the Dean's office to sign the necessary papers and the Dean of course in filling out the forms asked us some questions. I remember he was a bit shocked when he asked me what the Bride's Mother and Father's names were and I said I didn't know I had never meet them. I also think he asked me how to spell Griffith and whether it had an "s" on it or not and I didn't know that. The Dean I think was a bit taken aback by all

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calling on parents

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of this, but in any event the documents were completed signed and delivered and we were the happy married couple and went back to the Hotel for a small reception with our friends.

I would like to tell you that prior to going to the church Mercia and I were in the Hotel room, so she must have meet me at the Hotel and not at the Church, and we decided that we ought to phone our parents and tell them that we were getting married. I recall that I put in a call to Mercia's family in Revelstoke and her Father came on the phone and I told him that I was calling to ask his permission to marry his daughter. He immediately asked me which daughter I was marrying and I said Mercia I said we were going to get married in 15 minutes and he said What can I do about it and I said "nothing but we were hoping that you would approve of the marriage which he did although he had never meet me. I think we both spoke to Mercia's Mother at that time and we then called my home in Winnipeg. When Dad got on the phone of course I was unaware that Uncle Ian had been keeping him posted of the development of our romance and I told Dad that Mercia and I were getting married at 6 o'clock and that I thought he and Mother would like to know. He then put Mother on the phone and I handed the telephone to Mercia and Dad had apparently told Mother that I was calling to say I was getting married in 15 minutes and when Mother got on the phone, the first words that Mercia heard were Mother thinking I was on the phone was "no it can't be, tell me it isn't true," then Mercia said "yes it was" and that we were coming to Winnipeg on our Honeymoon. ... there little story that involves the fact that late in the day I was in a meeting with some Japanese and Alexander was there and the meeting was dragging on and I kept looking at my watch and finally I stood up and said that I had to leave that no matter what happened to the balance of the meeting I was going

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arrive in Revelstoke

was recruited along with Elmer Little et cetera [Tom Hall, Dana Young, J Dennis].

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to get married at 6 o'clock. This of course was the first indication that Bob Alexander had that I was getting married and he agreed to continue the meeting without me. In any event in due course we boarded the CPR train heading for Winnipeg and had a nice drawing room as I recall it and had a pleasant dinner on the train. We were sitting in the Clubcar and an old friend of my Father's, Judge Coyne, who used to be called Bogus Coyne for what reason I don't know. He was a lawyer at that time in Winnipeg, I don't think he had been appointed to the bench, and I introduced my bride to him and he was very pleasant to Mercia and thought that my Father and Mother would be delighted to meet the bride.

The next morning we arrived in Revelstoke, and the train in those days stopped there for a considerable length of time while they changed engines etc. as it was a divisional point and Mercia's family were down at the train to meet us and we got off and I was introduced to my Father-in-Law and Mother-in-Law, as well as Mercia's sister Esther and her husband Cal. I don't know how they felt about the wedding at that time because they were aware that I was living in New York and Mercia and I were in due course would be leaving Vancouver to live in New York which was a long, long way away from the Rocky Mountains. When we arrived in Winnipeg Mother and Dad were on the platform and were obviously delighted with the beautiful bride that I had with me and Mercia and Mother and Dad became over the years very close to each other. In any event you will recall the incident that triggered the Wedding at this point was Bill wedding in Winnipeg at which I was to be the bestman. We discussed this situation with Dad and Mother and they were going to the Wedding and so we agreed that we wouldn't tell Bill that I had beat him to it and that ~~I was already married.~~

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Bill McTaggart wedding →

Circle Ernie & Belkirk
Meeting with my bride

was recruited along with Elmer Little et cetera [Tom Hall, Hans Young, J Dennis]

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We went to the Wedding and I acted as Bestman and after Bill was satisfactorily married and all the legal technicalities had been taken care of must to his surprise I announce that the young lady that I had with me was not a girlfriend, but was my wife and that I had won the game of upmanship. I recall that when Bill and his bride left for their honeymoon on the train we all went down to the station and they were on the observation car at the back of the train, standing on the platform at the back and we were taking pictures and Bill's bride, who was a very nice young lady was not one of those outgoing smiling people, so when I wanted to take a picture of her I said "smile now" and her immediate answer was "why", which I thought was a very surprising remark for a new bride.

Well at this time Uncle Ernie was back on his job with Indian Affairs and was living in Selkirk and their daughter Helen had been married to Gerry Farnie who had gone overseas, Dad thought it would be a great joke on Ernie who was a very straight-laced person for us to go down to Selkirk and see Ernie, Ethel and Helen and not tell them that Mercia and I were married The scene was most interesting to Mercia and I because when we went in Dad introduced Mercia by her first name without mentioning that she was now married and was a McPherson, Uncle Ernie was intrigued that we had arrived together and Dad said that we had come down by train from Vancouver, and of course in those days it was shall we say not customary for an unmarried girl to travel with a young man and Ernie started to probe and ask Mercia where she lived etc and how long she had known me and she told him that a matter of a few months and he asked her if we travelled together on the train and she said we had and then of course that raised his eyebrows and we finally explained that we had been married in Vancouver. With that statement I think Ernie and Ethel were prepared to accept us, but before that they

had decorated along with Elmira Little et cetera [illegible]

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I worked for British Columbia
from 1940 - 45 inclusive
and recruited along with Elmer Little et cetera Tom Hall, Hara Yang, J Dennis.

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were a little doubtful to say the least having in mind the social standards of those days.

I don't recall how long we spent in Winnipeg, but in any event we took the train back to Vancouver and took up residence in the Vancouver Hotel along with all the other staff people from the Custodians office. Mercia loved living in the Hotel it was an adventure for her and I think the arrangement was that I paid for the difference between a single and double room which I recall was a $1.00 per day and the room rented to me for $6.00 or $7.00. During this period Mercia continued to work in the Beauty Parlour with May while they negotiated for a sale of the business and I continued to work in the Custodians office in the Royal Bank building During this period I also made another trip east to Ottawa and to New York to report to Bill Stephenson for whom I was still working and then negotiations started between Stephenson and Coleman about my future employment on the West Coast. I think at that point Coleman wanted me to rejoin the Custodian staff, Bill wanted me to continue to report to him and work with his agent Mr. Young and some agreement was made between the two of them under which I would return to Canada. In any event during this period, Mercia and I went to New York as I was still living there and had the apartment with Gavin Young and we stayed, Mercia says we went to New York in May and stayed in the Barbazon Plaza. I was still drawing my salary of $600.00 a month from British Security and in the negotiations between Coleman and Stephenson to have me returned to the Custodians staff I think that I was not interested in returning for $250.00 per month, Coleman being a man who did not believe in increasing salaries during war, and arrangement was worked out eventually where I returned to the Custodians office and reappointed as Counsel for Custodian but I guess that in order

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to pay me $600.00 a month I was also appointed as Executive Assistant to the Secretary of State and Mercia and I drove the car from New York to Ottawa and put it in storage and returned to Vancouver where we took up residence in a house on Bellvue owned by a Mrs. Ross. This house still stands and it was a happy home for us being closed to the beach and Mercia fell in love with the place, It was of course the first home we had ever had but it was rented and fully furnished and we occupied it until the end of the year when we moved to Ottawa.

During the balance of 1942 I continued to work in the Custodians office and by this time the administration organization had been completely set up and Mr. Frank Sheer, an outstanding man was put in charge and Dr. Coleman recalled me to Ottawa as he felt that I was more useful there and I was on the special committee in Washington dealing with disputes that were bound to arise between the British and American Custodian and ourselves as who was entitled to German assets in their respective country. We were developing closer ties in the step-up economic warfare as the result of the U.S. coming into the war.

On our way east, at the end of the year we stopped in Revelstoke for Christmas and we arrived in Ottawa for New Year's Day. Mercia having been born and raised in the West and particularly living on the west coast had not experienced a real winter such as Ottawa is famous for and we arrived there on the morning after they had had a severe ice storm and if you havn't seen an ice storm with icicles hanging from the trees and many of the trees with broken branches off them, then it is something to see the icicles hanging down and being blown in the wind and hitting one another and making quite a pleasant sound. The streetcar tracks were all covered with ice

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and the trams couldn't run and they had the Canadian army out with picks chopping the ice out of the rails in order to get the City moving again on New Years Day. I had phoned ahead to the garage and had the car taken out of storage so we had the car and Mercia were going to a party was determined to have a corsage so she got a corsage to wear in her hair as is her custom and we set off for the party. She walked from the car into the house and I commented that the corsage looked alittle worebegone and Mercia to her horror took it off and found that it had been frozen in the short walk. This was her introduction to the Ottawa winters.

It is interesting to note that in 1942 I travelled on Government business an estimated 26,000 miles and was now back in Ottawa working for the Custodian, but still associated with and working for Bill Stephenson's organization. By agreement between Stephenson and Coleman, and for the duration of the war I continued to do odd jobs for Stephenson and obtain items of equipment etc that his organization required. The work that I had done for Stephenson was I think appreciated by him and he forwarded a letter and a certificate to me after the war acknowledging my contribution to the British war effort as distinct from the Canadian war effort.

It may be of interest to my grandchildren and future generations to know that Bill Stephenson displayed considerable confidence in me when he appointed me his sole trustee to administer his estate in the event of his death.

Bill was always worried that during the war he might be murdered because of his work and he wanted to be sure that his wife was protected. He called me into the office one day and had his lawyer Mr Cuneo (New York Mayor La Guardia lawyer) Note Cuneo later married Margaret/ Joan Dauphin who I had recruited along with Elaine Little et cetera (Tom Hill, Maria Young, J B Smith.

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there, and he had decided to make a Will and wanted to know if I would agree to be the sole Trustee of his estate. I told him that I thought that this was a great honour and would be pleased to accept the assignment on the basis that I hope that I would never have to exercise the authority. He explained that in the total organization, because it was an organization of all types of people he felt that there was one person he could trust to look after his wife in the event of his death and that was myself. This was of course a great tribute as far as I was concerned and I was then asked to accept a legal document that he had executed and I was given the original. I put this away in a safe place for the duration of the war, thought little about it and with all of my moves to Vancouver and to Ottawa, over to Europe at the end of the war and so on my personal effects were rather scattered around and I never remember seeing the document after it was given to me. In any event after the war Bill who had now been Knighted and was now Sir William Stephenson wrote to me and recalled to my mind the fact that he had appointed me sole trustee and now that he had survived the war he was making other arrangements and wanted me to return the original appointment. You can imagine my constination when after quite a search I was unable to find the document. I didn't want to tell Bill that I had misplaced it in view of its importance and value to him, so I made a more thorough search and fortunately found the original. I then mailed this off to Bill, but before doing so I thought that it was an interesting document that someday might form part of my memoirs and I made a photostatic copy and one of these copies is in my scrapebook and I will include a copy in my memoirs.

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When we arrived in Ottawa New Year's Day 1943 living conditions were very tight and the hotels would not allow you to stay in the hotel for more than give days. On our arrival we checked into the Chateau and were told that we would have to be out in five days and at the end of those five days we moved to the Lord Elgin where the same rules applied and we had to leave within the five days. At this point we went down to New York again and I am not sure why, it may have been that there were somethings to tidy up with Bill and perhaps with Gavin Young who was still occuping our apartment, but we went down and stayed at the Waldorf Astoria. This of course at that time was one of the world's great hotels and while Mercia was suitably impressed with the hotel she was not really impressed with New York and had no interest in living in that kind of a city. In any event we returned to Ottawa and arrived in the City with no place to stay. We were driving around the streets looking for a sign that would say there was a room available and on the highway such a sign appeared on a three story house and we went in and found that it was a garret room on the third floor that was available for a few days depending on the arrival of the next tenant. I went off to park the car and Mercia went up to the room, it was the size of a fair size cupboard in todays modern home. You had just enough room to put your shoes down between the bed and the wall. There was only one bathroom for all the tenants and when I came back Mercia was sitting on the bed laughing her head off, thinking of how ridiculous it was that the night before we should be in the Waldorf Astoria and here we were in a garett of an old house in Ottawa, as she saidxfromxthe xidiculousxxtoxthex" it was going from the subblime to the ridiculous. It was almost impossible to find a place to live in Ottawa and we had a very limited few days that we could stay in this room and fortunately since we were friends of Bob who I had mentioned earlier has having been in

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with Dad and was now living in Ottawa, he had a brother from Montreal who was a dollar a year man. The brother had an apartment on Holland Avenue had no cooking facilities, but he was leaving Ottawa for a month and knowing that we were desparate for a place to sleep he offered us his apartment, which we gratefully accepted.

Mercia recalls that the temperatures were extremely low that year and we were in the position that we had to go out for all meals including breakfast so her first impression of Ottawa that winter did not endear the climite to her heart and she also wanted to find a home where we could live permantently and raise a family.

We also had friends Mac McFarlane who worked in the Bank of Canada and his wife Mary and they found us a rooming in their rooming house just about the time we had to move out of apartment. So we moved in with them for a short time and I knew Florence Boyce who was Secretary to Sam Berger a Jewish lawyer who later was one of the major shareholders of the Ottawa Roughriders and at the present time I believe is the owner of the Montreal Alluettes. Boycie as we called her was his private secretary, and he had investments in real estate in Ottawa and Boycie was busy trying to find a place for us. I think that he had an interest in the Strathconer Apartments on the same street and just opposite from McKenzie King's home now known as Laurier House and incidentally opposite Mr. Gordon Gales property whose daughter Van is married to Jack Charleston who is one of the first people I meet when I first came to Ottawa in 1937. In any event Boycie told us that she had found an apartment for us and we of course took it even though it was only one room with a very small kitchen. One of the features that we both remember very well is the fact that the kitchen was so small that if you opened the oven door you had to stand in the living

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room/bedroom, that is the only other room outside of a small batchelor. We were not satisfied with the accommodation, which didn't suit our needs particularly as Mercia was anxious to raise a family and I think Heather was already on the way. We kept looking around for larger accommodation but in the meantime brought what furniture we could to furniture our one room apartment. Furniture in wartime was very difficult to obtain but Mercia did find a couple of loveseats and now in our living room in West Vancouver and these loveseats were designed to pullout so that we had two single beds and we would convert the living room into a bedroom at night. I recall it was a very poorly located room in the apartment in fact the only window looked out on a wall at the entrance of the building but it was a place to sleep and under the conditions that existed we were grateful to Boycie.

There was a story going around Ottawa at the time that the way you got an apartment or a house in Ottawa was to be standing at the door of the Press room when the paper came off the press, you didn't read the front page, but turned to the obituaries and when you saw that some man had died you took down the address and got into your car and dashed to see if you could rent the house or the apartment. It was about that tough to find accommodation. We didn't have to do this because another strange event occurred where because of mistaken identity we were able to get a fairly large two bedroom apartment on Crat Street.

The Custodians office was now established in very good offices on the ground floor of 7 O'Connoll Street, this was an office block with other offices and there was a young lady working in one of these offices by the name of Miss Lipkey. As the story unfolds what happened was a man by the name of McPherson knew that Mrs. Lipkey had an apartment of a duplex as it were and that there might be accommodation there for him and he got in touch with Miss Lipkey

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She told him that the place would not be vacant for a couple of months and he said that well he was interested and would call right back. She didn't get his number and when she didn't hear from him and the tenants moved out and it was now vacant, not having his phone number she did know that there was a McPherson working in the Custodians office so she looked up McPherson in the phone book and called Mercia. She told Mercia that the apartment that she had been looking at was now vacant and available. Mercia didn't understand what the situation was but thought that I might have seen the apartment so she went to look at the apartment and we then signed a lease with the Lipkeys' This was a fortuitous event for us and we moved into this apartment, the rent was $47.50 a month and the garage was $2.50 for a total of $50.00. It was unfurnished, it had two bedrooms, a nice living room and a full dining room and kitchen and a balcony on the front which suited us very well so we stayed in this apartment from the fall of 1943 until October of 1946 when the family moved to Brussels. Incidently when the family did move to Brussells we did not know how long we would be in Europe and we did not want to give up the apartment so we were looking around for somebody to sublease to and HugH Brookes married to Mercia's cousin Marian was then in Ottawa and he knew a Doctor friend who wanted a place to live so we sublet to him and when we came back from Europe we moved into the apartment again.

This was certainly quite a year for us particularly for Mercia as she was having a bady in November, a review indicates that from the time when we arrived in Ottawa on the 1st of January we had moved around living in two hotels, spending a weekend at the Wardorf, living in a rooming house on the Driveway and then to the H apartment then into another rooming house, then into the Strathcona and finally to the apartment on Street, in other words we lived in seven different places before the first of October plus the Wardorf Astoria.

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If there were never ever nomads during the war we would certainly qualify to join that tribe.

All of the moving was unsettling and the question of buying furniture etc imposed considerable strain on Mercia. I was working all the time in the Custodian's office travelling a bit and she had to manage all of my affairs, but we were in love so the trials and tribulations were unimportant.

During the year, while my friends and associates maynot have thought I was disturbed or worried about my military status, this was not true. It continued to bug me that I had been deferred at the beginning of the war because I was essential to the Custodian and then as I have related suddenly I found I was not as essential to the Custodian as I was to British Intelligence, so down to New York I went. Again because Japan came into the war, itappeared that I was more essential to the Canadian Custodian and the Canadian Government than to the British Security, so I went off to Vancouver, remaining on the payroll of the British, but working for the Custodian as well. Here I was again in a position where I had been transferred back to the Canadian Custodian during 1942 and I guess I can understand why I was considered valuable in the setting up of the Japanese organization in Vancouver, but I was then called back to Ottawa where Dr. Coleman felt that I would be more valuable. I continued to receive the regular draft notices and Coleman and the Minister continued to reply for deferrment on the grounds that I was in an essential position and more valuable to the war effort in that position than in the military. However it did bug me that my friends were in uniform and I was wandering around as a civilian and it wasn't too apparent to an outsider just what I was doing with all the changes in positions that I had had. However, we were at war and one did the job he was told to do. As far

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as Dr. Coleman was concerned I had become very close to him and was well aware that while he was the Under Secretary of State and the Secretary of State was not a too important a Cabinet job, Coleman was an expert in the fields that he was involved in and he had the happy knack of finding the right people to do the work for him. He was not a man who appeared to overwork himself, but mentally he did, but he was a strange customer and most people did not understand him. I found that he had an amazing photographic mind, he could read reports that would be 10 or 12 pages long and turn the pages over very quickly and absorb the total page. I had evidence of this on one occasions when he asked for some type of report that I prepared and took up to his office. It was a detailed report and it required a great effort on my part to prepare it for his review. I was astounded to sit in his office and watch him turn the pages over faster than I figures he could read the first paragraph on any pages, but to my astounishment would be understandable to the reader when Coleman flipped back three or four pages put his finger on a spot on the page, Glenn you split an infinitive.

Frank De Lauter was working in his office, I am not sure his title and he was another one of the people that had complete faith in Coleman, prepared to work any amount of overtime in order to give Dr. Coleman all of the information he might want on any subject he was interested in and Coleman received immense backing from Frank and certainly from myself. Frank and I became closely associated because of the enemy list that I referred to before and we were co-ordinating this list with Washington and London as a part of economic warfare and the carrying out of the allied blockade.

Mercia found that Coleman was almost impossible to talk to and loves to tell the stories about how he would come over to our apartment on Street, he

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Churchill left
Leader of Hyde Park deputation

"Cerey 31 ~

M.

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seemed to be interested in Mercia and how we were getting alone. He would come in and sit down and smoke cigarettes continuiously, empty the ashtrays say practically nothing and then get up and leave. With Mercia wondering why he had come, why he seemed to like to sit and listen rather than taken part in the conversation, such as it was.

1943 the war had really heated up with the Germans fighting the Russians and the Allies fighting both Germany and Japan. I continued to do my job as Counsel to the Custodian and an event occurred in the summer which again showed that when Dr. Coleman wanted something done he could push a couple of buttons and get two loyal and hard working horses to do the job for him, namely Frank and myself.

1st conference Aug 11th? 12th Churchill arrived in Quebec. Aug 17th R. arrived in Quebec. Churchill went to Washington

Well one morning early in August this probably being the first or second of August I had a phone call from Dr. Coleman asking me if I would come up to the office or should I say to come up to the office, as he wanted to have a chat. I went up to the office and became a part of one of the great historical moment of the second world war as far as I was concerned. In his office was Frank De and Dr. Coleman in his usual terse and abrupt way said that he had arranged that Frank and I were going to Quebec City, that we would be picked up in an army staff car at our respective homes the next morning and take off for Quebec. He said we were not to tell our wives where we were going, simply that we were leaving town in the sense that I would tell Mercia as I did that I was going to New York and Frank could tell his wife Allison that he was going somewhere, but not Quebec City. Coleman was very secretive as to why we were going to Quebec City, he said that our job was to go down to Quebec to the Chateau and we were to see the Manager Mr. who worked for the CPR they owning the hotel, and we were to tell him that the Government of Canada was taking over the Hotel for war purposes and the

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guest would have to be expelled and all reservations cancelled. Coleman did indicate to us that there was going to be some kind of a Conference in Quebec, but he didn't give us any details, but I do suspect his brother Dalton who was the President of the CPR had been brought into the picture by the Government and was aware of what was going on and Mr. Neil who was the Manager of the Hotel no doubt had heard from the President of the Railway that somebody would arrive in Quebec City and he was to take instructions from them. It was quite obvious that when we did arrive that Mr. Neal had been forwarned that something was up, but he didn't know what was going on. Coleman impressed upon us the absolute necessity of complete secrecy even in so far as our wives were concerned. I don't think he had anything to worry in so far as I was concerned because I had been well trained by Bill Stephenson who had a theory that if you have a secret and you tell it to anyone including your wife then it is no longer a secret. In any event I went home and told Mercia that I was leaving town the next morning, and I wasn't sure when I would be back whether I told her I was going to New York or not, but Mercia didn't ask any questions. She was ~~quite~~ pregnant at the time, and Frank and I had arranged that he would ask Allison to invite Mercia to go down to to their summer cottage and to spend some time with her there. In the morning the car arrived with an army driver and Frank was in the car, he having been picked up earlier and I went down after saying goodbye to Mercia, got into the car , and we took off and drove to Quebec City. Mercia did go to Ferry and she and Allison of course compared notes and found that we had both left at the same time and they were very curious as to where we had gone, but they had no knowledge of what was going on as was later disclosed when they heard the first news broadcast. I may have been a little short a moment ago when I said that Coleman didn't tell us a great deal of what was going on, because I think he

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must have told us that we were going to take over the hotel and that Frank would be in a sense the Manager of the hotel and that I would be responsible as a Secretary to a committee that Coleman was Chairing to set up the complete organization for the arrival of the distinguished guests whoever they might be. Coleman warned us that he would be arriving in Quebec City, but that the matter was urgent to evacuate the hotel and our first job was to do this in co-operation with Mr. Neal. As events unfolded, it was quite obvious that there had been some kind of secret committee operating in Ottawa for some days probably with Norman Robinson of External Affairs as the Chairman, but they must have been well aware that Roosevelt and Churchill had decided to have a Conference in Quebec and the Press was not to be given any information. David Du who later became the head of the CBC was then in the Government in some division and he was responsible for thePress, Vernon Kemp was the Assistant Commissioner of the RCMP was responsible for Security with a Superintendent, I think he was called Gagnon, I think he was the Quebec Provincial Police representative, he was also involved in the Security problems. Mr. Howe's Deputy Minister, Air Commander Edwards was in charge of transportation problems and we had a delightful elderly man, who we called the spiritualist, who was a close friend of the Governor Generals, I have forgotten his name and he seemed to be in charge with the supply of alaholic beverages. In any event these people were not known to us the first few days that Frank and I were in Quebec City, but we had a very interesting and to some extent pleasand duty of working with Mr. Neal, telling the tenants in the hotel that they had to move out and one of the tenants so-called was Maurice the Premier of Quebec. The Federal Government was not prepared to tell Mr. what was going on he was simply told that he would have to move out of the hotel, that it was being taken over for war purposes by the Federal Government. There was a fairly

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elderly lady, I think she was in her 80's, she was typical of the type of elderly ladies who live for years in the Empress Hotel in Victoria, in that she lived in the hotel for many many years, and Mr. Neal felt that it would be a mistake and it was unnecessary to ask her to leave the Hotel. In any event, after some discussion with Mr. Neal, vouching for this elderly lady I think I probably got in touch with Dr. Coleman in Ottawa, and no doubt there were numerous telephone conversations, but we were advised that we could allow her to stay in the Hotel and as a footnote it is interesting to note that during the whole of the Quebec Conference she had an armed guard outside of her door, and as far as I know wtayed in her room during the Conference, presumably having her meals served by the hotel staff.

Frank had been instructed that his job was to run the physical assets of the hotel and my job was to act as secretary of the co-ordinating committee that Coleman would chair and that was being set up and the members of this committee would arrive in Quebec City a couple of days after we would arrive. I started to plan for the arrival of the parites from the United States and Great Britain and must have been given information by this time as to what it was all about. We took over the library as the co-ordinating committee's headquarters and my office was adjacent to the library together with Dr. Coleman. Coleman brought with him from Ottawa when he arrived Miss who had been his private secretary for some years and the balance of the secretarial help was provided by the Canadian army, I have forgotten her name, but an assistant to Miss was also present and appears in many of the pictures that I have of the co-ordinating staff.

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on the other hand as the Government's Pressman had taken over a downtown hotel, where the press were to be housed and were not allowed anywhere near the hotel or the Citadel and were not told what was going on until after everybody had arrived and the Conference was in session. There was a great deal of security in so far as any leaks were concerned about the arrival of Churchill and Roosevelt and their staffs because if should be kept in mind that Churchill had to cross the ocean as did all of the key men in the British war effort including such people as Hastings later known to me as "Pug" he subsequently became Lord Ismey and was a one time head I think of NATO. Sir Duddley Pound Alexander not "Monty" and many other high ranking officers. Politically Sir Anthony Eden was there, Lord Mountbattern and all of the top military people both from the United States and England, whose names I have forgotten, but I have pictures of most of them and they are identified on those pictures which are in my scrapebook.

We were told that the representative of Churchill would arrive on the ~~Saint~~ Lt Lawrence River by flying boat and Frank and I were all agog to meet the great wolfe ere. man. You can imagine our surprise when the flying boat landed and a very charming lady Joan Bright stepped out of the aircraft and advise Dr. Coleman and us that she represented the Prime Minister and that she was Joan Bright the secretary of the War Cabinet. We were all very impressed with Joan when we first meet her and as the Conference developed were greatly impressed with her organizational ability and her know as to what was going on. Roosevelt sent his team of advance agents as you might call them, I have forgotten who the leader was for the first conference, but I know that for the second conference it was Colonel Chaffey, a Westpoint graduate, a man that I got to know fairly well and to digress subsequently after the second conference he sent me a book

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on how to play golf from somewhere in the Pacific from where he was stationed. The book was called "Out of the Rough" and I still have it in my library and treasure it very much, but that is another story for the next conference. Once we had the advanced teams for the two kingpins, Chruchill and Roosevelt we were better informed as to how many people there would be arriving and I have forgotten the number, but we set up an organization so that when they arrived at the hotel there would be no confusion in registrating etc. The plan developed was we having the names of everybody and their status according to their importance to the Conference was determined by Churchill's representative Miss Bright, who I had christianed as the "Bright Miss Bright" and Roosefelt's representative Col CHAFEE and rooms were allocated on this basis. I would point out here that Churchill and his personal staff with the exception of Miss Bright were going to stay at the Citedal at the Governor General's residence and together with Roosevelt and some of his key personnel including Mrs. Roosevelt. Mrs. Chruchill did not accompany Mr. Churchill at this time. Churchill and his party were arriving by sea I believe on the Queen Elizabeth maybe the Queen Mary but in any event the plan we worked out was that when the ship docked all of the passengers as they were leaving the ship were given a folder which included the usual propoganda about Quebec City and tourist attractions etc., but a plan of the hotel, the floor plan and a key to their room that they had been assigned to so that when they arrived at the hotel they ~~didn't have to the registration desk, they~~ could go direct to their rooms. The same type of brochure was given to the Americans and the laison offices arranged for its distribution. ~~I don't know how all this was done, but it all worked out very well~~.

End Tape 7

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