

JUN 27 1945

HAMILTON SPECULATOR

# CANADIANS FIND GALLANT DUTCH SUFFERING YET

## Amsterdam Buildings Being Used as Fuel

(By Darby Coats, British United  
Press Staff Correspondent)

Amsterdam, June 26.—(BUP)—  
Butter at \$12 a pound in the black  
market, buildings torn down for  
fuel, and amid it all a brave prep-  
aration by the hungry people to  
celebrate their liberation were  
among the heritages of war which  
greeted Canadian soldiers on con-  
ducted tours here to-day.

Tours from Utrecht, 22 miles  
southeast of here, where they are  
stationed, are among the diver-  
sions provided for the Canadians.  
To-day I toured the ancient city in  
an army vehicle which had been  
converted to a sightseeing bus for  
a tour arranged by the Y.M.C.A.,  
and the trip took in everything  
from Raphael's famous home to  
modern office buildings.

But the troops were most en-  
thusiastic over the Olympic stadi-  
um. The guides were Dutch teach-  
ers of English from the local  
schools. They showed us many  
brick buildings demolished as if  
by bombs, but actually brought  
down by the removal of their tim-  
ber as the inhabitants searched for  
fuel during the German occupa-  
tion.

More than 25,000 of Amsterdam's  
beautiful elms were destroyed, and  
wooden paving blocks torn up for  
the same purpose.

### Pathetic Sights

Pathetic sights are wreaths  
which mark the places where pa-  
triotis were executed by the Nazis.

A woman teacher quoted the fol-  
lowing in Canadian money, show-  
ing comparisons between normal  
peace-time, the German occupa-  
tion and the present:

Butter, normal, 53 cents a pound;  
occupation, \$61 a pound; present,  
\$12 a pound in the black market.

Tea, normal, 60 cents a pound;  
occupation, \$143 a pound; now  
practically unobtainable at any  
price.

Women's dresses that sold for  
\$9 in peace-time were \$200 during  
the occupation, and now unobtain-  
able.

Amsterdam was decorated in  
preparation for three-day libera-  
tion celebrations this week. The  
event had been planned earlier,  
but was postponed because the  
people were unfit for celebrations  
due to malnutrition.

A notable feature of the decora-  
tions are thousands of biscuit tins  
painted red, white and blue and  
hanging in clusters on trees along  
the main streets. They were used  
by Allied forces to bring food to  
the starving people.

149  
WAR  
EUROPEAN  
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