

OBITUARY

Frederick St. Leger Daly, 1905-1944

Frederick St. Leger Daly died on May 15, 1944, at the military hospital in Yarmouth, N.S. He was a lance-corporal in the Canadian (Active) Army, and had just volunteered for service with the paratroops. His death at the early age of thirty-eight terminated the promising career of a young Canadian economist.

"Buzz" Daly, as he was known to his many friends, was born and received his early education in London, Ontario. He graduated in economics from the University of Toronto in 1928, and proceeded to teach at Pickering College in Newmarket for a year. From 1929 to 1936 he was at Harvard University, first as a post-graduate student and later as an Instructor in Economics. In 1936 he joined the staff of Tufts College in Boston as Assistant Professor of Economics.

A born teacher, he was popular with his students and with his colleagues on the staff. While teaching he also engaged in research in the field of national income. He was thoroughly happy in Boston until war broke out in September, 1939, when he immediately decided that it was his duty to return to Canada. He proposed to join one of the armed services, but was urged instead to give the benefit of his training and experience to the war effort in the field of economics. Accordingly, retiring from Tufts College, he joined the Economics and Statistics Branch of the Department of Munitions and Supply as senior economic analyst in September, 1940.

Daly threw himself into his new task with vigour and enthusiasm, and it was not long before his outstanding ability was recognized. Planning for war production required a mass of data in a hurry. Daly's academic background at first inclined him to hesitate at the production of quick estimates and forecasts, but he soon adapted himself and evolved methods and techniques for producing the required data as quickly but also as accurately as possible. And so, he would be working feverishly on estimating and forecasting labour requirements for the war programme; requirements of raw materials; foreign exchange requirements; dollar values of war production; and in organizing a host of other studies.

As the various studies were organized and passed on to others, Daly constantly took on new tasks. For example, as the labour situation became tight with the progress of the war, it became necessary to set up a system of labour priorities for industry. As far as war industries were concerned, this task was largely allocated to Daly. He not only was mainly responsible for setting up priorities for war industries but was also to a large extent involved in administration of the labour priorities system. He worked in his own way, quietly, and was very shy of publicity, but he had no hesitation in asserting himself forcibly where an all-out war effort was concerned. His advice always received serious consideration, because his worth was recognized by all with whom he was associated.

Late in 1943 Daly decided that he wanted an even more direct part in the

war effort, and proposed to enlist in one of the armed services. His associates tried to dissuade him from doing so on the ground that he could not be spared from his duties in Ottawa. Others tried to persuade him to train for a commission. He would listen to neither. He proceeded to complete certain tasks as Director of Research of the Economics and Statistics Branch, which position he had early attained, and in the winter of 1944 enlisted as a private in the infantry.

He was now completely happy and looking forward to active service. Within three months he was stricken by his fatal illness. He died doing what he had intensely desired to do from the moment war was declared.

Daly's career gave great promise, and his loss is a loss to Canada. It is particularly a loss to those whose good fortune it was to be associated with him. His fine mind; his shy and gentle nature, and his genial ways are very rare indeed. [H.C.G.]