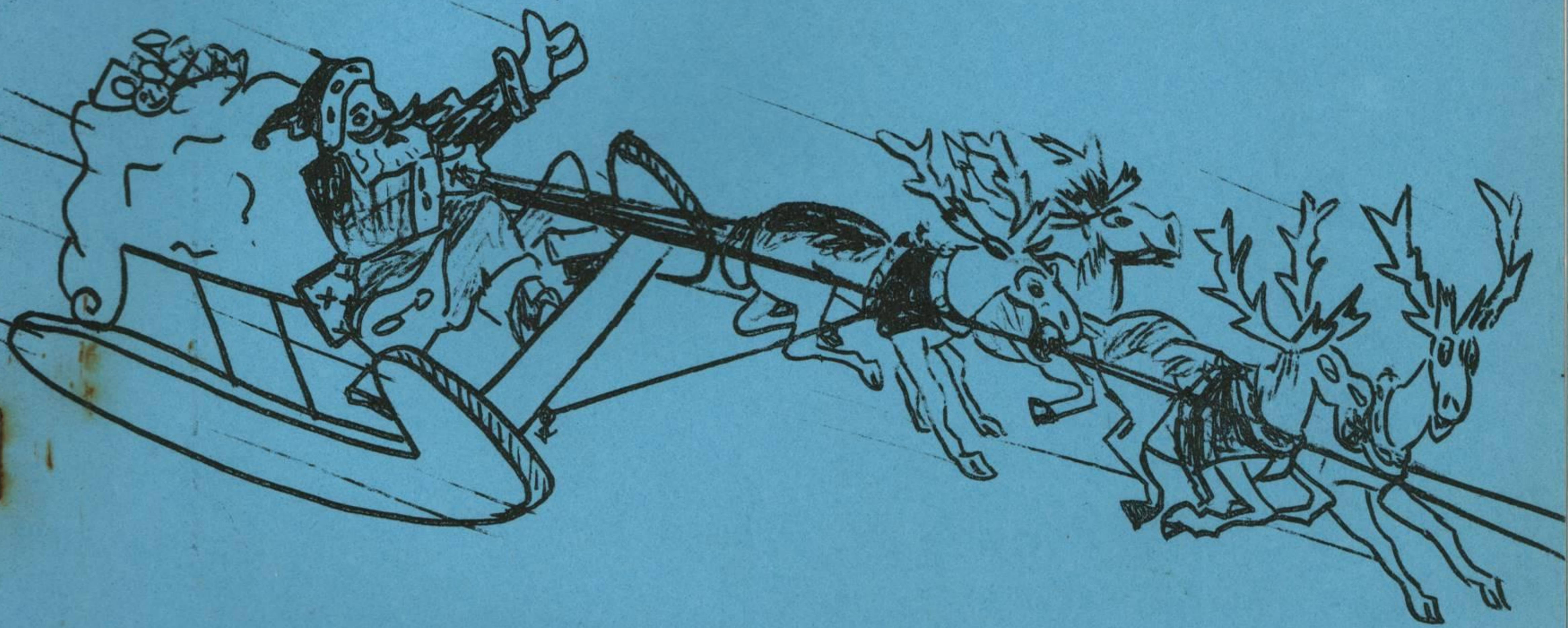


Agg Miles

Royal Canadian Air Force Ground Observer Corps

Newsletter # 5



SANTA'S SLEIGH AND EIGHT REIN
DEER — LOW — NO DELAY —
MERRY XMAS 53 RED AND GREEN —
OVERHEAD — FLYING SOUTH — RUDOLPH
THE RED NOSED IN THE LEAD

Organization Progress

In Nova Scotia the RCAF staff of our Truro Filter Centre has been mainly engaged in recruiting and training of Filter Centre volunteers during the period since our last newsletter was distributed. They have, however, carried on with training of Observation Post volunteers and in organizing of new Observation Posts as far as possible with the limited staff available. Many new Posts have been organized to fill in the gaps in certain Regional Areas and many of the Posts which did not previously receive training lectures have been visited by GOBC officers and are now classed as trained. Other Posts where attendance at the initial training lecture was limited, sometimes only the Chief Observer being present, have received follow-up visits to train additional Observers recruited since original lecture. During July and August, with many of our volunteers on holidays, activity was slow but there has been a marked increase in interest and results since September. Much still remains to be done before Nova Scotia can be considered fully organized and trained. Several Regional Areas require locating and organizing of two or three additional Observation Posts to fill in gaps. Practically without exception, all Regional Areas have Posts which must receive a training lecture, either because they did not get this lecture during the original training drive or because attendance at the lecture was so small as to make a repeat of the original lecture necessary.

Our plans for future field activity in Nova Scotia are three-fold:

- (a) Approval of Observation Posts as necessary to fill in gaps.
- (b) Training of Chief Observers and Official Observers of all Posts which have not as yet received a training lecture.
- (c) Repeat lectures to Chief Observers and Official Observers of Posts which have received a first lecture but where attendance was low.

The Officer Commanding the Truro Detachment of 7 GOBC Unit has contacted, or shortly will be contacting, all Nova Scotia Regional Supervisors with a view to, with their co-operation, carrying out the three objectives listed above. The co-operation of our Regional Supervisors will be necessary to accomplish these aims. When all possible Observation Posts have been located and organized and have received sufficient training to enable the Posts to be activated plans call for further visits, training, showing of films etc. to maintain interest of the volunteers and to increase their efficiency.

Organization in Prince Edward Island in so far as location of Observation Post sites in the five Regional Areas and appointment of Chief Observers is concerned is now completed and the five areas have been handed over to our Truro Detachment for further organization and training. Additional Posts in the categories of lighthouses and mobile Posts (ships) will be established at a later date.

As of the date of writing this newsletter, training of Chief Observers and Official Observers of the fifty-three Observation Posts established in P.E.I. was well advanced and it is hoped that all Posts will be trained prior to mid December.

In New Brunswick organization has proceeded rapidly since our last newsletter was written. In that province approximately 250 Posts have been located, approved and a Chief Observer appointed for each. Ten of the twenty-six New Brunswick Regional Areas were completed in these respects as of the date of writing and several others require only one or two Posts to complete them. No training of Chief Observers and Official Observers has as yet been carried out in New Brunswick as we have concentrated on inspection and approval of Post sites to date. It is planned to start training of Chief Observers and Official Observers of all Posts in all New Brunswick Areas otherwise completely organized early in the new year. New Brunswick Regional Supervisors whose areas are organized in so far as approval of Observation Post sites and appointment of Chief Observers is concerned will be receiving letters advising them of training plans in the near future.

In the Magdalen Islands, part of the area of responsibility of the Truro Filter Centre it has been found necessary to suspend activity for the time being mainly due to inadequate communication facilities on the Islands and from the Islands to the Nova Scotia mainland. Three Observation Posts had been approved on the Magdalens but these are no longer listed as active Posts. It is hoped that within a year we will be able to organize Posts on the Magdalen Islands when communications lines should be improved.

New Regional Supervisors

In our Newsletter No. 2 we listed the Regional Supervisors appointed in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. In Newsletter No. 3 we listed four changes which had taken place. Since that time other Regional Supervisors have found themselves unable to carry on due to business or personal reasons and have found it necessary to resign. New Regional Supervisors have been appointed in these cases. As many of our volunteers did not receive Newsletters 2 and 3 and we feel that names of Regional Supervisors will be of interest to all, the following is a complete and up-to-date list of our Regional Supervisors in Nova Scotia, P.E.I. and New Brunswick:-

Regional Supervisors in Nova Scotia:-

- T1 - Lt.-Colonel R.S. Hallett, Weymouth, N.S.
- T2 - Mr. Paul H. Roop, P.O. Box 212, Middleton, N.S.
- T3 - Colonel Charles A. Good, 268 Main St., Kentville, N.S.
- T4 - Mr. D.M. Pettis, 100 Queen St., Truro, N.S.
- T5 - Mr. Robert M. Barnes, 7 Rupert St., Amherst, N.S.
- T6 - Mr. Roy M. Kennedy, Tatamagouche, N.S.
- T7 - Major A. MacDonald, 129 Sanborne St., New Glasgow, N.S.
- T8 - Mr. Malcolm P. Fraser, College St., Antigonish, N.S.
- T9 - Mr. Nathan Duggan, Goldboro, Guys Co., N.S.
- T10 - Mr. Joseph W. Arsenault, Terre Noire, Inverness Co., N.S.
- T12 - Captain J.M. Wilson, 3 Park St., Sydney, N.S.
- T13 - Mr. Jack Baker, Court House, Yarmouth, N.S.
- T14 - Mr. J.A. Cox, Drawer C, Shelburne, N.S.
- T15 - Group Captain Marnard L. Colp, Box 224, Liverpool, N.S.
- T16 - Mr. Vance L. Saunders, 41 Duffern St., Bridgewater, N.S.
- T17 - Mr. Herman H. Walker, P.O. Box 39, Chester, N.S.
- T18 - Mr. Hugh S. MacGlashen, 18 Newcastle St., Dartmouth, N.S.

- T19 - Mr. David Daniels, R.R. #1, Windsor, N.S.
- T20 - Mr. Garth Sanford, Middle Musquodoboit, N.S.
- T21 - Mr. Earl Lohnes, Sheet Harbour, N.S.
- T22 - Mr. Elmer Pushie, Sherbrooke, N.S.
- T23 - Dr. J.C. Trainor, P.O. Box 135, Port Hawkesbury, N.S.
- T24 - Lt. Colonel T.S. McLanders, 763 George St., Sydney, N.S.

Regional Supervisors in Prince Edward Island:-

- C1 - Mr. Peter Pate, O'Leary, P.E.I.
- C2 - Mr. Ivan Vaughn, Box 747, Summerside, P.E.I.
- C3 - Mr. Percy J. Noy, Hunter River, P.E.I.
- C4 - Mr. Martin MacDonald, Eldon, P.E.I.
- C5 - Mr. Peter Sinclair, Montague, P.E.I.

Regional Supervisors for New Brunswick:-

- M1 - Mr. Frederick R. Sams, Gaspé Village, P.Q.
- M2 - Mr. Robert Kearney, Nouvelle West, P.Q.
- M3 - Mr. P.E. Bertrand Cyr, New Richmond Centre, P.Q.
- M4 - Mr. J.A. Goulet, New Carlisle, P.Q.
- M5 - Mr. J.S. Raymond Degarie, Box 126, Chandler, P.Q.
- M6 - Mr. J. Hilaire Cyr, P.O. Box 419, Edmundston, N.B.
- M7 - Mr. Fred T. Murray, Kedgewick, Restigouche Co., N.B.
- M8 - Mr. William A. Burgess, West Bathurst, N.B.
- M9 - Captain Reginald H. Burbridge, Sewellville, N.B.
- M10 - Mr. Alex Fraser, Plaster Rock, N.B.
- M11 - Lt/Col J. Arthur Leger, P.O. Box 304, Newcastle, N.B.
- M12 - Mr. Arthur G. Stewart, Taymouth, York Co., N.B.
- M13 - Mr. Walter G. Sutherland, Doaktown, N.B.
- M14 - Mr. P. Burpee Jardine, Richibucto, N.B.
- M15 - Mr. James A. Watson, Connell St., Woodstock, N.B.
- M16 - Mr. Walter F. Wade, Marysville, R.R. #1, N.B.
- M17 - Mr. G. Russell Bishop, c/o N.B. Forest Service, Chipman, N.B.
- M18 - Mr. Douglas E. Rice, P.O. Box 190, Petitcodiac, N.B.
- M19 - Mr. James O'Brien, Weldon St., Moncton, N.B.
- M20 - Mr. Amos J. Reilly, P.O. Box 40, Port Elgin, N.B.
- M21 - Lt/Col Harold H. Ritchie, 145 George St., Fredericton, N.B.
- M22 - Mr. Herbert B. Wilson, P.O. Box 276, McAdam, N.B.
- M23 - Mr. Edward J.A. MacLean, Box 180, Gagetown, N.B.
- M24 - Mr. James H. Kirk, Hampton, N.B.
- M25 - Mr. William H. Rothernel, Black's Harbour, N.B.
- M26 - Mr. Arnold T. Wilson, 586 Harding St., Lancaster, N.B.

Moncton Filter Centre

In Newsletter No. 4, we optimistically reported that the Moncton Filter Centre should be ready for occupancy and activity approximately 1 November. As it has turned out, we were far too optimistic and delays were encountered which seriously held up starting of construction. The ship has been launched now, however, and construction is going ahead quickly. With the large amount of work to be done it now appears that the official opening of the Moncton Filter Centre will not be held until sometime in February.

"Operation Blue-Spud"

In our last newsletter we stated that we planned a full-scale GOBC test exercise for Nova Scotia and P.E.I. in October. As training in P.E.I. was not completed as rapidly as we had hoped and as many Observation Posts in Nova Scotia still had not received training by October it was necessary to delay this exercise. Plans

have now been completed, however, to hold the exercise Sunday, 13 December. Details of this exercise which follow do not apply to our volunteers in New Brunswick and the Gaspé area of Quebec but we feel that it will be of interest to them to learn what is going on in the Ground Observer Corps outside their own area.

The test and training exercise scheduled for 13 December has been named "Operation Blue-Spud." This name was chosen as this is the first exercise in which Nova Scotia and P.E.I. will be working together; the "Blue" was selected from the term "Blue-nose" for Nova Scotians and combined with the often heard term of "Spud Island" for P.E.I.

All Observation Posts in Nova Scotia and P.E.I. will be activated on Sunday 13 December between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. The last few hours of this period will give Observers a chance to see what they can do with observing during the hours of darkness. To avoid numerous Aircraft Flash reports on single aircraft circling an airport or not following a definite track we want Observers to report only aircraft travelling in formations of two or more. It is most important that all Observers remember that only formations of two aircraft are to be reported. Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force aircraft taking part in the exercise and flying definite tracks will all travel in pairs. Do not pass Aircraft Flash reports on single aircraft but only those travelling in formations of two or more.

One of the first questions which will no doubt arise in many of your minds is why we are holding our exercise on a Sunday. Some of you may object on the grounds that Sunday is your day off for rest and relaxation. During "Operation Nova Watch", our first test and training exercise held 24 June for Observation Posts of Nova Scotia, we encountered a great deal of difficulty in securing sufficient volunteers to man the Filter Centre and many of the Chief Observers found it difficult to secure volunteers to staff their Observation Posts. Most civilian members of the GOBC have work which they are unable to leave during week days. For this reason "Operation Blue-Spud" has been scheduled for a Sunday as that is the only day of the week on which we feel that the majority of our volunteers will have the free time to devote to manning Observation Posts and staffing the Filter Centre. We ask your co-operation in giving up a little of your free Sunday time to helping us make "Operation Blue-Spud" a success. Preliminary inquiries we have made indicate that few, if any, of our volunteers will be offended by being asked to devote some of their time on a Sunday to Ground Observer Corps activities.

In Newsletter No. 4 the mistakes made by Observers during "Operation Nova Watch" were outlined. All Observers are asked to study this portion of Newsletter No. 4 to ensure that similar mistakes will not be made again. If you do not have access to a copy of Newsletter No. 4, extra copies are available and a request through Chief Observers to Regional Supervisors to 7 GOBC Unit will result in provision of copies necessary. Regional Supervisors are asked to advise 7 GOBC Unit should they require additional copies of Newsletter No. 4 to make them available to volunteers in their areas for study.

Regional Supervisors of Nova Scotia, P.E.I. will be receiving a letter from No. 70 Detachment in Truro requesting them to activate their Regional Areas for "Operation Blue-Spud" and requesting confirmation that this has been done. All Regional Supervisors in Nova Scotia and P.E.I. are urged to ensure that maximum effort is put forward by all Posts in their Regional Areas before

and during the exercise.

Ground Observer Corps Radio Broadcast

In Newsletter No. 4 we reported on a Ground Observer Corps radio program presented by the CBC in Halifax and carried by the CBC Maritime Network on 27 May. This program was re-broadcast during the summer by the majority of the private radio stations in the three Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P.E.I. We are now preparing a new radio broadcast which we plan to give similar distribution having it carried first by the CBC Maritime Network and later by privately owned radio stations where such arrangements can be made by Regional Supervisors concerned. The script has been written in its first draft and as soon as revisions are made it will be ready for rehearsal and production. This time the story deals with a mythical attack on Canada and the United States by a large number of heavy enemy bomber aircraft. The aircraft are first picked up by the GOBC as they approach the Caraquet coast of northern New Brunswick. The story in a dramatic form tells how the aircraft are picked up by an Observation Post manned mainly by fishermen, how they are followed by subsequent GOBC Reports resulting in interception and destruction by defending fighter aircraft. The date when this program will be ready for broadcast is still uncertain but Regional Supervisors will be notified by letter in advance of when it will be carried by the CBC and those who live in towns where private radio stations operate will be asked to try and arrange broadcast by their local station after it has been carried by the CBC Network.

Postage on Official Correspondence

A portion of the mail being received by 7 GOBC Unit and our Truro Detachment in official envelopes issued to Regional Supervisors and Chief Observers arrives without stamps. Some of our volunteers apparently have the impression that an envelope marked "O H M S" does not require postage. All GOBC mail whether or not in official "O H M S" envelopes does require normal postage and we urge all of you to affix postage to such correspondence. Regional Supervisors will, of course, be reimbursed for postage expended by themselves and their Chief Observers by completing a Stamp Return Form. Mail received without postage necessitates us paying double postage.

Observation Post Towers

Most of you who received our training lecture were told of the towers built by Chief Observers and Official Observers of many of the GOBC Observation Posts in the United States. No money is supplied or available for projects of this nature but Chief Observers and Official Observers in a community effort have often built themselves efficient and sometimes rather elaborate towers for Posts. Many of you were shown a photograph of such a tower built by the Chief Observer and Official Observers of one of our Canadian Observation Posts in Ontario. The Chief Observer of this Post was recently presented with the Coronation Medal for his efforts in having this tower built. We have now been advised by No. 1 GOBC Unit, Vancouver that the citizens of Campbell River on Vancouver Island under the direction of Regional Supervisor Lloyd Leishman have built an Observation Post tower on top of the highest point in the area from which an excellent view in all directions can be had. Close to \$1,000 was expended on this project with the

money being provided by civilian volunteers and interested members of the community. Official opening of the Post was held on 17 September with a fly-past of RCAF aircraft, a flag raising ceremony and dedication of the Post. If any of our Chief Observers or Regional Supervisors know of similar plans for any of our Posts we would like to hear about them and our officers will be glad to assist in any way possible in providing advice as to construction, location etc.

Supervisors in the News

Two of our Nova Scotia Regional Supervisors have recently been the subject of articles appearing in the Halifax Chronicle Herald, both articles complete with pictures of Supervisors concerned.

Sheriff Jack Baker of Yarmouth, Regional Supervisor of Area T13, made the news first with an article about a 36 year old Model T Ford he drives about Yarmouth on occasions. The picture accompanying the article shows Sheriff Baker cranking the veteran car with two young ladies in the back seat interestedly watching the strange procedure.

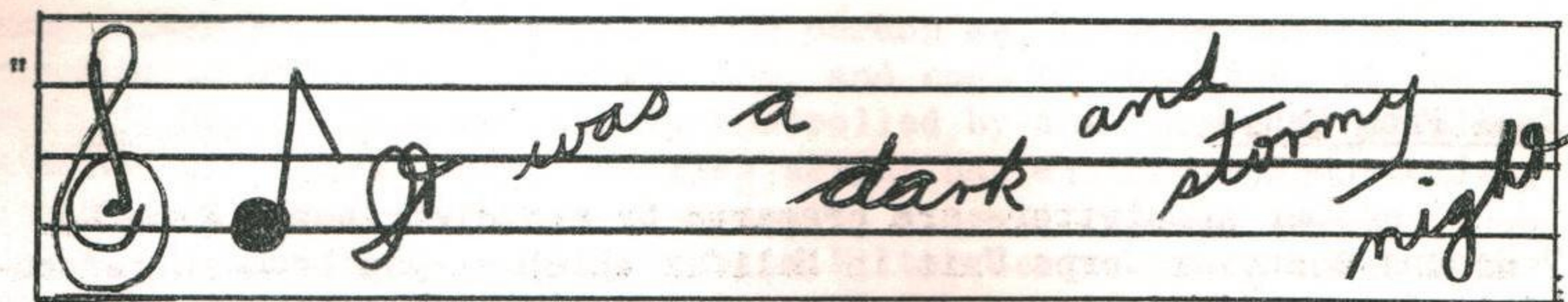
Mr. Roy Kennedy of Tatamagouche, Regional Supervisor of Area T6 was the subject of a feature story dealing with his collection of Currier and Ives prints and his search for additional prints to add to his collection. Perhaps some of our volunteers have a few old Currier and Ives prints kicking around their attics which they could use to help Mr. Kennedy with his collection.

Promotion in the Ground Observer Corps

The other day we noticed a case of rapid advancement of one of our civilian volunteers which struck us as worthy of repeating in this newsletter. This concerns our present Regional Supervisor of Area M13, Mr. Walter G. Sutherland of Doaktown, N.B. Mr. Sutherland was appointed Chief Observer of Observation Post Jig Baker 53 Black on 3 September, 1953. On 22 September he was appointed Assistant Regional Supervisor for Area M13. When the previous Regional Supervisor, Mr. Arthur V. Dunphy of Upper Blackville, N.B. was forced to resign due to moving from the province, Mr. Sutherland volunteered to take on the duties of Regional Supervisor and he was appointed in this capacity on 4 November. We thought it unusual and interesting where in a period of two months Mr. Sutherland served first as Chief Observer, then as Assistant Regional Supervisor and finally as Regional Supervisor. To beat this record some one will have to start as an Official Observer and advance through the other stages to Regional Supervisor.

News From our Volunteers

In past newsletters we have asked that Chief Observers and Regional Supervisor's send in items of interest for their Observation Posts or Regional Areas for inclusion in newsletters. The response to date has not been good. We were, however, very gratified to receive a well written and interesting account of some happenings at Observation Post Queen Able 15 Black, Iona from Mrs. Edith MacNeil, wife of the Assistant to the Chief Observer and a very active member of the Post. Newsletter No. 4 included an account of this Observation Post. It's still going strong and the following account reproduced here exactly as received from Mrs. MacNeil will indicate something of the spirit existing there:



and all day long it was miserable. Our part of the Royal Isle had been visited for hours by torrents of rain interspersed with heavy fog banks.

At 1800 hours Chief Observer - Captain Donald Campbell - paced the poop-deck of the MV Breton anxiously peering north, south, east and west to ascertain whether the fog might lift enough to make a crossing to Iona. Came the miracle! As a reward for a good clean life (and possibly in answer to a few prayers), the sky suddenly became crystal clear. All was well. The ferry proceeded with one group of G.O.C. members.

Little did we suspect that at this same time intrepid F/O Giggey was braving fiords along the route to Grand Narrows. Bridges out, roads one mass of mud and young rivers, he steadfastly drove along. How he must have sighed with relief on reaching the Legion Hall in Iona at 1700!

By 1715 there were five of us present. Uppermost in all minds was the question - how many would venture forth to wade, swim or row thru' the waterlogged roads? Many had five or six miles to struggle - possibly afoot. Soon two more appeared - both men. Close on their heels came three more - same sex. Would the womenfolk show up at all? That problem was soon solved. Singly, then in two's and three's, the fair sex began to grace the hall. Pretty girls too: not the least bedraggled looking by their battle with the elements.

Yes, it was a most successful meeting, quite unhampered by the weather. All these good loyal citizens enjoyed F/O Giggey's lecture and all hope to be meeting him again soon. Queen Able 15 Black will always have out the welcome mat for our instructors from Truro."

Let's have some of the same sort of material from some of our other Posts or Regional Areas.

Ground Observer Corps Lapel Badge

The long awaited GOBC Wings or Lapel Badges designed for awarding to civilian volunteers of the Corps are finally available. This badge is most attractive and we feel that civilian volunteers both male and female will be proud to wear it. The badge must be earned, however, before it is awarded. The policy regarding requirements to be met by volunteers before badge can be awarded is being formulated by Air Defence Headquarters. It is expected that the requirements will be along the line that the volunteer must be active, must have participated in at least one training exercise and stood watch either in a Filter Centre or Observation Post during such an exercise and must be able to correctly answer a few simple questions to determine knowledge of position being filled, such as Official Observer, Chief Observer, Regional Supervisor, Filter Centre Plotter, etc. We hope that the first badges will be awarded prior to distribution of our next newsletter and we may be able to outline then, some detail of the number of badges distributed and those receiving them. It is hoped that it will be possible to have all badges presented personally by one of our officers in short ceremonies.

News From Truro

Our newsletters are prepared by and distributed from No. 7 Ground Observer Corps Unit in Halifax which as you know is responsible for organization of the Corps in the three Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P.E.I. and the Gaspé Peninsula of the Province of Quebec. One newsletter is prepared for distribution to all three Provinces and the Gaspé area and, consequently, some of you, for example, in New Brunswick, may find that much material in the newsletters is not of immediate interest as it may concern Nova Scotia. We feel, however, that all of you, no matter where you live, will be interested in activity in the entire Maritime Area. For each newsletter the Officers Commanding our two Filter Centres in Truro and Moncton are asked to submit items from their point of view which they feel will be of interest. Some of what is said may duplicate material prepared by the Unit which is responsible for the two Filter Centres.

Here is the material submitted by our Truro Filter Centre:

"Recruiting at the Truro Filter Centre has its trials as well as its rewards, and during the past few weeks training has been going on at an increased tempo, due in part to the influx of volunteers who signed up as a result of efforts put forth by the Filter Centre staff and civilian workers on Air Force Day, and also due to the summer vacation season being over.

Many of the volunteers have done a wonderful job at rounding up new personnel and this effort is to be highly commended. From time to time it has been suggested that the slogan, "Every member bring a member", should be adopted. Selling the Ground Observer Corps to the public is not the easiest proposition in the world but if every person who has volunteered would adopt that slogan and really work on it, think how interest would grow. Before long the Truro Filter Centre and all Observation Posts would be up to strength and would be setting the pace for the rest of Canada. It is amazing how much interest has been shown in many places where lectures have been held. The enthusiasm of some of the volunteers is something to see. But nearly all Observation Posts are still understaffed and a real effort to bring them up to strength should be attempted. A few Observers can carry the load during a short exercise without any trouble but if the real thing comes along and Posts are to be manned on a 24-hour basis, the few will have a rough time of it. It is very true, and, possibly, to be expected, that the average citizen does not see the necessity of the Ground Observer Corps right now. What he does not understand is the necessity of training the volunteers in order to make them useful and this takes time. So, to those of you who are Observers now, may the slogan mentioned above be your guide. There will never be too many Observers. If every Post had at least 30 trained (and that figure can be increased to any number), a national emergency could be handled without the slightest difficulty. Chief Observers should note that GOC Form 4 (List of Official Observers) is still not reaching the Filter Centre with any degree of regularity. A few Chief Observers are quite prompt in supplying this list but many are not. Air Defence Command must have the statistics each month and these cannot be supplied without the co-operation of the Chief Observers. Just a few minutes each month are all that are required from each "Chief."

To go back to the Filter Centre again, F/O J. Harry Waugh, Officer in charge of Operations, reports - Civilian volunteers have now been divided into teams. Each team is comprised of 30 members and is controlled by a team captain, each with a specified time for training. To date four teams have been organized with an additional team in the making. Team captains of the four teams already organized

are: Team No. I, Iris MacPhee (Oh pardon me, MacPhee has been changed to McCarthy. Congrats Joe, and bags of happiness to you both.) No. II Team is capably controlled by the congenial gentleman Richard "Dick" Wade. Charles Wright has assumed responsibility for No. III Team. Charlie has adapted himself rapidly to the different duties in connection with Filter Centre operation. Team No. IV is under control of Dorothy "Dot" Moore who in her pleasant way directs her team. In a very short time considerable rivalry is expected to develop between these teams. Attendance, efficiency, and team spirit will be the yardstick by which a team will be assessed and some tough competition is anticipated in all departments. May the best team win.

F/O W.E. Whitford, a recent addition to the Filter Centre staff, brought back a few interesting items from a recent visit to the south shore. Here they are. (Incidentally, F/O Whitford is a native of Northern Ontario. He has seen all of Canada and is quite intrigued by our climate and scenery.) Capt. Joseph Himmelman, the harbour pilot for the port of Lunenburg, is the new Chief Observer for Love Queen 42 Black. Capt. Himmelman, a much travelled master mariner, was mate on the good ship Bluenose when it was in its racing prime and it might be of interest to note that during the filming of the MGM movie "The World in His Arms" which starred Gregory Peck, Captain Himmelman was technical advisor, in that he revamped the schooners used in the making of the picture so that they resembled the craft of old and was skipper on one of the schooners during the filming.

Rev. J.R. Williams, the Chief Observer at King Peter 33 Red, (Clyde River) has organized the members of the Clyde River branch of the C.G.I.T. to act as Official Observers for that Post. Good spotting, girls!

Whilst on the way to Shelburne to visit Mr. John A. Cox, the Regional Supervisor for Area T-14, a poor wee partridge did make itself known by flying into the grill of the Air Force station wagon driven by one of the officers of 70 GOB Detachment. Darn good eatin', wasn't it, Mr. Cox."

Here is the material submitted by our Moncton Filter Centre:

"With New Brunswick off to a slower start than its sister province, Nova Scotia, the tremendous task of organization, training and administering the Corps in the field, together with the construction of the Filter Centre proper, is slowly gaining momentum. At the Filter Centre, construction work is well under way. The date set for delivery and installation of the telephone equipment is early in the New Year. It is anticipated that the formal opening should be held sometime during the month of February. This date is later than that which was originally set as a target date. However, the involved process of insuring that all minor details in the Filter Centre are ironed out, together with delays which always occur on construction jobs, has caused a slight set-back. In order that the Moncton Centre might be the best, it is felt that such delays have been merited. The work of establishing good public relations within the Moncton Area has already been commenced with Officers of the Detachment carrying out various speaking assignments before clubs and organizations. It must be remembered that in order to handle capably the calls of Observers in the field, it will be necessary to train some 500 Filter Centre personnel. To bring these volunteers to a state of efficiency which we desire in our defence scheme, it will take some 50 hours of lectures and training for each individual. This is a tremendous task with the small staff at our disposal. However, the keenness, already displayed in the Moncton Area by the number of civilian offers of help, is evidence enough that our Officers will be only too willing to work at all hours to ensure that each and

every volunteer receives the best in training that the Detachment can supply. Further details in respect to the progress of the Filter Centre will be forthcoming in subsequent newsletters.

In the field the three Officers presently on strength at the Detachment are extremely busy endeavouring to complete the field organization prior to the opening of the Filter Centre. They have reported that it is gratifying to receive such splendid co-operation on the part of the Regional Supervisors and Chief Observers with whom they have come in contact. Because of our lack of sufficient number of Officers, it must be understood that progress must, of necessity, be slow. Since our last newsletter, however, there has been a marked increase in the number of posts obtained and it is satisfying to report that we have turned the halfway mark of our objective and are now, more or less, heading for the homestretch.

The Commanding Officer and all Officers connected with the Ground Observer Corps in the Maritime Area understand that it is not always easy for a Regional Supervisor or a Chief Observer to adhere to appointments as laid down. We realize that one's individual job must come first. It would, however, facilitate our work tremendously if appointments could be kept or in the event of absence on regular duties, that messages be left behind at the place of business so that calling Officers may proceed with their work. The warm thanks of all Officers go to all those who have co-operated so splendidly in the past. New Brunswick is soaring to the top. Keep up the good work."

Conclusion

As there will not be another Newsletter published until after the New Year, the Commanding Officer, Officers and staff of 7 Ground Observer Corps Unit (which includes all of our officers and staff at the Filter Centres) take this opportunity to wish all of you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a pleasant and prosperous New Year. May the New Year rapidly approaching us produce bigger and better things for the Ground Observer Corps in the Maritimes and for all of you.

We are most anxious to receive the comments of our volunteers on the newsletters. If any of you have any ideas as to how the newsletters can be improved and made more interesting we would like to hear your ideas. We still hope to receive items from our Regional Areas and Observation Posts which we can use in future newsletters. Let's hear from some of you.

Canadian RCAF No7 Ground
Observer Corps Unit Newsletter 5

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