

P. J. Wilson

The Sky Sentinel

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NO. 7 RCAF GObC UNIT

THE SKY SENTINEL

Royal Canadian Air Force
7 Ground Observer Corps Unit

New Regional Supervisors

Since our last issue of the Sky Sentinel two of our Regional Supervisors have resigned and have been replaced. In Nova Scotia, Mr. Vance L. Saunders of Bridgewater, Regional Supervisor Area T16 was forced to resign due to ill health. We were sorry to lose Mr. Saunders as he has always been an active, hard-working member of the Ground Observer Corps team. Mr. Saunders has been replaced by G/C (Ret) R.S. Grandy of R.R. #3, Bridgewater. G/C Grandy is no stranger to the Ground Observer Corps as he has served as a Technical Adviser to the Unit in regard to organization of fishing vessels and coastal ships as Mobile Observation Posts since 2 June, 1954. In that capacity G/C Grandy proved invaluable to us and he did a great deal to improve our Mobile Observation Post organization. G/C Grandy is still carrying on as Technical Adviser and now has the double duties of Technical Adviser and Regional Supervisor of Area T16. From past experience and the amount of work he put into Mobile Observation Posts we know that G/C Grandy will maintain the high standards set by Mr. Saunders in Area T16.

In area M12, Mr. Arthur G. Stewart of Taymouth was forced to resign his duties as Regional Supervisor due to business reasons. Mr. Stewart has been replaced by Mr. James C. Sansom, Nashwaak Bridge, N.B. Mr. Sansom is an employee of the Nashwaak Pulp and Paper Company at Stanley, N.B. Welcome to the Ground Observer Corps, Mr. Sansom and our officers in New Brunswick inform us that you appear keenly interested in the Ground Observer Corps and should have a fine, well organized Regional Area.

Statistics

As noted in our last issue we will be giving you the latest up-to-date statistics for the 7 GOB Unit area in regard to Observation Post volunteers and Filter Centre volunteers recruited and trained in each issue of the Sky Sentinel. The following were as of 31 May, 1955:

	OPs Located with Ch.Obs. Recruited	OPs Trained	Official Obs. who Have Att- ended 3- Hour Tra- ining Lec.	Filter Centre Volun- teers Recruited	Filter Centre Volunteers Trained
70 Det	392	384	2,519	158	113
71 Det	323	278	2,654	153	105
72 Det	234	175	856	59	19

Do Our Volunteers Read the Sky Sentinel?

The Sky Sentinel is produced by the RCAF for the civilian volunteers both in the Filter Centres and in the field in the 7 GOBC Unit area. We often wonder what those for whom it is produced think of it and we would welcome any comments any of our volunteers would like to make. In our last issue we reported on back issues of the Sky Sentinel and newsletters which were available to those who had not received them. The response was not very gratifying. Only about three Chief Observers and one Regional Supervisor wrote in for back issues. We know there were many more who had not seen previous issues of which we have extra copies and the fact that so few asked for some of the back issues made us wonder just how many people like to get the Sky Sentinel and how many people do read it. Write in and give us your thoughts on it.

In several previous issues of the Sky Sentinel we have asked the volunteers in Observation Posts and in the Filter Centres to send us in material for the Sky Sentinel which they felt would be of interest to other volunteers. Such items as activities at your Observation Post, local training arrangements, humorous incidents during exercises, etc. would be welcome. So far, with few exceptions we haven't received very much. Come on you members of the Ground Observer Corps! Let's have some material from you, about your Observation Post, your Filter Centre team and so on. Perhaps some of you are budding authors. Here's your chance to prove it. Any such material can be addressed either to the Detachment Commander of your Filter Centre or to the Commanding Officer, 7 RCAF Ground Observer Corps Unit, Halifax, N.S.

Requests for Photographs

Air Defence Command Headquarters has advised us that Air Force Headquarters in Ottawa has been receiving numerous requests for aircraft photographs from Ground Observer Corps civilian volunteers. We don't know whether any of our members are involved but we have been asked by Air Defence Command to, through the Sky Sentinel, request our civilian volunteers not to write to Air Force Headquarters requesting photographs. With approximately 90,000 civilian volunteers presently enrolled in the Ground Observer Corps it is impossible for Air Force Headquarters to know whether or not the people writing in are in the Ground Observer Corps or not and with the number involved impossible for them to meet such requests. We would, accordingly, ask you to please not write to Air Force Headquarters or Air Defence Command Headquarters either, for that matter, asking for photographs of aircraft.

Crests for Blazers or Jackets

GOBC crests patterned after the GOBC King are now in the process of being manufactured. These have been produced because of numerous requests received from our volunteers for a crest they can buy suitable for wear on a blazer or a jacket to indicate their membership in the GOBC.

Two types of crests will be available. The first is of exceptionally fine quality being manufactured of gold thread and other top quality materials and similar to the official RCAF crest worn by RCAF officers on blazers. The cost will be approximately \$6.00 and it will be well worth this sum. We hope, in our next issue of the Sky Sentinel, to include a photograph of this crest as well as a photograph of a cheaper crest suitable for wear on jackets or other garments. The cheaper crest will sell for approximately 50¢ and will be made of felt and using "flock" to outline the wings and lettering.

When available these crests will be on display in the Filter Centres and samples will be carried by our officers on field trips.

Exercise "June Bug"

By the time you read this we hope that Exercise "June Bug" will have come and have been successfully completed. Written instructions and details of Exercise "June Bug" originally scheduled for Wednesday 8 June were forwarded to all Chief Observers, Regional Supervisors, etc. by our Detachments in Truro and Lunenburg. We had planned to postpone Exercise "June Bug" until Wednesday 15 June should the weather be unfavourable on the eighth. This postponement was made due to bad weather in parts of our area but due to prior commitments on behalf of the majority of our participating aircraft we were regretfully forced to postpone again until Wednesday 29 June. As of the date of this writing Exercise "June Bug" is still some ten days off but due to the fact that it takes the printer some two weeks to print and prepare our Sky Sentinel for mailing, weather permitting it will, we hope, be all over before this issue is in the hands of our volunteers.

Many of our Chief Observers and Observers who live in areas where the weather was fine on 8 June no doubt wondered why it was necessary to postpone the exercise. The area over which Exercise "June Bug" is scheduled to take place includes the Gaspe Peninsula of Quebec, all of the Province of New Brunswick and all of P.E.I. and Nova Scotia. In many parts of this area the weather on the eighth of June was fine but in many other parts the weather was well below the limits we had to have for the participating aircraft to fly. For example, on the eighth of June, two hours after the exercise was scheduled to start the weather at Sydney and a great deal of the remainder of Cape Breton gave only a 200-foot ceiling with rain and fog. Charlottetown and Summerside both reported a 600-foot ceiling, Lunenburg reported 900 feet and Saint John, 1200 feet. As most of our aircraft were scheduled to fly at heights between 1500 and 3500 feet you can see that although your area might have been clear with an unlimited ceiling the fact that so much of our area had low ceilings made it impossible for us to carry on. The decision to postpone was made with a great deal of regret. We, in the RCAF, were most disappointed and we know that many of our civilian

volunteers who had been looking forward to it eagerly were just as disappointed as we were.

Exercise "June Bug" is scheduled to be the biggest 7 COBU Unit exercise yet attempted. We have a total of 28 aircraft taking part and some of these will be flying two flights each. Types of aircraft consist of Lancaster four-engine bombers, Beechcraft Expeditors, Sabre Jets, Navy Sea Furies, Avengers and Harvards. The coverage to be laid down by these aircraft is quite extensive. For example, each one of the 8 Lancasters participating is scheduled to fly over 1200 miles for a total Lancaster mileage during the exercise of approximately 10,000 miles. The tracks for all aircraft to fly were laid down with a great deal of care at Unit Headquarters with S/L Miller and T/O Giggey putting in almost two weeks of concentrated effort on the job. Every effort was made to give everyone of our Observation Posts as many sightings as possible and we hope we didn't miss any.

To make exercise "June Bug" an unqualified success every Observation Post must be manned throughout the entire exercise period. Every position in the Filter Centre must also be filled. Will your Post be on watch? If you are a Filter Centre volunteer, will you be taking part?

Although it will likely be too late for such cautions when you read this issue we are hoping all who are volunteers will follow proper procedures this time. During past exercises the majority of our Observers have reported properly following laid down procedures but too many of our Observers still show the need for further training. All Chief Observers have been issued with a copy of the field training lectures and most, if not all, have attended one or more training lectures given by one of our officers. If in doubt consult your training lecture. Don't forget the "on watch" and "off watch" procedures. Be sure you understand "time delay." This is most important.

All Chief Observers and Regional Supervisors will be getting a written report from their Filter Centre about "June Bug" possibly about the same time they receive this newsletter. We will give you the full story of how it worked out in the next issue of the Sky Sentinel.

We're really hoping for fine weather on the Twenty-Ninth of June. If the weatherman is unkind to us again the exercise will not be postponed but will be cancelled and will be held some time during the month of September.

For the information of our Newfoundland volunteers, the Newfoundland area is not participating in Exercise "June Bug" but a similar exercise will be held in Newfoundland probably in September.

Could It Happen Here?

The following headline and story are quoted from a newspaper published in British Columbia and were sent to us with the compliments of #1 RCAF Ground Observer Corps Unit in Vancouver:

"GROUND OBSERVERS IN BATTLE OVER INTERPRETATION OF DUTIES

A meeting of the Ground Observer Corps held at Harrison Hot Spring fire hall broke up a fist fight on Tuesday night when Agassiz members were told that they were supposed to watch for airplanes.

Several of the Agassiz group pointed out that they had been observing the ground for years now, and although they found it rather dull at times they didn't see any reason to change.

People who looked up in the air, as the Harrison Hot Springs and the Harrison Mills members had been doing, were air observers they argued.

Other members maintained that air observers were observers who were up in planes. Anyone up in the air, an Agassiz spokesman countered, would be looking at the ground and should be classified as a ground observer.

Police were finally called to halt the riot."

Perhaps we should mention before leaving this that the date on the issue of the paper from which the above was taken was April First. The whole of the paper was in the same vein with "April Fool" stories throughout.

Exercise "Surprise"

At 0730 hours Atlantic Daylight Time on Wednesday 18 May the duty staff at the Lunenburg and Truro Filter Centres were rudely aroused from sleep and told that a surprise exercise was taking place from 0915 until 1115 Atlantic Daylight Saving Time and that they were to activate all Observation Posts and their Filter Centres immediately. Our Filter Centre and field volunteers, through the medium of the last issue of the Sky Sentinel, had been warned that a surprise exercise might come at any time but date and time was known only to the Commanding Officer and Second in Command at Unit Headquarters in Halifax.

All of our Chief Observers and Regional Supervisors in the Lunenburg and Truro areas received a letter regarding the exercise results within a few days after it took place. Exercise Surprise taught us a lot. What did it teach you? The Ground Observer Corps is established in the 7 GOC Unit area on

a stand-by basis so that should the situation be such that the possibility of enemy attack exists we can have all of our Observation Posts and our Filter Centres fully activated on very short notice. That is the ideal. Surprise exercises are designed to show us how close we can come to that ideal.

For Exercise Surprise on the Eighteenth of May we had a Lancaster Bomber laid on to fly over part of New Brunswick, simulate an attack on Moncton, then through Nova Scotia and after a couple of turns simulate an attack on Halifax. The bomber was picked up by our Observation Posts and we got six reports on it from Posts in New Brunswick and ten reports from Nova Scotia Posts. These reports enabled us to track the aircraft but there were many Observation Posts which this aircraft passed over which did not report it. Why?.... because no one was on watch. In the New Brunswick Area, out of 269 Observation Posts organized and trained, 113 reported on watch. In the Nova Scotia area out of 384 Posts organized and trained 187 reported on watch. There were too many gaps. Some Posts which were on watch did not report this fact in accordance with the "on watch" procedures. Others which did report did not receive credit for it due to mistakes made in the Filter Centre. Overall, the exercise was a success. It showed us where improvements are needed and where weaknesses exist. It wasn't the real thing but it could have been. If your Post is one of those which wasn't on watch, do you know why not? Perhaps the Chief Observer was away and could not be contacted by his Regional Supervisor. Each Chief Observer is supposed to have a deputy who can activate the Observation Post should the Chief Observer himself be unavailable. If you are a Chief Observer, have you an Alerting Deputy?

During Exercise "Surprise" the majority of the Aircraft Flash calls placed followed proper procedures and were accurate and showed a complete understanding of procedures by the Observers. Others indicated that the Observer was totally unaware of what he was supposed to do or how to place an Aircraft Flash Message. If you are an Observer and don't know how to place an Aircraft Flash Message or report on or off watch, ask your Chief Observer. He should know. He should have attended the training lectures and at least he has all the instructions in writing. If Chief Observers are in any doubt as to proper procedures to be followed they should contact their Regional Supervisor and have him arrange for a training lecture. The Ground Observer Corps will work but only if all its members know what to do, how to do it and when to do it.

Other surprise exercises will be held. They may be of extremely short duration such as the two hour Exercise "Surprise" of 18 May. They could be of a much longer duration and extend into several days as has been done in other areas. Will you be ready? Have you enough Observers recruited? Is your Post a hole in the fence we have built?

The Ground Observer Corps on Television

CKCW-TV in Moncton has carried short telecasts dealing with the Ground Observer Corps and activities in the Moncton Filter Centre from time to time but these were on film and of short duration. On Tuesday night June 7, the GOBC in the 7 GOBC Unit area made its first "live" television debut over Television Station CBHT in Halifax. This took place on the program "Gazette" from 1910 to 1930 with master of ceremonies of this program, Max Ferguson, interviewing S/L C.E. Harris, the new Staff Officer Ground Observer Corps at Air Defence Command Headquarters, St. Hubert and S/L S.R. Miller, Commanding Officer of 7 RCAF Ground Observer Corps Unit in Halifax. We had one of our Observation Post signs on the program, a model of the Truro Filter Centre plotting table, photographs of the Truro Filter Centre Operations Room during actual exercises, photographs of a couple of our Observation Posts and the Unit Headquarters Master Map with all areas drawn in, map pins denoting location of Observation Posts, Regional Supervisors, etc. and coloured strings on the map showing routes of all aircraft taking part in Exercise "June Bug". The interview dealt mainly with the Ground Observer Corps, its purpose, how it is organized, etc. and with the coming Exercise "June Bug". All reports received have indicated that the program was quite successful and that Squadron Leaders Miller and Harris have a bright future in television if they ever wish to leave the Air Force. Those who saw the program felt that in the limited time available a good explanation of the GOBC was presented. We hope to have future television programs at a later date and the CBC has assured us that they plan to take movies of various activities at the Filter Centres and at Observation Posts during Exercise "June Bug". These will be released over news broadcasts.

Regional Supervisors' Conference

On Saturday and Sunday 7-8 May our third Regional Supervisors' conference and course of instruction was held at 71 GOBC Detachment Filter Centre in Moncton. The first such meeting was held at the Truro Filter Centre in March of last year for the Supervisors of Nova Scotia and P.E.I. only. A second meeting was held at the Moncton Filter Centre in October of last year for the Supervisors of New Brunswick and the Gaspé area of P.Q. together with those Supervisors in Nova Scotia and P.E.I. who had not attended the first meeting in Truro in March. Our latest conference, the plans for which were reported in the last issue of the Sky Sentinel, was for all Supervisors in the Truro and Moncton Filter Centre areas. The number of Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors who attended was smaller than we had hoped for. Of 54 Supervisors invited, twenty-four were present together with five Assistant Supervisors. Those who attended with their Regional Areas was as follows:

Regional Supervisors

T-5 - Mr. R.M. Barnes
T-6 - Mr. L.C. Ripley
T-9 - Mr. R.M. Sangster
T-12 - Captain J.M. Wilson
T-13 - Mr. Jack Baker
T-15 - G/C M.I. Colp
T-16 - G/C R.S. Grandy
T-19 - Mr. David Daniels
T-24 - Lt/Col T.S. McLanders

C-1 - Mr. Peter Pate
C-2 - Mr. Ivan Vaughan
C-3 - Mr. Percy Noy
C-4 - Mr. Martin MacDonald

M-3 - Mr. P.E.B. Cyr
M-9 - Captain R.H. Burbridge
M-11 - Lt/Col J. A. Leger
M-13 - Mr. Walter Sutherland
M-14 - Mr. P.B. Jardine
M-16 - Mr. Walter Wade
M-19 - Mr. W. Fred Muir
M-20 - Mr. Amos J. Reilly
M-21 - Lt/Col H.H. Ritchie
M-24 - Mr. James H. Kirk
M-26 - Mr. Arnold T. Wilson

Assistant Regional Supervisors

T-13 - Mrs. Jack Baker
C-1 - Mr. James Getson
M-3 - Mrs. P.E.B. Cyr
M-16 - Mrs. Walter Wade
M-20 - Mr. P.D. Murray

The conference got underway about 0900 hours Saturday morning 7 May. All those present were fully instructed in the latest developments in the Ground Observer Corps in the 7 Unit area, new procedures, how they could improve organization in their areas, proper use of various forms issued, plans for exercises, etc. On Saturday evening a dinner was held in the Filter Centre and following the dinner, Wings were presented to Technical Adviser Mr. H. Ward Heans and Assistant Regional Supervisors, Mr. James Getson, Mrs. Fernande Cyr, Mrs. Lois Wade by Group Captain H.W. Hows CD, Commanding Officer 5 Supply Depot, Moncton. Following the dinner and Wings Presentation, the latter which was filmed for television broadcast by CKCW-TV, Moncton, an enjoyable evening spent in the 5 Supply Depot Officers' Mess, Moncton through the courtesy of Group Captain Hows.

The conference got underway again Sunday morning and concluded early Sunday afternoon. All of those in

attendance were of the opinion that they had gained a great deal from attendance. From the viewpoint of we in the RCAF the conference was an outstanding success and we feel that if only all of our Supervisors had been able to attend it would have made our job a lot easier. We feel that those who were not there missed the conference only because it was absolutely impossible through business or personal reasons for them to make it. Our sincere thanks go to those who did attend.

71 GOBc Detachment Wings Presentation Ceremony

On Saturday evening 14 May 71 GOBc Detachment held a Wings Presentation Ceremony combined with a dinner and social evening. Guests from outside the Filter Centre who were present were as follows:

S/L C.E. Harris - Staff Officer Ground Observer
Corps Air Defence Command Headquarters.

F/L S.E. Mayer - Assistant Staff Officer Ground
Observer Corps, Air Defence
Command Headquarters.

S/L & Mrs. S.R. Miller.

F/O & Mrs. G.M. Gillespie.

S/L & Mrs. R.D. Forbes-Roberts.

The Wings were presented by S/L C.E. Harris to 33 Filter Centre volunteers who had qualified. Following the presentation of wings a most enjoyable party was held in the Filter Centre with dancing in the lecture room, a dart tournament in the lounge and cards in the orderly room. There was a large turnout of guest for the social activities and the evening was a success from all aspects.

A feature of the Moncton Wings Presentation Ceremony was the presentation by S/L S.R. Miller of the Moncton Filter Centre 250-Hour Honour Roll Club scroll. This attractive scroll had been beautifully framed and was presented to the first two members of the Filter Centre 250-Hour Honour Roll Club, Miss Evelyn Saulnier and Miss Bernice LeBlanc. Both of these volunteers have given over 250 hours volunteer service to the Moncton Filter Centre with Miss LeBlanc having put in well over 300 hours since last November. As other volunteers qualify for membership their names will be added to the scroll.

Visits to 7 Unit Area by our New Head Man

In April S/L C.E. Harris, until that time Commanding Officer of #5 GOBc Unit North Bay, Ontario, took over the position vacated by W/C J.A. Wiseman as Staff Officer Ground Observer Corps at Air Defence Command Headquarters, St. Hubert. The first official duty performed by S/L Harris outside of Air

Defence Command was the presentation of Wings at the Moncton Filter Centre on 14 May. He combined this pleasant duty with and inspection of the Moncton Filter Centre. On 7 June, S/L Harris accompanied by his assistant at Air Defence Command, F/L Mayer, arrived in Halifax to pay his first official visit to 7 GOBC Unit and to observe the activities in connection with Exercise "June Bug". As Exercise "June Bug" was not held on the Eighth of June, S/L Harris accompanied by S/L Miller visited the Truro Filter Centre on 8 June and inspected the facilities there. He expressed himself as well pleased with what he found at the Unit Headquarters and at our Filter Centres in Truro and Moncton. S/L Harris had planned to proceed to Newfoundland on 9 June to visit the Gander Filter Centre but due to bad weather there he was forced to postpone this visit until a later date. He plans to return to 7 GOBC Unit on the Twenty-Eighth of June hoping, as we all are, that Exercise "June Bug" will come off on that date and that he will be able to watch us in action operationally.

Captain Wilson Spills the Beans

During the Regional Supervisors' conference in Moncton on 7-8 May, Captain J.M. Wilson, Regional Supervisor Area TL2, had a rather amusing story to tell all those present about a training and organization trip made to his area by F/O W.E. Whitford and LAC A.H. Ogden from the Truro Filter Centre. According to Captain Wilson, F/O Whitford and LAC Ogden were driving in the vicinity of Sydney when, near the new mental hospital, they had a flat tire on their vehicle. A patient from the mental hospital, leaning on a fence surrounding the hospital, was an interested spectator as they started to change the tire and put on the spare. They removed the nuts from the wheel carrying the flat tire and placed these in the hub cap. As they pulled the flat tire from the axle it knocked against the hub cap, upset it and spilled all the nuts down a sewer through a grating on which the hub cap had been resting. This posed a serious problem to F/O Whitford and LAC Ogden. After some thought F/O Whitford called to the interested spectator, told him what had happened and asked where the nearest garage or service station was located. The information was supplied that the nearest such establishment was about four miles down the road. After some further conversation LAC Ogden started out to walk in the direction indicated. Before he had gone far the patient called and inquired where he was going and why. LAC Ogden replied that he was off to secure some new nuts so that they could put the sound tire on the wheel and proceed on their way. The mental hospital patient then asked why they didn't remove one of the five nuts from each of the other wheels and use these to temporarily secure the wheel to the vehicle so that they could drive to the nearest garage. This was tried and was, to F/O Whitford and LAC Ogden, a startling success. F/O Whitford then said to the patient "surely with the ability

to produce an idea as brilliant as that you are not a patient in this institution." The spectator replied, "O yes, but I'm in here for being crazy, not stupid."

There it is, more or less as Captain Wilson told it. Draw your own conclusions.

Dedication of Observation Post Building at Iona, N.S.

In our last issue we reported that dedication ceremonies for the new Observation Post building constructed by the Chief Observer and Observers of Observation Post Queen Able 15 Black at Iona would be held on Saturday 11 June. Due to the fact that 11 June was Air Force Day and the close proximity to the originally scheduled date for Exercise "June Bug", the dedication ceremonies were postponed until 18 June. As of this writing the dedication has not as yet taken place but will have been when this is printed. We'll have the whole story to tell in the next issue.

Use of our Form 2

Our Regional Supervisors and our Filter Centres have asked us to remind all Chief Observers of the importance of submitting GOC Form 2 (55) to the Regional Supervisor as soon as new volunteers are signed up. The Form 2 is the declaration signed by newly recruited Observers. In the news from our Truro Filter Centre they go into this matter so we'll only mention it in passing here. It is most important and all Chief Observers are asked again to forward it promptly to their Regional Supervisor as soon as they recruit any new Observers for their Observation Post.

F/O G.E. Murray is Transferred

All of our Filter Centre volunteers in Moncton and many of the Regional Supervisors, Chief Observers and Observers in the Gaspé Area of P.Q. and the Province of New Brunswick are well acquainted with F/O G.E. (Ernie) Murray. Ernie has been a valued member of 7 GOB Unit since March, 1952 with the exception of a period when he was moved to the Rimouski Filter Centre. He has now been transferred to Air Defence Command Headquarters in St Hubert to the Ground Observer Corps branch there and will be leaving Moncton towards the end of July. We're all sorry to see him leave but we know we'll have a friend in Air Defence Command who will be in a good position to look after the interests of 7 GOB Unit there. Good Luck Ernie in your new job.

F/O Murray is being replaced at Moncton by F/O R.C. Hussey from 72 GOB Detachment in Gander. F/O Hussey is another oldtimer in the Ground Observer Corps and was formerly

Detachment Commander of #80 Detachment in Gander which became #72 Detachment of 7 Unit on 1 January, 1955. The boys in Gander are sorry to see Bob leave there but he is no stranger to our officers in Moncton and before long most of our civilians in the Filter Centre and many of you in the field will have a chance to meet him.

Have You Tried Practice Sessions?

Many of our top Observation Posts hold regular training and practice sessions without waiting for lectures given by RCAF officers. This procedure really pays off and it is most noticeable in an exercise where the Observers of such Posts invariably give their Aircraft Flash Messages quickly and accurately following proper procedures. Have you done this or thought of doing it at your Observation Post? If not we can highly recommend it. Some of our Posts have secured old telephones or similar equipment and with one member of the Post acting as Filter Centre plotter on one telephone the other Observers take turns in passing practice Aircraft Flash Messages with Chief Observer and others criticizing and correcting mistakes. Only through such practice can all Observers become really efficient. Even if you can't secure telephone-type equipment such practice can be carried out verbally. We urge all Chief Observers to arrange periodic training sessions and to give all their Observers lots of chances to practice giving Aircraft Flash Messages until it becomes second nature. If this is done, during an exercise you will have no trouble and the results will show up in what we get at the Filter Centres. Too many of our Observers will attend the training lecture given by one of our officers and then forget all about the Ground Observer Corps and the proper methods of operating their Post until an exercise comes along. When the first aircraft shows up they're at a loss and take much longer to get the information to the Filter Centre than they would if they had practiced, studied the lecture and carried out practice training by themselves.

Aircraft Recognition

In our last issue we stated that 71 GOBc Detachment in Moncton would describe an aircraft for this issue of the Sky Sentinel. 71 Detachment must be still trying to get over the shock of Exercise "Surprise" because they forgot to send us anything. The good old Unit Headquarters had to come through and produce the material for this issue. To make up for their "goof" the Moncton Filter Centre will be supplying material on two aircraft for our next issue. Please take note F/O Lutes.

The aircraft described in this issue is the Avro Lancaster 10-1R, a bomber engaged in numerous tasks with the RCAF such as maritime reconnaissance, air-sea rescue, etc. Many units have been modified by the deletion of the dorsal turret and the installation of ASV search radar. This aircraft brought fame upon itself by its performance in the bombing of enemy targets during World War II.

Performance: Maximum speed - 275 m.p.h.; cruising speed - 210 m.p.h.; service ceiling - 23000 feet; range - 3000 miles.

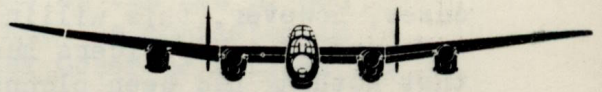
Weights: Empty - 37,000 lbs.; loaded - 68,000 lbs.

Dimensions: Span - 102 feet; length - 69 ft. 4 in.; height - 20 feet.

DESCRIPTION

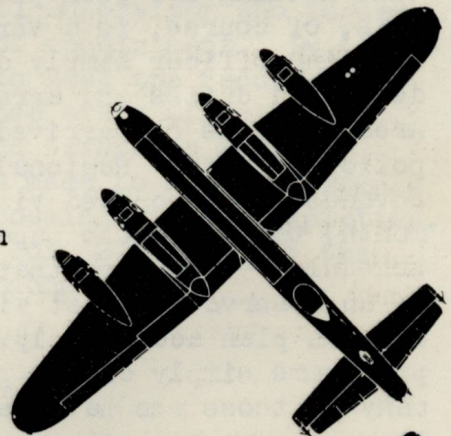
Head On View

- (a) Straight centre section & dihedral wings.
- (b) Four underslung in-line liquid-cooled engines.
- (c) Lid wing monoplane.
- (d) Oval-shaped fuselage.
- (e) Twin fin and rudder.



Plan View

- (a) Tapered wings with straight centre section & rounded wing tips.
- (b) Four in-line engines protruding on the leading edge of the wing.
- (c) Long thin cigar shaped fuselage with rounded plexiglass extremities.
- (d) Tapered tail-plane with square-cut tips.



Side View

- (a) Straight dorsal line of fuselage broken only by well forward cockpit.
- (b) Slightly curved belly line with up-sweep towards the rear.
- (c) Search radar blister slightly ahead of tail wheel.
- (d) Elongated oval-shaped fin and rudder set vertically.



Observation Post Signs

All of the 250 Observation Post signs have now been erected at the Observation Posts scheduled to receive them. If you are travelling around the country you should see some of these attractive signs indicating location of our Observation Posts. If you are a member of the Ground Observer Corps and see one of these signs, why not drop in, identify yourself as a fellow member and have a chat with the personnel of the Observation Post.

News From our Detachments

Here is the news from our three Detachments for this issue:

News From 70 GOBc Detachment, Truro, NS

This Detachment has been under steady pressure since the last issue of the Sky Sentinel appeared in an effort to keep up the schedule which was planned months ago. In most Regional Areas the co-operation received by the Detachment officers has been outstanding and to those Regional Supervisors and Chief Observers who have helped by arranging programmes in advance go the sincere thanks of the Detachment staff. In some cases, however, this willingness to assist has been lacking and when one of our officers has arrived in an area it was found that nothing had been planned to assist him in doing his job. This, of course, is a very discouraging situation since the visiting officer simply does not have time to carry out his delegated duties and arrange his lecture schedule in a Regional Area after he has arrived. It has been this Detachment's policy to notify Regional Supervisors two to three weeks in advance of a proposed visit (and in some cases this has been a month) to permit the Supervisor plenty of time to arrange his schedule. We assume that all those who live in the vicinity of an Observation Post will have advance notice of a lecture and can plan accordingly. But if co-operation is lacking, the programme simply cannot produce results. We are certain that many of those who have failed in the past do not realize fully the enormous task the small Detachment staff is called upon to carry out and that without full co-operation from all personnel it becomes almost impossible. It is hoped that these remarks will be taken in the proper spirit and that those to whom they apply will appreciate their shortcomings and try to be more helpful in future. To build up a really efficient organization it should be understood that we must work as a team and anything short of perfection should be avoided.

On 18 May we were caught off base. Exercise "Surprise" suddenly arrived and, although the field organization came through in a very creditable fashion, it is regretted that the Filter Centre was inadequately staffed. Several form letters

were prepared relative to the use of the new "Fink Card", GOC 54 (55) and it seems from reports that have reached Truro that some Observation Posts which faithfully reported "on watch" in the proper manner did not receive credit for it because of a slip at this end. We hope that these were isolated cases and can only say we are sorry. Every effort will be made to avoid a repetition and, since the procedures explained on GOC 54 (55) are so important, we hope that the letter will serve as an incentive to be sure to get those "On Watch" and "Off Watch" calls in on time for the next exercise. Please do not take offense if you were one of those improperly accused of falling down on the job. The form letters were not intended to hurt anybody's feelings but rather to impress all field personnel with the importance of following procedures and it is admitted that in many cases the Filter Centre was at fault.

FORM 2

The last issue of the Sky Sentinel mentioned the recurring complaint that GOC Form 4 was not being submitted as regularly as desired and some Chief Observers had not yet sent in any. Now we can report that this situation has been improved but at least one Regional Supervisor has reported that Form 4 from some Observation Posts are listing Observers of whom he has no record. This brings up the use of GOC Form 2 (Observer Declaration) which must be completed in duplicate by each Observer. The Chief Observer retains one copy and sends the other to the Regional Supervisor who issues the Observer's "I" card with a letter of appointment. By this means the Regional Supervisor is able to keep the record of his Observation Posts straight and, since every Official Observer must be issued with an "I" card before he reaches official status, every effort should be made to send the Form 2 to the Regional Supervisor as soon as possible after completion. All Chief Observers please note:-- The Form 2 is sent to the Regional Supervisor and not to this Detachment.

FILTER CENTRE NEWS

The Truro Filter Centre has acquired a new team since the news for the last Sky Sentinel was sent in. The new team with Mr. Frank Richardson as captain is composed mainly of members of the Immanuel Baptist Church and they hold their training classes on Wednesday nights after prayer meeting. The attendance of the members of this team has been excellent and the records show them pushing the older teams pretty hard in attendance hours each month. Most of the team members have completed all their lectures and are getting very proficient in the various positions in the Operations Room. The next wings presentation should see many of the members of the new team called the "Filter Fans" receiving their GOC Wings.

A number of Fighter Controllers and Fighter Control Operators from RCAF Station Beaver Bank have visited the Filter Centre during the past few weeks. A total of four groups with ten or twelve people in each group have been here so far with more expected. They are given lectures on the field organization and filter centre procedures and then watch the volunteers working at their regular training exercises. The entertainment committee winds up the day by providing a nice lunch for the visitors. The personnel who have visited the centre have been much impressed by the training standard achieved by the volunteers in their weekly training classes.

The third wings Presentation at the Filter Centre is expected to be held in the near future. Approximately sixty-five volunteers will have become eligible for Wings since the last Wings presentation was held in October. A full report on this event will be given in the next issue.

The entertainment and publicity committees at the Filter Centre have been re-organized recently and are doing a very good job. Two representatives from each team are on each committee with Mr. Willis McRae as Chairman of both committees.

An essay contest is being held at the Centre with all Filter Centre volunteers eligible. The subject is "Why I Am a Filter Centre Volunteer" and it is hoped that a large number of entries will be received. The entertainment committee have made arrangements with a local jeweller who is donating two electric clocks for prizes.

LOVE ABLE 10 BLACK

Chief Observer W.C. Stewart of Observation Post Love Able 10 Black, Berwick, has been connected with the GOBc for two years. He was also a member of the Aircraft Detection Corps during World War II.

On the night of 1 Mar 55 Mr. Stewart arranged to have a training lecture in the Legion Hall, Berwick, and had two crank-type telephones installed - complete with power. One telephone was at the rear of the building with the other at the front and, after the lecture, the Observers passed Aircraft Flash calls to the lecturer. Each call was criticized and mistakes pointed out and discussed. Following this, a very enjoyable lunch was provided by Mr. Stewart for all those present.

Besides his own Observers, Mr. Stewart entertained those who came from Love Able 00 Black and Love Queen 05 Black who had to travel over roads which were in very poor condition. Such enthusiasm is very commendable and says much for the future of the GOBc in this area.

For making such arrangements, Mr. Stewart deserves - and gets - a well-deserved vote of thanks from 70 GOBc Detachment.

HONOUR ROLL POST

Observation Post King Peter 54 Red of Lockeport, N.S. has been chosen as the Honour Roll Post for this issue of the Sky Sentinel.

The Post was originally organized in May 1953 with Mr. Oscar Hardy as the Chief Observer. Mr. Hardy was in charge of the Air Cadet Squadron in Lockeport and a number of cadets were also Observers and did a very fine job. However, Mr. Hardy re-enlisted in the RCAF and Mr. Lewis Fraser, Principal of the Lockeport Regional High School, took over as Chief Observer in October, 1954.

Mr. Fraser has done an excellent job of organizing the Post and has shown what a good Chief Observer can do. In addition to the Air Cadets the members of the Lockeport Kiwanis Club and their wives have become Observers. The Post is located on the roof of the school, giving excellent visibility, and Mr. Fraser is making arrangements to have a telephone available at the point of observation.

Training sessions are held at the regular dinner meetings of the Club so the Air Force Officer gets a free meal when giving lectures at this Post.

Exercise "Surprise" gave the re-organized Post their first chance to show what they could do and they did an excellent job. Great things are expected from King Peter 54 Red during Exercise "June Bug".

It is very gratifying to the Air Force personnel to find a group of people such as these, who, although they are very busy in community and business affairs, can and will devote their time and energies in the defence of their country.

News From 71 GOBC Detachment, Moncton NB

At the time of writing this portion of the Sky Sentinel, the staff at the Filter Centre are picking themselves up after Exercise "Surprise" and wading through the maze of preparation necessary for Exercise "JUNE BUG". At this moment of writing, you in the field are probably lining up your complete staff of Official Observers and doing your utmost to ensure that your Post makes an A-1 showing for "JUNE BUG", at the same time still murmuring over "Surprise". Well - as you read this both of those exercises are history - and the story of both you have received in the mail. We might say a word about "Surprise". Probably the greatest thing we can say about it was that it taught us, at the Filter Centre, a good deal. We found where we slowed down on our alerting procedures and the necessity for having good Assistants and good Alerting Deputies. We did have one hundred and thirteen posts officially on duty and we know

that there were many more who were on duty, but we had no record of them because they failed to call in their "On Watch" report. We now feel sure that everyone knows that procedure well and that we will have no further difficulties on that score. Your "PINK CARD" tells all.

Now that "JUNE BUG" is over, you might be wondering a little bit about the future. First and foremost we stress once again as we have so often in the past, to keep your eyes and ears open at all times and if you notice anything unusual or out of the way - then call in "Aircraft Flash" but be reasonably sure something is wrong before you call. In the past we have had so many good leads on aircraft in distress, aircraft lost, crashes, and numerous other incidents that we would like to keep these things alive - they are important to us.

While we have nothing official as yet, it would appear that in the fall we will have another large scale exercise. In the meantime, the Commanding Officer of 7 GOB Unit, S/L S.R. Miller advises that he plans to pull small "surprise" exercises. This means that he might call and ask us to alert two or three areas for a short period of time. In that way, you will get field practice in reporting and we at the Filter Centre will have the practice in handling your calls. It will be beneficial to both of us.

Our Chief Observers conferences met with such success, despite some bad breaks in the weather, that we plan to continue them this fall in order to give those who could not make it before, a chance to attend a conference of this nature.

Since our last issue, we lost two of our posts thru fire. At Point Saipin, Mr. Xavier Daigle, our Chief Observer lost the General Store which was our O.P. at that particular site. Then at boiestown, Mr. Thomas Wilson lost his Garage and Filling Station. At the time, he was in Moncton to attend one of the Chief Observers conferences. To those two men we express our regrets at their loss. Those things are sure not pleasant.

Mr. Frank Murch and his willing band of Official Observers at Bears Island (How Able 55 Black) are really pushing ahead to put their Observation Post on the map. They have decided to build their own post. To this end, Mrs. Murch has pitched in with the other ladies of the community and they hold regular socials to raise funds to build this post. The menfolk are cutting and erecting regulation telephone poles to the perfect site of the post. This is a tremendous and splendid effort. You'll hear more about it later - and we will probably be able to run a picture in the Sky Sentinel when the post is completed.

In the community of St. George, our Chief Observer, Harold Boyd has the town behind the Ground Observer Corps and we have strong rumours to the effect that plans have already been drawn for the building of a new O.P. in that area. We're looking forward to that.

Belated congratulations to Arnold J. Slaney - our Chief Observer at Meductic who was recently appointed the Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Provincial L.O.L.

Congratulations are also in order for Chief Observer Walter Shephard at Jig Able 41 Red. Mr. Shephard has maintained the Climatological Station Register continuously since 1923. For this outstanding job, he was awarded the Coronation Medal and also given one of eight awards in Canada in the form of "The Image of Canada" by Malvina Bolus.

Send us your field news items. There must be many unusual outstanding things happening to you or your Official Observers. We would like to know about them so that we can print them.

I wish I were you - because when you read this you'll know how "JUNE BUG" turned out-----

News From 72 GOBC Detachment, Gander, Nfld.

Since the last issue of the "SKY SENTINEL" No. 72 Detachment has been a veritable beehive of activity. Visits to the field have been greatly increased, especially now that the roads have become a little more passable and the weather a little warmer (?). A large number of Observation Posts have been visited already, and all Posts should have received a visit before long. For the benefit of the Posts which have not yet had a visit this year, please be patient. We have a limited staff and travelling in our province can be most difficult, as most of you know. We have not forgotten you.

Filter Centre training has also been intensified. We at Gander conducted a ten-day recruiting campaign for Civilian Volunteers and as a result, two new Filter Centre teams were formed, using the previously trained and more experienced volunteers as a nucleus of each team. These are now in the process of being trained to accept the "AIRCRAFT FLASH" messages which you volunteers in the field send. So you see, it is all a matter of teamwork, each helping the other, and all playing a very important part in the Defence of our country.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation station CBG at Gander for the splendid assistance given to us during our recent recruiting campaign. To manager Art Barrett, and announcers Dave Warren, Bob Clarke and Otto Perry and the rest of the staff, we say again "Many Thanks".

Here are some recent changes in the RCAF personnel of the Detachment:

Pilot Officer Bill Lashley was promoted to the rank of Flying Officer.

Corporal HF Hayes was transferred to RCAF Station Edgar, Ont.

LAC HA Pinsent was promoted to the rank of Corporal.

We also had two new airmen transferred to the Detachment, they are - AC1 FD Sullivan and AC1 AG Birch, both of Halifax. Welcome to the Detachment.

Corporal Pinsent, as well as being promoted to that rank, was married on 2 May to Miss Faith MacDonald. This is one marriage for which the Gander Filter Centre is taking a lot of credit. Miss MacDonald was a very active member of one of our Filter Centre teams, and it looks as if the romance blossomed over the Operations Room Table. Congratulations to you both.

For the benefit of all volunteers, we would again like to state the requirements which must be met before Ground Observer Corps wings may be presented. A reproduction of the wings are on the cover of this Newsletter, the actual colours being red, gold and blue.

The requirements are:

REGIONAL SUPERVISORS must have served six months or more, have shown an active interest in their duties and be fully conversant with GObC organizational procedures.

CHIEF OBSERVERS AND OBSERVERS must have attended training lecture given by a GObC officer. They must have participated in an aerial exercise and must be able to answer a few simple questions designed to determine whether or not they are able to pass "Aircraft Flash" messages to the Filter Centre in the correct manner.

FILTER CENTRE PERSONNEL must have completed 40 hours in the Filter Centre, have filled a position on the Operations Table during an aerial exercise, and be able to answer a few simple questions designed to determine if they have absorbed enough from their training to properly fill the position of "Plotter" in the Filter Centre.

During last fall we held several wings presentations. During this summer we will hold many more. Many of you, by virtue of participation in last summer's exercise are eligible for your GObC wings. Many more of you will qualify after this year's exercise.

This Detachment hopes to have it's summer exercise sometime in late August or in September. This is the earliest

possible date, considering the training required at many of the Posts, and the availability of Aircraft to fly certain specific routes for us.

We would like to stress again the importance of having as many of your Observers present as possible when the GOBC officer arrives. Each Chief Observer may invite as many prospective Observers as he desires to the lecture which will be held. If, at the conclusion of the lecture, they wish to become members of the Ground Observer Corps, they may be then enrolled at that time. Each good Post should have sufficient trained Observers to stand 24-hour watch in case of an emergency. In most locations it is difficult to appoint a large number, but each Chief Observer should get as many as twenty Observers to work with him on this most important work.

REGIONAL AREA N-23

We would like to pay tribute to Mr. Max Taylor, Regional Supervisor of N-23. Mr. Taylor was one of the first Regional Supervisors appointed, and has done an exceptional job in organizing the posts of his area, most of which are Woods Camps operated by the Anglo Newfoundland Development Co., Ltd. Mr. Taylor is accountant with the Divisional Headquarters at Terra Nova. The telephone system in the Woods Camps is such that reports from the posts terminate at Mr. Taylor's office. He has organized his office staff, relaying the "Aircraft Flash" messages sent by his Observers.

Mr. Taylor has been most helpful to the staff of the Detachment in organizing training tours to the various Posts, and has personally conducted training for a number of new Observers.

"OUR SINCERE THANKS TO YOU, MAX TAYLOR".

FLASH - THE LATEST NEWS

DEDICATION OF OBSERVATION POST BUILDING

QUEEN ABLE 15 BLACK

Earlier in this issue we reported that the dedication of the new Observation Post building at Iona, Queen Able 15 Black, was to be held Saturday 18 June and that we would give you the details in our next issue. Although the main body of the newsletter had been completed by 17th June it was not as yet printed on the 20th so we are able to give you the story on the Observation Post dedication in this issue. We expect to have a picture for the next issue.

The weatherman was extremely kind to the people of Iona on the 18th. The day was bright and sunny and hot. S/L & Mrs. S.R. Miller, F/O & Mrs. G.M. Gillespie and F/O D.L. Giggey arrived at Grand Narrows about 3:45 Saturday afternoon, the Eighteenth of June following Captain J.M. Wilson and Mrs. Wilson, Regional Supervisor, Area T-12 in their car. The timing was perfect, the ferry to Iona was about to leave and the party arrived at the Observation Post site about 4 o'clock. After greeting the Chief Observer, Captain Donald Campbell and other volunteers of Queen Able 15 Black including Captain Campbell's able assistants, Mr. Jack MacNeil and his wife Edith the party climbed the hill to the site of the Observation Post. Many of the buildings at Iona were decked out with flags in honour of the occasion. The new Observation Post sign which had been installed a few days previously was also well decked with flags. The new Observation Post building is very well constructed and dominates a hill behind the Canadian Legion Hall at Iona. In addition to a door the building has four large windows. Two large flag poles have been erected in front of it. After the visiting party climbed the hill to the Post they met other volunteers including the Observation Post official piper, Michael MacNeil and Pipe Major MacDonald from Boisdale who was also on hand to take part in the dedication ceremonies. Both pipers were fully clad in kilts. S/L Miller and his party were also introduced to the JBC radio and television crews on hand to film and record the proceedings for television and radio broadcast. Shortly after their arrival at the Observation Post building a Lancaster four-engine bomber aircraft from RCAF Station Greenwood flew out of the west and commenced circling the Observation Post. The first official Aircraft Flash call to the Filter Centre in Truro was placed over the new Observation Post telephone to report this aircraft. This call was made by Miss Rhodena Campbell, one of the Observers at Queen Able 15 Black. The Lancaster was soon joined by two F89 all-weather jet fighter interceptors from U.S. Air Force 64th Air Division, Harmon Air Force Base, Newfoundland. With the arrival of the Lancaster, the Air Force ensign and the Canadian ensign were run up to the top of the two flag poles in front of the Post building and the Post was officially dedicated by S/L S.R. Miller in a short address. With the two flags flying bravely in the light breeze, Observation Post Queen Able 15 Black was officially in business and a second Aircraft Flash call was made to report the arrival of the jets. The Lancaster bomber and two jets then proceeded to put on a thrilling display of flying making several low passes directly over the Observation Post building.

Interested spectators of the ceremony at the Observation Post site included Mr. Nat Duggan and his wife from Sydney. Mr. Duggan was formerly Regional Supervisor of Area T-9 until he moved to Sydney where he now resides.

Following the post dedication and aerial flypast the visitors proceeded to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur J. Campbell of Iona where they were royally entertained at dinner.

Mrs. Campbell really outdid herself by providing a luxurious meal for the visitors together with Mr. & Mrs. Jack MacNeil, Chief Observer Captain Donald Campbell and others.

The evening ceremonies got underway at 7:30 in the Canadian Legion Hall at Iona a short distance from the new Observation Post building. The program opened with the singing of "O Canada" and from then on under the able chairmanship of Jack MacNeil, Assistant to the Chief Observer, there was never a dull moment. Reverend Father B. Chisholm P.P., Iona pronounced the invocation. Short talks were given by S/L S.R. Miller, F/O G.M. Gillespie, F/O D.L. Giggey, Captain Wilson, Regional Supervisor and Captain Donald Campbell, Chief Observer. A varied and much enjoyed entertainment program in the form of violin selections, pipe music, vocal numbers by Iona school girls chorus, demonstration of aircraft spotting and passing of Aircraft Flash Messages by volunteers of the Post and so on then took place. This included talks on the Ground Observer Corps and what it meant to them by Rhodena Campbell of Iona and Donald J. MacNeil of Grand Narrows. This program of entertainment, talks and demonstrations was followed by the presentation of Wings by S/L Miller ably assisted by Flying Officers Giggey and Gillespie and Chief Observer Captain Campbell to forty qualified volunteers of Queen Able 15 Black.

Following the Wings presentation ceremony and the singing of "God Save the Queen" the crowd which filled the Canadian Legion Hall to over-flowing moved outside to watch a display of fireworks. During this display the benches and chairs were moved back and the hall cleared for dancing. The evening concluded with a rousing square dance, much enjoyed by all particularly by F/O D.L. Giggey from 7 Unit Headquarters in Halifax.

It was a weary crowd of visitors who made their way back to Sydney in the small hours of Sunday morning.

The volunteers of Queen Able 15 Black at Iona have constructed the first Observation Post building built for that purpose in the 7 GOBC Unit area. The building stands as a memorial to their efforts and their wholehearted participation in the Ground Observer Corps. It is well constructed and has a commanding view of the beautiful scenery in the Iona vicinity. We know that no aircraft will pass unreported within visual distance of the Iona Post when it is on watch. The people of Iona have set a standard towards which all Ground Observer Corps Observation Posts in Canada can strive. Iona is a very small

town with a population of approximately 100 but by drawing from surrounding districts including Grand Narrows, in the neighbourhood of 100 volunteers are now enrolled at Queen Able 15 Black. We wish that every Regional Supervisor, every Chief Observer and every Observer could see what the people of Iona and district have accomplished. Our hats are off to them. All members of Observation Post Queen Able 15 Black can hold their heads high in the knowledge that their Post holds a position second to none in any Ground Observer Corps area anywhere in the world.

7 RCAF Ground Observer Corps Unit
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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