

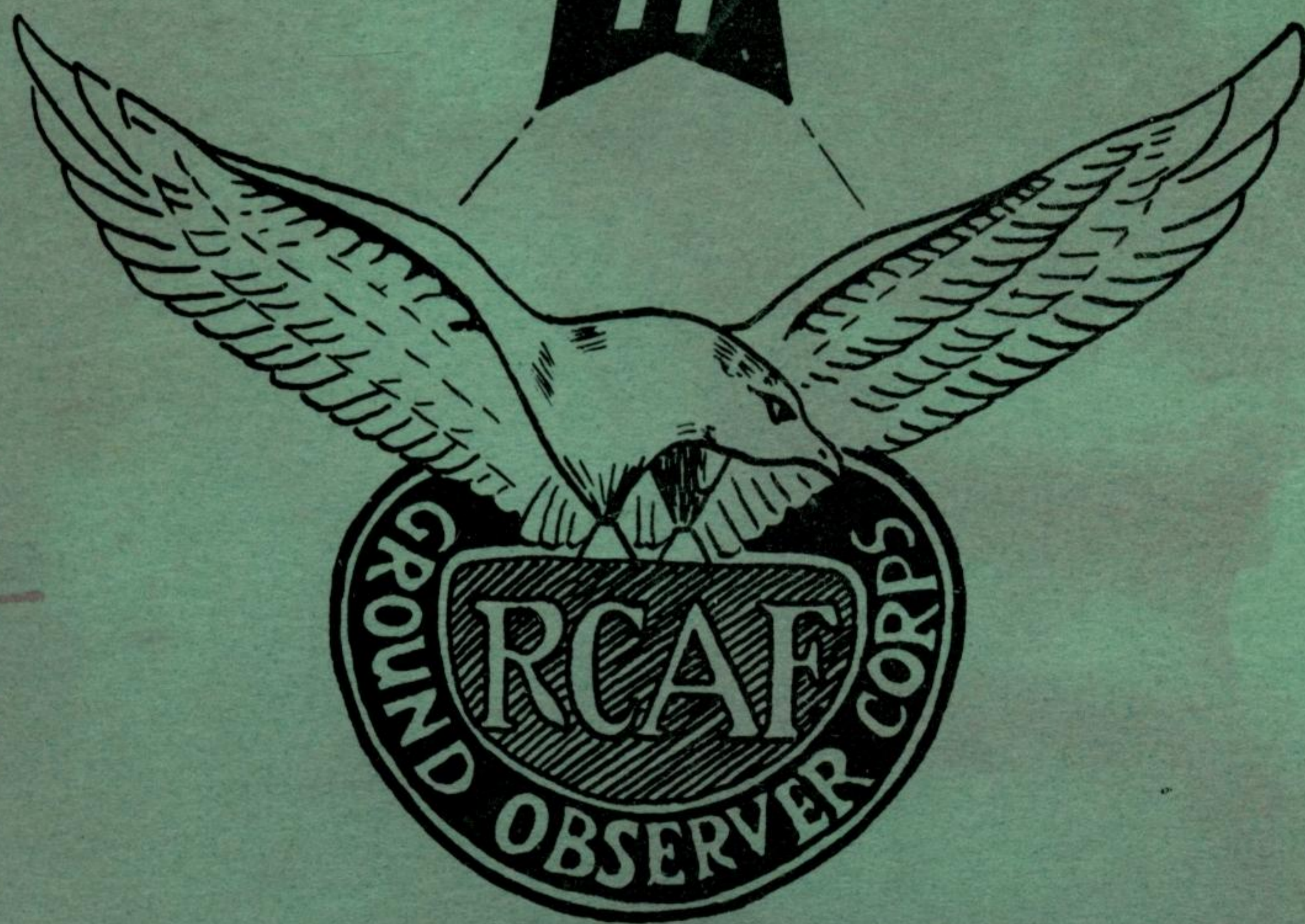
*Pauline Miles*

# The Sky Sentinel

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Vol. 3 - Issue 1

24 February 56

**NO. 7 RCAF GOC UNIT**

THE SKY SENTINEL

Royal Canadian Air Force

7 Ground Observer Corps Unit

A Commendation From the Air Officer Commanding

In our last issue we told you something about Exercise "Cracker Jack" during which all Ground Observer Corps Observation Posts in Canada including those in our area were asked to maintain a 24-hour watch reporting all other than single motored aircraft. As you know this exercise terminated on the afternoon of 6 December.

The first warning of the approach of the attacking "enemy" aircraft came from Ground Observer Corps Observation Posts. Three hours before information was available from any other source, GOBC Observation Posts flashed to the Air Defence network the story that the "attack" was underway. Exercise "Cracker Jack" was designed to simulate as closely as possible what would happen if an enemy air force launched an attack on this continent. The fact that the Ground Observer Corps was able to give the advance warning it did proves once and for all the value of the Corps. Remember too, the aircraft simulating attacking bombers were speedy high flying jets. X

Following the termination of Exercise "Cracker Jack", Air Vice Marshal L.E. Wray OBE AFC CD, Air Officer Commanding, Air Defence Command wrote a letter of commendation to S/L C.E. Harris DFC CD, Staff Officer Ground Observer Corps at Air Defence Command Headquarters, St. Hubert, P.Q. commending the performance turned in by members of the Ground Observer Corps during Exercise "Cracker Jack". This letter is reproduced in its entirety below:

Office of the Air Officer Commanding,  
Air Defence Command,  
RCAF Station, St. Hubert, Que.  
14 December 1955.

Squadron Leader C.E. Harris,  
Ground Observer Corps,  
Air Defence Command Headquarters,  
St. Hubert, Que.

Dear Squadron Leader Harris:

// I would like, through the medium of your office, to commend the members of the Ground Observer Corps generally and in particular those in the northern areas for their excellent efforts during Exercise "CRACKER JACK". The information we received from the outpost stations near Great Bear Lake and Baker Lake gave us almost three hours advance warning that a simulated enemy attack against the continent was under way. //

Needless to say, this advance warning was extremely valuable to Air Defence Command Headquarters and was a major contributory factor in enabling us to combat the subsequent attack as effectively as we did. The early warning reports provided together with the confirming observations received from other Ground Observer Corps posts throughout the course of the attack, enabled us to have all our resources at a high state of readiness when they were most needed.

This is just one more instance in which the overall effectiveness and value of Ground Observer Corps reports to the North American Air Defence System was proven. It can be easily seen that the organization is well worth the vast effort needed to make it work. Its contribution to the effectiveness of the Air Defence System as a whole during a national emergency might well be vital.

I have received a message from the Commander, USAF Air Defence Command indicating his appreciation of the work of the Canadian Ground Observer Corps during the exercise. I agree entirely with his comments and, as I have stated above, would like to add my own congratulations and appreciation.

Signed: (L.E. Wray),  
Air Vice Marshal  
Air Officer Commanding  
Air Defence Command.

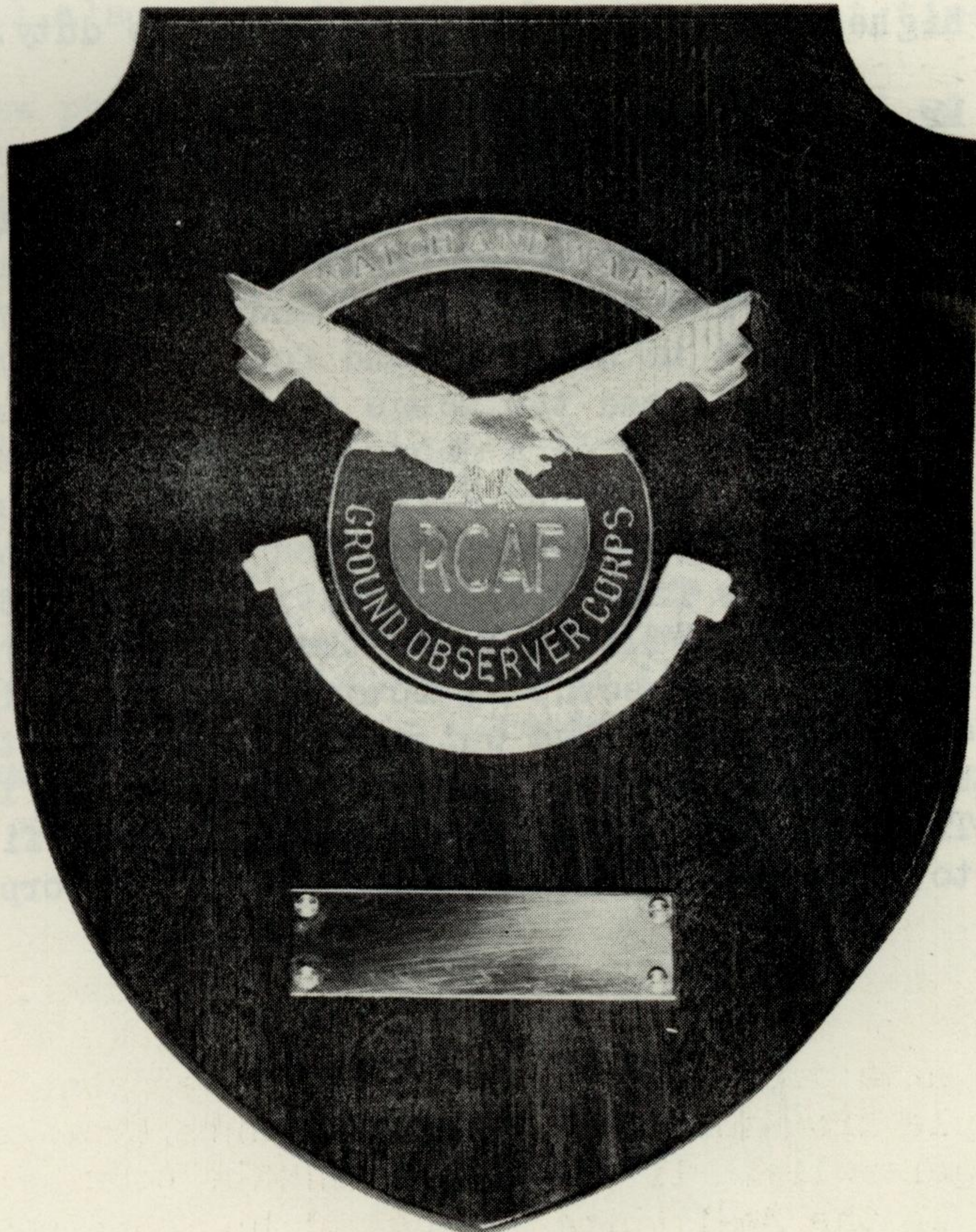
We are very proud of the performance turned in by the Ground Observer Corps generally during Exercise "Cracker Jack". As we noted in our last issue of the Sky Sentinel we feel that we here in the 7 GOBC Unit area could have done better. We know we are capable of it. Let us take an example from the excellent performance shown by the Ground Observer Corps generally. If a similar exercise comes along in the future or if it is the real thing let us not be found wanting.

Ground Observer Corps Awards of Merit

At a Ground Observer Corps Unit Commanding Officers conference held at Air Defence Command Headquarters, St. Hubert, some time ago, introduction of a Ground Observer Corps Award of Merit was recommended. Production of a design, manufacture of the plaques and approval by the Air Officer Commanding of Unit Commanding Officers recommendations as to those to receive the award has now been completed.

The Ground Observer Corps Award of Merit is given out sparingly with a maximum of ten awards being made in the whole of Canada per year. We in 7 GOBc Unit are proud that volunteers in our area have been selected for three of the awards. The award may be made to individuals or to groups such as all volunteers of a particular Observation Post or a Filter Centre team. We have so many excellent individuals and excellent groups that selection of those to be put forward to the Air Officer Commanding was extremely difficult. After much thought we decided to recommend one award within each of our three Filter Centre areas. Detachment Commanders were asked to select three or four of the most outstanding cases. One of these for each area was selected by Unit Headquarters in Halifax and the three recommendations forwarded to Air Defence Command Headquarters.

A photograph of the GOBc Award of Merit appears below. Name of individual or group will be engraved on the silver plate below the crest and the Award will be accompanied by a suitably lettered citation scroll.



Although the awards are being announced at this time it may be a few months before the plaques and scrolls can be presented. The award will be presented in a suitable ceremony by the highest ranking RCAF officer available in the area at the time. Appropriate presentation ceremonies will be arranged and because of travel difficulties at this time of year it is proposed to hold off these ceremonies until travel conditions improve.

Listed below are the recipients of the Award of Merit in the 7 GOB C Unit area together with the official citation as approved by the Air Officer Commanding, Air Defence Command:

(a) Observation Post Quebec Alfa 15 Black

Volunteers of Observation Post Quebec Alfa 15 Black at Iona, Cape Breton, are the most active in the entire area coming under 7 Ground Observer Corps Unit, and the members of the post, by their enthusiasm and energy, have set an example which is remarkable throughout the whole organization. Close to 100 volunteers are on the strength of this post, although the population of Iona itself is approximately only 100. Observers from as far as ten miles from the post have been recruited, and all have given their willing and helpful service when called upon to do so. A building to serve as an observation post, built entirely through the financial and physical efforts of the observers themselves, was dedicated recently. Members of Observation Post Quebec Alfa 15 Black are worthy of the highest praise for their devotion to duty.

(b) Mr. Xavier Daigle

Mr. Xavier Daigle, Chief Observer of Observation Post Lima Bravo 15 Black at Point Sapin, N.B. is to be commended for his alertness and efficiency in reporting an aircraft in distress and for the speedy manner in which he reached the scene of the subsequent crash. Mr. Daigle noticed a Sabre on fire and immediately placed a call to the Filter Centre and described the details. The aircraft crashed into the sea approximately three miles from his Observation Post, and Mr. Daigle advised the Filter Centre that he would proceed immediately to the scene by motor boat. The pilot of the aircraft was killed but the type of prompt action shown by Mr. Daigle could save a life in other instances. The action of this Chief Observer set a fine example to all members of the Ground Observer Corps.

(c) Mrs. Lottie Samms

Mrs. Lottie Samms, Chief Observer of Observation Post Alfa Charlie 35 Black at Codroy, Newfoundland was one of the first to volunteer her services when the Ground Observer Corps was organized in Newfoundland in 1952. She was appointed as Chief Observer and since that time has carried out her responsibilities in a most efficient and enthusiastic manner. The post under her command has given particularly good service during exercises and much of this credit can be given to Mrs. Samms own untiring efforts. Mrs. Samms was active in the Aircraft Detection Corps during World War II and she was awarded a commendation for her work.

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A New Phonetic Alphabet

Two or three years back, ICAO, the International Civil Aviation Organization, introduced a new phonetic alphabet for world wide use. At the time of the introduction of this original new alphabet there was some disagreement with the phonetic words used for certain letters and a considerable amount of discussion about the alphabet as a whole. At that time Canada decided not to adopt the new alphabet. Now, however, the original new alphabet has been changed slightly and Canada along with other member nations of ICAO has adopted the new alphabet. We have received instructions that effective 1 March the new alphabet will be used throughout the Ground Observer Corps and in this regard we will be conforming to all other organizations and formations in Canada which will also adopt the new alphabet at that time.

The new phonetic alphabet will mean that all of our observation post code names will be changed and it will be used within our Filter Centres when reporting geographical reference positions, etc. You will notice that throughout this issue of the Sky Sentinel wherever we refer to an observation post code name we have used the new phonetic pronunciation.

Here is the new phonetic alphabet. Only Filter Centre volunteers will have to learn all of it but all Observers and Chief Observers will have to pick out the letters for their post code and use them instead of those you have been using. Our Detachments will be sending out new forms R361, the Observation Post Code Name and Number Card, which is to be displayed near the telephone of your Observation Post. If you have not already received your new post code name and number card you will be getting it soon.

A	ALFA	N	NOVEMBER
B	BRAVO	O	OSCAR
C	CHARLIE	P	PAPA
D	DELTA	Q	QUEBEC
E	ECHO	R	ROMEO
F	FOXTROT	S	SIERRA
G	GOLF	T	TANGO
H	HOTEL	U	UNIFORM
I	INDIA	V	VICTOR
J	JULIETT	W	WHISKEY
K	KILO	X	X-RAY
L	LIMA	Y	YANKEE
M	MIKE	Z	ZULU

The alphabet is simple and the change of code names should not be difficult. If your post was, for example, Love Queen 34 Black, it will not be known as Lima Quebec 34 Black. You might note that a few letters did not change. These are Charlie, Mike, Victor and X-Ray.

### Personality Sketches

In Volume II Issue 4 published 15 November, 1955 we instituted what is now a regular feature, personality sketches of RCAF and civilian members of the GOBc in the 7 Unit area. Our first personality sketch dealt with the Unit Commanding Officer and the second series dealt with our three Detachment Commanders. When we instituted this feature we stated that in the third series of personality sketches we would introduce you to three Regional Supervisors.

Within the 7 Unit area we have a total of 74 Regional Supervisors. Selection of three Regional Supervisors for our first personality sketch dealing with volunteers from this number was quite a task. We would like to introduce you to all of our Regional Supervisors but space does not permit this. We will, however, in future issues be introducing more of our Supervisors. For this issue we decided to do a story on one Regional Supervisor from each of three Regional Areas under our three Filter Centres at Truro, Moncton and Gander. Each Detachment picked a Supervisor who is one of the original appointments and one of the most active. This selection was not easy as many Supervisors have been with us for almost four years and practically all of these "originals" has been most active and has devoted a great deal of time and effort to organization of his area. Each Detachment had several such Supervisors and all had a difficult time in selecting one.

70 GOBc Detachment Area

Lt/Col R.S. Hallett

Regional Supervisor Area T-1



Lt/Col R.S. Hallett, Regional Supervisor of Regional Area T-1, was born in Weymouth, Digby County, N.S. in July, 1895, the son of Dr. E.O. Hallett of Loyalist descent. While attending King's College in November, 1914 he enlisted in the Second Canadian Division Cyclist Corps, proceeded overseas and transferred to the 8th Field Battery, CFA, just before the Battle of the Somme. In 1918 he transferred to the RAF.

While on leave in Belfast, Ireland, Colonel Hallett met the present Mrs. Hallett and was married in 1920. In 1921, on his return from overseas, he was appointed Postmaster at Weymouth, a position which he still holds. During the peace time years he served with the 52nd Canadian Field Battery (Militia) first as Commanding Officer of the Battery and later the Brigade, retiring from active duty in 1938.

In 1940 Colonel Hallett enlisted for Active Service and served as second-in-command of the 1st Canadian Reinforcement Unit in England. Later he commanded an infantry reinforcement battalion in North Africa and Italy.

Colonel Hallett has two daughters, Maureen and Eileen. To keep up the military tradition in his family, the latter served three years with the CWAC during the war and three years with the RCAF since then.

Colonel Hallett was appointed Regional Supervisor in the Ground Observer Corps 16 April 1952 and has been very active on behalf of the Corps since that date.

71 GObC Detachment Area

Walter F. Wade

Regional Supervisor Area M-16



Back on May 3, 1900, it was a big day for Penniac. Walter F. Wade, our genial Regional Supervisor in Area M-16, first saw the light of day. In his early days, he tramped miles to the little schoolhouse in that district and acquired a sound education. Even in those days he yearned for the woods. It was his first love and it stayed with him until he met the lovely Mrs. Wade and woods became secondary.

However, at fifteen he was taking part in a lumber drive down the Taxis River and aside from the drives you could see him in and about lumber camps winter and summer.

The people of that area were used to seeing Walter bringing the mail down the highways. For ten years he handled the Rural Routes of that district.

In 1937 Mr. Wade was appointed Assistant Traffic Officer for the Province of New Brunswick. In 1945 he was promoted to Chief Traffic Officer and has held that position since that date.

Is Mr. Wade a stranger to the Ground Observer Corps? Certainly not. He was a Regional Supervisor during the Second World War with the Aircraft Detection Corps. The first visit made to him during the formation of the present-day GOBC saw him ready and willing to sign up. Since then he has done an excellent job within his area.

It's a little difficult to lay hands on Walter during the hunting season. He goes first for deer, but has managed to bag several bear and his share of ducks. He has also managed to collect his fair share of bowling trophies.

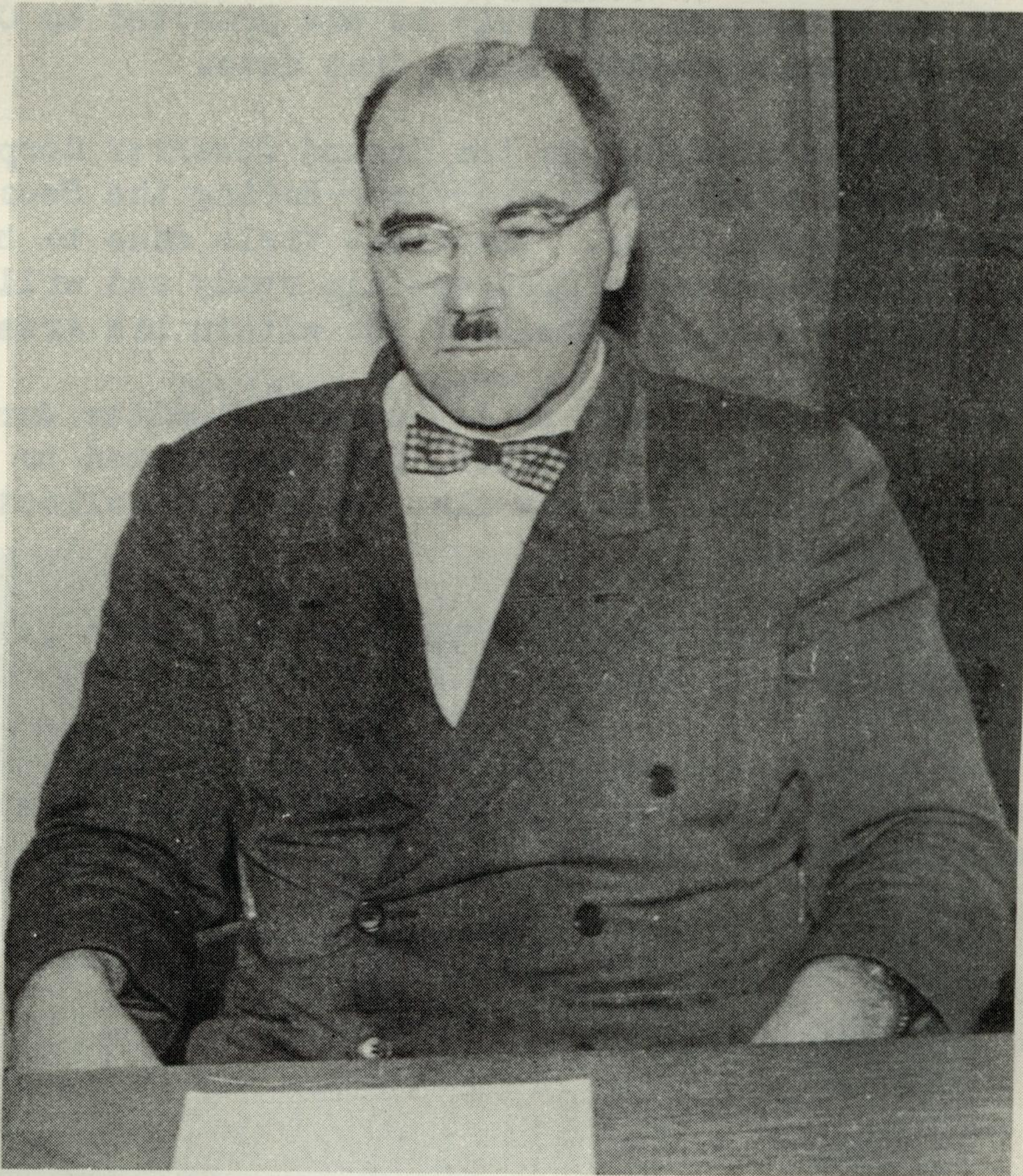
Walter has a fine family of two boys and three girls - each of whom is a real credit to him.

He was appointed a Regional Supervisor 16 Apr 1952 and has produced a regional area second to none taking a keen and active interest in all aspects of the GOBC.

72 GOBC Detachment Area

Maxwell Smith

Regional Supervisor Area N-17



72 Detachment would like to introduce to you one of the first Regional Supervisors of the Ground Observer Corps to be appointed in the Province. Mr. Smith was born at Elliotts Cove, Newfoundland. After completing his school years at that place, his first venture into the business world was as saw mill operator for a period of six years, after which he was employed with the Anglo Newfoundland Development Company at Grand Falls, Newfoundland. In August 1940, Mr. Smith enlisted in the Royal Navy. He was accepted and after training was assigned to escort vessels and destroyers and saw action in the North Atlantic and the North Sea. Medically discharged in May 1944, Mr. Smith returned to Newfoundland.

In January 1945, Mr. Smith was employed with the Provincial Department of Mines and Resources Land Development Division and in 1947 he was transferred to the Fish and Game Division at Port Aux Basques, where he still has his district headquarters.

In 1949 at the time of Confederation, Mr. Smith was again transferred from Provincial to the Federal Department of Fisheries. With twelve game wardens under him his area of responsibility is from Cape LaHune to Cape Ray, on the Southwest Coast, a distance of approximately one hundred (100) miles, which corresponds with Regional Area N-17 of the Ground Observer Corps.

To Mr. Smith, the Ground Observer Corps wishes to say thank you for a job well done, for all the assistance you have given in the past and for your sincere interest in the welfare of the RCAF Ground Observer Corps.

Mr. Smith was appointed Regional Supervisor in February 1953.

### Statistics

Here are the latest statistical figures in regard to Observation Posts, Official Observers and Filter Centre volunteers as of 31 Jan 56:

	OPs Located with Chief Observer Recruited	OPs Trained	Off.Obs. Who Have Attended 3-Hour Training Lecture	Filter Centre Volunteers Recruited	Filter Centre Volunteers Trained
70 Det	370	366	2,625	106	82
71 Det	311	295	3,304	91	84
72 Det	237	218	1,038	51	43

### Honour Roll Post

Our Honour Roll Post for this issue has been selected by 71 GOBC Detachment in Moncton. They have selected Observation Post Lima Bravo 12 Red at St. Anthony, N.B. Here is the story as prepared by our Moncton Detachment:

"Shortly after entering the M-14 area, travelling from Moncton, a few miles off the main highway, you will find Chief Observer Elzear Leger and Observation Post Lima Bravo 12 Red. The county is Kent and the place is a bustling little community called St. Anthony.

It was a lucky day for the RCAF when Mr. Leger consented to take over the job of Chief Observer back in 1953. This was evident when Flying Officer John Sperdakos stepped in the hall to give his initial training lecture. Approximately 300 interested people made up his audience. The local Pastor and the school principal were among the dignitaries present. On that evening alone, some 50 observers were signed up.

With the "know-how" in their system, this Post was not content to sit back and wait for other officers to give them additional training. They immediately took it upon themselves to do something on their own. They held regular practice sessions - going over and over the aircraft flash form - practicing hundreds of calls and intensifying this training whenever exercises drew near. During those exercises, the post was always active and the calls poured in. Whenever an aircraft headed towards that post, it was a certainty that we would receive a report on it at the Filter Centre.

The Wings Parade was something to see. Mr. Harvey Michaud, M.P., addressed the gathering as did Father Vautour, the Pastor of the church in that area.

The Future??? Mr. Leger wants to go ahead. They are now planning their own specially constructed Observation Post as a community effort.

Mr. Leger still feels he has much to learn and you can be sure that when a Chief Observers conference is held in Moncton, he never misses - he is the first one here.

Congratulations to this fine post for a splendid job well done."

### Aircraft Recognition

This issue's aircraft recognition material has been supplied by our Moncton Detachment. They have selected the Boeing B47 Stratojet. Here is the material and the silhouettes:

#### BOEING B-47 - Stratojet (USAF)

NOTE: This aircraft is frequently seen over the northern portion of New Brunswick.

The Boeing B-47 is a six engine medium bomber, used by the USAF. It was the first large jet-propelled aircraft to be fitted with sweptback wings and tail surfaces. First flew on 17 Dec 1947. Latest version first flew on 3 July 1953.

It is one of the USAF's first line aircraft and will undoubtedly be in use for some considerable time as it is presently in production. As in most aircraft, there are several versions. The following description refers to the B-47E.

TYPE: Six jet Medium Bomber

ARMAMENT: Two 20 mm cannon mounted in the tail - remotely controlled. Designed for an internal bomb load of 20,000 lbs.

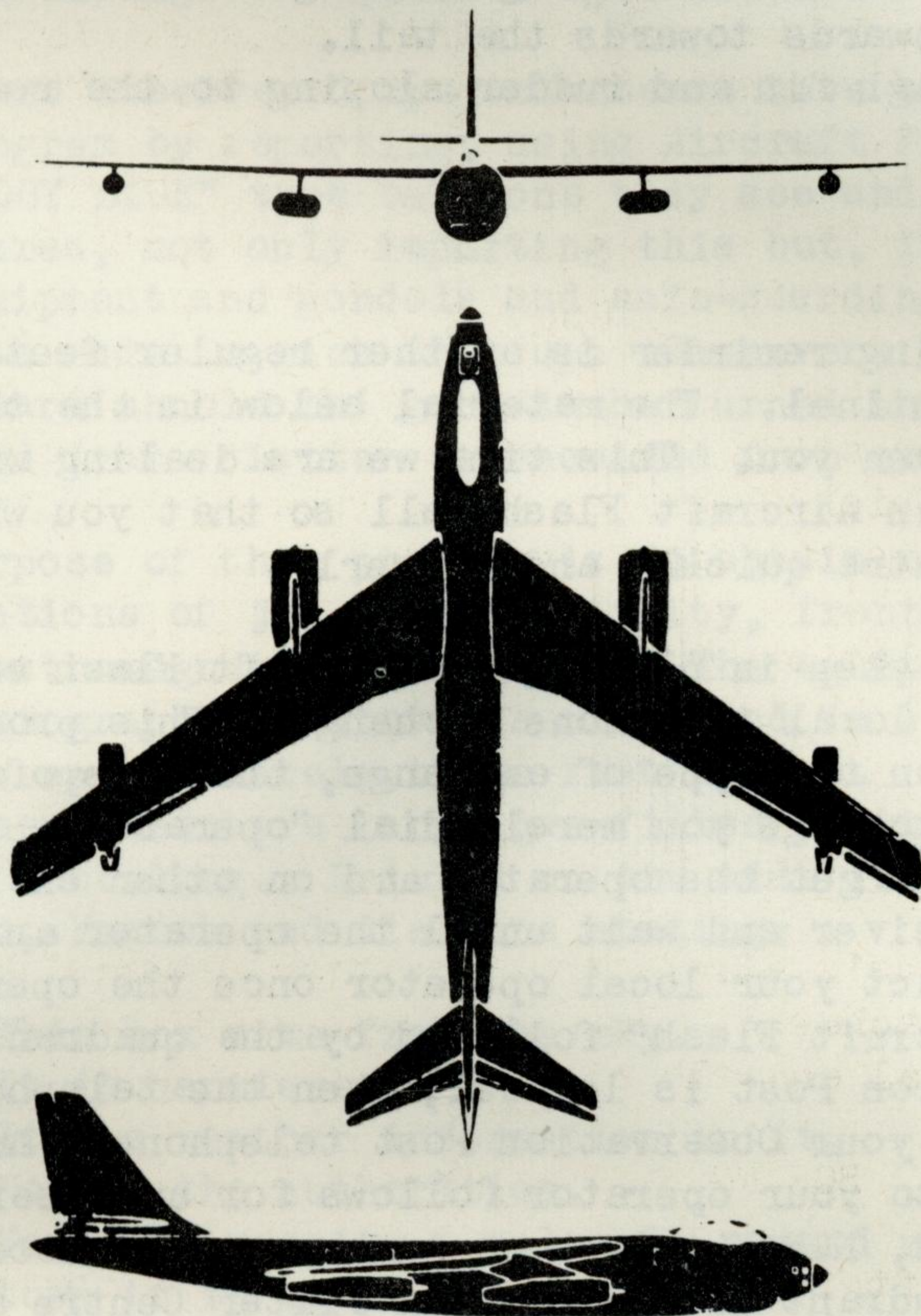
DIMENSIONS: Wing Span 116 ft.  
Length 107 ft.  
Height 28 ft.

POWER: Six General Electric J47 turbo-jet engines. Provision has been made for JATO (Jet Assisted Take-Off).

All types have provision for flight refuelling.

PERFORMANCE: Maximum speed over 600 mph.

ACCOMMODATION: Crew of three. Entire crew accommodation forward of wings in pressurized cabin.



DESCRIPTION:

Head on View

- (a) Shoulder Wing Monoplane.
- (b) Thin straight wing.
- (c) Six jet engines underslung on struts - four paired in two nacelles under inner wing with two in single nacelle under outer wing.
- (d) Some versions fitted with drop tanks located between the two nacelles.
- (e) Round Fuselage.
- (f) High fin and rudder.

Plan View

- (a) Wings swept back 35 degrees.
- (b) Inner engine nacelles protruding well forward of leading edge of wings with outer engine nacelles protruding on leading and trailing edges.

- (c) Very clean looking rounded fuselage tapering to a point at the tail.
- (d) Tail Plane swept back similar to wings.

Side View:

- (a) Fuselage has pointed nose.
- (b) Glassed in crew compartment small for size of this aircraft.
- (c) Good clean looking fuselage with underside curving upwards towards the tail.
- (d) High fin and rudder sloping to the rear.

Training Reminder

The training reminder is another regular feature for each issue of the Sky Sentinel. The material below is the third training reminder we have given you. This time we are dealing with the procedure for placing an Aircraft Flash call so that you will be connected with your Filter Centre quickly and properly.

The first step in placing an Aircraft Flash call is to contact an operator at your local telephone exchange. This procedure varies slightly depending on the type of exchange, the type of telephone. If you are on a dial exchange you merely dial "operator". On rural phones you turn the crank to get the operator and on other exchanges you merely lift the receiver and wait until the operator answers. Whatever system used to contact your local operator once the operator answers you simply say "Aircraft Flash" followed by the quadrant code name in which your Observation Post is located, then the telephone exchange and telephone number of your Observation Post telephone. An example of what you would say to your operator follows for an Observation Post located in Woodstock, N.B., telephone number on the Woodstock exchange 858 in the Amber quadrant of the Moncton Filter Centre area: "Aircraft Flash - Amber - Woodstock 858." It is as simple as that. That's all you have to say but you must give the operator all of the information as outlined above. If you leave out the quadrant code name your call may end up at the wrong end of the plotting table in the Filter Centre or it may be delayed considerably when the Moncton operator tries to decide to which plotter's position the call should be routed. Your telephone exchange and number is necessary as all telephone operators have been supplied with a list of approved Observation Post telephone numbers in order that priority answering and routing of calls may be given.

After you have given your operator the information above you need say nothing more until you hear the plotter in the Filter Centre say "Air Defence - Go Ahead Please". Immediately you hear this, again say "Aircraft Flash" and then read off the items of information entered on your Aircraft Flash message in the proper order. If your call is an on watch, off watch or operational report message rather than one reporting an aircraft instead of "Aircraft Flash" you say, when you hear a plotter answer, either "On Watch", Operational Report" or "Off Watch" and carry on with the information required in one of these types of messages.

There is your training reminder for this issue. It is simple but it must be followed exactly.

MOBY DICK Balloons

Our Sector Commander has advised us that the US Air Force plans to continue what is termed "MOBY DICK" type meteorological surveys. In this survey a large balloon carrying a gondola or box is released and after rising to a great height descends to the ground.

All Ground Observer Corps volunteers have been asked to assist in this program by reporting, using Aircraft Flash Message procedure, any "MOBY DICK" type balloons they see and, should one descend in their area, not only reporting this but, if possible, recovering the equipment and gondola and safe-guarding these until arrangements can be made to pick them up. Observers responsible will also receive a reward should the gondola be turned in intact. The following is quoted from a letter we received from our Sector Commander:

"The purpose of this program is to obtain meteorological observations of jet stream activity, frontal systems, and electromagnetic radiations. The equipment to record and photograph the above is contained in a box-shaped gondola approximately three feet square. The gondola is transported by a large gas-filled plastic balloon about eighty feet long. Printed on the side is a placard in English, French and dialects stating:

"This box came from the sky.  
It is harmless.  
It has weather information in it.  
Notify the authorities.  
You will receive a valuable reward when you turn it in as it is".

The balloon and gondola normally operate above thirty thousand feet and when it descends below twenty eight thousand feet the gondola automatically releases and parachutes down with blinking red warning lights.

It is estimated that several of these high altitude research balloons may be blown on Canadian territory."

It is unlikely that any of our Observers would see the balloons above 30,000 feet but note that when they descend below this height the gondola releases and comes to earth. Remember if you see one of these "MOBY DICK" type balloons, get your Aircraft Flash Messages in to your Filter Centre, recover and safe guard the equipment if possible and arrangements will be made to pick it up. Let's be on our toes and make sure that if any balloons come down in our area they will not lie unnoticed.

### Letters to the Editor.

In several back issues we have asked our Chief Observers and Regional Supervisors to forward us news for the Sky Sentinel. The response has been varied. Many of the stories in our Detachment submissions do come from our volunteers. We now have decided to introduce a "letters to the editor" section. We'd like to receive letters from any of you giving us news about your Post, telling us what you think of the Sky Sentinel, putting forward any ideas as to how we can improve our procedures. It is your chance to "sound off" and pass your ideas on to all other volunteers in the 7 Unit area. We can't guarantee we will print all letters received because we don't know how many we will get but if we don't print your letter we will at least answer it. Let's hear from you on any subject you wish. Address your letters to: "Commanding Officer, 7 RCAF GOBC Unit, RCAF Anderson Square, Halifax, N.S., Attention Editor of the Sky Sentinel." We hope we will get enough letters in before our next issue which we will commence writing 1 April to make our "letters to the editor" section worthwhile. Don't be shy. If you have any ideas or any news from your Post or your area let's have them.

### Another New Regional Supervisor in Nova Scotia

We have been leaving the news about new Regional Supervisors to our Detachments to put forward and have included such items under the Detachment news section. We note that in this issue 70 Detachment in Truro has told us about Lt Col R.D. King, the new Supervisor in T16. In our last issue, Truro told us about new Supervisors Mr. Jack Sands, T-14 and Mr. Allan Neily, T-18. Our Truro Detachment, however, seems to have missed Mr. R.E. Mattinson, the new Supervisor in T-6 replacing Mr. Lloyd Ripley. Mr. Mattinson was first appointed as a Chief Observer, next we appointed him as an Assistant Regional Supervisor and now we have appointed him as Regional Supervisor in area T-6. Mr. Mattinson certainly has a good background for the Regional Supervisor's job having been successively Chief Observer and Assistant Supervisor. Perhaps he was an Official Observer before he was a Chief Observer. Our Unit records do not show this. Congratulations Mr. Mattinson, we are glad to have you with us as a Supervisor and best of luck in your area. For the benefit of the Chief Observers in Area T-6, here is Mr. Mattinson's address and telephone number:

Mr. Reginald E. Mattinson  
P.O. Box 450  
Tatamagouche, N.S.

Phone: Tatamagouche 68

### Our GOBC Recruiting Display

From time to time we have mentioned the existence of our static or window display to publicize the workings of the GOBC and the need for volunteers. Each of our three Detachments has such a display and during last summer and last fall the displays were used extensively

at fairs and exhibitions throughout our area. During the time the displays are not being used at exhibitions we try and move them around and place them in store windows. For those of you who have not seen one of the displays, a picture of the display used by the Moncton Filter Centre appears below. The displays used by the Truro and Gander detachments are practically identical.



We are quite anxious to keep these displays moving and would like to get them out in the towns and villages in store windows throughout our area. If you are a Chief Observer and feel your Post could use more volunteers, (practically all our Posts can), and if you can arrange for a window in a store in your area, please advise your Regional Supervisor who will contact your Filter Centre requesting the display be brought to you. Regional Supervisors are asked to make arrangements for use of the display wherever it can be set up throughout their areas. All that is necessary is a letter to your Detachment Commander stating when you would like to have the display and where it is to be located. One of our Detachment airmen or officers will deliver the display, set it up and pick it up when the period for which it can be used is terminated. The displays are quite attractive and show quite well how the Ground Observer Corps works. A series of flashing coloured lights indicate the various steps which take place in handling of an Aircraft Flash Message. Please let us know as far in advance of the date you wish the display as possible and if display is reserved for elsewhere

at the time you wish it you will be notified promptly or confirmation that it will be delivered to you will be given.

#### How About Those Forms 4?

We hope all of our Chief Observers and Regional Supervisors are by now well aware of the existence of our form GOC 4 (55), the Observation Post List of Official Observers. Quite frequently in past issues we have stressed the importance of preparing and forwarding these. The instructions on the bottom of the form state that it is to be completed in three copies by the Chief Observer on the first of each month with two copies forwarded to the Regional Supervisor and the third copy retained by the Chief Observer for his own files. Regional Supervisor is to retain one copy for his records and forward the other to the Detachment Commander. Should there be no change in your list of Official Observers we would still like to get a form 4 each month but it won't be necessary to list all Observers names and addresses. If you have no additions or no deletions all that is necessary is to write "no change" but let's have the forms. We can't overstress the importance of these forms. Amongst other things, the number of copies of the Sky Sentinel forwarded to each Post is taken from the list of Observers on the forms 4. If we have no forms 4 all we can do is send you one copy of the Sky Sentinel or forward copies on the basis of the Detachment records of Observers attending training lectures. Most of our Chief Observers have been quite good at sending their forms 4 regularly. A few, however, have let us down badly and the odd Chief Observer has never forwarded a form 4. We ask all Regional Supervisors receiving forms 4 from their Chief Observers to send them on promptly to the Detachments. In isolated cases Chief Observers have forwarded the forms to their Supervisors but the Supervisor has been lax in sending them on to the Detachment. PLEASE get those forms 4 in regularly.

#### A Note to Chief Observers

Chief Observers --- Are you distributing the copies of the Sky Sentinel you receive to your Observers? In Volume II Issue 4 printed 15 November, 1955 we told you about the number of copies of the Sky Sentinel printed and our method of distribution where each Chief Observer gets approximately one Sky Sentinel for each four Observers of his Post. Chief Observers have been asked to ensure that the copies available for their Posts do get out to their Observers. Recently, however, we heard of a case where a Chief Observer was receiving a good number of Sky Sentinels and was not distributing them but was rather, keeping them all himself, why, we don't know. This particular individual distributed Volume II Issue 3 which was printed 1 September 1955 and Volume II Issue 4 printed 15 November 1955 together during the month of December. As of the middle of January he had not distributed our Christmas issue, Volume II Issue 5 at all. Incidentally, the same Chief Observer had been forwarded sufficient calendars to make one available to each of his Observers and had kept them all. We are sure this Chief Observer is not representative of all. We know that certainly the majority of our Chief Observers do distribute the Sky Sentinels promptly and ensure that all Observers of their posts get a chance to

read a copy. We know that most of our Chief Observers distributed the calendars promptly amongst their Observers. This little article, however, is directed to the odd one who does not get the Sky Sentinel out amongst his Observers or is slow getting them out. All Chief Observers are urged to ensure that Sky Sentinel does get out promptly to all their Observers. If we had the facilities we would like to mail the copies ourselves but that is way beyond our capabilities. Chief Observers, please get your Sky Sentinels out so that all Observers of your Post can read them as soon as possible after you receive them.

### News From Our Detachments

#### News From 70 GOBc Detachment, Truro, N.S.

#### New Publication

In the last issue of THE SKY SENTINEL the members were introduced to the latest Regional Supervisors to be appointed in Nova Scotia. One of them was Mr. Jack Sands, a former member of the Filter Centre staff in Truro, who had been transferred to Shelburne and after considerable thought on his part had agreed to assume the responsibility of Regional Supervisor in area T-14. Knowing Mr. Sands and his capabilities from association in the Filter Centre we were not unduly surprised when the latest addition to GOBc publications arrived about the middle of December. It was called "THE T-14 TALLY-HO" and was received too late to be mentioned in the Christmas issue.

As a newcomer to the field organization, Mr. Sands decided that the best way to get acquainted with the Observation Posts for which he was responsible and make sure that all Chief Observers in his area knew where other Observation Posts were located together with the names of the Chief Observers responsible for them was to produce this little paper. He sent it to the Detachment for comment. A few days after its receipt Mr. Sands was in the Detachment and was congratulated verbally on his initiative in producing something which had never been done before in this province. It is felt that "THE T-14 TALLY-HO" will do much to weld together the volunteers in Mr. Sands' area of responsibility and this Detachment may expect to receive from his area the same outstanding performance he produced in his Filter Centre team while he was team captain. To Mr. Sands go sincere congratulations on the initiative he has displayed.

#### Field Activities

Since the Xmas issue of the Sky Sentinel was mailed very little work has been done in the field, due to the Xmas and New Year's holidays.

The weather did not help and, although we in this country can usually expect a mild January thaw, we hardly looked forward to the prolonged mild weather which produced the most disastrous floods ever experienced in Nova Scotia. For most of the month it was almost impossible for Detachment personnel to reach points which were long overdue for liaison and training visits and this combined with highway conditions put us well behind schedule. We know that all Observers, Chief Observers and Regional Supervisors will agree with us on this point and it is quite possible that had Detachment personnel been able to reach some of the points that were due for a visit the Observers involved would have had too many problems of their own to be bothered with the GOBC. Now that things have more or less returned to normal it is hoped that an accelerated program of training and liaison may be carried out if snow conditions will co-operate.

In spite of conditions mentioned above and over which we had no control a few contacts with field personnel were made during the past period.

#### Mr. Leroy Lawley

Mr. Leroy Lawley, Chief Observer of Alfa Bravo 01 Red, Glace Bay, was the recipient of a well-merited promotion to the post of Chief of the Investigating Staff of the Dominion Coal Co., Ltd. in December 1955. Congratulations are in order for Mr. Lawley on his promotion. All Detachment personnel who have had the pleasure of meeting him wish him well in his new position.

#### Notes from Area T-7

Mrs. W.H. MacLean, wife of Chief Observer at Frasers Mountain, has done an excellent summary of procedures to follow in reporting Aircraft Flash calls. She has distributed a copy to each Observer at that post. All Observers who follow this summary can't go wrong in their calls.

J.A. MacKay, Chief Observer at Toney River has started erecting an observation tower at his post.

Regional Supervisor R.J. MacNeil wishes to take this opportunity to thank all Chief Observers who have co-operated in recent drives to obtain more Observers. Since taking over this position one year ago, with their help, the number of Observers in T-7 has doubled.

#### New Regional Supervisor for T-16

Group Captain R.S. Grandy has had to relinquish his position as Regional Supervisor for T-16. It is indeed a great loss to the Corps, as G/C Grandy has done a most excellent job of whipping area T-16 into shape.

In his place we have been fortunate in locating Lt/Col Robert D. King DSO ED a retired executive of the Imperial Oil Company who is

an ex-army man but stated he would do anything within his power to be of assistance to the RCAF Ground Observer Corps. His address:

Lt/Col R.D. King DSO ED  
Pleasantville  
Lunenburg County  
Nova Scotia

Telephone: Bridgewater L3-3736

### Practice Pays Off

Mrs. Laude MacKenzie, Chief Observer of Papa Alfa 45 Black at River Deny's Station, Inverness County keeps the telephone system busy in her area at times. Mrs. MacKenzie and her Observers practice sending Aircraft Flash calls using one location as the Filter Centre. This has proven to be of great help when the real thing comes up during exercises. As a result it is difficult to find any errors in the Aircraft Flash Messages from Papa Alfa 45 Black.

### Initiative Pays Off in Comfort

During Exercise "Top Coat" Mr. Lloyd Dickie, Chief Observer of Mike Alfa 51 Black at Middle Stewiacke located a body from an old pick up truck and hauled it up handy to the telephone, located a stove, set it up and got a fire going. Result, Observers were able to keep warm while keeping their eyes skyward.

### Of This We Are Proud

Observation Post Mike Quebec 15 Black, Mount Uniacke, Area T-18 is one of the most unique in the Maritimes.

Mr. Ralph Blois, Chief Observer, and the Official Observers of this post deserve a large round of applause for the fine Observation Post structure (see photo) which they produced through their own unselfish efforts. In order to procure material for their Observation Post the personnel of Mike Quebec 15 Black held card socials and various other fund raising activities.

Mr. Blois and his 20 Official Observers have proven that it can be done. Let's see your Post do it next.



Maybe This Has Possibilities

Mr. G.A. MacDougall, Chief Observer of Post Quebec Alfa 35 Black, East Bay, Cape Breton has an unusual Observer at his Post. Mr. MacDougall's dog has become so accustomed to having people running from the point of observation, just outside Mr. MacDougall's home to the telephone each time an aircraft goes over that he has developed an interest himself. Each time an aircraft flies within hearing distance the dog starts barking and raises quite a commotion until he is satisfied someone has looked skyward.

xx Talk About Eyesight - Read This

This story comes from Papa Alfa 45 Black with Mrs. M. MacKenzie as Chief Observer.

Calvin Gilles (4½ years old) saw an aircraft circling in the distance and told some of the Observers on duty about it. They couldn't see a thing, but he kept persisting, finally a chap with binoculars took a look, and sure enough there it was about one mile from the post. (A large eagle).

### Filter Centre News

Filter Centre attendance has picked up a little after the Christmas holidays and quite a few new volunteers have started taking their lectures. However, there are still far too many of the old familiar faces that haven't been seen around the Centre for a long time. It would be very nice to see all the veterans back again and if each one brought a new member the attendance charts would start to climb again.

There have been quite a number of teen-agers coming to the Centre with the various teams and recently it was decided to form a special team for them. An organizational meeting was held recently and David MacKay was chosen as team captain. The team name is "Whiz Kids" and at the present time there are seventeen members. Many of these are new volunteers and they have now started their lecture series. The team holds classes on Friday night from 7:30 to 9:30 and all teen-agers are welcome.

The entertainment committee held an election of officers recently and Russell Westhaver was elected President, Betty Hall, Secretary and Frank Richardson, Treasurer. New committee members are being picked from the teams. This committee has a big job to do so let's all get behind them and help. Good Luck to the new committee and many thanks to the group who carried on so well last year.

### Triple Ceremony

History was made in Nova Scotia the night of 25 January 1956 when F/O G.M. Gillespie, Detachment Commander, "winged" Earl Lohnes, Regional Supervisor, John Donaldson, Assistant Regional Supervisor and Miss Sadie Lowe, Alerting Deputy of area T-21 during one presentation ceremony at Sheet Harbour. As far as is known this is the first time that the three key persons of a Regional Area have been presented with GOBC wings during the same ceremony - at least in the Truro area. How about Moncton and Gander?

### News From 71 GOBC Detachment, Moncton, N.B.

The weatherman called it a January thaw. At this Detachment, we could think of other names to call the unprecedented streak of unusually mild weather which hit the Maritimes early in January. It continued on the lap of the worst storm in history to ever hit this area. At the Filter Centre we had five continuous days and nights without light or heat. It was impossible to keep a man on duty for a stretch longer than two hours. That was necessary in the event that some emergency might arise - one never knows. However, other than several of the men having colds and what not, we did not fare too badly and at the present time we are back to something of a normal routine and well under way in this brand new year of 1956.

Field news is somewhat sketchy for we have but one item from Chief Observer Arnold Slaney. Arnold tells us that one of his keen Official Observers, Russell Durling, who graduated from Meductic High School last June, applied for and has been accepted in the RCMP. He is now on his way west for his initial training at Regina. Good Luck to you Russell in your new undertaking.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a classic example of just what a single Observation Post can do. While we were on the 24-hour watch, a northern O.P. spotted and reported the simulated enemy aircraft before radar had an inkling that the "attack" was under way. This could well have been the real thing - and it drives home the lesson in no uncertain terms that one single Observation Post is worth its weight in gold. We have a large number of really good Posts in our area - let's keep them that way for we never know where or when.

Since field news is sketchy - let's take a look at some of our Filter Centre activities. In approximately another six weeks we should have our last fall class ready for graduation. There will be in the vicinity of some sixty volunteers receiving their wings, and as they graduate, a new class will start again in March with a view to having them ready for a summer exercise.

One parting thought - when there is a lecture in your area, do your level best to have one hundred percent attendance.

#### News From 72 GOBC Detachment, Gander, Nfld.

##### Field Visits

In the last issue of "The Sky Sentinel" we mentioned the fact that winter had arrived with a vengeance, and it had -- four or five feet of snow and plenty of frost to block all the roads and cut down on our road trips. During the past two weeks, the weather has taken a complete change; very mild weather with plenty of rain and fog--the results--we are right back where we started, the roads are still impassable, but this time it's mud and water. However, officers and airmen of this Detachment will be visiting as many places as possible on the railway line.

##### Recruiting for the Ground Observer Corps

During the past month the Ground Observer Corps in Newfoundland has put on a very active campaign, we have had spot announcements on all radio stations and advertising in almost every newspaper in the province. Undoubtedly, Regional Supervisors, Chief Observers and Observers in the field will have inquiries about the Ground Observer Corps as a result of the recruiting campaign. This is your chance to build up the number of Observers for your Observation Post. Any inquiries received at this Detachment will be answered promptly and the information passed on to the Regional Supervisor and the Chief Observer of the appropriate area.

## Twenty-Four Hour Watch

During December all Observation Posts in the province were alerted for a period of just under a week, to go on watch twenty-four hours daily. We did not receive too many reports at the Filter Centre, this is understandable, as the weather was bad most of the time. To those Posts that did report, we say thank you. It showed that you were on your toes. To those posts that did not see any aircraft and did not report at all, we say the following - we still need your "ON WATCH" and "OFF WATCH REPORTS". If you do not report on watch, then we take it for granted that there is nobody at your Observation Post -- so let's have those reports, check your Air Operations Procedures Card (the pink card) it gives you all the information you require. THESE REPORTS ARE IMPORTANT.

7 RCAF Ground Observer Corps Unit  
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

24 February, 1956.

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