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Winter 1949-50

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*This
Christmas*



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"AT THAT TIME, there went forth a decree from Caesar Augustus that a census of the whole world should be taken. This first census took place while Cyrinus was governor of Syria. And all were going, each to his own town, to register. And Joseph also went from Galilee out of the town of Nazareth into Judea to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem . . . because he was of the house of David . . . to register, together with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child. And it came to pass while they were there, that the days for her to be delivered were fulfilled. And she brought forth her first son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds in the same district living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them and the glory of God shone round about them, and they feared exceedingly. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all the people; for there has been born to you today in the town of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "GLORY TO GOD in the highest, and PEACE ON EARTH AMONG MEN OF GOOD WILL."

LUKE II: I-XIV

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Sincere wishes for

A Very Merry Christmas

and

Prosperity continuing throughout

The New Year.

The **ROCKET**

Published as a quarterly review of the activities of R. C. A. F. Station, Rockcliffe, through the kind permission of the Commanding Officer.

MAGAZINE PERSONNEL:
 BUSINESS—Roy Wood.
 RE-WRITE—N. Gallagher, M. Patterson.
 PHOTOS—Sgt. Lacelle.
 SPORTS—Dick Wilson.
 BOOKS—Vernon Bell.
 CONTRIBUTORS—Jack Harriot, F/LMcKee, Geo. Vrooman, V. Bisonette
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... everyone thinks alike - - - - No one thinks very much - - - -

Editorial

“... AND ON EARTH PEACE TO MEN OF GOODWILL”

With the sabre rattling that is going on in the international scene, and the commercials that are being thumped out in press and radio it takes a deliberate pause and thought to recall that Christmas is the season in which hope springs anew in the hearts of all that perhaps men will cease in this madness before they destroy all that is true and all that is good. The atmosphere seems to change at this time of year and we permit ourselves the luxury of a bit of sentimentality. Unfortunately, this Christmas the Nations of the World will pay tribute to the Prince of Peace with one hand on their holsters. This has come to be known as ‘realism’. It seems that in this twentieth century if one is not a realist one will be wiped out. There is not time or place for such lofty idealism as humility or charity. These things are at best accepted with a wry smile by those who occupy the seats of the mighty. And yet if man could only learn by man’s mistakes he would only have to look back to the coming of Christ on earth twenty centuries ago. He announced these principles to the Powers that then existed. They too smiled wryly, they too were realists,—He was the dreamer. The ‘dream’ still exists however, and the Empires of those ‘realists’ have long since vanished from the face of the earth. Peace was His dream “Peace on earth to men of goodwill”.

Greetings From The Commanding Officer

At this Christmas season I would like to extend to all service and civilian members of RCAF Station Rockcliffe best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

While I have been your Commanding Officer for only a few days at this time of writing I am certain that I am expressing the views of Group Captain Doyle in saying that your loyal support and co-operation has enabled this station to complete a very successful year of progress in all units and sections on the station.

I know that you all join me in the hope that the New Year will be an even happier and brighter one and that the spirit of fellowship and goodwill of the Christmas season will prevail throughout the New Year.

J. R. Frizzle, W/C

CO RCAF Stn Rockcliffe

End Year Message From The Air Officer Commanding A.T.C.

1. With the passing of the year 1949 we of ATC can look back with a sense of satisfaction over our achievements during the year.

2. Considerable reorganization of stations and units has been carried out during the year with the idea of effecting better economy and more effective control of units. One new station and four new units and detachments have been added to the Command Family. All this has thrown on the Command staff and those in the field a variety of interesting and often perplexing problems which have been met with vigor and resolution.

3. On the operational side we have seen an increase in the variety and extent of our operations. While our Photo Squadrons did not break their previous year's record of "Square Miles Photographed", the material results achieved by them, in concert with 1 Photo Establishment, were greater than ever before and worthy of the highest praise. Their work has contributed materially to the knowledge of the geography of our country and enhanced greatly the reputation of this Command and the RCAF as a whole.

4. Our transport squadrons have travelled far and wide from deep in the Arctic regions to South America from our own West coast to the middle of Europe gathering a great quantity of information and experience. In addition a healthy start was made in preparing squadrons for operations of a more direct military nature. Crews were trained for, and squadrons participated in, exercises involving airborne and air transported operations and the rapid deployment of units. More emphasis will be placed on these forms of activity in the coming year.

5. All this has made known and respected over a considerable part of the world the name of Air Transport Command. Such are the results of the individual and collective efforts of each and every one in the Command, the results of which we can all be proud. But let us not be complacent. The year ahead will pose to each of us many new, interesting and more difficult problems which will require from all the utmost in common sense, devotion to duty and, in many cases, personal sacrifices.

6. Meanwhile, it is my hope that each and every one of you in the Command will have a right Merry Christmas and will find success and happiness in the New Year.

A. D. Ross, Air Comandore,

Air Officer Commanding

RETROSPECT

One Half a Century

As the year 1949 faded towards the history books its passing provoked many thoughts in many minds. Most noteworthy was the fact that the first half of the twentieth century was behind. It had been a half century of progress and turmoil, and that turmoil was to be found in every phase of society. The confusion was moral, political and economic. Moral, for men had turned their world into an armed camp of mistrust. Political, for all over Europe and Asia Monarchies had been swept aside for Democracies many of which in turn had been taken over by Dictatorships. Finally, the confusion was economic and this meant war. Two major convulsions had shaken the world and in the wake of these conflicts Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan—Victors and Vanquished alike, had dropped from first rate powers to second and third raters.

Two new giants strode onto the scene—Russia and America. Around their banners the world split into two camps. A few feigned neutrality. Everyone at this, the beginning of the second half of the twentieth century, was armed to the teeth. That included Canada, and Canada's Air Force which came in for the large slice of the recent \$380,000,000. military budget, and Canada's Air Force included Rockcliffe which was being maintained as were all Air Force units in Canada because of this International situation. Thus the individual lives of all airmen was directly influenced by these



W/C H. Pierce and the AOC
"The Inspection Was Minute"

world shaking events and situations but for the moment Rockcliffe's thoughts were turning to Christmas and the quiet holiday at home.

—x—

The Long Walk

Michael Guy Doyle stepped from his staff car into ATC Headquarters one day last month and following him in rather solemn procession went S/L Spear, F/L C. Briggs, Station Adutant, and the man who would be expected to furnish a lot of details to the information that would be required in the next three days — SWO Charles Wilcox. After a brief wait, the door of the "North-West" office opened and out stepped the Air Commodore. The salutes were smart, the conversation short and away

they went two staff cars loaded for the Annual Inspection of Station Rockcliffe. Accompanying the AOC were Command personnel G/C R. Lane, W/C's Swetman and Gouin, S/L's Harris and Miller. The vehicles disgorged themselves on the Station and then began the long walk. Messes, barracks, hangars, workshops, offices, the library, the Chapel on and on they plodded for three days. The scrutiny was detailed and minute. Cleanliness, fire protection, window sills, desks, desk drawers, equipment large and small all passed under the survey. Section Commanders worked up uneasy smiles of welcome as the inquisition descended upon them,—fell into line and acted as guides. Other personnel ramrodded to squeamish attention as the great ones moved through. For the three days, the atmosphere

Retrospect

reaked of soap, water and elbow grease. Included in the programme a wing parade strutted in review, and the occasion was used for presentation of long service medals to F/L "Ted" Sammon and F/S Laberge. The official inspection was officially wound up by a reception in the mess. The Air Commodore, never long on words, left shortly afterwards as tersely as he had arrived to proceed to Dorval for the same duty. This was followed by Goose Bay, Frobisher Chimo and Mingan.



F/Sgt. Laberge and AOC
"Eighteen Years". . .

Rockcliffe Liaison

With R.A.F.

Tall serious-faced Arthur Corporal Quinn embraced his Acadian wife last month, cuddled his youngsters goodbye and set out for the waiting Lancasters (212 and 216) below the hill, that were warming up for the long-awaited flight to the U.K. "Art" was one of three Corporals who had been chosen for the jaunt. L. B. Saunders and G. Howard were the other two who with Sgt. K. Watkins and Sgt. J. J. L. Ducharme, BEM, and F/Sgt. Konick formed the NCO group on the trip.

The aim of this visit to the RAF was to exchange photographic, deodetic and shoran information. Captained by W/C C. L. Olsson and F/L K. W. MacDonald, the two Lancasters winged away to the east with November 1st marked as their date of arrival in England. After a twenty-four hour weather delay in Goose Bay, the

party under W/C R. I. Thomas set course once more for Benson and arrived as per schedule. In England, Benson was the Headquarters from which the large group (23 RCAF—1 civilian) fanned out to their visits. Lectures were delivered to the officers of the Colonial Military and Ordinance survey. Amongst others were the ones on Shoran and Deodetic survey by Mr. E. Ross, a general survey of Photo Operations was given by W/C Thomas; Shoran Tehnical and Ops were split between F/L Les Card and F/O Art Nordman. Four other scheduled lectures were communications by F/L R. R. Steeves, Photography by F/L A. E. Green, Staff Planning by S/L W. M. Middleton and Dakota Maintenance by F/L H. Stanley. Besides Benson, the Rockcliffe personnel had visits to C. and C. Coastal Command and the Williamson Camera Factory, Farnborough, several civilian firms and Central Navigation School at Shawberry. F/Sgt. Konick of No. 1 PE showed himself in a favorable light when he was called upon

to answer some discerning questions by the keen minded "Boffins" at Farnborough. Subsequent to this visit the Flight went on to spend some time at the Williamson's Camera plant in London and there is no doubt that due to his interest and explanations, both Williamson's and the RCAF will benefit greatly from the visit. It was striking to note the interest taken by the RAF personnel in the Solar navigation equipment used by the RCAF in Lancasters for Photo ops. Both at Benson and The Empire School of Air Navigation at Shawberry F/L's Ernie Garrett and Roy Wood were kept busy outlining the setting up of equipment and explaining its use. Ex-Rockcliffers Bid Stewart and Peter Lewer (RAF) were put on as Conducting Officers for the group and great praise was heard on all sides for the job they did in facilitating the work and the play of the Canadian visitors. A few London shows were taken in, a bit of shopping was indulged in by those who were not tied up with business at SCAFLO.

Retrospect



F/L T. Sammon and AOC
... Undetected"

It was a reminiscent visit for many who contacted old friends in old places. The few free hours available were well spent, but unfortunately they were rather few. November 15th saw the Lancasters nosing westward over the cold North Atlantic to Iceland where they arrived and left in the dark, spending a few hours at Keflavik's Trans-World Depot. Then back through Labrador's Goose

Bay to Rockcliffe which after a long haul of that nature is a very very welcome sight.

One thought comes to us, and that is the efficiency with which the Photo squadrons accepted the Trans - Atlantic flight executing it with a minimum of fuss and glamor, overcoming the Navigational and other problems as being all in a day's work.



Lancaster 216 Heading Eastward
"All In A Days Work"

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Retrospect

42nd And Broadway

By F/L George Vrooman

During the past year, the phone of Station Adjutant Chauncey Briggs has given warning on many occasions of impending visits, and like shadows of events to come, these calls were accepted by the quiet executive and transmitted to the Station Commander.

Among them are most of Canada's leading statesmen, government and military leaders. The weight of the amassed gold braid, just from hats alone, would no doubt make a good load for a North Star. We tried to get a volunteer from 901 to compute this so we would be able to give you some concrete figures but had no luck. However, not all our honored guests wear braid, just as newsworthy and perhaps better known to the public are such people as, Robert Shuman, the minister of foreign affairs for France, and Arthur Henderson, England's Secretary of State for Air and a list of others as long as your arm. Some of the more prominent foreign officials who have



F/L C. Briggs
"Shadows Cast"

visited Rockcliffe in the last year include such high ranking officers as the following: Lieutenant General Nordenskiold, Commander in Chief of the Swedish Air Force, General Revere, French army Chief of Staff, AVM Mukergee Chief of the Indian Air Force, A/C Hyre Hanbury, Chief of the WAF, Lord Allenbrook, former Chief of General Staff Sir Arthur Teddu, Marshall of the

Royal Air Force, etc., etc., and etc.

350 Millions.

Although many distinguished and notable personages have passed through Rockcliffe station during its existence few surpass the most recent one. A rather shy and retiring appearing man, who is the spiritual and political leader of some 350 millions of people, India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Accompanied by his

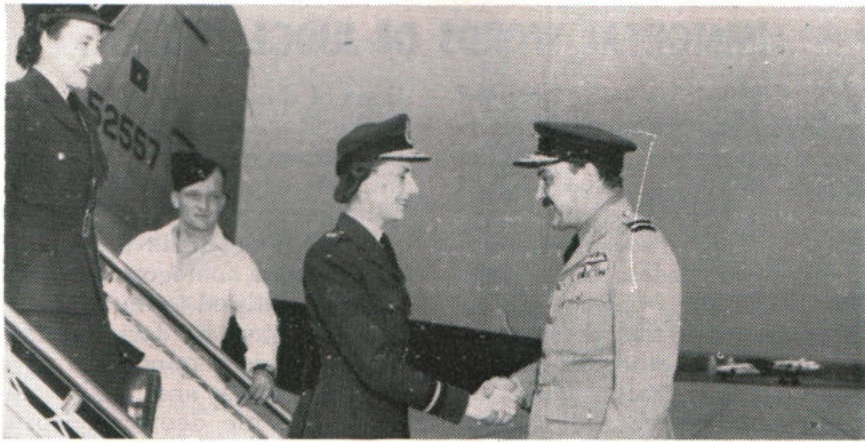


Belgian Chiefs of Staff



Salute On Arrival

Retrospect



A/C Hyde Hanbury of The RAF

sister, Vezia Nehru, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the Hon. L. B. Pearson, he was flown to Rockcliffe from Toronto by GBAL (412 Sqn.) and upon arrival was greeted by the Prime Minister Hon. St. Laurent, ex-PM. Mackenzie King, the Indian Ambassador, A/M Curtis and many others. His Excellency was welcomed by a 19 gun salute and a guard of honor composed of Rockcliffe personell.

It would seem that this latest guest would no doubt be a fitting climax for the year but

we'll bet by the time this reaches print that Rockcliffe has rolled out the Welcome Mat for more famous personalities. (Hold the groans, **maybe** they won't need a guard of honor.)

Everyone Knows.

Some of the more frequent visitors to Rockcliffe, who deserve mention are their Excellencies Viscount and Viscountess Alexander, who have many times arrived and departed from Rockcliffe. The Chief of Air Staff is a well known figure here, in fact we can say,

without fear of contradiction, that Rockcliffe has honored his presence more often than any other RCAF station in Canada. We can truthfully say that every high ranking officer in the RCAF has at some time or other arrived at or departed from, Rockcliffe. A great many government officials including the Prime Minister, and many other Ministers, deputy Ministers and minor officials.

Army, Navy and Air Force, Government officials, foreign and domestic. Celebrities, big and small, all of these and many others, know Rockcliffe.

Routine Too!!!

Rockcliffe Station surely has a unique position, not only are the routine jobs of the A.F. carried out, such as Photo, testing and experimental, transport and normal maintenance and general administration of the station, but Rockcliffe also is entrusted with the job of greeting and welcoming to Canada some of the world's greatest. In spite of this added burden, Rockcliffe continues to be a model of efficiency and proudly points to her past achievements in the photo and experimental fields.



Lord Tedder Reviews



Schuman of France

ASKANCE

IMMORTAL WORDS OF JUDGE MEDINA

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At the risk of being accused of being a group of scissor-wielding editors, The Rocket deigns to reprint here what it considers to be one of the deepest and most discerning definitions of "Freedom of Speech" that has come from any public personality in this or for that matter in any other century. It is the final charge given by Judge Medina to the jury of the Eleven American communist leaders who were found guilty of conspiring to teach and advocate the overthrow of the American Government. Every airman who is a member of a military organization in a democracy will do well to study these words,—

"...These defendants had the right to advocate by peaceful and lawful means any and all changes in the laws and in the Constitution; they had the right to criticize the President of the United States and the Congress; they had the right to assert that World War II, prior to the invasion of Russia by Germany, was an unjust war, an imperialist war and that upon such invasion it became a just war worthy of all material and moral support; and they had the right publicly to express these views orally and in writing. They had the right thus to assert that the Government was at all times exploiting the poor and worthy workers for the benefit of the trusts and monopolies.

"They had a right thus to assert that what they call the democracy of Russia is superior in all respects to American democracy. They had a right thus to assert that the Marshall Plan was a mistake, that bil-

lions of dollars should be loaned to Russia and that legislation adversely affecting Communists should not be passed. Whether you or I or anyone else likes or dislikes such or similar and analogous views... is.... not entitled to the slightest consideration in deciding this case. Unless a minority had a right to express and to advocate its views, the democratic process as we understand it here in America would cease to exist and those in power might remain there indefinitely and make impossible any substantial changes in our social and economic system.... "I charge you that if the defendants did no more than pursue peaceful studies and discussions or teaching and advocacy in the realm of ideas you must acquit them.... Do not be led astray by talk about thought control, or putting books on trial. No such issues are before you here.

"But no one could suppose nor is it the law that any person has an absolute and unbridled right to say or to write and to publish whatever he chooses under any and all circumstances.

"Words may be the instruments by which crimes are committed, as in many familiar situations; and it has always been recognized that the protection of other interests of society may justify reasonable restrictions upon speech in furtherance of the general welfare.

"You must be satisfied from the evidence, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the defendants had an intent to cause the overthrow or destruction of the Government of the United

Askance

States by force and violence.... as speedily as circumstances would permit it to be achieved.

"...I charge you that it is not the abstract doctrine of overthrowing or destroying organized government by unlawful means which is denounced by this law, but the teaching and advocacy of action for the accomplishment of that purpose, by language reasonably and ordinarily calculated to incite persons to such action. . . .

"No such intent could be inferred from the open and above-board teaching of a course on the principles and implications of Communism in an American college or university, where everything is open to the scrutiny of parents and trustees and anyone who may be interested That is why it is so important for you to weigh with scrupulous care the testimony concerning secret schools, false names devious ways, general falsification and so on, all alleged to be in the setting of a huge and well-disciplined organization, spreading to practically every state of the union and all the principal cities and industries".

—x—



Maj. Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., M.P.
"The Concept Was Studied"

A FAMOUS SOLDIER SPEAKS

Air mindedness already a dominating factor in Canada's Department of National Defence was given much stronger insistence by an ex-soldier, ex-infantryman—Canada's Major-General George Pearkes, V.C., Watford-born opposition member from Nanaimo, British Columbia. To members of the RCAF this fitted into the ever increasing number of statements emanating from high places in all countries that the skies would provide much of the highways of tomorrow's defence and attack. General Pearkes was specific in that he called upon the Government to spend three dollars on the Air Force for every dollar it would spend on the Army. He felt too that the ten thousand recruits which the government sought for the Army were "far more needed in the RCAF". The Brentwood Bay resident went on to ask that a Fighter Interceptor Force be brought into being now with adequate re-

serves and replacements. He showed a studied concept of the northern vulnerability of the North American Continent in pointing out that from Russia two main channels of approach were probable. Murmansk — Greenland — Newfoundland — and Eastern Seaboard route was one; and Siberia — Alaska — British Columbia — and West Coast was the other. Just how right or how wrong the General was in his advice to the Department of National Defence was a policy question that raised a storm of pro's and con's from one end of the country to the other but to the RCAF itself the fact that such a storm could be raised was indication enough that Air Power had arrived to stay and in a very big way. The peace time job of preparation and technical advance was terrific, for in no other military arm was there such a race for scientific advantage as in the Offence and Defence of air war.

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Nine Pints Beautiful

or

One Over The Eight

The festive season is once more upon us and in the Air Force there are some who hold the opinion a drink is in order. There are of course others who hold that several drinks are in order and lastly, there are a few who have to be guided home over someone's back.

Now then the hero of this little anecdote (or is it a study) could be anyone of these depending of course on circumstances — circumstances being the Air Force term for ready cash. However a preliminary peep into his character and background is very necessary before we proceed further.

He is married, his rank anonymous but is naturally about three grades down from what he knows he rates. For years he has shuddered secretly to think of how the service will fold up quietly and become no more if he were no longer there to steady and guide it. Oh yes—lastly, he is very fond of home life except when there is an oyster party complete with free beer in the mess. His length of service you will observe, must be at least eight or nine years judging by the thirst he can develop when the occasion demands. There is frequently an occasion.

Well now to get the setting correctly one must picture our boy as he watches the clock approaching five p.m. about three days before Christmas. He is thinking how nice it is to have a cosy little family at Christmas especially with the

nice little twenty-five per cent hike in the rent coming up shortly. This is quickly replaced however, by the more cosy thought that today was pay day. It is five minutes to five and he is presently so dry that his mouth feels full of feathers. Therefore on his way home the mess will receive a short visit and he in return will receive ONE short beer and ONE only.

Now we see him entering the mess,—approaching the bar—hoping some one will say “what is yours?” But no! He must suffer the indignity of buying his own. Not only that, but what is that arm draped over his shoulder and that very familiar voice saying “Mine’s a rum and water and don’t let them talk you into a single!” Well, our hero was only going to have a beer but if he is going to wind up even on the deal of round for round he had better get stuck into a rum so that the switch from beer won’t be obvious. And the dye is cast!

The first rum isn’t too well enjoyed as he paid for it you see. The second one however, is on dear old “don’t let them talk you into a single” and a double is exactly made to order at this point. Not only that but he’s enjoying the expression on “beanhead’s” face as two more join the party.

Things are now going our hero’s way. What! After all he bought the first round so by the time it’s his turn again he will have two more, he’ll be fifteen minutes overdue at home, his dear wife should phone and there is his out complete with a lovely four-rum glow. But he reckons not with demon rum.

The second libation has been disposed of and with it the



by BOB McKEE

thoughts of Peace on Earth, goodwill etc., etc., come slowly stealing in. After all it is Christmas and these types, while not too bright at all, are wearing the same uniform, so maybe he will extend to them the benefit of his friendship and spring for another round. At this point he even promises silently not to make the O.C. of the Squadron quite so dependent on him. He will begin educating him come the New Year.

Midway through the third a raucous voice bleats forth over the P. A. system requesting his presence at the phone. The call has arrived from wifey but it is not appreciated now for “he is made of sterner stuff”. “Who does she think she is?” So midway to the telephone there is a pause of two beats in quick time, a smart about-turn, his bridges all burned and the cosy family man has reverted to tripe.

Back among his “pals” as they are by now, spirits are rising fast and past days are being revived. Well just wait till he gets his story in. His is a colourful past. He can’t decide whether to tell them about the Sergeant W.D. in Gander or the barmaid at Tolthorpe. Come to think of it, “beanhead” married the sergeant so that’s

A Christmas Story

out and also come to think of it (his name is once more bleated over the P. A.). Can a man not have a quiet drink in the company of gentlemen without his spouse wearing out Don Ameche's invention?

Well, good old Bill will answer it for him and tell dear "wifey"—"he was here but he left about fifteen minutes ago". It isn't until good old Bill returns that the horrible truth dawns on him that if he left fifteen minutes ago he should have answered the five calls for about an hour and a half ago. But another drink will give him time to think his way out of that and so to the task.

The task being completed making it the fourth down and five to go, (how did Tony Golab get in on this?) his former problems have long since disappeared. He's all set for anything because as many of us too well know there's no sense in going home now, might as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb.

Somewhere half-way through the fifth, old "beanhead" who, being a bachelor and we all know they are all dastardly (printer don't louse up that word) gives the final push to our hero when he utters the fatal words, "I wonder what Hull is like these nights?"

And the scene swiftly changes to the well known place of "Cheesed Off Henry". By the way we forgot to tell you that in getting out of the parking lot under the simultaneous direction of his six pals the CADO's car was sideswiped. This called for a hurried consultation at which it was decided that the CADO had no business parking on the parking lot when he can park anywhere and besides, wasn't he handing out all the jammy married quarters to his

pals. Let him fix it himself—we have an important night ahead.

Now our hero has a problem, what will it be to drink? Oh yes, in the days when he had no trivial worries such as wives and families it used to be 'Zombies'. In fact he'll have a double Zombie just to show the boys he's no pink tea drinker. Ah this is the life, sipping zombies, listening to the tinkling piano and my, aren't the girls pretty? Th's little thing on the left is really giving him the eye. Oh well it wasn't so long ago he was known as the Tiger of Picadilly. That was before the post-war panty waists came out with this wolf stuff. Anybody knows a tiger can lick a wolf. Whoops! This is bad, he has just offered to buy the little lady a drink. It's accepted and it's just going to be a double champagne cocktail at two bucks a copy. Now we are in for it—he has even moved over to the table; with the help of a couple of chairs he is able to make it.

Things are fogging up on him. The sweet little thing he bought champagne for across the room has developed into a two hundred pound cutie and if her face would quit fading he might be able to decide whether she looks like the tail end of a Lancaster or the front end of an Eastview bus. Oh yes! that reminds him, wifey's mother is arriving for Christmas — that calls for another double Zombie and an excuse to quit buying champagne for this monstrosity.

Now on the eighth drink our friend of the early evening has decided that all the world is his friend and to prove it he will entertain them with a few verses of Salome.

Midway through the chorus finds him out in the street where he has been since the completion of the first verse. Where was Beanhead when the bouncer was bouncing? Like all good pals he was moving in on the champagne cutie. If he could only find his car. That's the seventh one he's tried to open and that policeman is scratching his head. Oh well, The next door he tried to open happens to be a taxi and now we are on the way home fast asleep in the back seat.

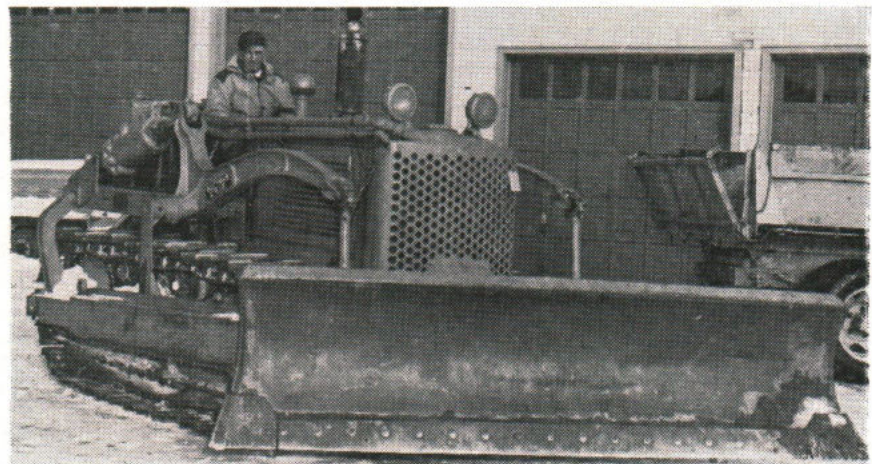
Oh yes! There is an ending to this story but it's years later because dear mother-in-law was there to watch the stout hearted young man who called in for one short beer deposited on the chesterfield by one short stout-hearted taxi driver. There is also a moral contained herein which merely warns the pre-Christmas toper to brief the padre well and truly before hand and there will be hope perhaps of a cosy little Merry Christmas at home.



DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

The Empire Of S/L Wm. Loynes

Smiling chunky be-spectacled William J. (Squadron Leader) Loynes is the affable and efficient head of a department whose duty is officially described by K. R. Air as "the repair and maintenance of all Works and Buildings". He has under him nineteen service personnel and over fifty civilians. Their jobs run all the way from transporting coal (3400 tons in 1948) to fixing electric switches that don't always need fixing. One of his most urgent and at the same time biggest jobs is that of snow clearance. People don't always understand why this or that lane or garage doorway is not cleared within minutes of a snowfall but the people that lay down the law have given priority to number one runway and the taxi strip (and including) 412's apron to the turn-buttons. . . then come the main roads on the station, then number two runway and the aprons of 413, 408, 414 taxi strips to number one runway finally the secondary roads and all the bits and pieces get attention. If this is followed by another snowfall as it often is, they start right in again. He has had full crews on many occasions work without stop or sleep for 24 hours in the worst storms. This alone is a huge task but at the same time nine high and low pressure boilers have to keep pumping heat to the Station and ten smaller oil burning units heat places like the Hospital and the Sergeant's Mess and SHQ. Last year nearly a quarter of a million gallons of oil went into this job. There are nearly fifteen hundred windows in the existing



S/L LOYNES (top) With Office Personnel
CARPENTERS (centre) PAT MASSON (bottom)

Domestic Affairs

married quarters alone that need maintenance, one hundred furnaces, four hundred outside doors, thousands of electrical "plug-ins" that all need a constant eye of supervision. All this apart from the thousands of panes of glass, hundreds of doors, floors, walls, roofs, staircases, etc., on the Station proper that demand attention. One has only to sit by Harry Thomas, his congenial Ottawa raised, Hog-Town born, office aide to grasp the maze of estimates, repairs, constructions, clearances and purchases that have to be appraised and decided upon. Rolling around like one of the seven busy dwarfs. Dave "Major" Price is a mainstay who can be found night and day on the job. Another trouble shooting toiler in the electrical department is Sgt. MacDonnell whose conscientiousness goes beyond the call of duty. Last

year the Sergeant, after his arrival from Goose Bay, took a course (on his own initiative and at his own expense) from an American Institute and passed every subject with flying colours.

A top-notch Stationary Engineer is WO2 Frank Manning, — now a resident of cottage row who is quiet and capable. There are many others—Omer Lebel the carpenter, Dusty Dosteller orderly room efficiency expert, LAC Beaulne of Wrightville and many many others who all together comprise a hard working colourful section that you really don't get to know unless you get in amongst them and meet them.

"It's a grand staff I have," says headman Loynes . . . and with that he gives out in his usual generous way the generous credit to everyone under him. But though he is head of Works and Buildings at Station Rockcliffe he fondly recalls his

one pet creation — the famed war-time "Mechanical Cow" which prepared so much milk for RCAF troops overseas. Eleven of them were made up and shipped to England and these with the Mobile Medical Laboratory which he constructed—a dream of compact efficiency. Let the flyers never forget when they land on the runways after a storm that one of Bill Loynes' boys probably worked through the night to keep the strip serviceable and let the Station as a whole remember that broken windows don't just fix themselves, that radiators get their heat from furnaces stoked by toilers, that roads are maintained by maintenance crews and that in a word all the "works" and all the "buildings" demand a lot of looking after by the men and a lot of supervision by Staffordshire born William J. Loynes.



Laborers
"Off to Work We Go"

RELIGION

Christmas Messages

STATION CHAPLAIN (P)

The Spirit of Christmas is in the air! Everyone has it at this time of the year. There is, however, so much of Christmas that we could and should keep all the year round. It is the heart of it that I mean. Of course we could not stand the rush of it nor the cost of it financially, but we can continue the Spirit of it, for that is the Spirit of Jesus Christ whose birthday we observe at this time.

Henry Van Dyke tells of the simplicity of the Spirit of Christ, which of course is the Spirit of Christmas. Here, in part, are his words: "Are you willing to stoop down to consider the needs and the necessities of little children; to stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want without waiting for them to tell you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open,—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas."

Christ calls each one of us to act like that every day of our lives. It is His challenge to everyone. We can only achieve it by having His Spirit, which is a gift, and which is yours for the asking even as you read these words.

Sincerest Christmas Greetings to one and all and as Tiny Tim said, "God bless every one".

—x—

STATION CHAPLAIN (RC)

"... You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger"

With the birth of Jesus came the establishment of the Holy Family. Saint Joseph whose saintly precedence was the least of three nevertheless was the head and Guardian of Jesus and Mary. To both Joseph and Mary, Jesus was obedient although he was the Son of God. From that moment the family became the important unit and Jesus worked lived and learned within the confines of his home. The importance of the family cannot be overestimated. It is the unit upon which the Nation is built. What greater proof is there of true happiness in a home than the reluctance of the

parents to leave their children or that of the children who would rather gather round the family circle than run off to the false and fictitiousness of outside pleasures. This does not mean that social gatherings are wrong. Quite the contrary, they are often good and often necessary.

There are many lessons which one can draw from Christmas but none is more important than this emphasis on the family. Poverty and hardship are deliberately injected into this Holy scene in the cave of Bethlehem. Despite these things, happiness—real true warm family joy, can exist; and by the same token luxury and wealth can and often does form the trappings to the most abject spiritual and mental misery. Let us at this time of year 'go to the stable' and compare our lives and our homes to that of the members of this Holy Family. Materially our comparison will mean little or nothing, but if in our homes can be found the love, serenity, and spiritual calm which they exemplify, then the basis is sound both for personal happiness in this world and that for which we are all on earth—eternal happiness in the next.

Christmas Services In The Chapel

ROMAN CATHOLIC:

Midnight Mass will take place in Station Chapel.

Christmas Day:

0900 hrs. Mass in Hospital.

1000 hrs. Mass in Station Chapel.

(Confessions will be heard Christmas Eve from 7.30 p.m. until 10 p.m.)



PROTESTANT:

Christmas Eve 11. P.M.

"Christmas Eve Service and Holy Communion.

Christmas Day:

0930 hrs. Station Hospital. Christmas Service and Holy Communion.

1100 hrs. Station Chapel. "Family Service."

Religion



F/L E. W. S. Gilbert and Proteses
"The Chapel Was Too Small"

"Give Me The Child ..."

One Sunday morning 'way back in January 1948, Padre E. W. S. Gilbert decided to have a Sunday School for his wee parishioners. So he lined them up and counted them. The grand total was sixteen. It was not much as far as numbers go, but what was more important was that it was very much as far as the religious training of the kiddies was concerned. Faced with poorish adult attendance when he arrived on the Station, he decided shrewdly to attack the parents through their most vulnerable point and that was their up-and-coming families. Soon these kiddies

told others and they in turn told others until the scheme which began in the offices of the two Padres as an annex to the Sunday Service soon became the big event and overflowed the offices into the Station Library and from there moved on into the Trade Advancement Building.

Then proud parents started "taking the kids to Sunday School", and that meant taking themselves to Church. Attendance figures zoomed and the Sunday School which began from such a little acorn now numbers 83 enrolled in four different classes. Religious literature obtained from the United Church publishing house in Toronto is distributed

to each class by the instructors Sgt. Florence, Mrs. Dorothy Rose and Mrs. Joan Rose, Miss Barbara Reeves who looks after the wee-wee ones and Mrs. O'Brien who completes the group who are organized under the supervision of F/L Harriot who personally conducts a bible class of some 13 students. Average Sunday attendance reckons the methodical Mr. Gilbert is in the neighbourhood of 55 to 60. However, he is more interested in what any one child may learn rather than in watching the attendance chart of how many do or do not come. In a rapidly expanding community such as Station Rockcliffe 'Sunday School' is here to stay.

JUST PEOPLE

Baptized in Station Chapel.

Carl Walter Morley, son of LAC and Mrs. J. E. Morley, on September 11th, 1949.

Kenneth Barry Anderson, son of Cpl. and Mrs. R. N. Anderson, on September 25th, 1949.

Sandra Marie Bestel, daughter of LAC and Mrs. E. G. R. Bestel, on September 25th, 1949.

Rodney Clifford Emery, son of Cpl. and Mrs. W. J. Emery, on October 9th, 1949.

Richard Henry Allen Morgan, son of LAC and Mrs. K. H. E. Morgan, on October 19th, 1949.

John Michael Dunnett, son of AC1 and Mrs. J. R. Dunnett, on October 16th, 1949.

Joanne Marie Clarke, daughter of F/O and Mrs. D. E. Clarke, on October 18th, 1949.

Michael John Rose, son of LAC and Mrs. K. A. Rose, on November 6th, 1949.

Candice Elaine McKee, daughter of F/L and Mrs. D. C. McKee, on November 13th, 1949.

Sandra Elaine Bolin, daughter of F/Sgt. and Mrs. S. F. Bolin, on November 20th, 1949.

Lynda Ann Farrier, daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. W. H. Farrier, on November 20th, 1949.

Deborah Jean Lane, daughter of G/C and Mrs. R. J. Lane, on November 20th, 1949.

Edward Bruce Perrier, son of F/Sgt. and Mrs. C. Perrier, on November 20th, 1949.

Gerald Carroll Boucher, son of F/O and Mrs. J. R. Boucher, on December 4th, 1949.

Married in Station Chapel.

LAC Joseph Benoit Boudreau to Margaret Elaine Wright on September 17th, 1949.

Civilian (ex-RCAF) William Orville Feltham to Lydia May Leigh on October 1st 1949.

LAC Paul Raymond Pangborne to Shirley Ann Madill on October 15th, 1949.

F/O Frank Maurice Murphy to Carl Madock on December 3rd, 1949.

Mobilized (automobile), commissioned, engaged, posted and married all in 60 days to Ex-W.D. Lucille Savage, Flying Officer (Medical Secretary), ex-business manager of the Rocket Norm Wallace after 36 years of bachelorhood and 14 years of service. The wedding took place in Toronto in November, 1949.



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PHOTO QUIZZ



How many of the above can you name?



Camp Borden Flashbacks

These old pictures came to light just the other day before we went to press and in as much as they include two people who are running things around here now, we thought you would like to take a look at them when they were in their young and more athletic days. Amongst others on this page you will find Air Vice Marshall R. Slemon presently at Trenton (AOC), Group Captain E. McNabb, Air Commodore D. A. Ross, G.C., Group Captain R. F. Gibb and many other high ranking officers active or retired. We bring to your attention the "Balloon" tires on some of those MT vehicles of 1924.



Who is This LAC ?



Motor Transport Section Camp Borden 1924
Can You Name The Car Models?

SPORTPOURRI

By DICK WILSON



HOCKEY

The most outstanding development in the Winter Sports Program is the formation of the station hockey team. With F/L Orville Brown as team manager and F/O Geo. Theriault as his assistant, plans were drawn up for the team to play a series of exhibition games throughout the season in lieu of entering league competition.

At this writing, the team has one game under its belt, a 1-1 tie with Army. Future games are on tap with Smith's Falls and Perth as well as tentative arrangements with Centralia, Dorval, Camp Borden, AFQH Ottawa, Queen's University, New Lisgard, Haileybury, Timmins, Kapuskasing, Porcupine and Lake Placid.

Coach Tom Deacon, well-known in local hockey circles, has whittled the team down to fourteen men and feels that the boys will give a good account of themselves.

Heading the list of players are Andy Gilpin and Fred Hector. Both of these men were candidates for the Olympic team which copped the World's Championship two years ago. They form a very capable defence along with Bob Hamblin and Gordie Johnson. Len Wellstead wears the big pads between the pipes to complete the rearguard.

Up front, George Wilson centres the first line with Lou Bergeron and Maurice Cloutier. Gordon Crowder, "Tweet" Leblanc and George Snyder form the second line while Johnny Brouillard pivots the third line with Al Metson on left wing. The right wing spot for this line has not been filled to date.

"Tweet" Leblanc, a newcomer to the station in recent months boasts considerable playing-time in Junior 'A' hockey while Gordon Crowder formerly lined up with Inkerman Rockets.

Under the guidance of F/L K. C. Murphy of 412 Sqd., the Station Hockey League will swing into operation on January 9th with eight teams battling for the bauble.

Games will be played on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday nights with Tuesday night being kept open for postponed games. In the case of postponement, the team captains are expected to confirm postponement on the day of the game and in the case of a team appearing with more than two players missing, the game will be defaulted by the referee at game time.

Teams involved are responsible for the cleaning and watering of the ice before game time. If this is adhered to, a fresh sheet of ice will be available for all games.

BASKETBALL

Taking over from Ken King, Harold Reese has assumed the role of coaching this year's entry in the Ottawa Intermediate Basketball League. As a nucleus for the team, he has a few holdovers from last year in Bill Edmunson, Alfie Marks, Dennis Walker, Bob Balcombe and "Mitch" Smith.

Newcomers: Al Marshall, Doug. Williams, Art Hendron, George Wilson, Don Binkie, Buddy Beaton and Cherry on the fourteen-man squad.

To date, the team has played three games with one win and two losses in the record book. Sailors, last year's champions, triumphed in the first game 42-27 and in the second game O.J.C.C. scored a 40-30 victory. A change in tactics produced their first win in the third game when Rockcliffe defeated Ottawa Boys' Club 48-50.

Coach Reese feels that although the team got off to a slow start, the boys are playing a better brand of ball now and should be right in there come playoff time.

—x—

ANTONELLO HOLDS SEASON'S HIGH SINGLE

With the 1949-50 bowling season well under way and twenty-nine teams in operation, "Tony" Antonello of Cardinals, holds high single honors with a 349 score. Lou Loftus of Buffaloes owns the high cross with 781.

Leading the way in season's averages, Pat Gibb boasts an average of 221 for twenty-one games while right behind him is Antonello with 220 in twenty-three games. Not very far off the pace is Gordie Florence with 216 in twenty-two games.

Good news for bowlers comes to light in the proposed construction of four new alleys at an estimated cost of \$8,000. These new alleys will provide space needed for the extension of present bowling activities.

Sportpourri

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULED TO START JANUARY 10th

With the Drill Hall on the out-of-bounds list for the holiday season, the Station Volleyball League under "Knobby" Clark will commence its schedule on January 10th, and close on March 28th.

Tuesday night is Volleyball night in the Drill Hall and the schedule calls for all eight teams to play each week. This will mean four matches each week. Over and above this, one and maybe two matches of the Ottawa and District League will be played.

Four referees have been appointed to handle all station league games this year. They are Sgt. Charlton, Cpl. Wellstead, Cpl. Clark and Lac. Smith. These men will attend a "school" and receive a briefing

on the rules so that greater uniformity in the officiating will exist.

A new league ruling has it that any team which defaults will lose not only the three points for the match but also two additional points which will be deducted from that team's record in the official standings. It is hoped that this will curb the great number of defaulted games.

The Station Volleyball team has bitten off a good hunk of schedule to fill. Despite the absence of a couple of its star players, this team leads the Manor Park League which also includes R.C.M.P., Manor Park and Army. Apart from that the team is entered in the City League but does not enjoy the same amount of success. Against city competition, they

trail the league but Coach "Knobby" Clark promises a change in status before long. Making up the station team are Paquette, Southcombe, George Wilson, "Red" Girard, Bob Balcombe, Rae, Haverstock and Reid.

—x—

BADMINTON CLUB

F/L Steene reports that a Station Badminton Club is in its pre-natal stages. This will be a mixed club and will operate on Wednesday and Sunday evenings.

It is hoped to affiliate the club with the Ottawa and District Badminton Association and enter into competition with outside clubs. Another feature of the club will be Round Robin Tournaments with suitable prizes going to the victors.

Player's please



THEY'RE

Double-Fresh!



Cork Tip and Plain

REMEMBER-
Player's "MILD" WITH "WETPROOF" PAPER
DO NOT STICK TO YOUR LIPS

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES

MEDICINE

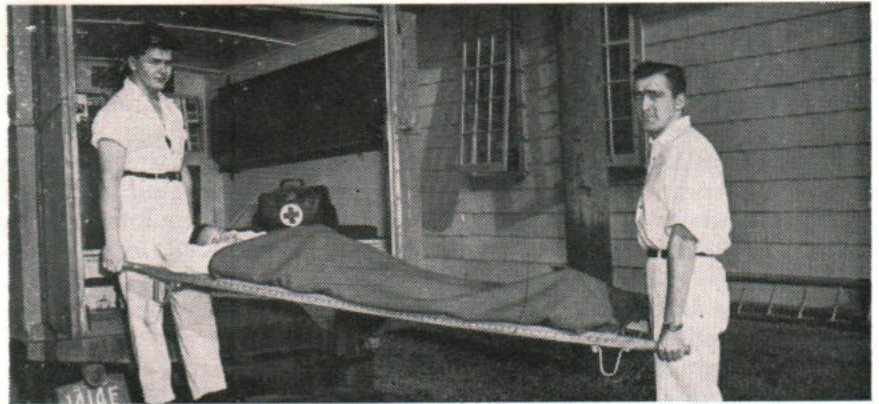
Hospital Life

Can Be Beautiful

By F/O V. Bissonnette

It can happen to anyone. One moment you are happily enjoying a beautiful day in May, thinking that the entire day is one that can do nothing but inspire a feeling of well-being and happiness. Suddenly your aspect on life changes abruptly. It can happen in several ways. A three-car crash, a misplaced manhole cover, the doctor's word that you definitely have measles or pneumonia. If you have never been admitted to a hospital you soon learn just what life there is like. Duration of stay however, depends upon the type of ailment or injury. A patient with a broken thumb will be out far sooner than one with an appendectomy or a broken leg.

It is that simple. Take it from two typical patients who recently spent several months in the Station Hospital. Last October LAC Don Milloy, 414 Photo Squadron, was driving his motorcycle on the highway near the Station. There was an accident. Next moment he remembers, he noticed how brilliant the sun was, how clear the sky, how the wires atop the poles emitted a steady drone, as he lay on the ground waiting for the ambulance to arrive. After a brief trip he was carried into the hospital on a stretcher and advised that he had a broken leg. LAC Jim Watt, 2 KTS Trenton, fractured his right leg last June while at play. He was brought here and remained in the hospital for several months. Undoubtedly the outlook on life of both these fellows changed as soon as they were carried into the hospital on a stretcher, for surely this meant



Med. Assts. Gordon Scott, Russel Johnson and Patient Don Milloy
"This Meant Days and Days"

days and days "in the hospital".

But wait! Life here can't be so bad. That was probably the first thought they had when they saw the pretty nurses with their kind sympathetic and understanding manner. Don's leg was put in a cast. It hurt at first. So did Jim's after his operation. But the excellent care they received made the pain easier to bear.

Time crawled by at first. Then both thought, 'Life can be beautiful'. They got to know the doctors, the nurses, the medical attendants, the other patients and found that a patient's essential characteristic was a sense of humour. There was consolation in S/L Cur-

ran's word that it would be a normal recovery.

There was always something for a patient to do. The Medical Officer's examination, a trip to the X-Ray room or perhaps to the operating room again—all the time nothing the nurses encountered enroute. Perhaps upon awakening one had a new cast — new stitches. Many amusing incidents occurred which helped make the stay more enjoyable. Radios and magazines were supplied to help pass the time. Cribbage and bridge were very popular among the patients. Patients came from various stations. Representing the Army was Cpl. Frank Armstrong from



Cpl. Frank Armstrong Army HQ., LAC 'Bush' O'Bear, RCAF Rockcliffe, CFN Johnnie Pelkey — VPE (Army), LAC Gordon Campbell AFQH.
"Cribbage Was Popular"

Medicine



N/S Joan Watson and Jim Watt
"Life Here Can't Be So Bad"

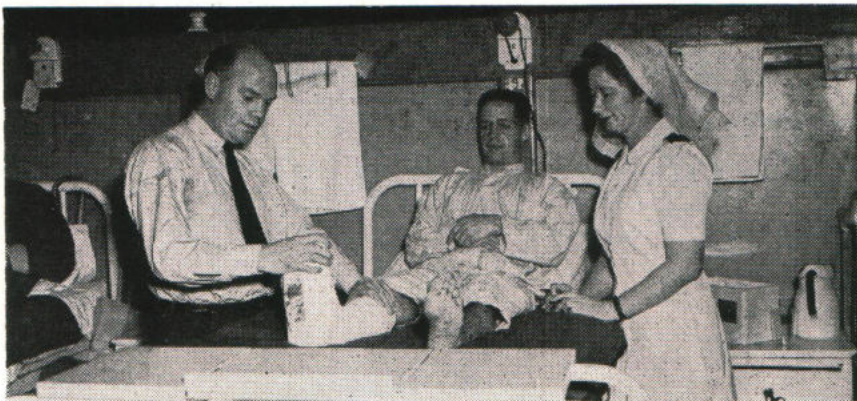
Army Headquarters; te. F. J. Street, Ottawa; Pte. D. A. P. Sage, London; Pte. A. J. Hovey and Pte. W. J. McCorkell also from Ottawa.

The big dread was the "big needle" but there was consolation in that penicillin speeded recovery.

Meals were excellent and were served in bed by Medical Assistants and those patients who were now on their feet and capable of doing odd jobs. These boys were called "up" patients or better still, "Blue Boys". They had their meals in an attractively furnished dining room.

Patients were allowed visitors from 2.30 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, and every night from 7 to 8 p.m. The attractively dressed "civvy" wives and girl-friends added colour to the hospital and contributed much in maintaining a high morale. If wives or friends lived too far to visit them, patients were allowed to make phone calls on a portable pay phone.

On November 1st Jim Watt had been a patient for over five months. He was now a "Blue Boy". He began doing physiotherapy for his leg and it was steadily improving. Sapper Joe



S/L D. Curran, patient Don Milloy and Matron D. L. Thompson
"It Would Be A Normal Recovery"

David, No. 3 Works Company Engineers (Army) was looking forward to leaving very shortly. Then the big day came for Jim—he was on his way out.



1949 REVIEW OF BENEVOLENT FUND

Out of 115 cases submitted during the first ten months of 1949, 94 were approved by the Central Committee, for a total of \$15,745.00. This breakdown includes 73 loans granted station personnel amounting to a total of \$11,485.00 and 36 grants for a total of \$4,249.00. Still outstanding are applications for assistance amounting to nearly \$3,000.00. The total amount of assistance requested by station personnel in 1949 was \$26,298.

In almost one hundred percent of the cases the grants were allotted towards medical expenses. Wherever the applicant in question did not belong to the Blue Cross Hospital Plan he was advised to do so.

The average case usually absorbs about three hours in questions, filling out forms and occasionally home investigating or checking with Credit Bureaus and hospitals. For the above cases this shows about 345 hours of toil for the 'men you take your trouble to'. The Station Committee met approximately 40 times for one hour every Wednesday morning. That in 8-hour days is just shade over 48 complete days on Benevolent Fund cases.



Medicine



Sapper Joe David No. 3 Works Company Engineers
"There would be visits"



N/S C. Perron, R. Labbe, J. Gagne
"Bonjour Rockcliffe"

SUNDAY PHILOSOPHY

By Jack Harriot, F/L.

Sunday afternoon and outside it was snowing—wet, cold, and dreary. Inside it was at least warm and over in the far end was the usual barrack room discussion with five fellows sprawled comfortably in various attitudes on one or other of the two neighboring bds. Somehow the talk had drifted from the usual channels of how to make a thousand dollars on a second-hand car and how to woo and win the beautiful maids of Ottawa, to what it is that some people have which enables them always to get away with the nicest-looking gal or the weakest excuse. "It's personality, that's what it is!" someone sagely remarked. Personality, that term which encompasses so much and yet means so little to most of us. What is it? What does it mean?

It took a few minutes to convince ourselves that what a man is contributes much more to his happiness than what he has, or how he is regarded by others. What a man is and so what he has in his

Sunday Philosophy

own person, is always the chief thing to consider; for his individuality accompanies him always and everywhere and gives its colour to all his experiences. In every kind of enjoyment the pleasure depends principally on the man himself. Everyone admitted this readily in regard to physical pleasure and, after another 10 minutes of thought and chatter, it was decided that it was even much truer of intellectual pleasure. We observed too, how striking and appropriate is that English expression "to enjoy oneself"—we say not "He enjoys Paris" but "He enjoys himself in Paris". So in the blessings and the ills of life, less depends upon what befalls us than upon the way in which it is met. What a man is and has in himself—in a word personality, with all it entails, is the only immediate and direct factor in his happiness and welfare. Another point arose here but was left unsettled, "Could this be why the envy which personal qualities excite is the most implacable of all—as it is the most carefully dissembled?"

Another half hour of verbal rugby and we found ourselves confronted with the fact that we can more easily bear a misfortune which comes to us entirely from without, than one which we have drawn upon ourselves. Is there any one of us who, having been caught

in the wrong, doesn't cast mentally about for someone on whom to fix the blame? Fortune may always change, but not character. Therefore, subjective blessings—a noble nature, a capable head, a joyful temperament, bright spirits, a sound physique, are the first and most important elements in happiness; so we should be more intent on promoting and preserving such qualities than on the possession of external wealth and external honour

And of all these, the one which makes us the most directly happy is a genial flow of good spirits. (This drew forth a moment of bright repartee and rough humour). There is nothing which can so com-

pletely replace the loss of every other blessing. If you know anyone who is young, handsome, rich and esteemed and you want to know further, if he is happy, ask, is he cheerful and genial? And if he is, what does it matter whether he is young or old, straight or humpbacked, rich or poor? He is happy! Cheerfulness is the very coin, as it were, of happiness and not, like all else, merely a cheque upon the bank; for it alone makes us immediately happy in the present moment, and that is the highest blessing for beings like us, whose existence is but a moment between two eternities.

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SUNDAY PHILOSOPHY

What is it that contributes to cheerfulness? One said, "riches", another "health" and only a moment's reflection was necessary to realize that nothing contributes so much to cheerfulness as does health. With health everything is a source of pleasure, without it, nothing is enjoyable. It is with good reason then, that when two people meet, the first thing they do is to inquire after each other's health, and to express the hope that it is good. Beauty is partly an affair of health. It contributes only indirectly to our happiness, and it does so by impressing other people but it is no unimportant advantage even in a man. Granted health, then, we went on to consider the pleasures which arise from the physiological constitution of the healthful man.

First of all would come the pleasures of food, drink, digestion, rest and sleep. But at this point the sounds of movement of humanity re-awakening from its deep afternoon slumber, brought us from the abstract contemplation of appetite to the sharp realization of four-thirty and supper time, and our discussion was terminated in a mad rush for hats and jackets as we joined the hurrying through now mess-hall bound.



Two Dollar Words won't increase the value of two-bit ideas.



SOCIAL & FINANCE

"GOOD NEWS"

Rockcliffe, as everyone has an inkling by now, is going to have a new drill hall. In fact, it's a most unfair to call it a drill hall. When the new improvements are finished it will be more appropriately named the Recreation Centre.

The picture on this page is of the Moncton, New Brunswick Station recreation hall and appears here to give us some idea what ours will look like when completed. Already completed is the mezzanine and has already been put to good use with many compliments. The new P/A system has also been installed and is in operation, a marked improvement!

Still to Come

A new ceiling similar to the one in the picture will be installed and ready for use for the Christmas festivities. New bowling alleys (4) under the mezzanine and the four old ones replaced as soon as possible giving a total of eight. The rest of the alterations in the near future.

It's only fair at this time to say who is responsible for the entire idea. The untiring efforts of Rockcliffe's C. Ad O. S/L Spear has been the main driving force behind the last three years of improvements. During his tour of duty at Rockcliffe we have enjoyed many changes. Just to mention a few of them we can look at the resurfacing of the tennis courts the new airman's canteen lounge and snack bar; the new library and reading room; the formation of the hobby shop and trade advancement centre; the new projection and sound equipment for the theatre (second to none); the renovation of all

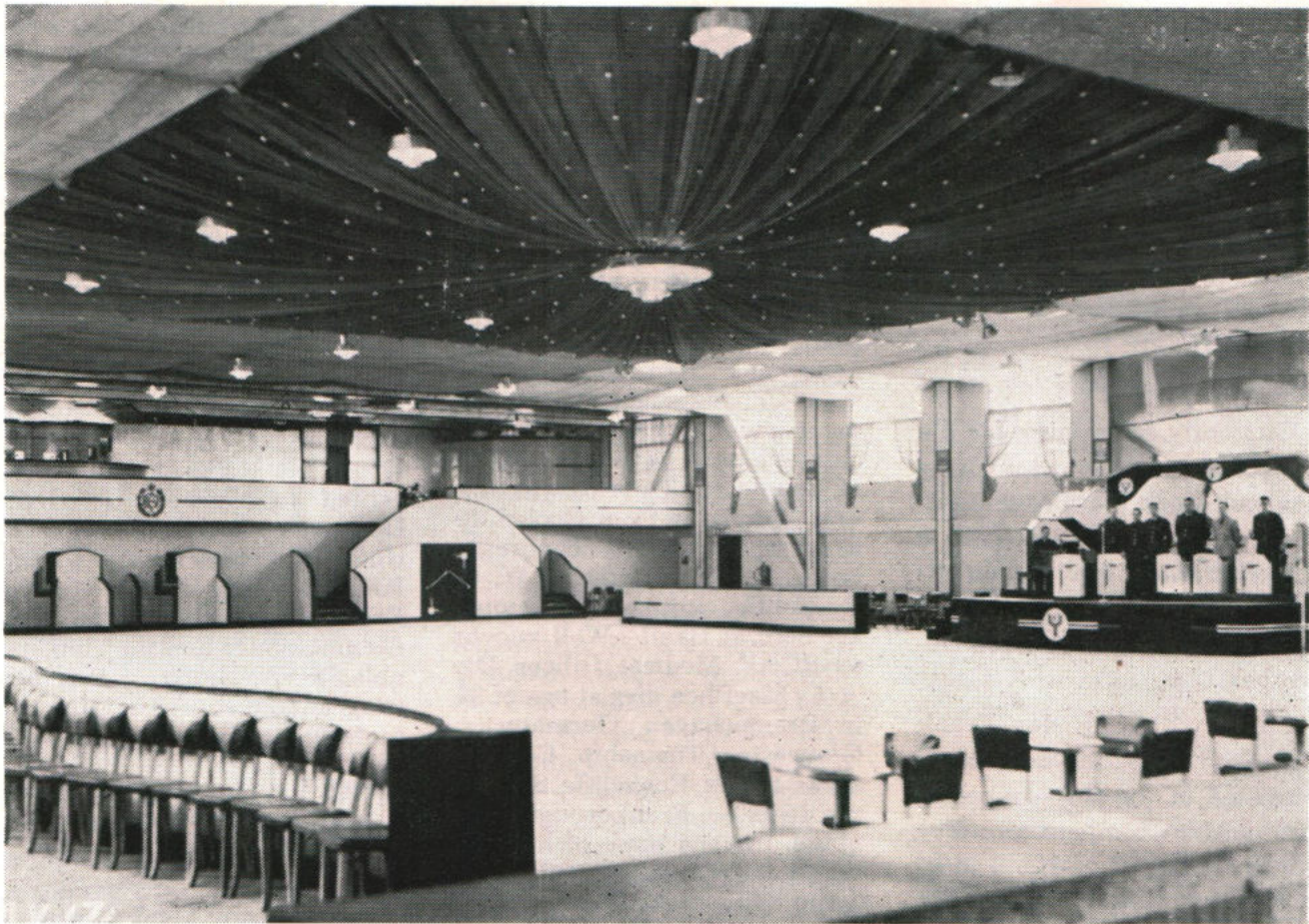
station furniture and the replacing of old and general renovation of the airmen's mess which are now in progress. That's not all either, but to list them all here would be almost impossible. To say that S/L Spear has experienced many difficulties would be stating the case mildly. Fighting against a restricted budget and blocking action you can hardly say it's been easy. However, the latest project, the new recreation centre is certainly going to be the top of them all. The main idea of the centre is to provide family entertainment for all personnel and is not, repeat, **not** to effect present sport activities. Bi-monthly dances and bingo are the order for the new centre with increased activity generally. When finished, the centre should certainly be a show-place and will have been financed entirely from the Station Fund! Yes that's right, entirely from the Station Fund.

Before getting down to the facts and figures, we would like to mention that plans for the new Corporal's Club have been approved and will be actioned as soon as the airmen's mess renovation has been completed. Also the plans for the new snack bar (which is to occupy the present site of the barber shop) complete with new equipment will get under way.

Facts and Figures

Did you know that the capital value of the Station Fund has reached the astronomical figure of \$34,000? Well don't let it throw you, it's not quite as good as it would seem. However, when you consider we do have something like \$16,000 in cash, less of course. Accounts Payable, \$12,000 in furnishings,

Social and Finance



The Moncton Drill Hall
"Prototype"

\$10,000 in stock, and etc., etc., it doesn't sound too bad. The Station generally has shown an improvement, financially, that is, in the last few months over previous months. Just look at these figures. Canteen \$1618.62; Snack Bar \$69.81; Dances \$271.34; Bingo \$ 2.04; Bowling \$106.41; Theatre \$101.02; these are profit figures we are stating. Well, anyhow, when you add everything up and of course deduct all expenses (grcan) such as sports equipment \$142.62; Library \$77.78; Benevolent Fund Contribution and a long list of others, we find that we have still a tidy sum to deposit to the Station

Fund, \$1711.16. Not bad! Oh well, we will just have to wait and see what that does to our profits for next quarter.



Hitler's Monkey Wrench

The German High Command of World War II claimed that Adolph Hitler threw a monkey wrench into their war machine. The seriousness of this can only be appreciated when one knows that in German the word for monkey wrench is "Stellbarer-mutterschraubenschlüssel".

Added Sports

DINGHY TRAINING FOR DETACHMENT PERSONNEL

The newest in news from the swim-front is the introduction of Dinghy Training for next year's detachments. Training has already commenced under the capable instruction of F/O Lavoie of 408 Sqd.. Dinghy Training has been incorporated in the Swimming and Water Safety Course which has been designed to qualify candidates before Photo Operations commence in the spring.

George Lipkin reports that plans for a Station Swim are under way. With a proposed swim meet coming up late in January this team will be formed to compete with other stations and with civilian clubs. Trenton and Camp Borden are two other stations adopting the same plan and before long Rockcliffe will be battling with these stations for swimming honors.

—x—

OLYMPIC DEMONSTRATION

Currently in training for the British Empire Games in New Zealand, Jack Varaleau, light-heavyweight champion, gave a demonstration of his weightlifting prowess — Olympic style — in the station theatre on December 11th.

Capably M.C'd. by Frank Campbell, this one-man show consisted of the three types of lifts used in competition. For the first lift, a Two-Hand Military Press, Jack pressed 200 pounds followed by another at 220.

Combining good form with speed and agility, he performed a Snatch with 200 and 220 pound weights which was followed, in conclusion, with a Clean and Jerk. In the first try he lifted 280 pounds and followed with 300.

Attempting to break, unofficially, his Canadian Record of 315 pounds, he tried a hoist of 320 but it proved a little too much at the halfway point.

Purpose of this demonstration was to serve as a gauge by which Jack can regulate his training in order to be at his peak in January at the B. E. G.

ACROSS THE PRESS

September

Air Commodore Frank C. Wait denies report that RCAF Maritime Group being removed from Halifax Government of Canada announces campaign medals being issued Fortieth anniversary of Skipper Peary's discovery of the North Pole recalled Defence Department officials deny Moscow newspaper Red Star's statement Canada engaged in armament race 700 RCAF officers and men parade in Battle of Britain remembrance Station Chaplains from Rockcliffe address respective congregations LAC Carter G. W. of Rockcliffe injured in motor accident at Banff Well known ex-RCAF Medical Officer Dr. A. C. MacPhee dies at age of 37 in Bremerhaven, Germany Gloucester Township Council seeks to tax Rockcliffe Station residents Franborough, England, unveils some of her top secret jet planes Clifford E. Quinn Ottawa Air Force Cadet, selected as candidate for Royal Military College Defence officials at Ottawa announce American Fighter Plane to be cross-bred with RCAF jet engine Air Force chiefs announce initial success of "Operation Mobility" i.e. exchange of 426 and 435 Squadrons Canada and Britain insist on broader atomic information from U.S. U. S. plans north pole air base by spring of 1950 15,000 people at Ancienne Lorette, Quebec watch Montreal's 401 (reserve) Squadron display at flying club pageant RCAF announces first two regular fighter Squadrons to proceed to far north in January in joining Canadian-United States war games Seattle Times announces all planes flying in Pacific North

West area are detected by Radar and identified at a control centre ... \$275,000 voted by Canadian Government for research into supersonic aviation Canada cuts defence purchases in the United States to a minimum due to dollar shortage Air Marshal P. C. Livingston, C.B., C.B.E., A.F.C., Director General of Medical Services in the RAF completes Canadian tour accompanied by Group Captain A.A.G. Corbet, Director of Health Services RCAF Memorial gates presented to Canada by Right Honorable Arthur Henderson, Under Secretary for Air United Kingdom, Right Honorable Francis Forde, Australian High Commissioner and the Honourable Jas. A. Thorn Air Ministry announces "Air Gunner" to disappear from the bomber.

October

Ernest Bevin Britain's Foreign Minister, lands at Rockcliffe Robert Schuman, French Foreign Minister arrives for Ottawa visit via Rockcliffe President Truman reviews manoeuvres of 82nd and 11th Airborne Divisions Canada's C-102 Avro Jet Liner makes maiden trip at 420 m.p.h. Crack tri-service precision squad disbanded in Ottawa LAC Carter dies as result of September accident Britain presents Canberra twin-jet highly manoeuvrable medium bomber Prime Minister Pandit Nehru arrives for Ottawa visit via Rockcliffe Chiefs of the Belgium Army and Air Force arrive at Rockcliffe for Ontario visit The Army Chief of Staff, Lt-Gen. Etienne Baele and the Chief of the Air Staff, Maj-Gen. Lucien Leboutte were welcomed by Lt-Gen. Charles Foulkes AFHQ

Across The Press

announced fifteen promotions to commissioned ranks..... Air Cadet Branch established in Newfoundland bringing Canadian total to 189 Squadrons..... A V M A. L. James new head of Air Planning Division..... Air Commodore D. M. Smith takes command of Technical Service Division..... RCAF Lancaster wings 2,500 miles on mercy flight to Resolute Bay within Arctic Circle..... Iron Lung flown for emergency from Ottawa to Trenton..... Veterans Minister Gregg states name and regimental numbers printed on Canada's World War II medals would have delayed them another two years..... Group Captain "Iron Bill" MacBrien named to head new RCAF Air Defence Group at St. Hubert.

November

Rockcliffe personnel decorated at Government House Investiture..... Bill introduced in the Senate by Defence Minister Claxton to bring the three services under a single code..... Air Commodore D. E. MacKell honoured in series of social events prior to his retirement from RCAF..... Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C. criticizes Canada's defence plan in House of Commons..... Would have Air Force strongest defence arm..... Britain forms Civil Defence Corps to be trained for service in case of war..... Bevin sees finish of French-German feud..... William Ernest McNeely, ex-RCAF member and brother of Rockcliffe's F/L Eric McNeely dies..... Newfoundland bases agreement of 1941 to be modified..... Britain's first jet air liner the De Havilland Comet built to carry up to 40 persons flies from the Shetland Islands to Hatfield, England, a distance of 590 miles in one

hour..... Vishinsky announces Russia prepared to allow inspection of her atomic industry on a restricted basis..... RCAF personnel from Station Rockcliffe participated in Armistice Day Services..... Field Marshall Wavell in Ottawa interview, states Germany greater menace to world peace than Russia..... American Security Board states that a single atom bomb could smash the heart of Washington..... Moscow claims first parachute invented by Russia..... 18 U.S.A.F. rescued from Atlantic by Canadian Destroyer "Haida"..... Field Marshal Montgomery states that Field Marshal Erwin Rommel ended his own life by poison..... Trenton plane joins search for Windsor, Ontario, man lost in the woods piloted by F/L M. J. Cowie. The man was found by the plane within 48 hours..... Defence Minister Claxton flies to Paris in 412 North Star..... Group Captain M. G. Doyle posted to Rivers, Manitoba..... Imperial Chief of Staff, Field Marshal Sir William Slim suggests Canada be training ground for North Atlantic treaty units.....

W/C R. F. Miller AFC of AFHQ named CO of Clinton..... S/L W.A. (Bill) Waterton DFC formerly of Edmonton arrives at Toronto for test flights on new Canadian XC-100..... Canada announces construction of new Jet Airliner, range 2,000 miles, passenger load 30.....

December

Executive of Royal Canadian Air Force Association from all across Canada meet in Ottawa under A/C/M L. S. Breadner C.B., DSC..... 10 injured in glider plane crash at Rivers, Manitoba..... Supreme Soviet

Presidium prepares celebration in honour of Joseph Stalin's 70th birthday December 21..... At the Hague, Defence Minister Claxton announces no strategic bombing force for RCAF, states Canada opposed to German rearmament..... Lt.-Gen. Ennis C. Whitehead Commanding general of the U.S. Air Force, Continental Air Command arrives at Rockcliffe for visit described as "routine"..... RCAF Air Cadet Liaison Officers meet in Ottawa under W/C R. M. Cox of Ottawa..... U.S.-Canadian Air Chiefs talk military aviation..... Lost and without food for four days Walter Smith, 19, lifted from wilderness in Grande Prairie, Alta. area by an RCAF helicopter piloted by H. H. Campbell of Vancouver..... Famed U. S. Jet Sabres make first public test in close formation, roaring over March Field, Calif., Air Base at 600 m.p.h..... Defence Headquarters announces Yukon exercises to last 17 days involving 5,000 troops including 2,000 Canadians..... External Affairs announces proposed departure L. B. Pearson by air January 1 for Ceylon..... No. 425 Alouette Squadron has re-union in Montreal..... RCAF Mitchel crashed at Trenton, Ontario, killing four..... F/O St. Louis, Ex-RCAF, waiting on Deception Island in Antarctic to fly to rescue of British Scientists marooned 1,800 miles from south pole..... Final mess dinner held at Gloucester Street honors retiring Air Commodore David E. Mackell after 35 years service..... The CAS sends yuletide greetings to the RCAF, whose personnel look forward to 1950 with measured optimism.

BOOK REVIEW

By Vernon Bell

"Cheaper By The Dozen"

Frank Bunker Gilbreth Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey offer an exceptionally pleasing novel on the complexities of being two of a dozen children. Guided through life by Dad, such a firm believer in "Motion Study" that frequently the "baker's dozen" under his command were used to exemplify and demonstrate his professional research. Gilbreth and Carey prove that some phases of the training were well founded. They seem to convey one most easily to the point of the humorous, yet endearing, situations in which this family so often find themselves. Such situations range from the inability of the family physician to recognize the youngsters except by the state of their anatomy and thereby almost disrupt Dad's Motion Picture Study of a mass tonsillitis operation, to being mistaken for an orphanage while on an outing in "Foolish Carriage" their open Pierce Arrow.

Dad was never satisfied unless his children were skipping grades or otherwise showing themselves superior. His Motion Study teachings adapted to the home included such subjects as the Morse Code, typing, and several languages which never produced a winner that was not rewarded.

To the reviewer the story is a memento in a minor way, of early days touring the country in an open car and includes many of the seemingly embarrassing performances of Dad's contact with road-hogs, Mother's near derangement and other exigencies of the moment. Democracy as practised in the

Gilbreth home, entitled every member of the family to a say in the disbursements of funds and an opportunity to change a "Not of General Interest" topic at dinner. Needless to say the latter caused considerable embarrassment to numerous dinner guests.

Here is an agreeable enlightening antidote for the modern believer in "families limited".

—x—

"God's Underground—by Father George."

(Appleton-Century Crofts, Inc.
New York, 296 p.—\$3.75)

Here is a story so fantastic that from the outset one cannot help but suspect its authenticity. It is the tale of a Croat priest who my the sweep of circumstances finds himself a soldier in the Red Army. Although he has been a partisan against the Germans through-



out their occupation of Yugoslavia, he watches with apprehension the rapidly approaching Red Army of "Liberation". Finally they arrive and he, a Roman Catholic priest, disguises his identity and poses as a doctor. As such he is the recipient of many confidences of what was going on in the individual minds of the Russian soldiers. Then he sets out to visit Russia proper. The trail which he follows takes him to the homes of members of "God's Underground" in Russia. These were the Christians of all denominations who for 30 years despite persecution

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had clung tenaciously to their faith. After six months which gave him a keen insight into the duplicity of Russian policy and politics he is finally tracked down after having made his way back to the capital of Czechoslovakia. Imprisoned in the most horrible of conditions he has a taste of Communistic "justice".

The narrative is convincing by the sheer simplicity of style. It is thought provoking by the constant clash of ideologies that are presented and it is ominous in its forecast of what we may expect and what the author is convinced will happen when Russia begins to roll.

The impression one gathers is that in many ways the Democracies are frittering away their time and their energies whilst the Soviet toils ceaselessly night and day to bring about their final aim "one world"—an atheistical communist one.



Overheard one of the patients at the hospital saying the other day that his wife who had come on the bus all the way from Westboro to visit him — the other night had to go out and wait thirty minutes at the gate in below freezing weather for a bus. She froze her legs a bit. He was wondering whether the seven and eight o'clock buses in the evening could go around by the hospital. . . .

* * *

Might as well get it all off our chest while we're at it. What about someone nailing the Steve Brodies that sail through the married quarters area at speeds exceeding more than the allowed maximum. No one is in that much of a hurry, and just one slip might ruin some young life for years.

MISCELLANY



435 Insignia
"Chinthe perpetuated"

Greetings from Western Canada !!

435 Squadron's first contribution to The Rocket can only take the form of an introduction to the Squadron. Who we are and what we do.

435 (T) Squadron was reformed, in Edmonton, in Aug. 1946, to perpetuate the name of 435 'Chinthe' Squadron who had served so well in India during the past war.

Since formation the Squadron has carried out such varied tasks as flying sandbags to the Fraser Valley during Operation 'Overflow' and beer to Goose Bay during Operation 'Mobility'. In between times we have flown sick Eskimos from Cambridge Bay and well airmen to Kittigazuit. The North is our home and no load is too small or too large for us to take a crack at.

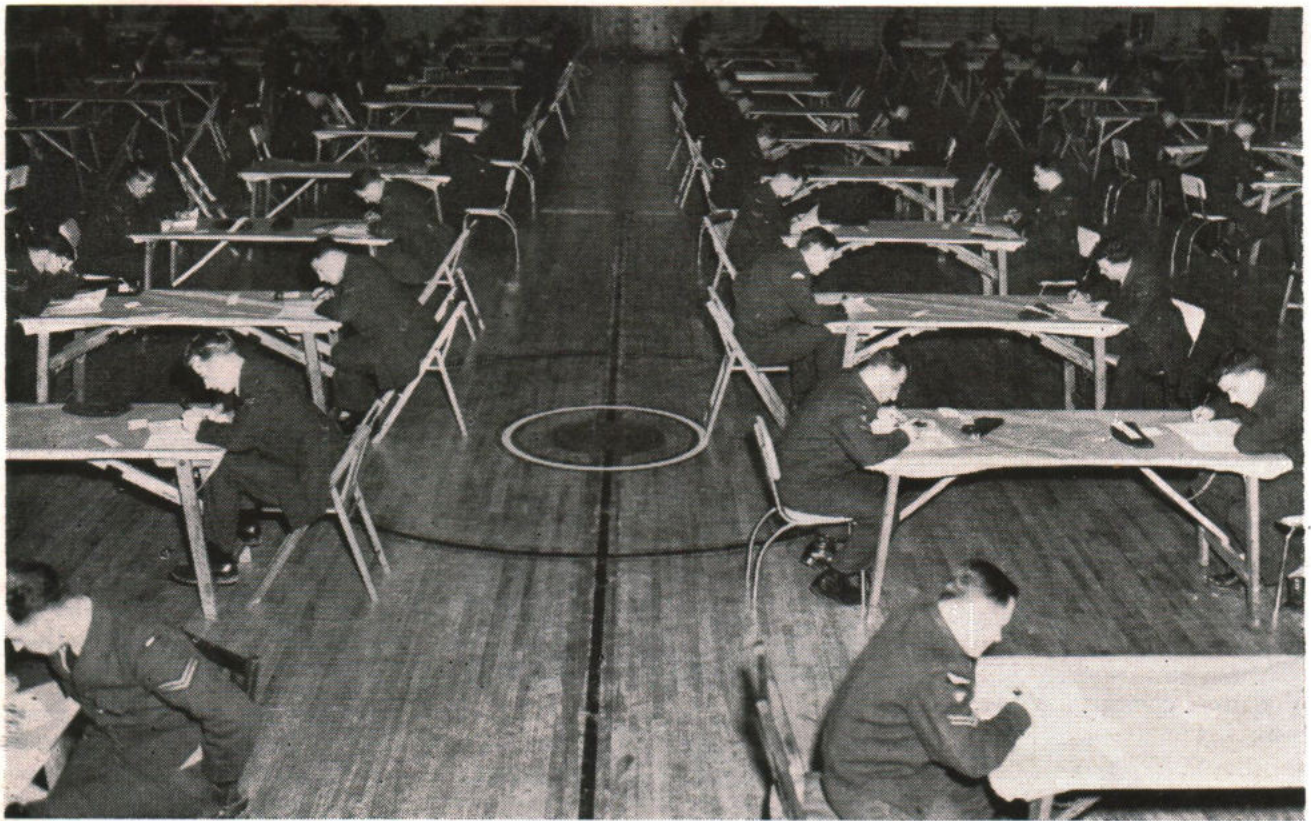
Our Personnel? W/C W. F. Parks of Regina is our Commanding Officer and leader in all our endeavours both curricular and otherwise. Our affable C Ops O is S/L A. J. Mackie also of Regina. (These Western boys really appreciate good country when they see it.) Head of the Technical Department is F/L W. H. Smith of Windsor, Ont. The Signals Section is under the able leadership of F/L Ray Henderson of Spencerville, Ont. You see we even let Easterners join this Squadron). F/Ls D. A. Hallow of Penticton BC and K. C. A. Smith of Saskatoon head the Radio and Navigation sections respectively.

As for the rest of the gang, why not drop in sometime soon and meet us all. You will always find the welcome mat out at 435. Better make it quick though as changes happen so fast out here that we may all be posted by the time this goes to press.

Cheers Chaps! ! Hope to see and hear lots more from you all in the next and all future editions.



Miscellany



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The above illustration is unique in that it shows over 25 Corporals all working at the same time. What is it you ask, that they are showing such concentrated interest in? Well, it's the scene at the Drill Hall during the writing of the last promotional examinations for Junior N.C.O's. THE ROCKET hopes that in the near future many of the lads shown here will be noticed around Rockcliffe sporting that extra stripe. Good luck Corporals and congratulations on a fine effort.



Women seldom repeat gossip—the way they heard it.

Miscellany

PAGING THE HALIFAX HERALD

The Rocket notes with some concern the following editorial which appeared some time ago in the Halifax Herald concerning the Rockcliffe Pipe Band:

"CAN'T BE REAL PIPERS"

The Royal Canadian Air Force is taking great pride in its bagpipe band. This organization, as is generally known, made its first appearance at Ottawa before 20,000 people. There were those present unkind enough to comment that an air station, with its roomy runways and its square miles of open air, provides the only proper setting for the Highlanders' native music. Others, of course, were more appreciative of true art and they showed their approval of the Royal Canadian Air Force experiment in no uncertain way.

Naturally, the band could not have been up to the standard expected in Nova Scotia, the Canadian home of the bagpipes. The reason is plain to see. The band's roll is barren of Nova Scotian names. There are men from Edmonton and Redcliff, from Nilden and Toronto, Vancouver and Belleville. Not one is from Glencoe or Inverness or Lochaber.

Oversight or conspiracy? Who can tell. This much is to be noted. One name has that suspicious "O" prefix. Another starts off with the letters "Dzw...", whose owner surely is as synthetic in his Scottishness as some stuff sold nowadays as Highland dew — stuff never nearer the fastness of North Britain than the grainfields of the m'd-west."

We are pleased to note the justifiable pride in the Nova Scotian scribe has in his ancestry, but we rise up in Celtic protest at his veiled attempts to monopolize this great heritage. Let him leave his eastern province and visit the Glengarries and the Clandonnells further west. Here one can smell peat itself from the gaelic accents that take second place to none including Glencoe, Inverness or Lochaber. And let us all take care who claim Scotland as a Mother lest we base our arguments too strongly on what's in a name". For was it not Bonnie Prince Charlie our great national Scottish hero whose maternal family name was "Sobieski" of Poland?



What Seems Like a good explanation to a husband may sound like a poor excuse to a wife.

"SANTA" AT THE DRILL HALL

To Rockcliffe's vast Drill Hall, Santa came on Friday the 17. Fourteen hundred screaming youngsters packed the place, with their parents, whilst "Flight" Robertson the head organizer ran around looking as cool as the conventional "Thrice round and pointed at both ends". The whole effort was a tremendous one for Santa to handle but with the co-operation of the entertainment committee who received the prizes and parcels from the North Pole just a few days before Santa himself came the event went smoothly enough. Gifts were wrapped in efficient age group systems, and during the course of the afternoon Gus Dallaire and his staff sent forth mountains of food, ice cream, etc. etc., for big and little believers in the man with the red suit and the white beard. Most striking in the Christmassy decorations was the tall (14 foot) Tree provided annually by the works and bricks people to make Santa's atmosphere more like the North Pole that he is accustomed to.

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Miscellany

Here and There . . .

Watch that Pay check! . . . There won't be any more pay-days until January 15th and when the Yuletide milk of human kindness starts to flow it might just overreach itself. Remember that this year there is no hoist in the pay the cost of living is still as high as ever, and many of you will come in for that hike in rents. . . .

* * *

Just as a point of interest we notice that a lot of people standing at the gate especially at rush hours have a tendency to crush onto the road every-time a car passes. The idea apparently is to pick up a ride, and that is a rather natural thing, but sometime the crowding makes it a bit tricky for the outgoing car especially when there is another car coming in the opposite direction.

* * *

While we are on the subject of cars and driving. If anyone can tell us of a more dangerous road junction in Ontario than where our road joins the Montreal road we would like to hear of it. The Base Line has a Flasher Light, NRC has a Flasher Light . . . and Rockcliffe? . . . Oui? . . . Non?

* * *

Three fire alarms in three days (Dec. 5-7) brings up the old caution about FIRES. Most of the buildings on this station are wooden frame. Carelessness with fire in any of them is dynamite. Watch your fires, watch the matches where you throw them be careful during the holiday season of your CHRISTMAS TREES and NEVER leave an oily rag in a cupboard . . . it can explode into flames by itself. Remember this . . . an oily rag doesn't need a fire to start it burning

it can start one itself. . . . It would be a sorry thing if any family had to lose their home on the station at this or any time of the year because of carelessness.

* * *

The Magazine Committee is re-organizing in January. The present crew which took on the job about a year ago have dwindled to a paltry handful. They admit to nothing more than having brought a Magazine into existence. It could stand a lot of improving even if it is well spoken of at other units. If you have an idea that you would like to incorporate into the magazine watch for the meeting time then show up. We

need help, lots of it and there is a lot of valuable comment going around about how it could be improved that we don't hear. Why don't you send it in either by letter or by appearing yourself. There are people on this station who have newspaper experience that we could use. Frankly we have none . . . but we're learning and we have a lot of fun doing so. And we would advise you if you are disgusted with the Rocket to look around at any other RCAF unit and see how many have a magazine at all . . . (that includes the University of the Air!). Those that do publish show the Rockcliffe Magazine off to advantage. . .

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

Without roof, as it were, over their collective heads the members of the Rockcliffe Camera Club, carry on homeless and still come up with prints of Salon quality.

The building which formerly housed the Club's activities was abandoned early in November after much discussion centering around its inadequacy.

The loss of the building was a severe blow to Club Members, but the burning fire of the creative mind is not easily smothered. Those, to whom photography is an Art as well as a hobby thrive in the cellars and attics of their homes as well as in dark-rooms and developing rooms of the organized Club. The prints entered in the exhibition held on December 13th. prove that the Spirit of the Club still lives though its body has been scattered for the time being.

Entries ranged all the way from the Dali type abstractism to the tranquil softness of the pastoral. The portraiture exhibited was of outstanding merit and in the opi-

nion of the judges was among the best of the show.

The capable judging was carried out by a panel consisting of W/C Pierce S/Ldrs. Baker and Walton and F/L Green, all of No. 1 P. E. The interest and efforts of these officers is appreciated by all Club members.

LAC Roddy took top honours with his portrait of Foxy.

Second honours went to LAC W. D. Lee with his interpretation of "Her Majesty" the R. M. S. Queen Mary.

Third, with two very fine portraits was Sgt. Downs.

Honourable mention was given to LACs Prevost, Mulcahy, Scott and Roddy.

The awards were made known at a very well arranged social evening, held in the Drill Hall mezzanine. The prints were arranged along the North Wall and were indicative of the great versatility and divergence of thought shown by Club members. The presentation formalities were followed by a dance.

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