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RAMBLER



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RAMBLER

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EDITORIAL

Below is the text of a letter forwarded to N.C.O.'s i/c of work parties off the station as at June 10th last. The editorial staff would be gratified if every member of the personnel would read it carefully, and give any possible assistance.

"1. No. 4 CMU, being a Work Unit, many of the personnel are away from Headquarters most of the time. The Editors of the 'RAMBLER' feel that the paper is lacking in news concerning activities of mobile parties out on TEMPORARY DUTY.

"2. The Editorial staff wish to correct this by obtaining regular contributions from N.C.O.'s i/c, or from any member of each party who may be appointed as the most able, or interested, in making up a report.

"3. It is suggested that the appointed reporter make notes of all interesting happenings in work or recreation, also any funny sayings or situations which occur, and submit them to the Editor, the 'RAMBLER', on or before the 15th of each month.

"4. It is NOT necessary that reports be submitted in journalistic style. If the writer does not feel capable, or has not time, to write his article fully, he may forward his notes and the editorial staff will be pleased to complete the writing. REMEMBER, WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOU—PLEASE GIVE US A CHANCE TO SHOW IT!

"5. Watch in the next issue for the announcement of prizes for the best articles, etc., as submitted to the 'RAMBLER' each month."

Our policy is to keep our paper from being an Editor's column, or the report of Headquarters' activities alone. The "RAMBLER" should merit the personal interest of every Airman on the Unit, but can only do so if EVERY crew out on T.D. sees to it that one of its members acts as reporter. A CM Unit differs from all other types in that its personnel represents such a wide variety of occupations, hence a considerable spread of ages, tastes, and recreational pursuits, making it extremely hard to cover sufficient subjects in a paper to make it interesting to all. This difficulty, however, could be overcome, but only if each mobile unit, as well as each Headquarters section, is represented monthly in the "RAMBLER" columns. So, if it isn't YOUR paper, it might be that it's YOUR fault. Let's be hearing from you!

This is not a plug for a book. It is a plea to every man of our Unit to get the latest, most thorough and unbiased report of what demobilized men may expect after service. Spend two bits at No. 3 Canteen for the small book by C. N. Senior, entitled "When the Boys Come Home" and be in a position to know whereof you speak when you discuss post-war plans.

When you buy that ticket and vote for the Queen of the Horticultural show—and you will, if we know our Calgary sales-ladies—just be sure of one thing: That the vote will go to Cpl. Betty Ward, who is the only military candidate, and a swell gal in her own right.

And to quote our unimpeachable Sgt. Peach: "This is the earliest fall we've had for years—but we're almost sure to have an Indian summer!"

Cpl. Betty Ward, Candidate for "Queen of Services" Title



CPL. BETTY WARD

After a search lasting several weeks, which included all Air Force Stations in and around Calgary, Cpl. Betty Ward, Hospital Assistant at No. 10 R.D. Hospital, was chosen "Air Force Queen." She will compete for the proud title "Queen of the Services" against the Navy and Army candidates at the Horticultural Show of the Military Chapter of the I.O.D.E. next August.

Our Queen of the Air Force has lived in Calgary all her 22 years. Betty joined the R.C.A.F. (Women's Division) in July, 1942, and has two brothers in uniform. Warrant Officer "Bud" Ward, an air gunner, has been a prisoner of war in Germany since last September, and Private Donald Ward is serving with the Army in Saskatoon.

Betty is known and liked by many of the personnel of various Air Force Stations throughout the district—ask any of the erstwhile sick and ailing who have been restored to rugged health at 10 R.D. hospital. She is also well known in amateur dramatic circles of this city, having been active in this regard both before and after enlistment. At present she is a valued member of the R.C.A.F. Radio Playhouse.

No. 4 CMU joins with all other local stations in congratulating Betty, and in hoping that our votes may contribute toward her success in winning the "Queen of the Services" title. So when you buy your tickets (the certainty of which we have expressed editorially) keep in mind that Cpl. Ward is the only candidate in uniform and that the uniform is R.C.A.F., hence it is our double duty to see that all our votes are credited to Betty.

Lucky Number Tickets, with prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25, are now on sale at 10c each—3 for 25c. Each ticket represents 10 votes. Let's buy our share, and be certain that our votes go toward making the "Air Force Queen" the "Queen of the Services" next August.

T. O. S.

So many newcomers to the Unit are with us these days, having in mind that a little advance press notice MIGHT be of some advantage in their getting acquainted, we offer a few meagre details which we have gleaned about the group of N.C.O.'s and men recently arrived from 9 CMU, whom we welcome to our Unit.

Sgt. Kusyk, F.: We note by his records that he has spent some time as Instructor. Ground Warfare. It should be reasonable to hope that he will be of great assistance, therefore, in our Wednesday Physical Fitness Programs. It is also significant that he has been put to work in the Engineering Office.

Sgt. Armstrong, C. D.: A power linesman, and also probably a strong, silent man. Unable to get any interesting details, either personal or military.

Cpl. Demers, J. A.: Another lineworker, and seemingly an expert on family affairs, specializing in moving. Anyone contemplating moving his wife and offspring would do well to seek pointers from Cpl. Demers, without, of course, taking his opinions of hotels too seriously.

Cpl. Bacon, A. H.: A lineworker and electrician helper. Recently down from the N.W.S.R., and reported to be suffering back-strain from carrying his load of American cigarettes. A good man to cultivate—we have made a note.

Cpl. Norfolk, C. E.: Arriving from Fort Nelson, where he has been i/c M.T. Section. Credited with holding "A" group in procuring—temporarily, of course—materials immediately required for progress, but not yet officially on hand. Very friendly with civilian contractors. Also staggering under an almost intolerable burden of Yank cigarettes. Second on our list for an eligible close friend.

Cpl. Meropoulis, W. L.: A logger, recently married, and from an Editorial viewpoint undoubtedly a splendid man—comes from Edson, Alberta. Have arranged to buy a box of "snouse" and spend a few quiet evenings with him discussing happy pre-enlistment days in the "Bush".

LAC Thomas, D. R.: Carpentry a specialty, closely followed by being violently allergic to Flight Sergeants—particularly in the vicinity of Telegraph Cove. No other discoverable peculiarities.

LAC Johnson, T. J.: Accomplished welder. From lack of reports, apparently says little. Probably from being so accustomed to wearing a mask.

LAC Arndt, E. A.: Another carpenter, and strangely silent. Maybe that's why. We don't know how they treat their carpenters in 9 CMU.

* * *

HEIL!

We certainly have some broadminded Airmen in our Unit. Speaking of Hitler's leaders, the other night one of them said, "No matter what else you may say against him you must admit that Goering has plenty of guts!"

Cee Too & Em Tee

By Sgt. Butler and Cpl. Dillman

The Cee Too columnist, during the past month, has spent some time in studying the characteristic phrases of section personnel.

Only a few words are required to present a brief view of the outstanding trait of our Engineer Officer, F/L M. M. Swanston—such as, "Get started on that right away!" from behind a cloud of 11c perfecto or pipe smoke. And if you have been on the receiving end of that order you know what we mean . . . Our Cpl. Jefferies letting out with, "Now, look George, if you think . . ." is a common occurrence . . . And, if you know Cpl. Bell, no need to tell you of the phrase, "What I mean to say is . . ." That, we believe, takes care of the Headquarters staff—or does it? Almost forgot LAC Spatari, "B" Group.

Out in the field, if you were to venture on the territory of a runway repair job and saw something on the horizon which vaguely reminded you of a power shovel, bull-dozer or dragline, look again closely, for it may be F/S Campbell—it's a certainty it wouldn't be F/S Miller. You have probably noticed that F/S Campbell wears R.A.F. wings of the last war. We had occasion to witness those wings in action a short time ago and 4 CMU can truthfully boast that we have a pilot in our Unit.

We often wonder if the rest of the Airforce wouldn't profit by a short course on the duties of a C. & M. Unit. A Cpl W.D. at a south Alberta station should be eligible immediately for the course. When we asked to be allowed to sign in one of our power shovel operators, she informed us that the S.W.O. didn't handle civilians!

Our transport section, under a brand new N.C.O., Cpl. Dillman, is still carrying on amid the same type of grief as always, but manages to keep the wheels rolling. Details follow.

Our F.W.D. is still under the capable guidance of Stitt, Juyn, Mackay and Hamilton. A wild, rough vehicle, but these boys always come back to ride again. We take off our hats to them—they should be top Stampede material.

This month's beef—many of the personnel do not realize the conditions the M.T. section labours under. The postings north and west have taken some of our best drivers—LAC Christian, who is at present in Fort Nelson; LAC Shardlow, who went to 9 CMU. We try to do our best, but we are shorthanded. So, if you think the service is bad, we hope you will take this into consideration, realize that there is a war on, and that business isn't as usual, or something.

Recently Cpl. Thorsell was posted to 4 T.C. We regretted seeing him go, but Cpl. Clarke who took his place is also very nice to have around. So here's wishing them both the best in their new jobs.

At least three of the boys in our section are thinking about tying the nuptial knots. Tony Frannsen and Harry Brown both spend their evenings at home knitting, and even at work may be heard muttering, "Purl one, drop two," etc., etc. The other fellow (whose name we won't mention) says he's NOT sure yet, because there's no money in it. Of course, a man who would make a crack like that could be nothing else but a dispatcher.

LAC "Art" Rintoul has just come into our section and we are sure that both the section and Art will benefit by his new duties. Cheerio and smooth r.ding.

Painting Ahead?

By LAC Authier

In a recent issue of the Canadian Paint and Varnish Magazine, Mr. V. C. Wansbrough, general manager of the Canadian Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association, described a request from the R.C.A.F. for a survey of the painting industry to determine what type of predemobilization training would best qualify Airforce personnel for future work in this trade. It is certain that all painters in this Unit would be glad to take advantage of any practical training given them while serving.

The course of history has shown that developments do not come quickly. Revolutionary methods and products do not appear overnight. There have been many years of see-saw patterns of economic caprice and industrial and commercial cycles. It is well, then, not to look forward to ideals of complete change, but to expect a gradual adjustment. These observations are made as possible sound reasons why we should not be swept away by wishful thinking, or the conception that the post-war world will be magically and completely different from pre-war days.

It is cheering, however, to know of interest being taken in training painters, during service, in preparation for greater ability in post-war employment. We will all look forward with anticipation to hearing of progress made in this plan.

Sgt. Persson recounts a hair-raising experience at No. 8 B. & G., Lethbridge. It seems that he had unwittingly (naturally) swapped tunics with an A/C2 as he appalled himself to attend Mess-Sergeant's, of course. And at that shrine of the exclusive circle, he dined, and (without going into too great detail) enjoyed all and sundry of privileges accorded to ranks of Sergeants (or better), conducting himself with full and cheerful confidence until, to his utter horror, his lack of qualification was finally discovered when his unadorned Acey Deuce sleeve was spotted. Had it not been for his station companion, F/S Verdi, he would have, without doubt, been drawn and quartered, or whatever the penalty is for invading the inner sanctum without authority. Incidentally, no report is at hand concerning the lad who had the Sarge's tunic.

ASPHALT COMMANDOS

What are we? You name it! Our machinery consists of drag-line, power-shovel, highway patrol, bull-dozer, asphalt mixer, steam boiler, asphalt roller, two tar pots, Farmall tractor, tool heater and wobble wheel roller—and we wish we could forget the picks, shovels, asphalt rakes and the hand brooms.

We started our season on April 11th with the Invasion of Shepard where several large patches of runways and hangar aprons needed repairs. Lated we invaded Claresholm and finally Woodhouse. The rains which prairie farmers have been praying for have given us some much-needed rests, but also have necessitated the re-doing of some of our work. At no time have we had any surplus of man-power—in fact, a good deal of our work is done by junior N.C.O.'s. The LAC's help a little.

E. & O.E. - Efficient and Orderly Engineering

With crude plagiarism in copying the style of reporters of other sections, we are offering here a thumbnail (slightly dirty and with faded polish) sketch of the inmates—Hey, wait! we mean members—of the Engineering Orderly Room staff. To add to the cosy, gossip atmosphere, we write in a narrative way, thus hoping to demonstrate the efficiency, as well as the attractive appearance, courage and genial personality of these good people. The time—back on that memorable date when some eighty erstwhile happy, but now inconsolable, 4 CMU lads were clearing for various postings. The scene—the above mentioned room.

Cpl. Findlay, L.—W. D., late member of the staff, i/c of movements: She drags her willowy form up from the floor, pounds a fractured limb back into place with the office stapling machine, pushes her hair from in front of her face to reveal two large, attractive black circles surrounding gleaming eyes. She speaks, saying in a young, clear, sweet voice, "My God! Quarter to five, and 23 yet to clear. Can't all you guys stop milling around?"

Margaret Tidball, civie steno.: She struggles vainly to disengage her shapely person from where it is wedged beneath her tiny desk, sobbing in dulcet, plaintive tones. "That list! Please don't ask me to type another new list! I can't bear it—THAT LIST!" So sweet is her nature that she makes no moan about the twenty Joes with steel heel-plates who are laughingly trampling her ankles into the floor.

LAC Stolash, W.—Filing Clerk: An ever resourceful lad he strains manfully as another ten of the Joes, who have discovered him hiding behind the filing cabinets, playfully drag him out by the hair. All the while he is screaming, "See Hooper, I tell you, see Hooper! I ain't on postings or passes!"

LAC Hooper, O. G.—Pass issuer: Full bodied, determined, with his rugged features beaten to a pulp, he crawls on all fours, heeding not the iron heels which crush and bruise his groping fingers as he doggedly searches for pieces of his shattered glasses on the floor and repeatedly mutters, "No more passes—F/L James' orders—no more passes."

Cpl. Milne, Geo.—Estimator: Consistently maintains his dignity by not betraying so much as a quiver in his legs, which protrude upside down from between the two tables where he was carelessly upset earlier in the day by some over-zealous posted Joes. From the wastepaper basket, in which reposes his symmetric countenance, comes mutters. Let us listen! "24 feet by 12 feet—studding 16 inch centres, concrete footings." Truly, man was never more keenly interested in his work.

Cpl. (hardly anything on the) Ball, Chas—Costing expert: He peers warily down from the lighting fixture to which he had done a clean eight-foot leap at 1500 hours, when a couple of purposeful looking Joes offered to reason with him concerning an alleged shortage in the working hours he had allowed them on the N.W.S.R.

Sgt. H'Rudy, N.—N.C.O. i/c E. & O. E. Room: He crouches somewhat jauntily in the corner under his desk, alternately offering thanks in French and English that he is

permitted a high one rather than a desk so small as Miss Tidball's.

F/L James, J. P.—Engineering Officer i/c: He steps smartly into the room, his right ear firmly grasped between the thumb and index finger of the C.O.'s left hand. He affirms in a strong, vibrant voice, "I finished all my work about these postings yesterday, and furthermore, I was under that rug in the Officers' lounge looking for a newspaper!"

Cpl. Wales, A. W. F.—General Factotum (could not be in E. & O. E.): Sleeping peacefully in hospital, suffering from "White-horse-itis" (claims not the bottled variety). Some guys always meet the right people.

Drops of Tar

Sometimes our gang hits on what remotely resembles an original wisecrack or jingle. During a rainy day after two weeks of steady slugging and mucking, one LAC spontaneously delivered himself of this:

"Let it rain, let it pour—
When it stops we'll pray for more?"

And another LAC submitted this timely bit of philosophy:

"What good to man
Are health and wealth
If he can't find time
To be good to himself?"

Still another LAC gem concerning the gang—incidentally we have at least an average gang, with not too many letting the work be done by the few:—

"We haven't any shirkers
And, according to our Flight,
We're fairly decent workers—
But we just ain't very bright!"

Will Pop Bollinger be able to organize a real ball team? Well, on Sunday, June 18th, The Commandoes defeated Woodhouse Station personnel 12-8. Good going, Pop!

And this common occurrence at Woodhouse—it may be sex appeal—a feminine voice on the Station 'phone asking for LAC Tuer. And we all hope that the ten days' leave and Banff in the society of Mrs. Clapham will bring great relief to Cpl. Clapham's lumbago. One of our more disrespectful LAC's was describing an N.C.O. on whom he wastes very little affection indeed, saying, "If his brains were dynamite there wouldn't be enough to blow his nose!" And oh yes! Want an argument? See Cpl. Quinn—always willing to oblige.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The capable, but blushing and modest contributor of the foregoing "Asphalt Commandos" is a ghost writer, using Cpl. Clapham as a contact medium. He suggests that we get in touch with the Corporal if we can use more of his stuff, but just to show our lofty disregard for "the proper channels"—a Corporal doesn't mean much to us anyway—we print here, in case the Reporter-Commando may read his column, that we want more of it, and we want it every month.

* * *

DAWN ATTACK

Don't get excited lads. That BANG! BANG! BANG! you hear every morning isn't the enemy. It's Barrack Warden Tommy Cannon trying to get Cpl. Dick Ireland out of bed before 0800 hours.

Our Unique Unit

It was with swelling pride that we witnessed one of our well-known 4 CMU Airmen join in the drum-head service (civilian) on a down-town street corner on a recent Saturday evening. It was due, this exemplary Airman said—with a fanatic gleam in his eyes, and as aesthetic specks of foam flew from his lips—to there being representatives of both Army and Navy in the circle, but not one Christian Airman. Although, when we interviewed him on the following morning, he stated that he had experienced a reaction—suffered from black spots before his eyes when he awoke! Ah, well, we were always one who advocated religion, but are still of our old opinion, that it should be assimilated gradually in order that repercussions may be avoided.

We admire self-confidence and self-appreciation but we do think it may be carried just a teeny bit too far. Take the case of LAC Krozser, who was beefing while doing his fatigue duties the other day, saying, "I get this Headquarters place all cleaned nice, then they send me out on temporary duty for two or three months, everything gets dirty as hell while I'm away then I come back and the first thing they do is to make me pitch in and clean it up again!"

And there is also the case of Cpl. Bell, Ernie, who went on parade the other day with no belt, trusting the upkeep of his trousers to his well-matured figure. All went well until the command "Markers!" when Cpl. Bell snapped suddenly out of his day-dreaming and the top button snapped even more suddenly clean off his pants, necessitating a lightning change of his hands from behind his back to the front of his—well, to the top of his trousers. Clutching wildly, and trying vainly to imagine shoulder-high arms with simultaneous drooping pants, he moaned aloud several times. Whereat some quick-witted Joe took in the situation at a glance and passed him a nail. His mechanical ingenuity and experience quickly proved itself, and he was able to "Fall In!" with a reasonable residue of his old jauntiness. He has since been heard, however, strongly recommending that R.C.A.F. rule pertaining to the wearing of a strong, plain black belt with fatigue trousers.

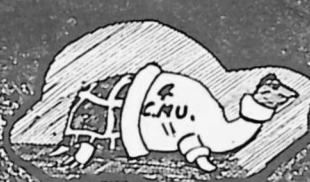
Further, there is the story told us by one of our newcomers from 9 CMU, concerning the mosquitoes prevalent on some of No. 9's isolated stations. We quote, if we remember correctly, Cpl. Hyles, corroborated Cpl. White: "I was lying in bed one night after lights out, when I heard a loud hum and a huge mosquito bit me on the arm. Annoyed, I pulled the blanket over me and tried to go to sleep. The same mosquito came back and bit me through the blanket. Thinking things had gone far enough, I covered myself with another blanket. But the mosquito bit me through both of them. He also bit through a third. When I put on a fourth blanket he hesitated, but not for long. I heard a commotion above, put on the light, and looked up. There was that damned mosquito sitting on a rafter. He was working away furiously with a pipe wrench—changing bills!"

* * *

ABBREV. PUZZL.

He caught his wife out with a Mr.—
The villain kr!
The husband—a most noted Dr.—
Then promptly sr!

N°4'S KARTOON KORNER



Construction and Maintenance Accomplishments

By F/L J. P. James

The water that flowed under our first major job—that of replacing the St. Mary's River bridge, which was washed out by the spring breakup in March, 1943—has since travelled a distance equal to twice around the world. This is in the one short year since 4 CMU became fully organized to carry out its diversified and interesting work throughout No. 4 Training Command, varying from removing the staff cars from the mud in April, 1943, to building log structures in Yukon Territory during the fall and winter of that year. Regarding the latter task, it is understood that the Air Officer Commanding, A. V. M. Howsam, M.C., while at Watson Lake requested permission from Sgt. Wallace, N.C.O. i/c of the project, to assist the men on the crosscut saw, while the C.W.B.O., G/C C. A. Davidson, directed operations from a respectful distance. It is hoped that, after the war when we will have been remustered to civilians, we may be allowed to bid on the log cabin which the Air Officer Commanding has always wanted to build.

As the endless stream has rolled from under our initial bridge, so has an endless stream of jobs reached the Office and materialized in the field, including the first and important organization of the Head-quarter construction and maintenance section, which embodies costing, accounting, estimating, control and movements of personnel, tool-lockups, stock records, workshops, crew distribution and the supervision of all construction and specialist trades. This section has greatly expanded since, in its infant days, FS "Typhoon" Donaldson worked on time sheets and swore that they were worse than crossword puzzles, while Cpl. Leona Finlay found that keeping track of crewmen spread out on 35 Stations or searching for "just one or two more" available Construction Hands at Headquarters was as simple as locating the long-sought haystack needle. Since then our strength has increased threefold, necessitating a staff of ten in the Engineering Office to handle efficiently the sixty-odd jobs now under way and the over seven hundred completed to date. These involved many thousands of dollars, as compiled by Cpl. Ball, Clerk Engineer i/c of costing, assisted by Cpl. Wales and LAC Hooper, while LAC Stolash issued leave and passes to personnel, balmng feelings allegedly injured by overwork. The territory covered by this administration, up to three months ago, stretched from Regina west to Abbotsford (1200 miles) and from Lethbridge north to a point twenty miles south of the Alaskan border (2400 miles). The territory north of Edmonton now comes under the new North West Air Command, relieving us of perhaps our most interesting operational area.

One-third of the work completed during the year was done in seven months by the men along the North West Staging Route who, when necessary, worked ten hours each day of a seven-day week. These men—only 135 of them—deserve the highest praise and credit for completing the construction program given to them, combatting the ob-



Winter Construction in the Yukon

W. & B. Workshop on a Northern Staging Unit.

stacles presented by the oncoming winter—sub-zero temperature, ice, snow, and as little as three hours of daylight relieved only by aurora borealis. As LAC Silverwood said, while looking at a marvellous display which encircled the horizon, "I have never before been so damned far north that I had to

This is the first of a series of monthly articles, written by Officers of No. 4 CMU i/c of Sections. It is hoped that we may add also guest articles by specialist W. & B. Officers of No. 4 Training Command. Watch next month for the one written by F/L Swanston, Officer i/c of Aerodrome & Ground Services.

look south to see the Northern Lights!" Many difficulties were encountered in the construction of various R.C.A.F. and D.O.T. buildings along the 1800 miles of the Alaska Highway reaching from Edmonton, Alberta, to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. After being advised of the work with which we were to be entrusted on the N.W.S.R. early in August, 1943, only 24 hours were necessary for the preparation of estimates of total material quantities for the Department of Munitions & Supply. This job was efficiently sweated out by Sgt. Hrudy and Cpl. Milne, estimators in our Engineering Office. Meanwhile, FS's Smitton and Williams and Sgts. Oland, Wallace and Grant started excavation and the securing of concrete aggregate in preparation for construction on the various Staging Units. Each Unit required a different type of construction—one calling for asbestos shingle finish, another for drop or bevel siding, while Watson Lake structures were of solid logs, caulked with oakum and asphalt mastic. The logs for the latter project were secured in territory adjacent to the Air Field, and cut on a portable saw-mill. Sgt. Warren's 19 men, with two tractors, cut over 30,000 lineal feet of logs and skidded them to the mill site in six days—an achievement comparable to the work of any experienced civilian organization working with full equipment. This crew was made up mostly of inexperienced loggers, excepting what they had learned during two previous months cutting cordwood for the

heating of U.S. Army and R.C.A.F. buildings situated in the Watson Lake area. Here another record was established by the R.C.A.F. when in four months 8500 cords of firewood were cut, 4500 cords being trucked to the Station wood lot and the balance skidded out of the woods to the main road two miles from camp. The cutting of firewood is by far the cheaper method of heating in the Yukon, for coal delivered by rail, water and truck truly becomes a precious mineral at a "dollar a shovelful!"

Commensurate to the high cost of bringing in coal, transportation costs on many items needed in the North West for construction were found to be out of proportion to similar charges in settled areas of the country. When construction was first started it was necessary to use aircraft to freight cement, lumber, etc., to the sites. At civilian air transport rates, a bag of cement would have cost about \$40 delivered from Edmonton to Whitehorse. The cost of transportation by civilian truck, after the Alcan Highway was completed, would have exceeded even air transport—at rates of one dollar and higher per ton-mile a similar bag of cement would have multiplied its value around a hundred times, and a ton of any material would have incurred prohibitive costs in freight alone. Cement shipped via boat from Vancouver to Skagway Alaska, thence over the White Pass & Yukon narrow-gauge railway to Whitehorse, reduced these costs to a very small fraction of road rates. Strangely enough, the freight charges for the rail shipment—Skagway to Whitehorse, a distance of only 106 miles—accounted for more than three-fifths of even these vastly diminished charges, while the water shipment which took five days for the passage was paid by the smaller balance. To economize on transportation of building material to the several sites, the R.C.A.F. shipped supplies for Whitehorse and Watson Lake via water to Skagway, flying and trucking them from there to their destinations. Materials for Fort Nelson and Fort St. John were trucked by the R.C.A.F. Transit Unit from the end of the steel at Dawson Creek, while direct rail connections were afforded at Grande

Prairie. Approximately 450 tons were delivered by the Transit Unit, over 900 tons were shipped from Vancouver through Skagway to Whitehorse, and over 150 tons of small items—such as electrical, heating and plumbing fixtures, as well as all personnel transportation—were carried by the R.C.A.F. Transport Squadron planes. In all, during the seven months from August 1943 to February, 1944, No. 4 Construction units completed more than 100 separate jobs—a record indeed for all the men who participated in organizing and carrying out the work while constantly experiencing the threat, and reality, of the northern winter and its drawbacks.

To cover the vast area of construction on the N.W.S.R. and No. 4 Training Command, the tradesmen (carpenters, electricians, concrete finishers, fitters, engineers stationary, heating and sheet metal men, assisted by construction hand tradesmen) were travelling by night and working by day in order to complete the work allotted to our Unit. Carpenters and other tradesmen put their hands to excavation, pouring concrete and other laborious tasks as seemed necessary to speed up the work, knowing that by co-operation we would finish what otherwise could not be completed during the good weather. FS Hegion, assisted by Sgt. Collier and crews, carried out all plumbing and steam fitting, which was a full time job for the limited number of Fitters General on strength; while FS Elmer supervised all warm-air heating and the fabrication work in our sheet metal shop at Calgary. FS Matheson, i/c of electrical work at Headquarters, assisted by FS's Dance and Hoover, covered all electrical installations, including fire alarm systems and land-line services which has been the second largest item of work allotted this Unit. Amalgamated with the foregoing trades is the Unit Workshop, under FS Huber, Master Mechanic, where all machine work, welding, blacksmithing and M. T. maintenance is done; also the Carpentry Workshop, under Sgt. James. The work carried out by the Unit would never have fulfilled requirements if all the tradesmen and construction hands under our organization had not been personally interviewed to ascertain their entire trade qualifications, experience and adaptabilities, so as to tabulate and allot each man to the work best suited for him to carry out.

The foregoing describes a part of the work covered by the Construction and Maintenance branch of the Unit but there are many important, though not so prominent phases in the routine work; such as Hangar Truss Repairs and Maintenance, servicing of Refrigeration and Kitchen Equipment, Chlorination of Water Lines and Sewage Disposal, Painting, and Master Keying all Station locks.

The Hangar Truss crews number 75 men, made up of seven crews under WO2 Guest, Foreman of Works, who is a specialist in heavy timber and truss work. Although very humdrum and tedious, this work is most important, for the failure of a hangar roof may destroy many aircraft with value far exceeding the cost of keeping all bolts tight and replacing broken timbers. Sgt. Steele, with two crews, follows the truss workers, repairing and adjusting hangar doors. The servicing of Refrigeration units—which number more than one thousand in the Command—is ably done by Sgt. Persson and Cpl. Brooks; and the keeping of Kitchen Equipment in repair is handled by Cpl. Dawson and LAC Lamb, our specialists in that line. These latter two branches amounted to 16 percent of our total jobs completed

in the last year. Sgt. Sharples, i/c of the servicing of Chlorination, Sewage Disposal, and Wells and Water Lines, is assisted by Cpl. Degrood, who specializes in Gasoline Storage Installations. Their crews work co-operatively in checking, and repairing where necessary, all water and gasoline pumping equipment. Next in importance to the maintenance of the hangar trusses is the work of the paint crews, numbering sixty men, under FS Ramsay. Divided into crews varying from three to ten men, each crew under a competent N.C.O. carries out maintenance painting on the several Stations, which consists of interior and exterior decorating as required to keep the buildings in first-class repair. Under the Internal Security essential in the R.C.A.F., Cpl. Price, our key specialist, has been an asset—"if the Unit were 'Priceless' we wouldn't have an asset"—in the making of duplicate keys for all doors, cabinets, and tool lockups as needed for the Master Key Boards of the many Stations. Since receiving his new machine, Cpl. Price can cut and tag 80 keys in a day. His ability to open safes has also proven invaluable to sundry people who have forgotten combinations.

The esprit de corps of all men under the Construction and Maintenance section—Foremen of Works, Carpenters, Electricians, Fitters General, Painters, Engineers Stationary, Firemen, Draughtsmen, Transport Drivers, Mechanics, Clerks and Construction Hands—is of a very high calibre, meriting praise worthy of any highly organized construction organization. They have shown, by comparative costs and results, that their determination and ability will perform any job in a top-ranking, workmanlike manner, reflecting credit on themselves, the Unit Commanding Officer, and on the R.C.A.F. Recently F/L A. Matheson, Officer i/c of Maintenance at No. 4 Training Command, complimented two of our men (who were on "Attend B's") by saying that they were as good workers as he had ever seen. If our men who are on "Light Duties" can leave such an impression, it takes no imagination to conceive their abilities when in regular top physical condition. Generally, our main regret is that as a Unit we have not been awarded a chance to get overseas and make a name for ourselves, as the Army Engineers are doing in the invasion of Europe. Perhaps even that one regret may soon be removed.

EDITOR'S NOTE—F/L James, author of the foregoing article, has been well grounded for his duties in No. 4 CMU. In pre-enlistment days, his contracting firm in Sarnia, Ont., specialized in commercial and industrial construction throughout that district. He joined the R.C.A.F. in Nov., 1941, and was successively Asst. Engineer on Construction and Works Officer until his posting to our Unit in December, 1942, when he was placed in charge of construction and maintenance by S/L F. C. Manning, No. 4 CMU's Commanding Officer since its inception. During 1943 he spent the greater part of his time travelling on the N.W.S.R. supervising the work there, covering many thousand miles by road and air. THE RAMBLER is pleased to print this interesting and authoritative account of the accomplishments of one of the major sections of our Unit.

* * *

END IN VIEW

The Lord gave us two ends to use—
One to sit with, one to think with—
The War depends on which we choose—
Heads we win, and tails we lose!

* * *

Buy War Savings Certificates—and save them.

S.O.S. Officers! T.O.S.

The upheaval in our Unit caused by exchange postings has not confined itself to the ranks. Last month, at a date too late to obtain press details, F/L G. J. Hodgkinson, our Adjutant since No. 4 CMU was first organized, was posted to No. 7 S.F.T.S., Macleod, Alberta. A good organizer, keenly interested in sports, and invaluable to the "RAMBLER" editorial staff in his capacity of advisor, F/L Hodgkinson will be missed throughout the Unit. We wish him luck and success in his new Station.

The vacated Adjutant's chair was filled—and that's the word we were looking for, chum—by F/O M. W. McDonald, posted here May 8th from No. 8 B. & G., Lethbridge. Personal details regarding our new Adjutant are hard to acquire (he is very reticent himself) but by cornering the odd Officer and several Airmen the following meagre information was gleaned: One—that for collective latitudinal and longitudinal dimensions he yields to no man in the Unit: Two—that he is already being referred to as "Tiny" from a respectful distance, which means well beyond ear-shot: Three—it is understood that he has refused to deliver a lecture on temperance: Four—that he spent sufficient time in the Northwest to enable him to associate fearlessly with our "bushed" personnel returned from that area: Five—as an experienced married man he did his utmost to save F/S Giffin by making him Orderly Sergeant on the day of his wedding: Six—(Editorial cheers) he stepped right from the presidency of "CHINOOK", the No. 8 B. & G. paper, into the chief advisory position on the "RAMBLER" editorial staff. Undoubtedly, we have many reasons to welcome F/O McDonald to our Unit.

From the Accounts Section, we learn with regret of the posting of F/O A. P. (Art) Forster, Accountant Officer, and another of our personnel who has been with No. 4 since its origin. He has enjoyed general popularity in the Unit, has been interested and active in nearly all of its endeavors, in addition to which he is often associated by our Airmen with pay—a sterling connection! In him the "RAMBLER" loses its business manager, and still worse (for we care little about sordid financial details) its photographer. The good wishes of the Unit go with F/O Forster on his posting to No. 4 I.T.S., Edmonton.

Of our new Accounting Officer, F/O R. A. Strong, we have been able to learn very little. He comes to No. 4 from No. 2 I.T.S., Regina, and originally hails from Vancouver. This latter, of course, will gain him many enthusiastic, if geographically prejudiced, immediate friends. He has already demonstrated the rapidity of promotion in our outfit—P/O to day, F/O tomorrow! The welcoming list becomes general, however, as we discover that he is a ball player; that in future it will be he handing out the new, crisp bills (one ten and five ones); that he is socially in top form while giving out—authoritatively—regarding certain famous west-coast night clubs; and that his initial "R" stands for "Rye". And, brother, connecting "Rye" and "Strong" brings such a pleasant, reminiscent vision to every No. 4 Airman that, with no further information, he would join in heartily welcoming our new Accountant Officer.



As pre-picnic enthusiasm ran high, Cartoonist Colnett and staff completed this blackboard advertisement.

OVERLOADS By Short Circuit

The Canteen loungers at their stag sessions are swinging "They're Breaking Up That Old Gang of Mine," or some similar old, tear-jerking gang ballad. The electrical crew is no exception to this woe, and the old boys sit around together disconsolately "remembering when!"

The first to shake the dust was Sgt. "Dusty" Miller, now sweating it out in the Medicine Hat dust bowl. Then Cpl. Stork dreamed of flying, and is grinding for an aircrew berth. That favorite quartette leader and humorist, Cpl. Bill Hammond, saw greener hills and is now training a new quartette at 9 CMU. Recently smiling Sgt. Bob Allen, turned despondent over the loss of the N.W.S.R., has trekked to a more southern plain at Mossbank.

These are old timers of the electrical crew who have packed their kits for other stations, and other canteen lounge tables under which to rest their feet. And there are still others who used to burn the midnight lights until the wee hours with song and story. We miss them all, and wish them luck until once again "Bill" will lead us all, re-united, in "The Gang's All Here!"

GANGSTERS' FAREWELL

For the last time the gang sends a cheery "Hello" and greeting to the rest of the lads in No. 4 CMU. We also congratulate the "RAMBLER"—it improves with every issue and doesn't need to take a back seat to any of the other Station papers we have seen. So carry on the good work.

The day we all hoped would never come has arrived for the gang—the parting of the ways, and for some leaving 4 CMU. Stew Cummings is on his annual leave at Timmins; Slim Claus has become tool dispenser in the Workshop; Bill Colquhoun is working around Headquarters, and Johnny Flynn and yours truly are posted to Vancouver. The gang has been together about a year, travelling from Station to Station for 4 CMU. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the gang for their co-operation and the spirit they showed in their work; also to express our appreciation of the job done by Officers and Headquarters staff.

So cheerio and lots of luck, 'til we see you again on the Sunny Side of the Street.

—Sgt. Hammond and his Gangsters.

Equipment Quips

By LAC George Hill

To Regina LAC White has returned; to Macleod, LAC Haverstock. No more do we sniff disgustedly the "aromatic" perfume of "Whitie's" cigars. Week-ends now he can go back to his general store and entertain his old cronies around the cracker barrel. Thus, one by one, our T.D. staff is being reduced. Who knows? Sgt. Smith may soon be on his way!

We understand Dr. Barton is in town from Vancouver. Could it be he's here checking up on his troublesome, wayward, prodigal son-in-law, Sgt. Smith? Dr. Barton also could be here playing a Mr. Hyde role by spying on Sgt. Prittie. His wife, you know, has moved to the coastal metropolis, and many strange things happen when wife lives in one city and husband in another.

That lone "Service" vote recently cast in the staunch Liberal constituency of Gull Lake, Sask., was registered by LAW "Mitch"-ell.

Robin Hood and his "merrie men" had nothing on F/L Turner (Robin Hood) and Equipment Joes Cpl. Mappin (Friar Tuck), and LAC Colnett (Little John).

It's Monday morning. Mr. Turner enters his inner sanctum and seats himself at his desk. Through his very becoming new gold-rimmed spectacles he peers into the outer office and with raised voice calls, "LAC Fine." "Sick parade, sir!" "Oh thank you, Bruce." It's Tuesday morning, and again the pleading "LAC Fine." "He's at the Colonel Belcher Hospital, sir!" On Wednesday, with the usual accented appeal, "I say, Harris, do you know where Fine is?" "M.I. room, sir!" Again on Thursday, "Mitchell, have you seen Fine?" "Sir, he had another appointment with the psychiatrist!" On Friday morning it's "Colnett, where's Fine?" "Dental Parade sir!" Addressing Sgt. Prittie on Saturday morning in near exasperation Mr. Turner, with knitted brow, inquires, "I say, Sergeant, do you know where Fine is?" "Sir, he's on a forty-eight!" So is recorded the history of what happened in a single week in the Equipment Section.

Entertainment

By Sgt. Don Menzies

After much ado in regard to the proposed Unit Picnic—which has yet to materialize—it was decided to work off a little suppressed enthusiasm in the form of a Smoker, which took place in the Unit Canteen on the night of June 23rd. Proceedings commenced at 1930 hours with a mild amount of thirst quenching, followed by hot dogs, interspersed with general conversation as to individual prowess, accomplishments, past experiences and general hardships. Community singing was carried out, ably supported by Sgts. Howie Dedrick and Leo Godden from No. 10 Repair Depot, who performed creditably on the piano and saxophone respectively. Our Officers—ever interested in promoting knowledge among the Airmen—set an example by arriving in a body just prior to the showing of the "educational" films at 2100 hours. Well, these pictures were both revealing and instructive—exhibiting views of things which the boys had previously merely dreamed of. A running but unofficial comment was recited throughout the show by LAC Buckley, while high spots in the scenery were located by F/L James, who not having a pointer handy was forced to use his finger. The last of the stragglers found the exit shortly after 2330 hours, and wide was the comment on the success, order and informality of the proceedings. A vote of thanks should certainly go to the entire committee responsible for the success of the occasion with mention made of the efforts of our new Accounts Officer, F/O Strong, who saw to the niceties of preparation during the early part of the evening, and grateful recognition extended to Sgt. "Jock" and his assistants who worked so efficiently behind the counter making sure that the wants of all were attended. All in all, the smoker was an unqualified success.

For those who are still in hopes that the already much-abused picnic has not been kicked into the cellar for keeps, may we pass along the information that we are still operating according to plan—subject to the weather man's sanction—and expectations are high that another effort will be put forth immediately after the Stampede.



Another of the enthusiastic picnic signs.

Did You Know That

F/O Aldridge, the Educational Officer, is holding round-table discussions on world and national affairs every other Monday evening? The next discussion get-together will be on Monday, July 3rd.

LAC Stogre, one of our "outside" men for a long time, is now an office "joe" helping Sgt. Menzies in Central Registry?

LAC George Hill says that he hopes there will be an open season on N.C.O.'s after the war? He even suggests a bounty of \$100 on the scalp (or hide) of every one above the rank of A.C.

Some R.C.A.F. Fighter Squadrons are now with the United Nations Forces in France?

The weekly fastball games between the N.C.O.'s and Airmen are arousing much interest and rivalry?

Sgt. Ab Ruller, our rotund stationary engineer, is back in Calgary again after several months in the South (meaning Alberta, of course). The Calgary boys have eased up on kidding the B.C. lads about the rain lately?

The Foothills Baseball League which, with one exception, is made up of Service teams, is providing Calgary with some pretty good "hard ball" this year?

Airmen who plan to go back to school after the war, either for technical or academic courses, can start now by taking Canadian Legion Correspondence Courses? The Educational Officer will be glad to supply any further information.

The French town of Caen, around which the Allies and Germans are now fighting, is where William the Conqueror is buried? (If anyone cares).

F/O Harold Pratt, our former E.O., now at No. 10 R.D., was pitching for the No. 10 W.D.'s fastball team recently? Was your slip showing, Sally?

F/S "Lefty" Moffat, No. 3's (and also No. 4's) genial fire chief, is the "blind man" at the Foothills Baseball League games? So far he has managed to dodge all pop bottles.

Sgt. Persson recently made a flight in F/S "Harry" Hollis' Link Trainer while in Edmonton, managing to fly it into the ground no less than six times?

John Labrie propounds a riddle to George Hill, asking why our Workshop is like a hen? Answer—not equipped with water-works.

IN MEMORIAM

We extend deepest sympathy to LAC Rintoul, A., in the recent loss of his brother.

As this issue goes to press we learn with deep regret that FS E. T. Donaldson is bereaved for the second time this war in the loss of his brother, a member of the Blue Bird Squadron, on June 17th last during the invasion. Another brother was previously killed in action at Dieppe.

Cee Too - Eastern Division

By LAC Hickling, R. E.

It has been decided that we of the Eastern Division give an account of ourselves through the "RAMBLER" columns.

We cannot say that the battle here in the far east has been won, but progress is as good as was anticipated and the situation is well in hand. Our boys are entering the sports field with a vengeance this season. Having completed the bowling league games, we are now well away to a nice start in softball. A lot of the boys have been practicing diligently lately on another very scientific game, so don't be surprised if you hear of them entering a new tournament. We understand someone rudely interrupted their practice recently on a late afternoon. Don't know the chap's name. Some of the boys called him (censored), guess it was only a nom de guerre, de plume, or even a pseudonym, for all we know. It has been said that a certain Corporal is "locally" recommended for the D.S.O., due to his displaying extremely keen eyesight and saving the day for the personnel, E.D., by his quick thinking and action, while on duty (?) and in time of dire need.

Our clerk has been kept busy lately looking after reports, files, passes, etc., booking us on and off the station, receiving and dispatching the mail—and is he ever getting good on the typewriter. Can play a few simple tunes, and is improving rapidly. He also shows a mother's solicitude in attending to our S.O.P.'s, ration cards, clothing parades, etc. But, chum, here is a tip. Don't suggest a 48 just after the arrival of the mail—in fact, don't even go near the office, because our Sergeant is in deep concentration then, and can hardly control his fingers as they twitch to get at the typewriter and answer all letters.

Like all CMU personnel, our boys are coming and going all the time. It is nice to see some come back again, after an absence. We had a fine visit from a direct entry AC2 recently—but wait, he is a Corporal now, and truly rightly deserves to be so. It seems years since we visited Headquarters en masse, and the next time we are called in to do some "about TAH's" we will let you know in advance to allow time for ordering a few extra gross of aspirins.

We are all rather busy these days, with some of the boys at Mossbank on a little job fixing a slight depression in the runway, under the care of Cpl. Hearne. At Swift Current, assigned to our chief bulldozer operator, there is the piling up of what we spread out last fall, and there is also a lot of work for that army type 4 x 4 with the big auxiliary tank mounted on the back. Incidentally, Cpl. Hearne has taken a sudden and mysterious interest in his work at Mossbank. Old flame of his stationed there, maybe? Could be. One of our boys is planting quite a lot of Canadian Rye west of here. No need to get excited yet, though—that stuff takes time. What were Cpl. Hartnell and LAC Brown doing in that farmer's field with a 4 x 4 recently? Could have been testing the jeep for post-war farm work, or it may have been a private invasion. And what is this new liquid recommended for properly removing tires? All we can think of is nitro-glycerine.

And this LAC of ours who forsakes camp promptly after supper each evening. Without mentioning names, we say, "If it's that bad, Slim, we strongly recommend marriage. At least our worries would be over."

Our W-DEES

By M. T.

Cpl. Lee Finlay (as we thought possibly for the better) recently moved into Central Registry to perform her duties. It is with great regret that we report her new work so arduous as to necessitate her taking leave in order to rest up. Some sergeants are just naturally slave drivers, all others learn it quickly.

Dot, in addition to a sailor, has taken up tennis and a bicycle. We understand the latter are to be put down again in the near future when the sailor arrives and Dot goes on leave. Ah, well, old friends are best. However, the interim waiting seems to be irritating—Cpl. Mappin claims that these days she is picking on him to the extent that he is wearing away to a shadow. Which reminds us, we must get our glasses fixed again, some of these important changes seem to be escaping us.

Marian is now worthily holding down the second base for No. 3 gals softball team and riding horseback quite considerable. Supposedly a very sensible plan, so that she will be able to astonish the Mountie from High River with her prowess in his own game.

And for ourself, we had firmly decided to quit last month—due to reasons having nothing to do with the Unit. Our decision, however, was overpowered, talked down, and uprooted by our superior officers, and we are happy to report that we are now a probable personnel member for the duration. And that, really, we are glad it is that way.

MATCHED

- October 16th, 1943—LAC Claus, J., to Jean B. Burgess, at Winnipeg.
 May 23rd, 1944—Cpl. Syme, R. J., to Stella B. Hoffos, at Assiniboia.
 June 3rd, 1944—F/S Giffin, W. L., to Bertha R. Betts, at Calgary.
 June 2nd, 1944—LAC Poleschuk, D. M., to Jessie Wasylyk, at Saskatoon.

HATCHED

- February 11th, 1944—To LAC Purvis, D. A., a son, Frederick Dennis.
 May 10th, 1944—To Sergt. Collier, T. N., a son, Theodore David Allan.
 April 17th, 1944—To AC1 Bratke, H. A., a daughter, Barbara Joan.

UN-HATCHED!

Ye Ed. has discovered that reading D.R.O.'s is not enough. In addition, you must know how, and read CAREFULLY! Take the case of being careless about the name ABOVE or BELOW the entry—in the May issue we published an item reading as follows:

(Born to) LAC Authier, a son—Ronald Albert.

It turns out that LAC Authier is a respectable middle-aged bachelor, who vigorously denies any knowledge of such a happening. Well, before apologizing, we looked it up. The entry was there, and so was the name—but the name was ABOVE the entry. See what we mean? LAC Authier was responsible for the entry before his name, but had nothing to do with what followed concerning Ronald Albert. Page Cpl. Morash.

SPORTS

By Chet

Sports activities in general for the month of June have been very limited. June rains have curtailed other events besides the Unit Picnic (there it is again!) and few scheduled games of fastball have been played. N.C.O.'s and Airmen have played two games at the regular Wednesday afternoon sports sessions, each coming through with a win. On June 14th the Airmen had no opposition, and 32-7 was the sad story when the game was called off—because of pain! On June 21st the N.C.O.'s turned in a 21-12 victory making the score even—in games.

Your reporter regrets to say that the statement made last month regarding no bones having as yet been broken at the Wednesday afternoon sports period must now be rescinded. Sgt. "Ted" Collier had a few ribs broken and this reporter is having trouble typing his report owing to putting his little finger in the wrong place when endeavoring to catch a ball, resulting in a broken digit.

The horseshoe tournament is still being held up for various reasons, but one of the favorite teams was eliminated when James and McKay defeated Bullard and Williamson. The first of these two now looks like a certainty for the prize money, although Drinkall and Hogarth may give them a tough battle. LAC Boissoneau seems to be busy training a dark horse for the next tournament—and perhaps it is true that the C.O. would appear to be likely championship material for our next contest.

4 CMU AIRMAN INVENTS SECRET MACHINE

A private and successful trial of a new secret machine took place on the Army training grounds during the rain and darkness late in the evening of Friday, June 16th. It was of such significance as to make it safe to predict that bulldozers and Letourneaus are things of the past. For at this experimental test, performed in the presence of only three trusted witnesses, LAC "Ash" Armstrong successfully and instantaneously moved at least three cubic yards of wet dirt in one rapid operation, unassisted by any implements or machines other than his bare hands, his face and the front of his tunic! Even deducting the half-yard which remained stuck to his hands, face and tunic, the achievement is still momentous. We all join in congratulating "Ash", and in hoping that Military Engineers will soon be profiting by his invention on some of the larger projects. Anyone interested in more complete details of the experiment will please apply to Cpl. G. Clark, Cpl. B. Dickens, or LAC O. G. Hooper, who comprised the three astonished witnesses to whom we have referred.

A. C. WOLF'S SPRINGSONG

They quote a bard of yore as saying,
"Would that we two were Maying"—
And now it's May, a splendid day,
I would that I knew how to May!

So if, my sweet you sense his meaning
And it's behavior seeming.
(Or even if it's not that way)
Let's hence, and pitch a little May!

Writing Contest Cash Prizes

To improve and vary our paper, and also in the hope that a dormant Shakespeare, or Voltaire, may be aroused to the extent of bestirring his inactive pen, it was decided to introduce a literary contest in the RAMBLER. While the effort may be on any subject, and in prose or verse, the following is suggested only as a guide to a range of subjects:

Guest Editorial.

Article on the Work, or Trade, of any Airman.

Article on rehabilitation, or kindred subject of interest.

Poem—any subject.

Short, short story.

There are no restrictions on subjects, style, or, within reason, length. Contributions each month will be judged by the Editors, on the following points:

Subject matter (personnel interest).

Style of writing and continuity.

Originality.

A first prize of \$5.00, and a second prize of \$2.50, will be paid in cash to those respectively submitting the best and second best article, essay or poem. The competition is open to any member of the Unit who does not belong to the editorial staff. So, boys and girls, you're on your own. Unburden your bosoms of that suppressed desire to write the literary gem of the year, bask in the fame of your public, and take along an extra five bucks on your next trip to Banff, or wherever it is you go.

TRADE TEST TABLE-TALK

"Yeah and the Trades Test Officer he says to me, how long have YOU had a C group and I says 14 months sir and couldn't get a trade test before on account of that lousy . . ."

"Well you shoulda heard the questions he asked ME and I says I'm no good at theory, sir, but just gimme a chance at practical . . ."

"Any you guys know how long I gotta wait before I hear . . ."

"I never even heard of it and me at the trade eighteen years and so I sure told him . . ."

"Yeah the nerve he had tellin' ME how to mix concrete. Why what that guy don't know is . . ."

"Only five minutes he keeps me in there and then kicks me out and I haven't any idea if I passed or . . ."

"And I says to him, sir, if I was worth sixty dollars a week before I joined up I oughta have a C in the Airforce now shouldn't . . ."

"If I don't get my B this time I'm never gonna do another day's work in this outfit as long as . . ."

"Geez I wish I knew whether I made it or . . ."

AC2: "Do you think they will send me overseas, Sarge?"

Sergeant: "Not unless we are invaded!"

The equipment sergeant was outfitting a new recruit with a uniform. The trousers fitted perfectly, the tunic might have been tailored for him in Saville Row, and the cap was just right "Good gosh" exclaimed the sergeant, "you must be deformed!"

THE NUT GANG

By Cpl. Drinkall

There have not been many articles by, or news from, the Nut Gangs who are out on T.D., and I'm sure they can tell us plenty. Now that we have lost Cpl. Travers, surely we will not be silent entirely. Are we when we are at work?

Our gang is close to home—Headquarters—doing our bit and having a grand time. That is, if you can call it a grand time being up in the air among the trusses balancing and feeling our way around, to say nothing of eating a lot of dust shaken down by our pet, the Impact Wrench. We know some who call it a helluva lot worse, especially the Officers, N.C.O.'s and staff of the hangers which we take over. They surely are awakened from business as usual by our Pet.

There has been a number of men of the Truss crew posted, leaving the old-timers. But maybe some new blood will liven things for us.

Cpl. Travers left in not too good health. We wish him Godspeed to complete recovery. W.O.2 Guest we like to see with his happy smile, so get around often, Major. And finally, our congratulations to Cpl. Syme.

CONSTRUCTION FLASH!

In proof of the versatile ability of our tradesmen, it should become public knowledge that our C/O, one of our F/S's and a driver were successful in repairing and lubricating a hotel door which had refused to function—also in using ingenuity and originality in lubricating same. Points in applied personality might be gained from F/S Ramsay, who demonstrated the ease with which it is possible (with the proper approach) to procure extra butter rations from dutiful, yet susceptible, waitresses. And, when you are contemplating buying that birthday or Christmas present for wife or sweetheart, see F/S Ramsay for formulae permitting instant manufacture of high-grade bath salts or furniture polish.

Wouldn't It
Have Been
Nicer
IF
A LITTLE STORY
About Your Gang
Had
Been
In
This
Space?

On Rehabilitation

Procedure on Discharge—continued

Q. Are there any other regulations?

A. Yes. Steps of necessity had to be taken with regard to the possibility of changing economic conditions. For instance, an employer's business might be seriously jeopardized by the war and he might not be able to offer employment which was as good as, or better than, the situation the ex-service man left. In this case proceedings will not be taken against the employer under the Act if he offers employment under the best possible conditions and if he is not retaining someone else in the position that ex-service personnel left to enlist.

Q. Is seniority protected under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act?

A. Yes. Ex-service personnel employed in an industry where there are seniority rights must be reinstated with seniority for the period spent in the Services. If there are no seniority rights the employee must be re-engaged with preference according to the first date of employment and on terms no less favourable than would have prevailed had the period of employment not been interrupted by war service.

Q. What about disabled personnel under this Act?

A. If the employer can show that ex-service personnel are physically or mentally incapable of doing work which he has to offer, the Act does not apply.

Q. Is reinstatement in civil employment a permanent right or is there a time limit?

A. The onus is on the ex-service man to apply for reinstatement within three months after discharge from the Forces or from hospital in Canada, or within four months of similar discharge overseas.

Q. Who administers this Act?

A. It is administered by the Department of Labor and cases of infractions may be reported to the nearest Employment and Selective Service office.

(The next instalment deals with the Post-Discharge Re-establishment Order).

POST DISCHARGE RE-ESTABLISHMENT ORDER

Q. Under what authority are grants for subsistence paid to discharged members of the services?

A. These payments are made under a Privy Council Order, known as the Post Discharge Re-Establishment Order. One of the most important parts of the programme, it has become known as the backbone of the re-establishment plan.

Q. Who are eligible for grants?

A. The grants are divided into five categories. They are payable to:

- Those fit and available for employment who are seeking work and for whom there is no suitable employment.
- Those following a course of vocational training under the Vocational Training Co-ordination Act.
- Those who have embarked on private enterprises, such as farms or small businesses and who are waiting for returns from those enterprises.
- Those temporarily incapacitated and unable to accept positions.
- Those furthering their academic education looking towards university degrees.

Q. What is the scale of grants?

A. Single men receive \$10.20 weekly and married men with their wives \$14.40 weekly.

Q. Is there any provision for children and other dependents?

A. Yes. Provision for these dependents is approximately the same as the Dependents' allowances paid by the Dependents' Allowance Board.

Q. What is the period for which the grants are payable?

A. They are payable for twelve months, or the period of service, whichever is the lesser.

Q. Is there any time limit in these grants?

A. Yes. The out-of-work benefits are available only in the first eighteen months after discharge. Other grants must be applied for in the first twelve months after discharge or cessation of hostilities, whichever is later, or of a date set by the Minister.

Q. Are there any exceptions to this time period?

A. (1) Yes. Exceptions are made in the cases of those taking vocational training or furthering their education with a view to university degrees. In the case of university education, students are eligible for grants on a basis of month for month with their period in service. There is a further governing factor, that of scholarship and effort. Students whose records justify it can be carried right through to graduation and outstanding students, if it is considered to be in the national interest, can go through to post-graduate degrees. In the case of vocational training, the training, where necessary for re-establishment, may be carried beyond the twelve month period.

Q. How long can I draw unemployment benefits under this Order?

A. The Order makes provision for unemployment benefits for a maximum period of twelve months, or the period of service, whichever is less, within the first 18 months after discharge.

Q. Could I continue to draw these benefits for the full period if I make no effort to find work?

A. No. There is a provision in the legislation which permits the benefits being cut off in the same way as unemployment insurance benefits may be cut off. Canada's rehabilitation programme is designed for those ex-service personnel who want to help themselves. The out-of-work benefits will not be regarded as a dole or a right.

Q. If I am an office worker and refuse to accept work at heavy labour, will this debar me from securing out-of-work benefits?

A. No. Those entitled to out-of-work benefits are ex-service personnel who are fit and available for work, but for whom no suitable employment is available. Obviously, an office worker is not suited to a job digging ditches.

Q. If no suitable work is available for me over a period of time, what will be done?

A. Canada has made a wide survey of employment opportunities. One solution would be to have a training counsellor discuss these with you so that you may be given the opportunity to take training for suitable work on vocational training grants and allowances.

Q. If I start to work and my health becomes bad and I am temporarily incapacitated what happens?

A. Under these conditions you can draw grants under the Post-discharge Re-Establishment Order, if treatment or hospitalization is not necessary or admissible.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Q. Under the provisions for vocational training under the Post Discharge Re-Establishment Order, what qualifications must I have in order to take advantage of this phase of the programme?

A. All that is asked is that the training be of the type which will benefit you in your rehabilitation. Training counsellors may suggest to you certain courses of training from their knowledge of careers which offer the best opportunity, but, in a broad sense, the philosophy is that there is always room at the top for a good man.

Q. Am I compelled to take any course of training which is offered to me?

A. No. You need to show only that you will benefit by the training and that it will assist you in your rehabilitation.

Q. How will I be trained?

A. It is expected that more than 50 per cent will be trained on the job. If necessary the Department of Pensions and National Health will supplement the income to which your employer feels you are entitled in this training period. In other cases, the facilities at present existing, such as the War Emergency Training Schools, technical schools, etc., will be used, and, in these cases, maintenance will be provided under grants authorized by the Post Discharge Re-Establishment Order.

Q. What assurance have I that I will get a job after I complete my training?

A. The policy of training men on the job will take care of natural absorption into industry in a large number of cases. As emphasized before, an effort will be made to direct trainees into those industries which have need of skilled men. The policy is that in every case where a man takes training, an effort is made to have a job for him at the time he completes his training.

Q. Suppose I am a married man and have to leave my home for training, what happens?

A. You may be given an additional allowance of \$5.00 weekly for maintenance.

Q. If I have to travel daily for my training, is there any allowances for this expense?

A. Yes. Provision is made for commuting allowances to cover these cases where such expense exceeds regular carfare. The allowance can not exceed \$5.00 weekly.

Q. With whom should I discuss the course I wish to take?

A. Contact your nearest Veterans' Welfare Officer. He will give you the necessary advice.

Q. Does the training plan embrace serving women as well as serving men?

A. Serving women are eligible on the same basis as men.

Q. If present facilities are not sufficient for training, what will happen?

A. Special training establishments will be set up as required.

Q. How do organized labour and the employers of labour feel about the training programme?

A. In all cases where organized skilled trades are concerned, the co-operation of organized labour and of employers is obtained in working out the details. Many firms have already signified their intention of giving preference in employment to ex-service personnel.

UNIVERSITY TRAINING

Q. Is there any provision for me to fulfill my ambition to get university education?

A. Yes. If you can qualify for university entrance within fifteen months of your discharge, you may receive one month of university education for every month you were in the service. In this way, a man with two years' service, could secure three, eight-month terms of university education, on the scale of grants authorized by the Post Discharge Re-Establishment Order.

Q. Is this period of time a right?

A. Not necessarily. As stated before, Canada's rehabilitation programme is designed for those who want to help themselves. Provision is made that no year for which grants have been paid may be repeated on these grants, nor may a university student carry any supplement into a following year.

Q. Is there any reward for scholarship and effort?

A. Yes. The student whose standards of effort and scholarship justify it, on the recommendation of his university, may receive assistance, beyond his period of service, to enable him to complete his course. An outstanding student can go on to post-graduate work.

Q. Is there any financial assistance in addition to the maintenance grants?

A. All fees are paid, including athletic fees. The student, however, must buy his own books.

Q. If I fail in a university year and decide that I want to take vocational training, can I do this?

A. It can be done if your period of service is sufficiently long. You cannot, however, exhaust the benefits to which your service entitled you in university and then receive these benefits during vocational training. In the same way, out-of-work benefits and temporary incapacitation benefits would result in the time of your entitlement to other benefits being shortened.

THE VETERANS' LAND ACT

Q. Has the Government any plan for settling ex-service personnel on the land after the war?

A. Yes. The Veterans' Land Act provides for three types of establishments, namely:

- 1. Full-time farming for veterans who have practical farming experience.
- 2. Small holdings within reach of place of work, but outside high taxation areas, for veterans engaged in industrial or other employment.
- 3. Small holdings located near fishing areas for experienced commercial fishermen.

Q. Who are eligible for this assistance?

A. Generally, those who were ordinarily resident in Canada at the time of enlistment and who have been on active service. If service has been in Canada only, a minimum of twelve months' service is required. Anybody who has served overseas is eligible as well as any ex-serviceman in receipt of a disability pension who has been honourably discharged, or permitted honourably to resign.

Q. What are two of the important principles of the Act?

A. That the veteran must be suited to the type of settlement undertaking he engages in and that he should not be burdened with an overwhelming debt. The State gives him a substantial grant or gift, conditional only on fulfilment of his contract for ten years after he takes over.

Q. What financial assistance is available for full-time farming?

A. The State will finance the purchase of full-time farming land and buildings up to \$4,800 and livestock and farm equipment up to \$1,200. The veteran is required to repay 10 per cent of the cost of the land and buildings in cash at the time of taking over, plus two-thirds of the cost of the land and buildings, over a period up to 25 years, with interest at 3½ per cent per annum. In cases in which the maximum assistance of \$6,000 is given (\$4,800 - \$1,200) the veteran is required to repay \$480 in cash and \$3,200 on a long-term basis in equal annual instalments including interest. His conditional grant by the State, therefore, is \$2,320 (\$6,000 less \$3,680 = \$2,320) which represents the full cost to the State of the livestock and equipment purchased for him, plus \$1,120 of the cost of the land and buildings.

Q. What if the land and buildings of the farm which I select cost more than \$4,800, and the cost of livestock and equipment is above the \$1,200 set out in the Act?

A. You must pay any excess above these two figures in cash along with the \$480 down payment at the time you make application for assistance.

Q. Is any veteran eligible to go on a farm?

A. No. To engage in full-time farming a veteran must have had practical farming experience.

Q. What financial assistance is available for establishment on small holdings?

A. Exactly the same as for full-time farming, except that, in the case of small holdings for urban workers it is estimated that the farming equipment required to operate the holding will be much less than for full-time farming and will not ordinarily exceed \$500 to \$600. In the case of commercial fishermen, commercial fishing equipment up to \$1,200 may be supplied in place of farm equipment and livestock.

Q. Can two commercial fishermen go together as partners and obtain up to \$2,400 for commercial fishing equipment?

A. Yes, provided both are ex-servicemen and qualify for commercial fishing.

Q. Must I take advantage of the Veterans' Land Act within a specified period after discharge?

A. No. It is the intention to carry on establishment over a number of years so that those who wish to take advantage of the Act will have ample opportunity to do so.

Q. Should I try to save money in addition to that which is required to meet the down payment on land and buildings?

A. Yes, by all means, especially if you intend to engage in full-time farming. Funds will be required for seed and feed and other items that must be met, especially during the first year of establishment.

Q. Can I sell my farm or small holding and benefit by the Government grant if I decide to change my plans?

A. No. The Act forbids the sale or other disposition of the property by the veteran until he has carried out the terms of his contract for ten years, or has paid off the full cost to the Government of the land, improvements and chattels purchased for him.

Q. If I should die, what happens to my interest in the property?

A. It passes to your heirs.

Q. If I already own a farm, can I obtain advances to pay off a mortgage, make improvements, or to purchase livestock and farm equipment?

A. Yes. Up to \$3,200 may be advanced for these purposes provided the total does not exceed 60 per cent of the value of the

land and buildings as established by the Director of the Veterans' Land Act. Advances for the purchase of livestock and farm equipment on mortgage security may not exceed \$2,500 or 50 per cent of the value of the land and buildings.

Q. Where do I make application?

A. Regional Offices have been set up in every province and applications should be made to your nearest Regional Office.

Q. Do I have to take land which the Government selects for me?

A. No. You are at perfect liberty to select your own land. The only condition is that you must be able to satisfy the Director of the Veterans' Land Act that it offers a reasonable opportunity for your successful establishment. Properties are now being purchased and held from which a selection may be made, if desired, when demobilization takes place, but no veteran will be limited to selection from farms already on hand.

Q. Can I make application while still serving?

A. No. You must be discharged from service before an application can be considered.

TREATMENT REGULATIONS

Q. If I am in receipt of a disability pension, for what treatment am I eligible if I become incapacitated?

A. Pensioners hospitalized for pensionable disabilities receive free treatment with allowances for themselves and dependents as a permanent right. Pensioners (and non-pensioners with meritorious service) may receive free treatment at any time without allowances, subject to qualification from medical and economic viewpoints.

Q. On what scale are the applicable treatment allowances to pensioners?

A. At the rates laid down under P.C. 91: generally at the 100% pension rate less \$30.00 per month.

Q. If I am not a pensioner, to what treatment am I entitled?

A. Any veteran may receive treatment for a non-pensionable disability, provided that such treatment commences within one year of discharge.

Q. Are there any allowances in these cases of non-pensioners?

A. Allowances may be paid for twelve months, or a period equal to the period of service, whichever is the lesser, during the first eighteen months following discharge. These are at the rate of \$62.40 a month for a man and wife, and for a single man, outpatient, \$44.20 a month. For an in-patient, with no dependents or other obligations, the allowance is 14.20 monthly. There is an allowance for children on approximately the same scale as paid by the Dependents' Allowance Board.

Q. If I am discharged as physically incapacitated and require continuous treatment from the time of my discharge, what happens?

A. In these cases, there is free treatment with pay of rank and allowances of rank up to a ceiling of Lieutenant in the Army, Sub-Lieutenant in the Navy, and Flying Officer (non-flying list) in the Air Force.

Q. Is this continued until I am physically fit?

A. The treatment is continued but, insofar as allowances are concerned, they may be continued only for a year, or for the period of service, whichever is the lesser.

(To be continued)

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