

RECEIVES WING AT GRADUATION EXERCISES



R. W. Yeo of Toronto, Ont., who was presented with his Air Navigator's wings by D. C. Coleman, chairman of Canadian Pacific Air Lines Limited, at the Wings Parade of No. 9 Air Observer School, St. John, P.Q., on August 14, No. 9 A.O.S. is operated by Dominion Airways (Observers) Limited, supervised by Canadian Pacific Air Lines Limited in conjunction with the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan—Canadian Pacific Photo.



The Individual Citizen's Army

ALAN MAURICE IRWIN

A Weekly Column About This and That in Our Canadian Army

"What, more drill?" This probably heard your friends in the services grumble about drill. I've done it myself. And I've found arguments in which John Citizens have held forth on the subject. In the early days of this new war I found myself leading a ready army to complaints that "Bow and arrow soldiers" were wasting the boys' time with a lot of "barrack-square stuff."

And for quite a long time, although for its precision and snapness I like drill, I was inclined to subscribe to the opinion that it was a waste of time, and to label myself a "bow and arrow soldier."

Two weeks ago, when I was first introduced to the new "battle drill," I began to see the light. I suppose the reason for that was because I had to convince Reserve Army recruits that there is a reason for the drill to which so much of their early army life is devoted.

In order to supply myself with good reasons to pass along I had to think about the subject considerably more than I had previously done, as is so often the case, the whole thing fell into a pattern.

Until then my excuse for drill had been that it is necessary in the early days of a soldier's training to teach him that he is part of a group and that the group is not capable of functioning as a unit until it has become integrated through constant practice. In addition, of course, there is the fact that a body of men marching under complete discipline will be a more effective fighting unit than a similar body walking at random.

I hadn't thought of the origin of the drill or the underlying reasons for its institution. And I probably wouldn't have puzzled that out for myself yet if it hadn't been necessary for me to study the "battle drill" that is now a part of Army training.

There have been one or two articles about Battle Drill written in England and published in Canadian papers. One of them, by Captain Kin Beattie, Toronto newspaperman, is now Press Editor of the Toronto Star. He has emphasized that it had been received with enthusiasm by the Canadians, but did not go into much detail about the drill itself.

Two reasons for this lack of detail could be that a written description of a drill is a pretty dull subject or that for security reasons details of the drill are to be made public.

For either or both of those reasons this column will content itself with saying that Battle Drill is a series of exercises designed to make good battle field habits instinctive and that the drill, which can be carried out literally anywhere, is practical and does just what is intended.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

NOT SO BAD, AFTER ALL. Recently we looked into the matter of our personal income tax and forced savings. Or, to be quite accurate, we enlisted the help of someone whose arithmetical skill is greatly superior to our own and watched the tax being worked out. It was considerably less than we had thought it would be. As a result we are enjoying a pleasant, though probably deceptive, feeling of wealth.

We suggest that you take the plunge and look into your own situation if you have not already done so. The recent budget was admittedly a stiff one, but Mr. Healey has not picked the country clean; he knows that there must be a certain amount of money left after taxes are paid, or we shall not be able to live.

He has left us enough to live on, if we are careful. Indeed, he has done better than that; he has left us enough to be able to save, and to buy War Savings Certificates, which are undoubtedly the best investments offering these days.

—Peterborough Examiner.

DUTY IN FORESTRY

Benedictine monks for over 900 years have been cultivating one of the world's finest forests, and it surrounds an ancient hermitage, about fifty miles southeast of Florence, Italy. A report in an American forestry magazine says that this forest is as fine as it was nearly 1,000 years ago, though lumber has been taken out in great quantities. The monks plant new trees as fast as they cut down old ones. Our forests are rapidly disappearing. Unless we want a treeless Canada, we, too, will have to plant a tree for each one logged. Forest destruction is our greatest waste.

—Guelph Mercury.

CUT DOWN RAGWEED

Ragweed is a heavy crop and suffers from hay fever are having a tough time of it. The munt-ezality should make a thorough clean-up of the vacant lots in town. The owners of such places should make sure that they are kept clear of the weed. You may not be a water-eyed sneezer yourself, but there are others who think you are, and people cannot do their best work when constantly sneezing and rubbing their eyes.

—Sinco Reporter.

DO THEY EVER?

"How Sergeants Get Soldiers to Like Them," says the headline. What will be the first institution some soldiers have heard that sergeants ever do.

—Windsor Star.

HOOT, MON!

They say that one of the oddest sights in the Canadian army overseas is that of a Canadian band playing the bagpipes in the East. The band is in position to meet a cavalry charge.

It sounds reasonable, doesn't it? And at that time the drill would be in position to meet a cavalry charge.

Off the battlefield it is still necessary to have drill movements for the orderly handling of troops, and for soldiers of the Individual Citizen's Army drill its uses too.

Drill for civilians! Sure! We've all been drilling ever since gasoline was rationed. That particular drill didn't affect us all, but the next one did.

That's right! Sugar! But even more important than the absolute rationing of sugar announced May 26 was the voluntary rationing of tea and coffee we were asked to carry out.

It was a drill, a drill to train us for the battlefield when absolute rationing of sugar and coffee was necessary to have drill movements for the orderly handling of troops, and for soldiers of the Individual Citizen's Army drill its uses too.

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THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

United States Takes Offensive In Battle Of Solomon Islands

No matter what may be the final outcome of the battle still being fought in the Solomon Islands, says the New York Times, one fact emerges clearly: the United States, in close collaboration with its allies, has taken the offensive. We are not trying to check a Japanese advance, as we were in the Battles of Midway and the Coral Sea. Instead, we are striking by sea, by air and by land to wrest from the Japanese control of a strategic area which they have held and have for further offensive operations against them.

As yet we know little of the details of the action except that the American forces have succeeded in forcing a landing after a naval engagement in which our losses, on the basis of the latest available information, amounted to "at least one cruiser sunk and two destroyers, two destroyers and one transport damaged." We may be reasonably certain that the Japanese claims of destruction inflicted on our fleet are fantastically false. They announced that twenty-two of our ships had been sunk or put out of action. If we had suffered even half this loss the battle would have ended then and there on a most catastrophic note.

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Second, it is unlikely that we would risk an attack jeopardizing the whole Pacific. The Japanese claims of destruction inflicted on our fleet are fantastically false. They announced that twenty-two of our ships had been sunk or put out of action. If we had suffered even half this loss the battle would have ended then and there on a most catastrophic note.

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WE FOUND ALL-BRAN SUPERIOR TO MARSH CATHARTICS

New surgical instruments which "float" the stones of the gall bladder are being used by some Army surgeons in the Middle East. Equipped with a set of these unbreakable, luminous instruments, the surgeon can perform field operations under a tree or a lean-to shelter, without worrying about aircraft overhead and with better lighting in the wound than in an operating theatre.

Made of a transparent plastic material like glass which transmits light round corners, does not conduct heat and can be thrown on the ground without breaking, the instruments are made in about 30 different shapes, to suit any kind of wound or operation. Even where there are two right-angled bends in the transparent instrument, the light rays travel down to the frosted tip and flood the wound with a cold, shadowless light, however inaccessible the place may be. Blood does not easily coagulate on the instrument, as it does with ordinary lighting apparatus.

About 30 different instruments are available, but there are three or four dual-purpose models which are quite sufficient for ordinary diagnostic and surgical work in the field. A set of these, together with a small electric accumulator, costs about £12 and my surgeons in the fighting services have bought them out of their own pockets, so useful have they proved in action. Some of Britain's greatest surgeons are now using these instruments for wounds which cannot be seen into by ordinary operating theatre-lighting.

Similar instruments have been made in other countries for some years past, but they had the disadvantage of losing their shape in sterilizing. The new instruments are made of a methyl methacrylate plastic specially developed by British chemists, which will stand any amount of boiling without losing shape.

Modern Etiquette. The ultra-rich man had gone to the seaside for his holiday. His wife, who went out swimming, was nearly drowned, and was rescued with difficulty.

"Pretty bad," said the doctor, "I'm afraid we'll have to give her artificial respiration."

"Artificial respiration be blowed," said the man, excitedly, "you'll give her the real thing. I'll pay for it."

Landlady: "I won't charge you for breakfast, seeing that you didn't eat any."

Boarder: "That's good — I couldn't sleep either."

An American soldier now in Northern Ireland is said to have written home:

"Dear Dad—Gee? What I need most is your right hand. Send it along. Be'st wishes. Your Son, Tom."

The father replied: "Dear Tom—The thing that happens here is that you're a good boy. Write us. Another letter aXON. Jimmy was asking about you Monday. Now we have to say good-bye."

"How did the detectives discover that the burglar was dressed as a woman?"

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The Negro soldier had been peeling potatoes until his hands ached. Turning to a fellow K.P. he said: "What dat sergeant mean when he call us K.P.?"

"Ah, dat mean," replied his co-worker, "but from a look on his face, Ah think he means 'Keep Peelin'.'"

Tailor (measuring Scotsman for a suit of clothes): and how would like the pockets, sir?"

McWhisk: "Well, just a wee bit difficult to get at."

"Why do you insist on keeping a pocket?"

"Because," answered the lonely man, "I like to hear it call. The parrot is the only creature gifted with the power of speech, that is content to repeat just what it hears without trying to make a good story of it."

"What's the most effective agency for the redistribution of wealth?"

"The wives and daughters of rich men."

Bakery May Be Sent To China. Restrictions on remittances of money to China, previously confined to benevolent purposes, have been removed, the Post Office Department said recently.

Plans for the development call for working about \$250,000 with provision for a million dollar development if circumstances warrant.

A bed in the Middlesex Hospital, England, has been named after the 10th, Marybone Rover Scout Crew, in recognition of the valuable services rendered at the hospital by them since the outbreak of the war.

A young soldier in a British tank unit was found to have an extraordinary knowledge of so many things that he was frequently asked to give lectures to his unit. He demonstrated some carpentering hints, cooking, first aid, map reading, telegraphy, and woodcraft. He was looked upon as something of a freak. Finally the Sergeant Major asked where he had acquired all the young soldier's "Cigarette card" was suggested.

"No, Sir," said the young soldier, "Study for Proficiency Badges when I was a Boy Scout."

What Science Is Doing

"FLOODLIT" WOUNDS. New surgical instruments which "float" the stones of the gall bladder are being used by some Army surgeons in the Middle East. Equipped with a set of these unbreakable, luminous instruments, the surgeon can perform field operations under a tree or a lean-to shelter, without worrying about aircraft overhead and with better lighting in the wound than in an operating theatre.

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