

# Not Easy To Enlist In Royal Canadian Air Force

(This is the second of a series of articles about the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Commonwealth Air Training Plan, written for the members of the C.W.N.A. by Hugh Thompson of the Fergus News-Record.)

It is not easy to join the Royal Canadian Air Force. That is not because men are not wanted; they are, and the more will become greater. It is not because one has to go far to find a Recruiting Centre; they are scattered all over Canada, and every province has at least one of them. Ontario has six—at North Bay, Windsor, London, Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa. It is hard because the R.C.A.F. is particular about those it allows into its ranks. There is a high tradition to be maintained. For the air crews, at least, educational requirements are high. A pilot, for instance, must have junior matriculation, or better. Alert, physically fit young men are

member of this great brotherhood, he would have found an excuse for steering me out the door. Every applicant must have proof of age and education, at least two letters of recommendation and character, one of them from a recent or present employer, a marriage certificate, if applicable, birth certificates of children, if any, and discharge papers, if formerly in military service. I might have supplied them all, but had none with me. Most applicants go like that and are sent to the Parliament Buildings or wherever it is necessary to go to get the certificates. There is no charge for these, if applicant uses the forms given him at the Recruiting Centre.

**Pilots Are Most Popular**  
Nearly every applicant, who has the qualifications, wants to be a pilot. That's easy enough to understand for there's a certain glamour about the job. What boy hasn't dreamed of flying his plane through the skies?

Major. It was never the most popular rank in the Army. But Sgt. Major Day was unlike any other of the rank that I had met. For one thing, he had a sense of humor. Equally important, he seemed to have an uncanny knowledge of the intricacies of all the trades in the Air Force.

I looked down the long list and pretended I wanted to be a motor mechanic. (I really would be a pilot, but I was a bit too old.) I couldn't imagine myself being a diesel fitter or a pigeon loftman or a massour or an interpreter, but "everybody" knows how to drive a car, so I would be a motor mechanic.

"Suppose you were out driving with your girl on the way to Niagara Falls and your car stopped, what would you do first?" asked the Sergeant Major.

I said that I would look in the gas tank, but it appeared I had plenty of gas. After covering several possibilities, it seemed I would trouble in the timing of the ignition, and I was wrong beyond my depth. The Warrant Officer knew far more about it than I did. So I decided to be a pilot after all.

That is typical of what every recruit goes through at first. I asked if some were not too nervous to answer. After all, a man joining the Air Force—something so important and decisive step. Sgt. Major Day agreed, but he said that he soon put most recruits at ease and I believed him. If a few were still nervous, he sent them in to talk to the girls on the staff for a while. I didn't know whether to believe that or not. Anyway, I skipped that part of it.

The attestation paper which the recruit must fill out contains the essential questions, such as name, age, place of birth, and so on. There is space enough to list the names of eight children, which should be ample. There are also some less obvious questions: have you ever been convicted of an indictable offence? Are you in debt? (If so, state particulars—and there is plenty of space for the particulars). Sports and Hobbies? In addition, there is a question about flying experience in hours, solo, dual or triplane. It is said that some of the applicants, particularly from the United States, have plenty of hours to their credit, but that doesn't always guarantee that they will be good pilots in the fighting services.

Definite and detailed instructions are given to each applicant when filling in the forms, yet 90 per cent. are said to make one stupid mistake. They don't write in the name of their home town. They don't forget their street address, but most of them applying at that centre are from Toronto and don't think it necessary to say so.

**The Medical Examinations**  
The medical examination is thorough, particular attention being paid to the eyes and hearing, as might be expected. After passing the usual eye tests, reading letters on the chart at a distance of 20 feet in a darkened tunnel, and so on, the doctor held up his finger two feet in front of my eyes and told me to watch it, as he slowly pushed it nearer my face. Gradually I grew more and more cross-eyed, which was quite proper. He asked me to try it with him. His eyes followed my finger to a certain point, then one suddenly snapped back. I was surprised, but it's fairly common. Those candidates who don't pass are usually those who are not perfect muscular co-ordination, it seems, and can't judge distances accurately. They are the ones who might crash into another plane while landing.

Finally, there was the color blindness test. I looked at colored cards in a book, one to a page. Each one looked as though it was a mosaic pattern and in each I could trace with little difficulty usually, though not so easily sometimes, a pair of figures, 57, or 29, or a pattern. A man who was color blind would see an entirely different number, one which didn't show up until pointed out by Flying Officer Kinsey, who was giving me the tests. The system was based on a Japanese pig-esser who had made a study of color blindness. For those who are seriously color blind, there is a light test with red and green lights. It is said that five per cent. of the recruits are color blind and so useless as members of an air crew.

Last stage in the recruiting process was carried up in a basement room where a full set of my finger prints was taken. The fingers were stuck on a sheet of glass coated with printer's ink or something of the kind, then pressed one by one in the proper places on a card, then the fingers of the left hand together and the four of the right hand. My guide enjoyed this immensely—but he seemed to be a certain grimness to it as well. The members of the R.C.A.F. carry copies of these and other identifications with them wherever they go.

After farewells to Flight Lieut. Lumsden, O. C. at the Recruiting Centre, and Flight Lieut. Muckelt, I headed for the Manning Depot, the next stage in the life of the recruit in the R.C.A.F.

Next Week: The Manning Depot.

# For Picnic Menu On Holiday Trip

Here Are Some Ideas for Foods to Take and How to Take Them

TORONTO, (C.P.)—Are you all set for a picnic on the Fourth of July or on a week-end trip? Here are some ideas for foods to take. These last-minute picnic tips, hot out of the oven, may be helpful. These foods are the kind that carry well, hot or cold, and can wait for latecomers at the picnic rendezvous. With plenty of foods, fastidiously prepared, carefully packed and informally served, your picnic can't help but be a success.

Now that meat leaves rank high in culinary circles, ham mushroom mold will carry off picnic honors. Mix a pound each of veal and either chopped smoked ham, or pork butts. Try to have the meat ground twice, together.

**How to Pack Things**  
To save folks, friend chicken is a must for a holiday celebration. Here is a new streamlined method to delight picnickers. Cut up four fryers into serving pieces, and dust with flour and seasonings placed in a paper sack.

Transfer the browned chicken to a baking dish or roaster and add five tablespoons butter, 1/2 cup each chopped celery and green peppers, and 2 cups of boiling water. Cover and bake 1 1/2 hours in a moderate oven. This gives you time to make up the rest of the picnic food.

To keep salad cold, pack the bowl in dry ice, or in another bowl filled with coarse chopped ice. This vegetable special is delicious. Rub your largest salad bowl suitable for picnic fare) with garlic and chill.

Lime the garlic-rubbed bowl with crisp lettuce, pile in the salad and cover it with more lettuce. Take along salad dressing, thinned with sweet or sour cream. Dry salad carries better than moist.

exclusively for Germans. Yet there are many things which trouble the German conqueror, when he has his days and still more his nights, filled with anxiety.

After the black-out no German in Amsterdam cares to walk alone by the canals that intersect the largest Dutch city. There are frequent drowning "accidents" by night. In Poland, in the city of Pozan, six Poles have been sentenced to death for organizing several hundred armed attacks on German cars and on houses inhabited by Germans.

Instead of the humdrum, submission and admiration due to conquerors which they had expected these Germans are discovering that they are ostracized "herd." They find themselves in a "desert of hatred."

The spectre of England haunts and challenges the men of the Swastika throughout their "Empire." Posters appear in the streets and invite "Listen to the broadcasts from England." Norwegian women embroider the letters "R.A.F." (Royal Air Force) on their hats. In Holland, schoolboys have been threatened with imprisonment if they went on whistling the British anthem. A German controlled newspaper in Brussels, Le Pays Reel, writes: "Certain cities are much more concerned on Sunday mornings with the proclamations of Mr. Churchill, rather than with the Gospel. This atmosphere of rebellion is absolutely intolerable."

The hatred against the Germans in the countries under their domination strikes secretly in a hundred ways. It whistles and whispers in the breeze. It appears as "the writing on the wall."

# Deserts of Hatred

(By Alma S. Wittlin)

Since the outbreak of war, the Nazis have captured territories greater in area than that of Germany itself. Several million Germans are living in those occupied countries, soldiers with their officers and officials, sometimes with their families. It has been estimated that in Holland alone about one million German soldiers are concentrated. Let us see how these "conquerors" live.

When the Germans invaded Czechoslovakia, Poland, Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands and France, they found their attention first to food and drink. Then they bought up silk stockings and all sorts of little comforts practically denied them for many years under the Nazi regime of preparation for the assault on the world.

Now the deserts are depleted and there is less food left in the occupied lands. But still at every meal the Germans eat as over-lords. Their food ration is greater than those of the local people. In addition, they receive commodities such as coffee, chocolate, rice and white bread which in many places are denied to the conquered.

A German officer or official is free to take the best house whether it be vacant or occupied. Certain hotels, restaurants and theatres are reserved

# London Granny Will Stay Put

72-Year-Old Woman Read Churchill's Advice and Defied Police

LONDON, (C.P.)—Typical defiant Londoner, 72-year-old Mrs. Rose Heffer read where Prime Minister Churchill has told Britons to stay put. And that she told it might be why she returned to her ruined tenement flat where a policeman found her sitting among the havoc caused by a Nazi bomb.

The officer described how the tenement had been condemned because of cracked walls and broken supports and how police had forbidden the aged tenant to return. But, he said, there he found Mrs. Heffer sitting among the debris for whatever she might reclaim.

The magistrate dismissed the charge of disobeying a police order after Mrs. Heffer declared: "Mr. Churchill told us to stay put and I'm going to stay put if I can. I've lived in that building for 70 years. I built my home and reared my family there. One of my sons was killed, there so I'm not leaving for anybody. If I can salvage enough things, I may start a home some place else for the time being and I may go away for a short time. But I'm going back. I'm going to stay put like Mr. Churchill told us to do."

**FARMING FOR FITNESS**  
MELBOURNE, (C.P.)—Austrian girls in the National Fitness wartime movement specialize in farmwork. Large units of the organization are employed in agriculture and horticulture.

You Roll Them Better With  
**OGDEN'S FINE CUT CIGARETTE TOBACCO**

The Pause that refreshes  
**DRINK Coca-Cola**



L. S. Wall is shown getting his medical test from Dr. W. M. Master, at the Windsor Recruiting Centre.

needed, of course. The age limit for pilots is 30 years; for air observer, wireless operators, two years. And older. According to the official literature, "applicants are required to be of good character, possibly intelligent and personality, and to be obedient, self-reliant and keen on flying." And this means just what it says.

**At The Recruiting Centre**  
In order to find out just how young man would join the R.C.A.F. I started at the beginning of the centre. I went to the Recruiting Centre at 297 Bay Street, Toronto.



A sergeant answers many enquiries from prospective airmen at Recruiting Centre at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

choosing it because it is the largest and the busiest in Ontario. The staff numbers 45. The Recruiting Centre is in an old office building. That was obvious, not only because of the layout but because the names of broken-up firms and the like are still to be found on some of the doors. In the hallway, a man scrutinized me carefully. He said nothing but his look was penetrating. I wondered if I was suspected of spying or something of the kind, but my guide, Flying Officer Nicol, steered me safely past. Later, I learned that the man in the hall is an expert in character study. Had I fortified myself with a few drinks, or been otherwise unsuited to become a

its ranks. Experienced men are much protected, but inexperienced men of the right kind will be trained. Many applicants try to bluff their way into the positions they desire. There's nothing new about that, of course, but it's almost impossible in the R.C.A.F. All applicants for trades must pass the "trade tests" even before the medical examinations. Two corporals start the questioning. If the man passes them, he goes to the Warrant Officer.

To save time, I slipped past the two corporals and went directly to Warrant Officer W. H. Day, familiarly known as Sgt. Major Day. In years past, I knew more than one Sergeant Major. It was never the most popular rank in the Army. But Sgt. Major Day was unlike any other of the rank that I had met. For one thing, he had a sense of humor. Equally important, he seemed to have an uncanny knowledge of the intricacies of all the trades in the Air Force.

**THE WAR IN NEW YORK**  
NEW YORK, (C.P.)—Fifty New York women are shifting sandbags and lifting ladders once-a-week in the American Women's Auxiliary Service air raid fighting class.

**Specials for the First of July Picnic**  
and for the Summer Cottage, too.

Catarac Dry GINGER ALE	No advance 2 lg. 19c Plus Deposit
JUNIOR CHOC. LAYER	Case ea. 10c
FRUIT LOAF CAKE	Ea. 25c
PANCAKE FLOUR	Ant. 15c
TENDER LEAF TEA	7-oz. pkg. 35c
BIRD'S CUSTARD	Powder pkg. 10c
SMITH'S PURE JAM	16-oz. jar 25c
Lynn Valley Sweet Mixed PICKLES	27-oz. jar 23c
Libby's Cooked SPAGHETTI	2 15-oz. tins 15c
Aylmer IRISH STEW	2 16-oz. tins 21c
PLEW'S PEA SOUP	Serves 7- 10c
Cohoe Salmon	4-oz. can 17c, 27c
BISCUITS	Manning's Favorite Creams 1 lb. 17c
CRISCO	1 lb. 20c, 3 lb. 53c
POTTED MEATS	Clark's tin 8c
LIMA BEANS	Lynn Valley 3 16-oz. tins 25c
Aylmer Tomato CATSUP	12-oz. btl. 12c
JOLLY GOOD PUNCH	2 btl. 29c
EVAPORATED MILK	3 16-oz. tins 25c
MONARCH FLOUR	24-lb. bag 83c
TOMATO SOUP	Campbell's 2 tins 17c
ENERGY	Chocolate Malted Milk 16-oz. tin 15c
CHAMPION DOG FOOD	2 tins 19c
Plain or Pimiento, Chateau CHEESE	1/2-lb. pkg. 16c
Princess Soap Flakes	2 lg. 29c
Old Dutch Cleanser	Ask about tin 10c
Hawes' Lemon Oil	btl. 15c, 25c
Lux Soap Flakes	pkg. 9c, 22c
Oxydol	Have you entered the contest? pkg. 9c, 61c, 22c
Kirk's Castile Soap	3 cakes 14c
Kleenex	For Rose Colds pkg. 10c, 25c, 29c
SALAD DRESSING	Jewel 32-jar 39c
SUNKIST ORANGES	Dozen 19c
JUICY LEMONS	32c
CANADIAN HEAD LETTUCE	Head 5c
IMPORTED TOMATOES	Pound 15c

Also Fresh Radish, Cucumbers, Carrots  
Fruit and Vegetable Prices Until Saturday Night Only

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