

R.C.A.F. Manning Depot Makes Recruits Into Aircraftmen

ARTICLE NO. 3
BY HUGH TEMPLEN

The first impression one gets on visiting the Manning Depot at Toronto is one of size, and that impression grows and deepens. Everything is big, or tremendous, or colossal. The building itself is the Coliseum, with adjoining livestock buildings, the largest under one roof at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds. Outside, the building looks the same as ever, except the sign over the door, but inside it is utterly changed. In parts of the building, there are double-deck bunks everywhere. A portion that used to house the trucks and farm machinery and the flowers at the Winter Fair, is now a huge dining room that will seat five thousand at one time, and there's a mechanized kitchen that enables the five thousand to be fed inside an hour.

carefully folded up under the mattresses all the time. I sat in the Adjutant's office while he explained to me just what they do with the new recruits at the Manning Depot to make them into creditable Aircraftmen in four weeks or so—drills, inoculations, lectures and the like. A knock at the door interrupted the talk and a telegram was delivered. It was from a wife with a foreign-sounding name, living out on the prairies somewhere. She wanted to know where her husband was; she had not heard from him for six or seven weeks. Neither had the Manning Depot. He had far overstayed a leave. But there are few like that. The majority are keen to learn and get ahead. If not, they are soon weeded out. Once or twice, two different "wives" have enquired about the same man.

But, as I said, these are the excep-

Nowhere does one get the impression of size at the Manning Depot so much as in the men's dining hall. Row after row of long tables stretch across the width of the Coliseum. A skylight makes the room bright and a great eagle emblem covers one wall. The tables were being set for supper and the waiters were carrying in big bowls of Canadian apples, one more surprise for an old soldier.

The kitchen completely fascinated me. This is a mechanized war, as everybody knows, but even the dishes must be skilled mechanics. There were huge motor-driven food mixers, with metal bowls large enough to mash a bushel and a half of potatoes at a time. Another machine peels them. Half a bag is dumped in a big hopper, a switch turned on and a stream of water from a hose directed into the machine. It whirls around and the peeling is taken off by coarse discs of sandpaper, and washed away down the drain. There isn't any waste because of unskilled peelers. Instead of hundreds of unfortunate doing kitchen patrol, half-a-dozen men were digging out the deep eyes.

There seemed to be wonders everywhere around that kitchen. I went into a big refrigerator room where the meat was stored and into another where deep pans of jelly cooled on the shelves. The meat stock for tomorrow's soup boiled in great metal vessels and tempted the appetite. Fresh bread and cakes lined the shelves of the big pantries.

Beside the dining room is the recreation room, with easy chairs and reproductions of paintings of Canada's air heroes of the last war on the walls. There is a radio, the gift of some friend, and writing desks here and there, most of them in use that afternoon.

The theatre is in the north corner of the Coliseum, and it has a full-size stage, the letters "R.C.A.F." on the curtain, and thousands of seats. An electric organ provides the music. Current moving pictures are shown there several times a week.

The arena where the horses performed during Winter Fair week is used for games. At first it was left with the timber on the floor till an epidemic of colds and suspicion of the timber. Now there's a new asphalt floor in the ring and the rodeo has ceased. Several different games were in progress there that afternoon.

The day begins at Manning Depot at six o'clock, with physical training for half an hour before breakfast. At 8:30, there is the first parade, with drill till 11:30. An hour and a quarter is allowed for lunch, followed by more drill from 1:15 to 4:30. Supper is over by 6 o'clock. The evenings are free, except for some lectures given by college instructors on mathematics to brush up the future air crew members, who will need their trigonometry and algebra again.

A month at Manning Depot and the future pilot or gunner is ready to go to the Initial Training School, which is one of the most fascinating branches of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Next Week: Initial Training School.

The young man comes to the Manning Depot in civilian clothes with the most exciting weeks of his life lying ahead. A few are probably homesick at first, though the Adjutant said he had no complaints along that line and few about anything else in the camp. The man gets his uniform and his kit. I saw two men in brand-new uniforms going out that afternoon and a proud looking pair they were.

In the first week, there are lectures in service methods and the first drills. After that comes guard duty for the future air crews, with lectures, drill and physical training. Then the coming pilots and gunners go out to various schools of ground duty till there are vacancies at the Initial Training Schools. The men of the ground crews stay three or four weeks, then go on to various trade schools.

Feeding the Five Thousand
Lunch time was past before I went

—a modern miracle—and they don't cut the leaves and fishes either.

Here the newly enlisted man comes from a recruiting center somewhere in the province. His papers are made out for him and his records filed in the office. He is given an identification card, signed and sealed. Without it, he cannot leave or enter the depot. He gets a number and a bed, and the system is so complete that when his friends come to visit him, a runner knows where to find him and "pages" him more effectively than if he was a guest at an expensive hotel.

The entrance hall is impressive. Long racks hold the "time cards" of the men at Manning Depot, and there are literally thousands and thousands of them. I watched an Aircraftman come in, pick his card out of the rack, fumble in his pocket for his identification card, punch a time clock, as he passed the entrance, and then deposit his card in another long rack inside. A glance over this rack shows

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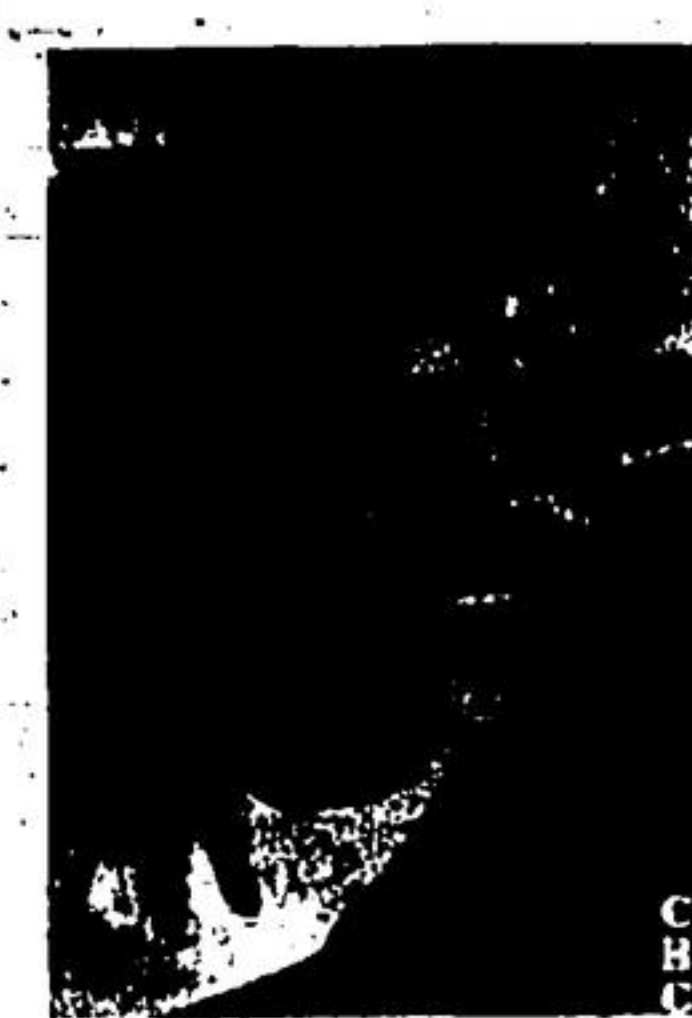
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ed that while most of the cards were white, a few were blue; those un-lucky men were confined to barracks because they forgot to make their beds, or for some other offence.

Beds—Then and Now

To an old soldier, who had spent many a night in Exhibition Camp in 1916, sleeping on hard boards, those beds seemed unreal. They stretched in endless rows in every direction, like the young stalks in a field of corn and each one had springs and a mattress. But, my guide, Flight-Lieutenant R. L. Puxley, Wing Adjutant, pointed out that there were also white sheets and pillow cases. Some of the boys who come in have never used them before and keep them

to the Manning Depot. When I saw the dining room, I was sorry I would have liked a meal there, but there might have been complications. I was with two officers and there was a sign on the door saying that officers were strictly forbidden to eat in the men's mess. The officers solemnly affirmed it was because the men got better meals, so some officers had formed the habit of slipping away from their own mess and eating with the men. I asked some of the men about it and they just smiled, but they said the food really was good. I think maybe the officers told the simple truth. I saw their mess, too, and although it had white tablecloths, it didn't look any more attractive



A Squadron at drill practice outside the Manning Depot

White Elephants Help Red Cross

South African Women Have Novel Ways of Raising Wartime

CAPETOWN, (CP)—Red Cross markets patterned after the famous Caledonian market in Soho, London, are among the most successful money-raisers for war services thus far sponsored by the women of the British Union of South Africa.

Both Capetown and Johannesburg have their "markets" and that of Capetown, established in a vacant store, has brought in an average of \$5,000 a month since it opened just one year ago.

A small group of 20 women have handled all the work in connection with the market and among them have raised more than \$60,000. Lady Duncann, wife of the Governor-General of South Africa, has taken a particular interest in it.

A popular feature is the "French cafe" run in conjunction with it. Two refugee French women aided the committee and a special daily tea is served, usually comprised of French pastries, special French bread and the famous "croissant" bun.

Another is the "White Elephant" table which is also a feature of the money-raising efforts in Australia and New Zealand. The table or booth is appropriately decorated with white elephants but is especially designed to accept the pictures, dishes, vases, pot-tery and every other sort of gift which is a "White Elephant" to its owner.

Said the Red Cross Market convener in explanation: "There is a particular way to get rid of the wedding, birthday and Christmas presents which simply don't fit into your furnishing schemes. And it won't offend anybody because it will help the war effort."

This table alone has brought in hundreds of pounds the report said.

POSTMARKS
Are The Collector's Latest War Time Craze

In war-scarred London sits a man whose preoccupation is not with falling bombs, but battered envelopes. He is the originator of a new wartime vogue which is growing in popularity from month to month, on one side of the Atlantic to the other.

When you get an out-of-the-way envelope you probably glance at it twice and throw it away. In doing so you throw away a curious object which has a market value and is to-day being sought after by collectors in Britain and overseas, particularly in the United States.

This vast international club of postmark collectors is run from London and no country in the world has taken to this offspring of philately more ardently than America.

It is claimed that postmark collecting is more amusing, instructive and fascinating than ordinary stamp collecting.

Many of the postmarks are indeed curious.

For example, letters transmitted from enemy territory and the Red Cross, Geneva, or through Cook's Travel Agency, Lisbon, show from stampings that they have been opened by both German and British censors. They will become rarities.

Again, in war, letters are sometimes transferred at sea. When they are they are so surcharged and become, for the collector of postmarks, prized acquisitions.

Old envelopes, from prisoners of war, from pioneer flight mail bags, from concentration camps, all have collector value. In London the first "Postmark Catalogue" is now being prepared and the bonanza

STOCKHOLM, (CP)—The British Prime Minister's "Blood, Sweat and Tears" was the best non-fiction seller in Sweden for May.

SOUTHAMPTON, England, (CP)—Capt. Edgar Penny, 66, retired marine pilot, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for showing lights at his home eight times in 1940.

Twice-Clean Look For "Book" Beauty

Magazine Cover Girl Gives Her Recipe for Freshness That's Needed

(By Betty Clark)

NEW YORK, (CP)—A fresh American-beauty look is more than a happenstance, according to Olive Cawley, popular magazine cover girl. She has that alert, wide-awake type of beauty for which girls of this continent are known.

She recommends a shining, "twice-clean" look. She has a regular regimen for beauty and the first rule is to get eight hours of sleep.

Her night and morning ritual is short but thorough. First is a cold cream bath for her face. Four generous dollops of cream are spotted and spread upward and outward over her face right out to the roots of her hair. Especially thoroughly does she apply the cream around the eyes and nose. It is thinned off from the centre of the face up and out, with a fresh section of tissue for each swab.

Miss Cawley uses vanishing cream, too, leaves a mask of it on for a full minute. Little flakes of dry skin come off when the mask is removed. The film that remains is sufficient for a powder base.

Then comes the actual making up for Miss Cawley's shining twice-cleaned face. Her powder is a real brunette shade to match her skin. Deep, clear red lipstick, she says, is best for a brunette skin, especially for daytime. She prefers a deep bluish-red for night.

To avoid the smeary look she outlines her lips first and then fills in the outline. She dampens a fresh folded tissue with skin freshener or light water, and gently pats it over the powder.

Olive, as do a lot of debutantes, has a habit of carrying a tube of cold cream in her pocketbook to give her face a quick cleansing before reapplying makeup. It takes an extra minute, she admits, but it gets the fresher, shining look a girl should have, she says.

DETECTIVE RAY IS ELECTRIC EYE

Which Tells Where Gems Come from

Imitation sapphires can be detected in a few seconds by the electric "eye" known to the scientist as the cathode ray tube.

The commercial use of the apparatus for this purpose is the result of the research work of Dr. W. D. Coolidge in the laboratory of the General Electric Company, London, who themselves use more than 1,500,000 sapphires, which rank next to diamonds in hardness, as jewels for bearings in meters and other delicate electrical instruments.

Imitation sapphires are easily detected. Trays carrying both real and false are exposed in a dark room for a few moments to the powerful rays from the tube. It shoots out electrons at the rate of 150,000 miles a second.

All the jewels glow or radiate colors while exposed to the rays. When the rays are turned off the natural stones cannot be seen; the synthetic keep on glowing.

The rays even help to detect where the natural or factory made gems come from.

Call Garter Women Queen's Messengers

Her Majesty Has Given Eight Mobile Units, Many Others From America

LONDON, (CP)—The need for mobile canteens to be ready to go anywhere at a moment's notice was quickly recognized by the Queen, who has recently given eight for this particular form of war time service.

Some Americans and Canadians have given others, and those who "mean" to should, I say, "mean" these canteens have been given the delightful name of Queen's Messengers. There is something in a name after all.

One Farthing An Hour

Works Australia's New Searchlights

A farthing an hour is the cost of throwing a 20,000 candle power beam from the portable searchlight projectors included in a large order received by Britain from Australia.

Other items in it are floodlight projectors, search lanterns, portable radiators, and more than 1000 lamps, all of them burning ordinary paraffin at the rate of 1/2 pints per ten hours.

Among other recent overseas deliveries from the same maker, were a further 111 search lanterns for South Africa.

In the last nine months of 1940 the value of their exports went up by half compared with the similar period of the year before.

CANADA'S AIRCRAFT

Being Built More Quickly With New Two Pound Tool

A tricky problem of aircraft production has been solved by a new portable tool weighing only 7 lbs.

On all modern aircraft, thousands of nut plates are used for securing cowling, fairing strips, inspection panels, instruments, and control runs. Formerly, for every one of these nut plates, three rivet holes had to be marked off and drilled separately, a slow and tedious business.

To-day, in one swift and simple operation, the new portable tool drills two holes, accurately spaced, and centered.

This novel two-spindle portable drill, designed in Britain, is powered by the "Mighty Atom" pneumatic motor, many thousands of which are in use in the aircraft factories of Britain, the empire countries, and the United States.

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OLD CHUM

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Jewel Salad DRESSING 3 1/2 lbs. 39¢	Allen's or Aylmer APPLE JUICE 3 20-oz. tins 22¢	Catara Dry Ginger Ale 1 lb. 10¢ Plus Dep.
Jell-O Ice Cream Mix Tin 10¢	Vi-Tone Tin 24¢, 43¢	Kellogg's Cornflakes 2 1/2 lbs. 23¢
Catell's Cooked Spaghetti 28-oz. tin 14¢	Lux Soap 2 Cakes 11¢	Christie's DO-NUTS doz. 15¢
Clover Leaf Red Sockeye SALMON 1/2 lb. tin 21¢	CERTO HIRE'S Root Beer 2 1/2 lbs. 29¢	Christie's Butter TARTS 2 for 5¢
Hains KETCHUP 2 1/2 lbs. 35¢	Plum's Concentrated PEA SOUP 2 pkgs. 19¢	Normandie Cream Biscuits lb. 18¢
Hains Salad VINEGAR 1 1/2 lbs. 14¢	Libby's Pork and BEANS 2 20-oz. tins 15¢	P. & G. SOAP Ask about the Butcher Kettle! 5 bars 19¢
Hains Prepared MUSTARD 6-oz. jar 10¢	JUCY VALENCIA ORANGES, Doz. 22¢	Ivory Flakes or IVORY SNOW 1 lb. pkgs. 21¢
Hains Strained BABY FOODS 3 tins 25¢	NEW POTATOES, 5 lbs. 20¢	ODEX Antiseptic Toilet Soap 2 cakes 11¢

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RIPPE BANANAS, lb. 9¢

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A Squadron at drill practice outside the Manning Depot



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