

Some Careless Person Responsible for Loss of 7,041 Bags Soldiers' Mail

Public Again Urged Not to Put Inflammable Articles in Mail for Soldiers. Post Office Department Doing Its Best, but Some Soldiers Will Miss Christmas Parcels.

Some of the United States news gathering agencies, trade magazines and individual newspapers have been in the habit of picking out some item of news and labelling it the most important event of the year, or grouping several incidents in order as to importance, interest, or reader appeal. If The Advance were picking out the most discouraging item of news of the past few months, this paper would select the despatch from Ottawa last week-end reporting that 7,041 bags of Christmas mail for the armed forces overseas had been very extensively damaged—partly destroyed—by fire aboard a ship at an Eastern Canadian port. The fire was caused by some one including inflammable material in a parcel sent to some soldier overseas.

In making the announcement the Post Office Department said: "Here is another concrete example of something despatched by mail of an inflammable nature. Again the prohibition is emphasized—Send nothing inflammable by mail."

Many will be tempted to jump to the conclusion that sabotage may be at the bottom of such a crime. The Post Office Department, however, does not like that view. The postal authorities seem to think it is only thoughtlessness or carelessness on the part of someone who, without stopping to consider the possible consequences, placed matches or some other inflammable material among the other articles in a parcel for overseas. How this could happen after all the warnings that have been given is not easy to see. People have been warned in the newspapers, over the radio, from the public platform, by posters and in practically every other way that it was possible to relay the warning. At Timmins the post office staff has been very careful in warning all about this danger. The Advance has repeatedly passed along the warning: "Do not include anything inflammable in a parcel for overseas." It is surely known by this time that it is illegal to send inflammable matter by mail and to send such matter overseas at this time appears to be a double-dyed crime. There is, of course, no suggestion that the parcel that caused the trouble came from Timmins or the North. But it did come from somewhere, and it is taken for granted that the warnings in such matters were no less emphasized in other parts of the country than they were in the North. It is astounding that anyone should allow carelessness to cause so desperate a risk. Apart from the possible, indeed, the probable destruction of the parcel containing the prohibited matter, there is the danger to the other parcels and to the safety of all on board the ship. In this case the lives of literally scores of people were seriously endangered. As a matter of fact it was only what might be termed another accident that prevented serious tragedy. Indeed, most people will feel that there is real tragedy in this case as it is. Many soldiers will not receive their Christmas parcels until after Christmas and others will not receive them at all.

The Post Office Department has arranged to have men sort out the damaged and water-soaked mail. The Department is paying for the transference of the salvaged mail matter to another port, where—at some sacrifice to other cargoes—space has been obtained on other ships. As the Department announcement says:—"But Christmas will be cheerless to those men in the forces overseas, because this mail cannot possibly get there in time for Christmas Day."

Anyone who considers for a moment what it means to the soldier or sailor or airman overseas for Christmas to come and go without any parcel from the folks back home, will realize how much such unnecessary accidents must dampen the spirits of the gallant lads across the sea.

There is the other feature of the case also to be considered—the peril so many would have been in had that fire in the mail bag started a few hours later when the vessel was well out at sea.

No matter what side of the question is looked upon, the incident is most discouraging. It is to be hoped that every effort is made to locate the person or persons responsible for this very serious loss. As the announcement of the Post Office Dept. says:—"Carelessness has again endangered the lives of all those handling the mail, as well as the safety of the ship and all who might be on the ship. In this particular case, somebody has caused irreparable damage to Christmas gifts sent to our armed forces overseas by families and friends. In addition there is delay and extra expense involved."

There should be very general recognition of the fact that there is very sound reason behind all the rules and regulations in regard to parcels going overseas. The tragedy of the damage to 7,041 Christmas parcels for soldiers overseas should convince all of the folly, the crime, the treachery of sending any dangerous object in parcels going overseas.

More From Timmins Enlist in R.C.A.F. at North Bay Centre

Total of Fifty from North Recruited Last Week.

At North Bay Recruiting Centre of the R.C.A.F. last week there were fifty enlisted in air crew and other trades. Forty-eight were in the R.C.A.F. and two in the R.C.A.F. (Women's Division).

The two enlisting in the Women's Division were:—Phoebe Emmeline Thomson, Dunchurch, Ontario, for Standard General duties; and Mona Wylene Morrow, Powassan, Ont., for Hospital Assistant.

Of the men enlisting for air crew and other trades there were four from Timmins, nine from Kirkland Lake, one from Swastika, two from Kapuskasing, one from New Liskeard, one from Larder Lake, and the others from Sudbury (6), North Bay (1), Sault Ste. Marie (2), Parry Sound, Bracebridge, Copper Cliff, Blind River, and other places.

Timmins—Thomas Shub, 60 Fourth Avenue; Thomas Blackie, 53 Mountjoy street; Raymond Alexander MacDonald, 154 Avenue Road; Donald Wilford Warren, 57 Wilson avenue.

Kirkland Lake—John French Flowers, Harold Allan Mallette, James Allister Hogan, Gordon Gregory McDougall, Edward John Soars, Cecil Franklin Hallett, William Milne Tovell, George Wesley Jamieson, Murray Walters.

Rouyn, Que.—Robert Joseph Cecil Martin, Malcolm McCusig Ritchie, Robert Ford Stubelt, Stadacona Mine.

Noranda, Que.—Henry Arthur Day, Michael James Archibald Mask.

West Malartic, Que.—Constant Edward Corvee.

New Liskeard—Harold Moore Bailey.

Kapuskasing: Thadde Alberic Soucie, Adam Duda.

Swastika—Douglas William Mallin.

Larder Lake—Charles Edwin Reed.

Red Cross Deliveries Nearly 3,000 Tons of Food and Medicine

For Distribution Among Allied Prisoners in Hands of Japanese.

Geneva, Switzerland, Dec. 9.—Nearly 3,000 tons of food and medicine have been unloaded for distribution among Allied prisoners in Japanese hands, the Red Cross International Committee reported on Saturday.

It said the supplies, shipped on the vessels which effected the exchange of British, United States, and Japanese diplomats at the Portuguese East African port of Lourenco Marques, were distributed by delegates of the Inter-jeable bear stories recently for readers of this column, has come through with another yarn, which might be anational Committee with the co-operation of the Japanese Red Cross.

Food in Shipments

Food amounting to 1,800 tons was unloaded at Singapore, it said, part for war prisoners and part for civil internees and the rest was for prisoners in the Netherlands East Indies.

About 1,000 tons more were unloaded at Hong Kong, it said, to be distributed among war prisoners—who include an estimated 1,500 Canadians—and civil internees there and war prisoners in the Philippines.

Blairmore Enterprise: Early to bed and early to rise, and you'll miss a great deal that doesn't go on in the daytime.



When Canadian women traded in their dishmops for a spanner they flocked to man Canada's aircraft factories in such numbers that special attention is being focussed on their needs. Under the able tutorage of Mrs. Ethel Colwell, extreme left, women all across the country are being trained to help with the problems of their fellow workers in plane factories. Among her first pupils were, left to right, Mrs. Mianie Winn, who came from England and is working in aircraft production at Fort Erie, Ont.; Mrs. Mary Harrison of Toronto, and Mrs. Alice Anderson, of Vancouver, B. C.

Women's Precision Squad Guests of Kiwanis Club at Dinner on Monday

Section Officer Alice Fahrenholtz Guest Speaker for Occasion. Gives Brief but Able Outline of the Part Played by the Women's Division R.C.A.F. R.C.A.F. Band Provides Music for Event.

Monday evening the McIntyre Arena was the scene of a drill presented by the Women's Precision Squadron, R. C. A. F., No. 7 Manning Depot, Rockcliffe, Ont. The Trenton R. C. A. F. Band under the leadership of Sergeant Major E. Hancock, was in attendance.

The No. 10 Timmins Boys "K" Squadron presented their drill in a most effective and pleasing way. The march was played by the Trenton band, and the Air Cadets went through their drill with faultless movement. They were inspected by Section Officer Fahrenholtz, C. O., Women's Precision Squadron, R. C. A. F., Rockcliffe, Ont., with the officers of the Air Cadets.

A Precision Squadron of the Air Cadets was presented, which included about twenty Air Cadets. Their skill and quickness of movement brought forth a great deal of praise and applause.

At 9.30 p.m. the Women's Precision Squadron made their appearance. Under the leadership of Section Officer Fahrenholtz and Flight Sergeant Lawrence, the fifty-five girls went through their drill with breath-taking skill. After a short period of marching, music being supplied by the R. C. A. F. Band from Trenton, the officers returned to the background, and the Squadron began their drill without a single word of command. Their foot movements were faultless and their formations amazing. Each girl knew her part and with the co-operation of the other girls, every movement was perfectly done. During this time, there was not a sound from the whole arena, amazement being written on the faces of all who witnessed the demonstration. After a great deal of perfectly timed formations, the girls formed in a long column, with Section Officer Fahrenholtz at the front, and Flight Sergeant Lawrence bringing up the rear. The band music was supplied by the Trenton band, and the Squadron was marched out of the arena.

At 10.30 that evening, another Precision drill was held, for the benefit of those who did not see the first.

At 11.30 that same afternoon, the Precision Squadron presented a drill to the school children of the district.

Immediately following the drill, a selected dance orchestra from the R. C. A. F. Band of Trenton, played for the dance held in the arena.

During the evening, before the Women's Precision Squadron made their appearance, several pupils of Mrs. H. Burt performed. Mrs. Jean Larche supplied the piano music. Numbers included a soft shoe tap dance by little Rayette Brochu, looking very sweet in pink sheer. The "Irish Jig" in the appearance of Kathleen Burt, Margaret Thomas, and Sylvia Thomas, was presented, and again at the end of the programme they did the "Sailor's Horn pipe." Little Rayette Brochu appeared again in a military tap, doing it both with grace and skill, and received a great deal of applause.

Two Timmins Men Graduate from No. 2 Wireless School

Seven Northern Ontario airmen were among graduates from No. 2 Wireless School, R.C.A.F., at Calgary, and the bombing and navigation school at St. John's. They were wireless graduates, H. C. Cuppage and J. L. J. Hamilton, of Sudbury; K. J. Donaldson, Timmins; H. K. Powell, Webbwood; J. J. Sargent, Latchford; navigators, Daniel MacDougall, of Prantz and William Shields, Timmins.

Timmins Airman Awarded the D.F.C. for Great Gallantry

Warrant Officer A. J. Van Russell Honoured for Outstanding Service.

A dispatch from Ottawa last week reads as follows:—

Ottawa, Ont.—The citation for Warrant Officer A. J. Van Russell, D.F.C., of Timmins, was released Friday by R.C.A.F. headquarters. The northern airmen received the Distinguished Flying Cross after outstanding service in the Middle East.

The citation read as follows: "Warrant Officer Van Russell has completed numerous operational sorties within the last two months. On the night of the thirteenth of July, he was detailed to attack shipping at Tobruk. Extremely heavy gunfire was encountered and two flares ignited approximately 150 feet above the aircraft causing it to be illuminated and caught by search lights. Despite these difficulties and the damage caused to the aircraft by the gunfire, Warrant Officer Van Russell executed successful evasive tactics and later made a crash landing without injury to the crew or further serious damage to his aircraft.

"Although unable to return to his base for three days this officer returned to his operational flying the day after his arrival. On three other days he experienced serious trouble with his engines, but this did not deter him from completing his task. Warrant Officer Van Russell has displayed continuous gallantry while his devotion to duty has set an example to the highest order."

North Bay Centre R.C.A.F., Asks for Navigation Teachers

Engineering Graduates and Land Surveyors Would Do Particularly Well in This Course.

Openings in the R.C.A.F. for men suitable to take training to become non-pilot air navigation instructors were announced this week by Flt. Lt. T. G. Holley, commanding officer of the North Bay R.C.A.F. recruiting centre.

Applicants must be physically fit and have the educational qualifications to teach higher mathematics both on the ground and in the air, he said. It was preferred that men applying for enlistment in this classification be between the ages of 23 and 45.

Engineering graduates and qualified land surveyors with a knowledge of higher mathematics and astronomy and with the ability and desire to impart knowledge should do particularly well in this course, it was pointed out.

The course offers a good opportunity to serve in the war effort, as navigation is an important factor, particularly in bombing work.

Hon. W.A. Gordon Reported as Seriously Ill in Toronto

Reports reaching here from Halleybury are to the effect that Hon. W. A. Gordon, formerly member in the Dominion Parliament for Temiskaming, and Minister of Labour, Mines and other portfolios in the Dominion Government, has been seriously ill at Toronto. His son, Charles, is also reported as having been ill also, but latest word is that both father and son are now much improved and well on the way to recovery.

Crowds Daily at the Annual Kiwanis Turkey Shoot Here

Event to Continue Until December 31st at 39 Third Avenue Timmins.

The annual Kiwanis Turkey Shoot is in progress now at 39 Third Avenue, Timmins, in the store formerly occupied by the Lynch Electrical Goods Co. The shoot is open every day, except Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and will continue at the same stand until the end of this month and the end of this year.

Crowds are visiting the Turkey Shoot every day, many to compete, and others to watch the shooting. Both classes are getting lots of fun for their money, and also have the pleasure of knowing that the entry fees for those shooting go to a very good cause—the Kiwanis community work. There is no charge for attendance at the gallery. Those competing for the turkeys pay the nominal fee of 25 cents for four shots, and there is a winner for every 24 targets. Groups of friends and fellow employees of various firms in town are entering the contest to test their skill, while individuals are also trying out their ability in the shooting line.

Sense and Nonsense:—When it comes to giving another one the hot foot we wish there were more men with cold feet.

Women's Precision Squad Presented Monday Night to a Large Attendance

Under the Leadership of Section Officer Fahrenholtz and Flight Sergeant Lawrence, the Drill Presented. R.C.A.F. Trenton Band in Attendance. Air Cadets Present Drills.

The weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club took the form of a dinner at the Auditorium of the McIntyre Arena, Schumacher. The guests of the Kiwanis were the Women's Precision Squadron, No. 7 Manning Depot, Rockcliffe, Ont., the Trenton R. C. A. F. Band, and all their party. The tables were decorated with baby 'mums, and with candles at the head table.

The National Anthem opened the dinner, and all were seated to enjoy a tasty dinner served by the McIntyre.

President-Elect W. Burns was chairman for the evening and gave a hearty welcome to the guests present.

Members of the Precision Squad were introduced from different provinces of the Dominion by Adjutant Francis Woodbury of the Timmins Air Cadets. Each member introduced due measure of applause, and it was noted with interest how widely separated were the homes of these young ladies.

A. C. Flight Lieutenant P. T. Moisiey, C. O. No. 10 Timmins Squadron Air Cadets, introduced the guest speaker of the evening, Section Officer Alice Fahrenholtz, Commanding Officer No. 1 Precision Squadron R. C. A. F. (Women's Division). Flight Lieutenant Moisiey remarked that the guest speaker had spent a number of years at Kenogami Lake and had many friends in the North Land. She had outstanding ability and personality, and had risen from the ranks by sheer merit and interest. Flight Lieutenant Moisiey added that the Women's Division of the R. C. A. F. was performing a notable service at this time, the women serving to relieve men for flying.

Section Officer Fahrenholtz briefly but effectively showed how the Women's Division assists the work of the R. C. A. F. When a woman joins the Women's Division of the R. C. A. F., they find out the trade for which she is best adapted, then she is sent to basic training where she spends one month to six weeks. She is next sent to a station where she replaces a man in each case. Airwoman in England, Section Officer Fahrenholtz said, are in fifty trades, and they handle the balloons. A year ago, the speaker said, there were only eleven trades in the Women's Division, but now the number of trades have increased to such an extent that there is opportunity for all girls to enter in training in the R.C.A.F. Women's Division. Mrs. Fahrenholtz's address on the preliminary training of an airwoman of the Precision Squadron was most effective and interesting. The girls perfected their drills in six weeks. This is the first Women's Precision Squadron of its kind in the country.

In closing her address, Section Officer Fahrenholtz commented on the delightful hospitality of the North Country and she had special words of enthusiastic praise for the beauty of the McIntyre Community Building and the local broadcasting station.

There were rounds of applause greeting the guest speaker of the evening. The thanks of all present for the excellent address with its information and interest was presented to the guest speaker by Kiwanian A. F. McDowell, who used the famous Churchill phrase in very appropriate way to express the feelings of the gathering:—"Never have so many owed so much to so few."

The Kiwanis Club had many guests present in the addition to the Precision Squadron and the Air Force band. There were many from Timmins and Schumacher and also from South Porcupine, as well as a number from outside points. The R. C. A. F. band, from Trenton, played several most attractive selections during the dinner and at the dance that followed later in the evening. The soloists of the band won the highest credit for the instrumental solos. The Kiwanians and their guests from South Porcupine and outside points were seen mingling with the smartly-dressed young ladies of the Precision Squadron and the members of the R. C. A. F. Band.

The reception hall of the McIntyre Community hall was crowded to capacity both at the dinner and the dance that was held later in the evening. Of course, all attending the dinner were thrilled with the wonderful work of the R. C. A. F. Women's Division Squadron in the remarkable drills presented. The Women's Squadron, totalling 55, gave a marvellous exhibition of precision drill, thirty minutes of exact and graceful drill in perfect unison without a word of command. There was great cheering, hand-clapping and other forms of applause, with all joining enthusiastically in this tribute to the Women's Squadron.

Another feature of the evening in the Arena was the formal inspection of the Squadron of the Air Cadets. This Squadron originated and sponsored by the Timmins Kiwanis Club naturally inspires the pride of the Club, and their work on Monday evening showed how fully the pride is justified. The Air Cadets were inspected by Section Officer Alice Fahrenholtz, and the work of the Air Cadets was most impressive. "These boys have really made progress, and are a smart, well-drilled and creditable squadron," was the general opinion of all who saw them on Monday night.

Globe and Mail: Leave it to a woman to find something new to report after a visit to Britain. Mrs. Roosevelt says she found the food the same in Buckingham Palace as in a worker's cottage—and she "looked in on both."

United Church Minister at Monteith Loses Life When House Burns Down

Rev. Alex Beaton Campbell, 30-year-old Student Minister of the United Church at Monteith, Died on Thursday Morning in a Fire at His Home.

Rev. Alex Beaton Campbell, student minister of the United Church at Monteith, died early Thursday morning in a fire that destroyed the house in which he had been living. Mr. Campbell had been in charge of Monteith church for the past six months and was very highly regarded by all who knew him, as a very earnest young man who promised to do well in his chosen work as minister. On going first to Monteith he had resided in the mans, but more recently had moved to a small one-story house just behind the church. Coroner W. Grummett, of Ansonville, who was called to the scene of the fire after the tragedy, found that it appeared as if the minister had risen early and started a fire and then had returned to bed. Apparently the pipes or stove had become overheated and parts of the furnishings or building had taken fire. Before any fire was noticed at the building, the blaze was beyond control, and Mr. Campbell was unable to get out.

There is very general sorrow at Monteith and in the district at this tragedy. Alex Beaton Campbell was born in Glasgow, Scotland, thirty years ago. He came to Canada in 1924, and attended Knox College. Upon graduation he acted as student minister in the Baptist Union Church. Some six months ago he came north as student minister of the United Church at Monteith.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Mary Campbell; four sisters, Mrs. Angus Drysdale, Mrs. Annie Johnston, Mrs. Molly Sandland and Mrs. Kate Lenton; and five brothers, Collin, Lawrence, Hugh, Hector and Allan. Two of the brothers, Hector and Allan, are overseas with the Army, while Hugh

"MISS WAR WORKER"



There used to be beauty and popularity contests for "Miss Alberta" and "Miss Canada" and so on, but now it's "Miss War Worker," and the contest is not on popularity or beauty, but on the war work accomplished. Above is shown Miss Aurelie Bellavance who was elected queen of the war workers at Moose Jaw, Sask.



Geoffrey Waddington, one of Canada's best known musical directors, who will be musical director for the official Canadian Army entertainment troupe "The Army Show". Plans are in the making for casting this feature production.