



WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States weather office in its 10-day forecast predicts fine weather for almost all of Canada. Only parts of northern British Columbia and Alberta are expected to have below-normal temperatures. The remainder of Canada average temperatures (CP Wirephoto) will be either normal or above.

### Perforated Tape Is Faster Than Red Tape Finds RCAF

ST. HUBERT, Que. (CP)—Chimes sound, bells ring and red lights blink in a basement room at the RCAF's Air Defence Command Headquarters here.

A priority message is passing on perforated tape through the almost automatic communications relay system.

Quietly, an attendant notes the destination, glances for garbled words, walks to an outgoing transmitter. Within seconds the urgent message is on its way.

"Speed with accuracy—that's what we're always aiming for," says Flt. Lt. Henry Holgate of Hamilton, commanding officer of No. 5 Communications Unit, one of six such centres across Canada.

**PRIZED TROPHY**

His unit combined speed with accuracy to win an unnamed silver trophy as the most efficient communications relay station in the RCAF's trans-Canada chain. The trophy glitters in the office of Flt. Sgt. William (Woodie) Wood of Saskatoon, relay superintendent.

Winning it brought quiet delight to the St. Hubert crew, who placed last in the previous competition.

The job of the air force communications system—set up in 1954 after a tri-service network was reorganized—is to relay messages over many thousands of miles of leased land lines on a teletype network. Radio teletype, eliminating the need for wires, is also used.

Millions of words are handled each year. A survey in the first seven months of 1957 showed 18 messages went astray in more than 7,000,000.

To keep mistakes at a minimum competition is encouraged between key stations and a piercing monthly statistical report is issued from the over-all head-

quarters at Ottawa's Rockcliffe airport.

**BIG NETWORK**

Major relay stations are also located at Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Rockcliffe and Halifax. Each relay has at least a dozen "tributaries." St. Hubert's tributaries—27 in all—are scattered across Quebec, part of Ontario and the Eastern Coast. The closest is next door, five feet away, and the farthest is at Goose Bay, Labrador, 800 miles northeast.

"The system is like a river with many streams feeding into it," explains Flt. Lt. Holgate, 38, who believes morale—"the higher the better"—makes for proficiency.

He was born at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and is married with four young children who spent their tender years in the Yukon, his last posting before St. Hubert, eight miles south of Montreal.

The "streams"—radar stations in the Pine Tree network or other RCAF installations—pour messages into the "Main river" which passes them along as quickly as possible.

Rockcliffe tested the speed once. It sent a message to itself via Vancouver, Australia and England. Three minutes later, after circling the earth, the message reappeared on teletypes back at Rockcliffe.

Many messages are multi-addressed—aimed at perhaps a dozen different, scattered stations. A "tape factory" reproduces the original perforated tape as many times as needed, and each goes its separate way.

The system has capacity and flexibility to handle the flood of RCAF messages that would be involved in the event of war. It provides fast links with Washington and London.

### Rabbit Meat Appeals To Troops On Cold Exercise

By KEN CLARK  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
KIRKLAND LAKE, Ont. (CP)—The only casualties were the rabbits when about 70 Canadian soldiers roughed it on a cold-weather exercise near here.

Rabbit meat was used as a change from army fare by snare-setting members of the 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment.

The paratroop unit, along with four small supporting units, had regular meals of everything from mutton and onions to pork chops, hamburger, chicken (white meat only) or wieners and beans. The rabbits were extra.

**MEN WARNED**

The unofficial rule: rabbit meat was consumed despite a warning in the unit newspaper that the rabbits were suspected carriers of a germ that started a minor mumps epidemic during an exercise last year.

There was no official estimate of how many rabbits were consumed during the 10-day exercise which ended Jan. 20, but the number was believed considerable.

For breakfast, everybody from Lt. Col. Donald E. Holmes down might have oatmeal, sausages, biscuits, raspberry jam and coffee.

After working up an appetite by hauling the food and other supplies around on a toboggan for a few miles, the hungry soldiers tied into corned beef, more biscuits, raisins, cocoa and a chocolate bar.

**PLUS RABBITS**

There were five different daily menus—six if you count the rabbits.

The big meal was at night, consisting of pea soup, beef steak, mashed potatoes, corn, steamed fruit cake, biscuits, cheese and tea.

Between meals, soldiers on the march nibbled at cheese, chocolate bars, raisins, sweet biscuits, hard candy, almonds and other energy-giving tidbits.

Food for each five-man tent came in 30-pound cartons and contained one day's ration.

Quartermaster—Sergeant Bill

**Can Move Only Head But Draws**

MONTREAL (CP)—A little girl named Brenda who can move only her head can take some of the credit for an invention that is helping other afflicted persons to write and draw.

It was Brenda who inspired designer Joel Barg to think up the writing device that is the next best thing to a hand for armless or paralysed persons.

The device consists of a long plastic arm attached to a circular head band with a clamp to hold pen, pencil or brush at the other end. The slightest movement of the head controls the instrument.

The model he made for Brenda—that's the only name disclosed—is an exclusive one. The head-band was sealed to a cast of her head, and would be a perfect fit for no one else.

**IN PRODUCTION**

Now however he is supervising full scale production of the invention with adjustable headbands. Their cost is about \$35 and Mr. Barg says he plans to put all proceeds from sales back into other self-help devices for the totally incapacitated.

Mr. Barg was first introduced to crippled children by a doctor with whom he used to play tennis. After a visit to the Shriners' hospital "I couldn't get the kids out of my mind," he said.

A free-lance commercial artist who has worked for the National Film Board, taught handicrafts and developed his own puppet theatre, Mr. Barg volunteered to lead the youngsters in a class in painting and drawing.

But Brenda remained apart. "I couldn't get her to participate, which was hardly surprising since she could move only her head," he said. Brenda had given up trying to write with a pencil in her mouth.

**HAPPY PATIENT**

He began a series of experiments with the aid of a plastics firm official, Charles Senecal, who loaned the space, power tools and other facilities for working with a lightweight plastic. He finally produced Brenda's model and she learned to paint and write with it.

Blake of Kitchener, Ont., said each day's ration contained about 4,200 calories and was "more than enough" for each soldier. "Often he cannot eat it all."

**FOOD COST HIGH**

The food cost the army about five times as much as ordinary victuals prepared in the mess.

Col. Holmes said barracks food costs about \$1 a man per day. On the exercise, the pre-cooked, highly condensed frozen food toboggans.

Getting it to the men was a logistics problem. Soldiers on the move could carry no more than two days' ration.

A ski plane ran a shuttle service, landing on lakes near temporary "RC" camps. In other areas, supplies went overland as far as snow tractors could carry them.

After that, the men dragged their supplies behind them on

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