

FOREST BRANCH NEWSLETTER

C.A.S.

EDITION

An entirely unofficial budget of news, nonsense, 'n' opinion compiled from time to time for the profit, amusement, and annoyance of the staff.

No. 38

Victoria, B.C., January 1, 1941.

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First of all, maybe you would like to know how this Number came about. Someone approached Ye Ed. "Don't you think it would be a nice idea to get out a Special Issue for "THE BOYS"?", she asked. "Why, yes--a fine idea", he replied, with a quizzical smile--"Provided you do all the work yourself!"

Confidentially, we would add that Ye Ed had recently been advised to "Ease up on the work... and practise the fine art of letting others 'do it' for you." Never have we known advice to be accepted with such alacrity nor acted upon so literally! Even at that we can't say we blame Ye Ed, especially as he is a family man, and the serious business of playing Santa Claus must be far more intriguing at this season than concentrating on a News Letter for the "profit, amusement and annoyance of the staff."

However, that doesn't help us with this editorial. Personally, we have often wondered in the past why Editors across the country, and 'round the world for that matter, go to so much trouble, knowing that their brain children will be rejected by public opinion and back on their own doorstep the next morning. It is quite bad enough to have to put one's private thoughts into print, without knowing that, in some quarters at least, they are going to be met with, "Why, I could do better myself!"

In this case we are at least in the happy position of trying to please only the ex-staff of our own Branch now in the Army and Navy. (To date we have not heard of any member of the staff joining the Air Force.) So far as we can find out, there are now 29 of "THE BOYS" in khaki and 6 in navy.

In writing this editorial (our first effort along this line in our whole life) we begin to feel like the little girl who said she could knit but "couldn't keep the stitches on the needles." We hope we haven't slipped up anywhere. And, speaking of knitting, until Christmas arrives it will not be generally known that the stenographers of the Victoria Office, their mothers and friends, and wives of the staff are responsible for the socks contained in the Christmas parcels sent to you "BOYS". The names of the knitters will be found on the tag attached to each pair of socks. (And please don't be alarmed at the boxes they come in. Standard first-aid boxes were used and, we must admit, the skeleton on the inside flap doesn't look a bit Christmasy...but there was nothing we could do about that!)

And while on the subject of socks, may we say that it has been SOCKS, SOCKS, SOCKS! for several months. (In the last issue our friend Jack Pine had things to say about boots that "were full of feet" but we notice that he skillfully avoided any allusion as to what comes in between.) The files were consulted and where height was given as 6'-3" and weight around 190 lbs., size 11½ or thereabouts seemed indicated. Everything went fine until the "Tarzan" of the Forest Branch threw a monkey-wrench in our calculations by announcing that, despite his shoulders, his feet were of the most minute proportions...just 9½, as a matter of fact...and size 11's are quite big enough! This made us feel very discouraged for a while, as we had mentally reserved a pair of 13's for him, but we telephoned several of "THE BOYS'" mothers and found we had guessed exactly right and that made us happy again. We know we won't be right every time, but we hope to be in a majority of



cases...and there was the problem of shrinkable wool first knitted and the non-shrink variety, as the latter makes a difference of a half-size. Believe it or not, it won't shrink. We girls have washed all the socks...so we know!

It is hoped that you "BOYS" will enjoy this number...that your photographs (many supplied by mothers and wives...others by district offices and field men) will surprise you. The write-ups will undoubtedly surprise in a number of cases...and as Editor we suppose the blame (E. & O.E) mostly rests with us. However, as this is our first effort we hope to be let off as lightly as possible. We'd therefore like it understood that no "annoyance" is meant in this issue...only "profit" and "amusement" at no one's expense.

The standard order for reports from the various districts is as follows: Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Kamloops, Nelson, Victoria...so that is the way you will find them here...and alphabetically for each district:

VANCOUVER FOREST DISTRICT:



W.E. JANSEN - Born in Vancouver, B.C. Married. Has two children-- Walter aged 8, Dolores aged 6. First worked for the Branch in 1933. Is now a Private in the Canadian Forestry Corps.

Is very fond of dogs and missed his own so much he brought it to the F.D.P. Camp where he was working. Believes in variety and, in respect to camps, relieves the monotony of symmetry by the unique method of having every tent a different size. Perhaps he should have been a high rigger, as his favourite party amusement is to challenge everybody present to climb trees with him. His friends are unanimous in describing him as "the perfect squirrel."

Right now he has a troublesome problem on his hands. He writes as follows: "...Socks apparently are possessed with the peculiar habit of bursting out in the region of the heel and in spite of my tireless and painstaking efforts I have not been able to master the fine art of darning. My most patient and elaborate efforts seem to be rewarded with a sore heel, so, consequently the needle and yarn are restored to their respective places in the "House Wife" and the "darn" darned sock gets "D-a-r-n-e-d" some more and finally ends up on my foot with the heel up."

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C.R. SANDEY

Born in Stafford, England, is married, and was Engineer on the Launch "Oliver Clark" from July 7, 1939, to December 31, 1939, until being called up for service in H.M.C. Navy.

It is regretted that nobody could supply us with a photograph...not even a snapshot...so we are forced to continue without one. He must have got away very unobtrusively because no one seemed to know where he was. We even asked the local Navy, only to discover that his name wasn't on the payroll, which, after all, is just about the most important and likely place for it. We had just about given up when Ranger Greenhouse came forward with the missing information, and also with a story that will be found on Page 10.

(Since writing this a letter has come in from Mr. Sandey which again proves what a small world we live in. He writes as follows: "There certainly seems to be quite a gang of us lads in the services. I ran into a chap named Johnson the other day though didn't have a chance to have a decent yarn with him. I understand he was a Ranger in the Upper Country." (See Page 7 re Mr. Johnson.))

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VICTOR C. SMITH

Was born in Long Beach, California, and received his early education in Victoria. Afterwards studied diesel engineering in California. Worked in Penticton with the Dominion Public Works Department before coming to the Service as Engineer of the Launch "Hemlock" in April, 1939. Was later transferred to the Launch "Wells Gray" as Engineer and resigned from this position on June 10, 1940, to enlist as an Engineer in H.M.C. Navy.

It is reported that he spends his spare time fishing, hunting, and playing golf, tennis and badminton in season...but judging by his broad smile here we think he must enjoy his work too.

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Since writing the above a last-minute report has come in from Pender Harbour confirming the above. It also adds that "We understand Vic is now married" and concludes with best wishes to the bride and groom.

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PRINCE RUPERT FOREST DISTRICT:



associated with for so many years and of which one has such pleasant memories has not entirely forgotten you."

L.S. HOPE - First of all, our congratulations on his promotion. Hope enlisted as a private in the Canadian Scottish in July and has now been promoted to Lieutenant. We shall not be surprised to hear of his further promotion in future.

Statistics: Born in Hamilton, Ontario. (His wife and daughter are pictured here on leaving Prince Rupert just prior to Hope's enlistment.) Graduated from the University of Toronto in 1914 with a B.A. degree, after which he enlisted and served overseas with the Engineers in the First World War, and was wounded in action. Upon demobilization he attended Yale University, where he was granted the degree of Master of Forestry in 1920.

He reported for work in British Columbia in that year and since has been assigned to every District in the Province as Assistant District Forester or District Forester.

Must be a good listener, as it is reported that "in his official relations throughout the Province Hope is noted for his sympathetic understanding of the trials and tribulations of the field man and the small operator...hates bureaucracy, red tape, anything that savours of unfairness or personal animosity."

He writes as follows: "Many thanks for the smokes and letter announcing their dispatch. Not only were the cigarettes much appreciated but it is nice to know that the gang one has been

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W.H. MURRAY - Born in Wallyford, Scotland. Arrived in Canada in 1924, and came to live and go to school at a certain "West Coast port" well known for its extreme precipitation. Here he became very active in sports, especially soccer and badminton. Entered the Service in the Prince Rupert office in 1934 as Computing Clerk. Was promoted to Draughtsman in April, 1939. Enlisted in H.M.C. Navy and at present holds the rank of Writer.



We are told that "Murray has a very pleasant disposition and is greatly missed by his colleagues while temporarily absent on a bigger job." We are also advised that he is "at present in the Single Class."

He writes as follows: "I am in receipt of your letter, together with the package of cigarettes. May I at this time express my appreciation of your very thoughtful action. It's rather 'swell' to feel that, although we're not directly attached to the Service pro tem, we're still remembered by them."

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CARL V. SMITH

Born in Prince Rupert, B.C., and received his education there.

Entered the Service in 1938 as Computing Clerk. Was promoted in 1939 and was doing Management work when the war started. While south on regular annual training at Esquimalt war was declared and he was automatically absorbed into H.M.C. Forces (Naval) as a Writer.

At the time of leaving the staff for war service Carl was single, it is reported, "although of course he had 'ambitions'..." which were later realized when he married the radiant young lady with whom he is pictured here.

He writes as follows: "I would like to express my appreciation to the Honourable the Minister and the Forest Service for the generous gift of cigarettes and kindly letter received a few days ago. It was very thoughtful of the Forest Branch to remember me in this way...Your letter has been most encouraging and gives one a brighter outlook for the future."

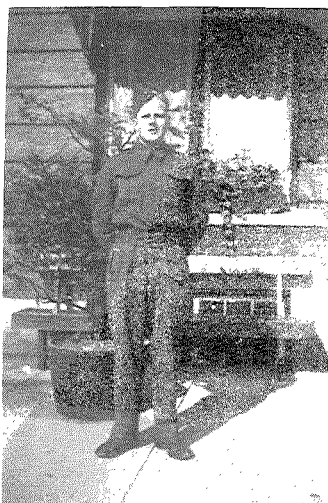
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FORT GEORGE FOREST DISTRICT:

W.D. (BILL) HAY



Brought in from Jasper, Alberta, as a baby, since which time has made excellent progress. Is well-known all along the North Line for his good nature, his flaming locks, and the speed at which he does everything, including driving a Fairmont. It is said that when he was on the Prince George staff his boundless energy kept everybody busy trying to keep pace with him.

We are reliably informed as follows: Formerly Assistant Ranger at McBride, enlisted in July with the 4th Field Park Company and is now in xxxxxxxx learning how to form threes. Latest word from him was to the effect he had a cushy job with the quartermaster--something we were unable to land after nearly five years' trying. Hay believes in being prepared for emergencies, so immediately prior to enlistment he married Miss Lyn Ward, who was at the time nursing in the local hospital, and a darned good nurse she was. If he goes after things in the Army in the same style as he did in the Forest Branch the chances are he will be coming back a General.

He writes as follows: "Will you please convey to the Minister and the staff my sincere appreciation for the cigarettes which arrived the other day. Cigarettes are a gift that is always more than welcome to a soldier. I enjoyed and appreciated your letter very much and hope to hear from you again."

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A.J. KIRK



Born of English parents at Minnedosa, Manitoba. The family later moved to Regina, where he received his education. Took an active interest in the Y.M.C.A and became a Senior leader with gymnastics diploma. Came to British Columbia in 1934 and settled in the Vanderhoof District. Has taken an active part in sports and dramatics. Joined the Service in 1936 as Ranger Assistant and later was Acting Ranger. Has been Assistant Ranger at Vanderhoof for the past three seasons.

Is married and has two children, the second being born since his enlistment in the Canadian Field Artillery in June, 1940, so that he has yet to meet one member of his family.

Art volunteered for a draft for overseas' service and at the time of writing was "somewhere in England."

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ALFRED SMITH



Our Patrolman from Fort St. James hails from Ballater, Scotland, where he received his education. Came out to Canada with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1923 and was sent direct to Fort St. James, where he served the Company 4 years and then was sent to different outlying posts until he severed his connection with the "Bay" and was agent in the fur trade for another company until 1931, when he was first appointed Patrolman with the Forest Service. The depression of 1932 saw him laid off with most of our temporary staff over the entire Province. Since that time he has worked for Placer Mining companies in the hinterland from Fort St. James and with the Public Works Department, taking time off in 1932 and 1933 to visit "Old Scotland" again. He rejoined the Service as Patrolman in 1939, where he remained until enlisting in 1940 in the Canadian Scottish Second Battalion and was stationed "Somewhere on the Island" at time of writing.

He writes as follows: "Your very welcome letter and the parcel of cigarettes to hand the other day. I wish to thank you and the staff of the Forest Service for your kindness. You may be sure the cigarettes are much appreciated. I see you have had quite a time finding me, but Smith is a poor name to have in an Army...Will now conclude with my best wishes to all in the Forestry."

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Fort George Forest District (continued)

L.F. SWANNELL



Born in Victoria, B.C. Single. First worked in the Forest Service as Compassman on a survey party in 1926. Continued this work in the summer of 1927 and was a cruiser from 1928-1934. Graduated from the University of British Columbia in Forestry in 1931. Became an Acting Ranger at Kamloops in 1936 and was appointed to the permanent staff as Junior Forester at Kamloops in 1937. Was promoted to Assistant Forester at Prince George on January 1, 1939, which position he held until enlisting for military service as a 2nd Lieutenant in a Searchlight Battery in September, 1939.

Seeks recreation in music and literature, both of the highest order.

Has written several letters and part of one is quoted below:

"This is just a note of thanks to you, the Minister and the rest of the Service for your very kind letter and the package of cigarettes...It's very nice to get news of the F.B. and am sure that all of us would appreciate the News Letter when it is issued for the "amusement and edification of the staff." Gerry Andrews and self are off on leave this coming week (in England). Gerry is quartered about a mile away so we see a fair amount of him. Again thanking you. Please give my best to everyone in the F.B."

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E. (FRASER) TAGGART



Born in the rugged north, McBride, June 19th, just about the time his forefathers were making Canada's name on the field of battle, (the second battle of Ypres).

He is reported on as follows: Was Assistant Ranger in the Dome Creek District this summer. Prior to this had five seasons in the McBride District, two as Ranger Assistant, one year as lookoutman and two as patrolman. He enlisted in July, 1940, with the 4th Field Park Company. Like his buddy, Bill Hay, he got married the same day at McBride...to Miss Annie Strand of Penny. Recently had a short leave and arrived at Penny minus his cap. On his way back he called on us at McBride and we managed to dig up a cap of 1918 vintage which, after some pressing, cleaning, etc., was sufficient to get him past the Red Caps at xxxxxxxx on his way back to camp.

We expect the boys up at Christmas, when we hope to give them a good time.

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KAMLOOPS FOREST DISTRICT:

C.L. Armstrong

(As we go to press we haven't a photograph but are leaving a space in case one should come in later.

Born in St. John, N.B. Married and has three children--two sons and a daughter.

Enlisted with the 36th Battery in 1914. Was overseas throughout the war and was discharged in 1919. Finished his Forestry course at the University of New Brunswick and came to British Columbia to join the Forest Service in 1920 as Forest Assistant. Left the Service as Assistant District Forester at Cranbrook in 1923 to open a logging engineering office in Vancouver. Afterwards went to the Malay States, where he was Forest Engineer from 1927-1931. Returned to the Forest Service in 1934, was Camp Superintendent at the Aleza Lake Forest Experiment Station and transferred to the Kamloops staff in 1936. In 1938 was transferred to the Vancouver District and retransferred to the Kamloops District as Assistant Forester in 1938, which position he held until his enlistment as a Lieutenant in the Canadian Forestry Corps on July 14, 1940. Congratulations are due on his promotion to the rank of Captain.

He writes as follows: "Please convey to the Minister and the Service my thanks for the several parcels of cigarettes which I have received. These have been very much appreciated and the thoughtfulness of the Staff in sending them, even more so. I also wish to tender my thanks for the News Letter and hope that it will continue to arrive as it helps preserve contact with the Service and my many good friends in it...Again thanking all in the Service for their good wishes and the "smokes".

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Kamloops Forest District (continued)



J. BOYDELL - Born in Rossett, North Wales, and came to British Columbia in 1913. Enlisted in 1915 and went straight to England with the R.F.A., Imperial Army. Transferred to the R.F.C. in 1916. Was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. Became a hospital case after a "crash" in 1918 while a flying instructor and was discharged on demobilization in 1919.

Was first employed in the Service in 1924 as Patrolman at Oliver. In 1925 was appointed Assistant Ranger at Penticton--1926, Supervisor's Clerk there. 1927 transferred to Merritt as Ranger. Again transferred in 1929, this time to Blue River, and thus from the Southern Interior to the Kamloops Forest District. The year 1931 saw him moved to Chase, where he remained until 1935. The next year he was moved to Kamloops. In 1936 took time off for a short trip to England. The following year he was transferred to Revelstoke, where he remained until resigning in July, 1940, to enlist as a Lieutenant in the Rocky Mountain Rangers.

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R.R. DOUGLAS - Born in Vancouver, B.C. Single (according to records). A graduate in Forest Engineering from the University of British Columbia. Is the tenth enlistee to date from our Kamloops District staff. First worked for the Branch on survey parties in 1934, 1935 and 1936 with headquarters at Victoria. Appointed Ranger at Port Neville in 1937. Promoted to Nelson Office in 1938 as Assistant Forester and to Kamloops Office in 1940, where he was stationed until leaving the Service to enlist on November 30th. We have no details of his enlistment as yet and are sorry we haven't a photograph.

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C.R. LEE



Born in Exeter, Devonshire, England. Came to British Columbia in 1908. Was first appointed to the Service as Supervisor's Clerk at Myrtle Point in April, 1923. Appointed Ranger in 1926. In 1927 was Supervisor's Clerk at Nanaimo. Transferred in 1932 to Kamloops Office as Clerk-Draughtsman, which position he held until resigning to enlist in the Field Survey Section of the C.A.S.F. on June 24, 1940.

He writes as follows: "It has been in my mind to write you re my latest move for some days now, but one thing and another crops up and the opportunity is lost, and so the days slip into weeks. However, I had made up my mind to write you tonight, and not let even my washing divert me! When I arrived back at the Depot to find a parcel of cigarettes for me my good resolution was fortified, and I am now making a start against the seduction of pictures for the troops next door...Before I go any further I must again thank you and your colleagues for the gift of the cigarettes and the sentiment back of them. They are very much appreciated."

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O.V. MAUDE-ROXBY



Born in Alverstoke, Hants, England, and came to British Columbia in 1913. Married, and had 3 children. Saw service in the last war from 1914 to 1919, during which he became a Captain and received the Military Cross.

Came to the Service in 1931 as Assistant Ranger at Kelowna and was employed each year thereafter until resigning to enlist on July 15, 1940. Is Captain of a company of the Canadian Forestry Corps.

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The sincere sympathy of the Forest Service has recently been expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Maude-Roxby upon learning of the tragic death of their son, Leicester, aged 20, a First Pilot in the R.A.F., who had conducted a number of raids over enemy territory. He came through all his flights unscathed...but died of peritonitis at the end of October, 1940.

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H.G. (HARRY) MAYSON

Born at McLure, B.C. So far as our records go, is single. Came to the Branch as Assistant Ranger at Adams Lake in 1938 and 1939. In 1940 was transferred to Celista, where he was employed until resigning to join the Army on August 13th. He is with a company of the Canadian Forestry Corps. (Sorry we haven't a photograph.)

He writes as follows: "Your parcel arrived today, for which I am grateful, and am also pleased to hear that the 'News Letter' will be going forward. Although I am quite a few miles from British Columbia I am still very interested in the Forest Branch."

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A.E. PARLOW - Is a descendant of the United Empire Loyalists and was born "somewhere in Ontario." Graduated in Forestry from the University of Toronto and was with the Dominion Forest Service prior to enlisting from Kamloops with the 102nd Battalion of the R.M.R's as a Private in August, 1914. Went overseas with the 1st Canadian Contingent. Served later with the Royal Engineers, being made Captain when appointed in command of a company in the Sherwood Foresters. Returned in 1919 to take the position of District Forester at Vernon with the Provincial Forest Service. Since then he has had a series of jobs in the Service in Nelson, Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Kamloops, where he was active in militia circles. Took an active part in militia training since the war started. Enlisted as a Captain and was promoted to Major in charge of a Company of the Canadian Forestry Corps. In November was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. This was announced in the press between News Letters. We now therefore wish to convey our somewhat belated congratulations to him. (He is usually seen smoking very black cigars of an unknown brand which we would judge by the aroma to be nothing less than Maduro-Maduros.)

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Kamloops Forest District (continued)



J.H. WILCOX

A.B. (POP) RITCHIE - Born in Scotland. Came to British Columbia in 1908. Enlisted in the first Great War in August, 1914. Received the D.C.M. and M.M. After the war was employed in British Columbia by the Dominion Forest Service and came to this Service as Assistant Ranger at Salmon Arm in 1931. Continued in that position during 1934-5-6. In the winter of the latter year was appointed Foreman of the Skutz Falls F.D.P. Camp, where it is reported that his popularity with the boys brought him the nickname of "Pop", which has stayed with him ever since. Returned to Salmon Arm in 1937 and alternated between F.D.P. camps in the winter and Salmon Arm in spring and summer until enlisting on August 29, 1940, as a Lieutenant in the Canadian Forestry Corps.
(You will have seen him in uniform in the last issue so we are publishing another photo this time. For further information see joint letter in this issue under heading Alex Gordon, Victoria.)

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Born at Kamloops, B.C. Came to the Branch as Ranger Assistant in 1936 and 1937, and in 1938 was Patrolman at Birch Island. In 1939 was Lookout-Patrol on Mt. McLennan, and in 1940, on Lolo Mt. Lookout, enlisting with the C.A.S.F. on August 7th, according to our records. (It was impossible to obtain a photograph of this man and to date we have been unable to secure details of his enlistment.)

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C.J. WRIGHT

Was born at Lashburn, Sask., after the last Great War and is therefore one of our youngest enlistees to date. Lived at Barriere for the past few years and started work with the Branch as Ranger Assistant there in 1938 and 1939. Between June and August of 1940 was Lookoutman on Baldy Mt. Our records show that he "enlisted with the C.A.S.F. on August 13th, but to date we have been unable to obtain details of his regiment, etc. We are sorry that it was impossible to obtain a photograph.

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NELSON FOREST DISTRICT

F.J.G. (BARNEY) JOHNSON



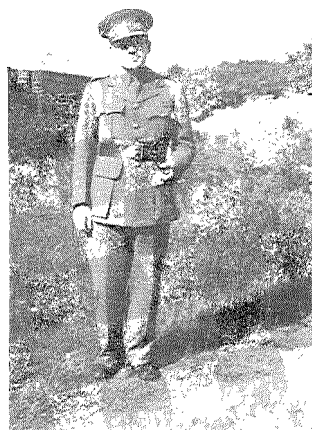
Born in London, England. His wife and family are living in North Vancouver.

Was first employed in the Service as Assistant Ranger at North Vancouver in 1931 and continued in that position until 1937, when he was appointed Ranger at Thurston Bay. Was transferred to Invermere in the Nelson Forest District in 1939, where he remained as Ranger until leaving the Service in July, 1940. To date, has the distinction of being the only enlistee from our Nelson District, and further, of being one of the six Forest Branch men to choose the Navy (no doubt on account of his previous marine experience.) Is now second in command of the first corvette visited by Their Excellencies the Governor General and Princess Alice. We are sure that a ship (with beam about equal to the length of the little boat he used at Thurston Bay) must be a matter of some pride to him.

He writes as follows: "Firstly, may I thank you all for the kind thought in sending me the cigarettes. If you will send the 'News Letter' (the most valuable of all gifts that you could think to send) c/o the Fleet Mail Office, they will forward them on to me in their own good time (and to think I beefed about waiting 15 days for monthly expense cheques!)...And now may I again thank you and the Service for remembering me, and ask you to please not forget to send the News Letter, for I miss the 'outfit' terribly much. As to the parcels that you might wish to send, cigarettes are most acceptable, for I find under the spots of stress that we encounter from time to time that 'coffin nails' are urgently needed."

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VICTORIA (HEADQUARTERS)



G.S. (GERRY) ANDREWS - Born in Winnipeg, Man. Is married and has one daughter, aged 17 months. Studied his Arts course at the University of British Columbia, received a teacher's diploma from the Vancouver Normal School and obtained his Bachelor's degree in Forestry at the University of Toronto. Three years later undertook postgraduate work at the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford, followed by two semesters under a scholarship at a university in Germany. In 1934 and 1935 was granted a travelling and research fellowship under the Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Foundation. His postgraduate work took him to a number of European countries and under the Pack Fellowship he visited the chief forestry centres of the United States and Canada.

Joined the Service in 1929 and has been continuously employed since 1930 in the Forest Surveys (now Forest Economics) Division, and in 1936 became first in command of the newly-formed Air Survey Branch of that division. Occupied this position until resigning to enlist as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. Has since been transferred to the Royal Canadian Engineers. Hobbies: Photography, golf, badminton. We understand he is very busy these days doing "odd jobs" "somewhere in England" and that he is "too busy to write letters" at present. (Gerry's correspondents please note.) He has managed to write several times since his arrival, however, and we quote part of one letter, as follows:

Victoria (Headquarters) continued:

"Your kind letter of the 5th instant came to hand yesterday, and it was welcome in more than one sense. In the first place, it is a great treat to hear from the Service--to feel that we who are over here are still a part of it 'in absentia', and in spite of necessary preoccupations with the Army, just now, our happiest thoughts are still of the work at home in B.C. and of all our friends who were and are connected with it. The prospect of some smokes arriving in the near future is most agreeable, and I wish you would thank the Minister and the members of the Forest Service for their thoughtfulness. With best wishes to all. G.S. Andrews."



H.C. CASILIO

Born and educated in Victoria, B.C. Came to work as a Junior Draughtsman in the Forest Branch in May, 1939. Was here about 3 months and very quietly disappeared. It was discovered that he had quietly joined the Army and as quietly become a Sergeant in the Ordnance Corps.

He writes as follows: "Please accept this medium of conveying my thanks and respect to yourself and staff for your kind gift. Your thoughts in my behalf are greatly appreciated."



A. (ALEX) GORDON - Born in Somerset, England, and educated there. His wife and family (three sons and two daughters) are living in Victoria. Enlisted in an English regiment in August, 1914 and left for France in January 1915. Was a prisoner of war in Germany until after the Armistice. First came to the Department in 1923, where he worked temporarily for a few summers on forest surveys, and has been continuously employed by the Department since 1926. Has worked throughout the Province. Since 1935 has been attached to the Youth Forestry Training and Forest Development Projects and held the position of Supervisor until leaving the Service to enlist on August 24, 1940, as a Lieutenant in the Canadian Forestry Corps.

He writes as follows: "Pop Ritchie has asked me to make this a joint affair in answer to your very nice letters to each of us...We both wish to express our very deep appreciation of the thoughtfulness of the Honourable the Minister of Lands, yourself as Chief, and your able staff to which we lately belonged...Our batmen have a distinctly bad habit of losing socks in order to avoid washing them and we're both bankrupt from buying "Scotch" (I mean socks), so if some of our fair stenogs find time hanging heavily on their hands, why not put wool in them (their hands, I mean not pulling it over their eyes) and a few clicking needles and voila, socks size 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ both le meme chose.

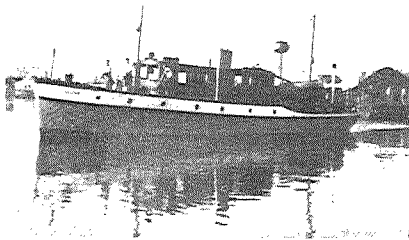
Yours with best wishes to the Service, Alex Gordon & Pop Ritchie."

W. (BILL) HALL, Jr.



Born in Millow, Cumberland, England. Graduated in Forestry at the University of British Columbia in 1932 and first came to the Forest Service in 1925. Was called up by the 17th Searchlight Battery, Victoria, soon after hostilities started in 1939, at which time he was second in command of the Air Survey Section, Economics Division. Transferred to the Royal Engineers and left Victoria in April, 1940, in due course arriving in England. There he took refresher courses in engineering...and we have visions of Bill burning the midnight oil in an atmosphere reminiscent of college days. We always had a feeling Bill would go far...and up to now he is certainly living up to our expectations. The latest report is that he has travelled over 20,000 miles and is now so far away from here that it takes about 3 months for the mails to catch up with him. Confidentially, we hope that the "Christmas" parcel we mailed in November will reach him at least by next Easter, and that the bottle of his favourite brand of cough mixture it contains will not leak into the less fragile and less valuable contents. (Bill, will you be sure to advise us on this point, please!)

T. HUNTER



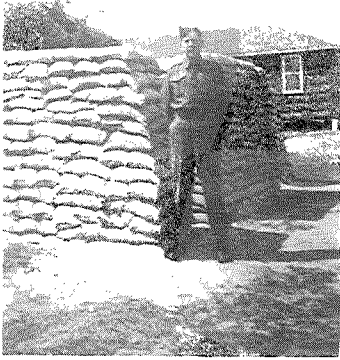
Born in London, England, and came to Canada with Messrs. Rodd Bros. and worked as a mechanic for a number of years in their shipyards at Canoe Pass. We are told that he is inseparable from boats, which we are inclined to believe, as we were unable to get a picture of him alone... you see him here standing by the mast on the forward deck with some of his colleagues on the Launch "B.C. Forester", of which he became skipper in 1938 when he joined the Service. He resigned last Easter and returned to England to join the British Navy, hoping to serve on small boats, such as minesweepers, sub-chasers, etc. We understand that he is in the Navy at present but not on a boat. Is fond of swimming, probably due to the number of times he has overturned in small canoes in the treacherous

waters of the Gorge...and possibly why he has an aversion to water for drinking purposes. We understand he enjoyed motorcycling, which occasioned some hair-raising experiences, but maybe it was the less-exciting experience of walking the thing back home that took the joy out of it and put him to work building himself a 30-foot sailing sloop, which is still here riding at anchor awaiting his return.

Victoria (Headquarters) continued:

A.C. (AXEL) KINNEAR

Born in Victoria, B.C. Has been connected with the Air Survey Section of the Economics Division since 1936 and his experience in plotting and typing vertical air photos will stand him in good stead now that he has joined the ranks of the First Survey Regiment.



Unless he has been hiding his light under a bushel we can see him helping his unit to win in the field of sports. He was once the coach of a Girls' Basketball team...and they won the B.C. championships! We are also informed that he was on the committee of the Victoria Soccer Association, as well as being a member of the All Star Baseball Team in 1938, and has played on a number of baseball teams. He was also on the Dominoes Basketball Team in 1936...so for the benefit of those who want to know the "how" of things along these lines, we say: Ask Axel.

He writes as follows: "I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter and the package of cigarettes from the members of the Forest Branch. The cigarettes just hit the nail on the head and I really appreciated the thoughts that were sent with them..."

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DONALD J. MacKAY

Born and educated in Victoria, B.C. Single. Came to the Branch as Messenger on May 1, 1939, and was promoted to Junior Clerk in November of that year. Resigned on June 19, 1940, to enlist as a Private in the Army Service Corps.

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Don is reported to be coming home on furlough shortly and it is regretted that his homecoming will be saddened by the recent death of his mother.

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E.G. (SI) OLDHAM

Was born in Southampton, N.B., and graduated from the University of New Brunswick, where he participated in all sports, reportedly acquiring no little prestige in shot-putting (but then a fellow his size ought to be able to throw things).

Married Harry (Prince George District) Forse's sister, Dolly. Is proud father of a son 4½ years old and a daughter 4 months.

Left position as Assistant Forester of Parks and Forest Development Projects in June, 1940, to enlist in the 17th Searchlight Battery of the 5th Canadian Garrison Artillery. His ambition to play rugby has again been revived.

With his fondness for night life and the bright lights we can understand the attraction a searchlight battery has for him.

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G.A. (GEOFF) PLAYFAIR

Born in Shilong, India, several years ago and arrived in British Columbia a mere stripling. Was educated in England and British Columbia and obtained his Arts Degree at McGill University.

Originally joined the Service in 1934 as Dispatcher at Campbell River and at the end of that fire season was reappointed with the high-sounding title of Acting Clerk-Wireless Operator. This led him to be Supervisor's Clerk, still at Campbell River, and ultimately Radio Engineer with headquarters at Victoria. When he first took over for the Branch in Radio we had a couple of land stations and several launches equipped, and he has seen this grow to some 124 stations of all types, to the growth of which he has contributed in no small measure.

He is an ardent fisherman and no mean hand with a sailboat, therefore, having spent so much time in a "West Coast" Fishermen's Paradise he will no doubt have some tall "fish" stories for the "Boys."

Coming of a military family, Geoff early felt the itch to join the Army, and enlisted with the 16th Battalion, Canadian Scottish. At the time of writing was a full private and stationed "Somewhere in Eastern Canada."

He writes as follows: "Many thanks for the letter received yesterday and for the very welcome parcel of cigarettes. Please thank wherever possible, all those responsible for sending them. They were tremendously appreciated...Thank you all again for your kind thoughts."

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Victoria (Headquarters) continued:

N.G. (NORMAN) WHARF



Born in Victoria, B.C., and after going to school for a while thought bicycling could be made to pay. Got a job as Telegraph Messenger with the C.P.R. Either the job or Norman (we never found out which) was too hard on bicycles, as he wore out half a dozen in no time and decided he would be an office boy, thereby saving his "dogs" and bicycles too. It was at this stage in his history that he came to work for the Forest Branch). Enlisted in the Canadian Scottish in the summer of 1939 and had a delightful holiday in an Interior camp shortly before war was declared. Is the youngest member of the staff enlisted to date. Was called up right away and came to see us looking very resplendent in his kilts. Got himself a stripe and then lost his kilts... having been transferred to the Pay Corps, where he now is, so far as we know.

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Following is the story referred to on Page 2 re C.R. Sandey. Ranger J.P. Greenhouse reporting: "It might be a good idea if the Forest Branch Cigarette Fund saw that Carle Sandey received at least one dozen Eggs. These to remind him of his yeoman services in the Battle of Eggs on August 17th and 18th, 1939. On this date the first engagements took place. The first at 6.30 P.M., followed by another brush with Eggs at around midnight. The final and victory, when all enemy Eggs had suffered defeat on the morning of August 18th.



"August 17th - Hot as hades, the "Oliver Clark" arrived at a fire and tied up to an A-Frame in Pryce Channel. The Ranger went ashore, having arranged that supper, all well, would be around 6 P.M. All the so-called camps had been destroyed. Sandey, putting his head out of the aft hatch around 6 P.M. to look in case he saw the Ranger returning, was astounded to find 4 Indians and 3 Swedes, dirty, half-clothed, standing close to the launch on the A-Frame. "This is all we have", they cried, everything burnt, nothing to eat since before noon." Sandey looked. All he saw was a case of Eggs.

"Ranger returning to launch noticed for some distance heavy blue smoke enveloping the launch. It was pouring out of the port of the galley and the aft hatch. Hurriedly the Ranger reached the launch. He fought his way through the smoke, smell of burning fat, bad language, and Indians and Swedes to find the fight in full swing.

"Sandey, drips falling like rain from his forehead from the heat of the stove and battle, standing over the stove on which reposed one fry pan--capacity 4 eggs--and a crate of eggs at his feet. The pan by the way was receiving all the drips. This to save salting the eggs. An odd egg fell on the stove to die a horrible death, and the corpse was hastily thrown out of the port. "Hell", muttered Sandey, "I've tried to crack 'em two at a time in my hand a la camp cook, and every other way I can think of. Alas, I can only crack 'em one at a time. You'll have to wait till I have fed these birds. I'm giving them 6 each. Should fill them up", he muttered. At last the first brush with Eggs was over. A brief rest in which to wash all dishes on the launch, when all too soon midnight arrived, and a crew of hungry men. Sandey, calling the crew of Fry Pan and Dishes, fought the second engagement. Another 48 Eggs disposed of, falling by Sandey's hand.

"The last engagement of battle, and Victory took place at 9 A.M. August 18th, after Sandey's "morning tea." The last of the crate of eggs were disposed of, and the launch left with a victorious Sandey aboard to send supplies to the Fire Crew. Sandey, still game, lay on his bunk, and to the accompaniment of the vibrations of the "Oliver Clark" muttered, "Eggs, more Eggs and still more Eggs. I'll see Eggs all my life." He lay back again exhausted. Suddenly he came to life and shouted, "Hell, why didn't I BOIL the blasted things."

"(Please note this was an operation fire. Fire crew was operator's concern.) J.P. Greenhouse."

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THE CANADIAN WOOD-CUTTING DETACHMENT

"It may be of interest to the Intelligentsia who read this paper to hear of some of the activities of perhaps one of the earliest forms of Forestry Corps. This was made up during the last war. I should hasten to add that I don't think the Forestry Corps recently formed will have to go through the same danger and hardships. Actually, they couldn't stand it. (I don't want to be nasty; but I was turned down by this latter amateur outfit. Advanced age, senile decay, sere and yellow leaf, and so on. I expect each morning now to wake up and find all my hair and teeth gone, and the other leg in the grave. I think it was really jealousy in high places. They have missed a chance to acquire a good General whose vast experience in billeting in estaminets would have been of inestimable value. The W.A.A.C's now have the first refusal on this experience, and if they accept my services as Padre that fast-stepping Corps will be set.)

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"In the Fall of 1915 there was no such outfit as a Forestry Corps; at least not where I was. I then held a modest position in the finest infantry battalion ever seen in France--past, present and future wars.

"A call came through from the Brains at G.H.Q. for ex-lumber jacks to volunteer for a 'Wood-cutting Detachment.' At that time we were suspicious of these calls for volunteers. You might, for instance, volunteer to escort prisoners to Paris and find that you were expected to pick them up over in Jerry's line first. Therefore I don't remember whether I volunteered or was pushed.

"We were sent to Arques, Pas de Calais, which was a few miles from G.H.Q. at St. Omer--perfectly bomb-proof. Gathered together in this detachment were men from all parts of Canada and practically all lumberjacks. I was going to say "loggers", but they were not loggers...They were lumberjacks...there's a vast difference. There is no truth in the assertion at that time that these men were picked out because the clinks up front were full. It is true, however, that the local clinks filled up soon after their arrival. But the local clinks were small affairs and were easily filled. The favourite clink I remember had been the local bakehouse. This had an extra wide chimney and exits were made occasionally.

"Our job was to log the Claire Maraise Forest which was privately owned by a French Viscount then serving time as a prisoner of war in Germany. We did the logging under direction of French Foresters. There was a friendly rivalry between our outfit and the Royal Army Service Corps, who were attached to do the hauling. This was a Cockney outfit. Sometimes we would be first in this rivalry, and sometimes the R.A.S.C. The Foresters, I remember, were always fifth.

"Among the B.C. men I remember were 'Fatty' Joy, Bill Isbister, 'Mike' McGee, Frank Duffy, and a large-sized Czech from my own outfit. This fellow had a dangerous habit when lit. He always proposed on his knees to the nearest lady who happened to be around. How he escaped--for escape he did--has always been a miracle. Some escapes were due to the fact that bigamy is a punishable offence in France as well, for Lem never asked the lady whether she had a spare husband around first.

"Quebec was represented by a covey of French-Canadians who were the pride of Arques. Their Chanti Allouette was a joy to hear around about midnight when they deigned to return to billets. The G.H.Q. Military Police were not musically inclined and had queer ideas regarding bedtime for soldiers. They had a curfew at 9 pip emma, hence there were difficulties that were only overcome by the enforced blackout.

"The Acting-Sergeant Major was Nick Clark, a Port Arthur lumberjack. I never knew Nick in civil life, that is, if he ever had a civil life. He must have been a lumberjack with moss on. He was a fine shot and when lit could shoot off the tips of cow horns at 100 yards. He missed only once, which was fortunate, as we were then low in fresh meat.

"Timbers were urgently needed up front, and our orders were to log that forest as quickly as possible. Trees to be felled were marked by the local Foresters. Any other tree felled produced an oration, often backed by tears, that was a masterpiece of calisthenics.

"They gave us an axe about a foot long and slung on a pick handle. A noble instrument! With this we were to cut the stumps at ground level. We were supplied with a cross-cut saw which was, to describe it in modern language, a 'wow'. This saw was hung up in the Sergeant's Mess for a mascot, and later on, when we departed, was hung higher yet on a telegraph pole on the main stem. Production with this equipment struck snags. It was necessary for us to go down on our hands and knees to chop in order to cut to ground level, and it was while in this position that one of our party offered up a prayer while being questioned by the O.C. (One Major Rean of the Royal Engineers.) The religious one covered himself in glory and 15 days C.B., but soon after we were supplied with Christian tools.

"Besides the felling of trees at ground level we were expected to cut off the break with a sharp axe, leaving what could be seen of the stump as smooth as a table. The timber here, by the way, was oak and beech. Trunks were cut into required lengths and the larger limbs were also cut to size. The smaller limbs were cut into cordwood, while the more whip-like branches were made up into fascines. The operation did not end here, for the local villagers were allowed to follow us with rakes and comb up the smaller twigs, which were used at home in the bake ovens for fuel. It is no exaggeration to say that this area was clear-logged. Hauling was done by horse and blasphemy. Both of excellent type.

"We finally worked ourselves out of a job and back we went to our battalions and the nasty proceedings around Messines. During the Detachment's stay at Arques we made ourselves at home. In about the five months we were there, we were Arques. We could have run Nick Clark for Mayor and won the election if the Military Police had not frowned on the idea. They were always frowning.

"Our casualties while in this engagement were few. Frank Duffy fell off an estaminet roof and broke a leg. He never did find out how he got there. Bruce, of the distinguished 8th Battalion, broke an arm falling off the top of the bakehouse chimney while exiting. A French-Canadian got married, and another was shot in the foot by an M.P. in the midst of Allouette. That was a wild night and the wolves howled long and loud. The subsequent proceedings must be in the archives of Arques...but that is another story.

"The gang was later formed again, and a job of swamping guns out of Delville Woods, with Jerry an interested spectator, wound up the Detachment. Most of them sleep in France, and no finer disciples of Paul Bunyan ever wore caulked boots." J.A.P.

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The twang of Cupid's bow is often heard these days. His latest targets include two members of the Victoria Office...Miss Joan Peake of the Forest Protection Staff, who was married at St. Luke's Church, Cedar Hill, Victoria, on Friday, December 13th, to Mr. R.J. McNeill of Vancouver...and Ian MacQueen of the Economics Division whose marriage to Miss Joan Crickmay of Vancouver took place on Saturday, December 14th.

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We are sorry to advise of the death on November 4th of David Boyd Bryan, who was employed by this Department for the past three seasons as Lookoutman on the Rosewall Lookout. We understand his death was caused through an accident at a shipyard plant in North Vancouver.

David made many friends amongst our field staff, who found him a most cheerful and obliging worker. He was highly spoken of by his associates and his passing will be a source of deep regret and loss to all of us who had the pleasure of knowing him. (Vancouver District Office)

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