

ARMY NURSING SISTERS

INTEGRAL PART OF RCAMC: Nursing sisters will continue to form an integral part of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in Canada's peacetime Army, it has been announced by the Minister of National Defence. Nursing sisters are now stationed from Montreal to Vancouver and from the U.S. Border to Whitehorse, Yukon.

A total of 76 matrons and nursing sisters, under the direction of Major Dorothy M. Ballantine, A.R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, RCAMC, will minister, not only to Army personnel, but also to dependents living in isolated camps and stations with serving members of the Force.

The Canadian Army Nursing Service had its beginning in the grim days of the Northwest Rebellion during May, 1885. Canadian nurses gave their services also in the South African War with the 1st Canadian Contingent. In World War I more than 2,000 nursing sisters were accepted for active service.

Canadian Army nurses, during the recent war, served in 11 foreign countries and on hospital ships at sea. Other Canadian nurses volunteered for service in South Africa and with an orthopaedic unit in Scotland early in the war to relieve a dire shortage in these countries. On Active Service, Army nursing sisters have received 150 awards and 104 mentions in despatches.

Members of the Army's present nursing service find their work varied, particularly in the public health programme, which includes tours of duty in child welfare clinics, pre and post-natal clinics and visiting dependents of Army personnel at their homes in certain camps.

Five dietitians, five physio-therapists, and one occupational therapist form part of the postwar establishment. These specialists will be employed at the larger military hospitals.

The matron-in-chief, Major Ballantine was born in Prince Albert, Sask., and graduated from the Hospital training School at the Winnipeg General. She took her post-graduate training in nursing at the Winnipeg General Hospital and the University of Minnesota, joining the RCAMC in 1941, she served as Assistant Matron in Canada and the United Kingdom; Matron in France, Belgium and Holland and then as Principal Matron in Holland and England. She returned to Canada in 1946.

Included in the total of 76 nursing sisters for the Canadian Army is an establishment of 12 nurses, who are stationed at the military hospitals in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, and Churchill, Man. Bleak, Fort Churchill Station hospital has at present on its staff Lt. (N/S) M. Doddridge, St. Sillery, Que.; Lt. (N/S) J.I. MacDonald, Meata, Sask.; Lt. (N/S) M. Bouchard, Hemmingford, Que., and Lt. (N/S) P. Pichette, New Richmond Centre, Que. The Northwest Highway System hospital at Whitehorse is staffed by eight sisters with Capt. (Matron)

E. Andrew of Battle Heights, Sask. in charge.

Other nursing sisters are stationed at military establishments in Camp Borden, Toronto, Kingston, London, Montreal, Longue Pointe, Quebec City, Winnipeg, Camp Shilo, Rivers, Calgary and Vancouver.

X-RAYS IN THE YUKON: Headquarters Western Command have received word that medical men of the Canadian Army stationed in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, are at present taking part in the current anti-tuberculosis campaign being carried out in the northern city.

In co-operation with the civilian medical officer, the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps personnel are aiding in the X-ray processing of all residents in the area.

Started about three weeks ago and slated to continue for most of the winter season, the programme calls for X-ray inspection of every civilian within travelling distance of the Northwest Highway System's military hospital. With army personnel doing the X-rays and technical processing, Dr. Roth, resident doctor for Whitehorse, is being assisted in reading and diagnosis of the plates by Major M. Fitch, RCAMC. Major Fitch is in charge of the military hospital and medical personnel stationed in Whitehorse.

Once tubercular suspects are discovered by the X-ray examination, civilian authorities make arrangements for hospitalization and treatment. In the case of Indian residents, the plates are forwarded to Edmonton for verification and authorities there arrange disposal.

Plans for expansion of the tuberculosis search after breakup of river ice in the Spring are now well advanced and include a tour by the medical men down river towards Dawson City, during which portable military equipment will be used.

Recently a rush call was received in Edmonton for additional X-ray plates. Through Headquarters Western Command the call was relayed to RCAMC Stores at Sea Island, Vancouver, and within two and one-half days the 400-pound priority shipment of negatives was in the hands of the civilian-military team.

NEW ARMY RADIO STATIONS: Two new radio stations, one at Quebec City and the other at Fredericton, N.B., are to be built for the signal system of the Canadian Army, and considerable new construction is also planned to improve existing facilities.

The new stations will go up outside the built-up areas of Quebec and Fredericton. This permits freedom from interference, reduces costs and makes possible the erection of the larger antenna systems required in present day wireless communication.

The new transmitter building at Quebec City will be situated at Fort Lauzon and will replace the present one in the Citadel. Later, if present plans work out, a remote receiving

station may also be built outside the city.

Fredericton's new installation will be for receiving only, as existing transmission facilities are considered adequate for the time being.

Officers of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals here added that improvements and additions to the transmitting stations at Ottawa and Edmonton are also included in the current programme.

The Ottawa transmitting station located at Orleans, on the outskirts of the capital, is being extended to accommodate transmitters of the Royal Canadian Navy. The Navy station, formerly located within the city, had to make way for a civic housing project, and it is now planned to have all outgoing radio traffic from both services pass through the one station.

Edmonton, key station of the extensive Northwest Territories and Yukon Radio System, is extending its transmitting facilities to tie in more fully with the East-West communications of the Canadian Army Signals System.

Although it is the intention to have all receivers and transmitters located some distance from urban areas, the actual operating and processing of messages is carried out within Army Signal Offices situated in or near the military headquarters they serve. Contact with the remote transmitter and receiver sites is maintained over short telegraph circuits or FM radio circuits.

In the long range planning of Canadian Army communications, it is intended to gradually replace handspeed wireless operating and line teletype circuits with modern radio teletype circuits. Fast, efficient radio teletype circuits are now in operation between Ottawa and England, Halifax, Winnipeg and Churchill.

FRIGATES SOLD FOR SCRAP: Transactions recorded during December, 1947, by the Ships Direct Sales Division of War Assets Corporation covered a wide range from dinghies to a destroyer and included 14 frigates formerly in commission for the Royal Canadian Navy. Destroyer and frigates were sold for breaking up and the smelter. The frigates were bought by Wagner, Stein and Greene Co., of Vancouver, who also purchased for scrapping the former minesweeper Border Cities, a gate vessel, a harbour boat, scows and small craft.

The frigates sold on the West Coast were the former HMCS, Cape Breton, Coaticooke, Dunver, Eastview, Kokanee, LaSalle, Longueuil, Matane, Prince Rupert, Runnymede, Wasquesieu, Grou, Charlottetown and Levis.

The destroyer, HMCS Qu'Appelle, was sold as scrap to German & Milne, Montreal. The same firm purchased the tug Luceville.

The motor vessel General Cotton was sold to The British Columbia Water Transport Co. Ltd., of Vancouver. Another substantial sale on the Pacific Coast was that of the motor vessel Gryne to F. Millerd & Co. of Vancouver.

A former refuelling launch used by the Royal Canadian Air Force purchased by Bird's Eye Cover Shipyard at Maple Bay, B.C., carries the unnautical name of "Butterball."

Sales of scows, lifeboats, dinghies, marine engines and outboard motors added to the foregoing made the total for December, 1947, \$228,750, and brought to \$115,715,000 the aggregate of ships sales by War Assets Corporation.

CABBAGE PRICE CEILING: Wartime Prices and Trade Board announces maximum ceiling prices for domestic and imported cabbages at a level not exceeding nine cents per pound at retail.

MORE CANNED FRUIT

BUT FEWER CANNED VEGETABLES: More canned fruit, more jams, jellies and marmalade, but fewer canned vegetables, will be available in 1948, according to a preliminary report on the 1947 pack of canned fruits and vegetables issued by F.J. Perry, Chief Canning Inspector, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture.

Heavy crops of strawberries, raspberries and blueberries highlighted the fruit pack picture. The strawberry pack increased from 8,040 cases in 1946 to 93,222 cases in 1947, an advance of 1,060 per cent. Raspberries were up 316 per cent and the 100,000 case crop of blueberries represented a 566 per cent increase over the previous five-year average pack of 15,000 cases.

Production of jams, jellies and marmalades from the 1947 crop is expected to reach 104,000,000 pounds, an increase of nine per cent over the 1946 figure and just double the figure for 1939.

The combined 1947 pack of canned fruits and vegetables was considerably less than in 1946. Canned fruits showed an increase but there was a big drop in vegetables compared with 1946.

IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY

Although the quantity of the 1947 pack suffered by comparison with that for 1946, there was, however, an improvement in the quality, particularly in peas, tomato juice and some fruits.

Gains in the amount of fruit canned were registered by cherries, apricots, peaches and pears. Although there was a poor crop of sour cherries, sweet cherries were plentiful and the cherry pack as a whole was 50 per cent better than in 1946. Apricots, chiefly a British Columbia product, increased by 26 per cent. Peaches, too, improved but only by one per cent. The crop was down in Ontario, due principally to attacks by the peach moth and heavy winds during the harvest season, but British Columbia countered the loss with an increase of approximately 100,000 cases over