

ALASKA HIGHWAY DEFENCE EXERCISES

CANADA - U.S. JOINT OPERATION: To meet theoretical aggressor attacks next month down the Alaska Highway from Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, combined Canadian and United States forces will carry out a defence exercise to meet the "enemy" along the highway north of Whitehorse, Y.T. Participating in the defence force will be a battalion group of the Canadian Active Force Brigade group and a battalion combat team of the U.S. Fifth Army, supported by aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the United States Air Force.

Known as "Exercise Sweet Briar", the combined northern operation will be held for 10 days commencing February 13, and will involve about 3700 Canadian and American troops. The air phase of the large peacetime exercise is expected to use more than 1400 Canadian and American Air Force personnel.

During the past months extensive planning and preparation have been carried out by staffs of both nations. Canadian planning has been carried out by Headquarters, Western Army Command, under the direction of Major-General M.H.S. Penhale, General Officer Commanding, and Headquarters, North West Air Command, under Air Vice Marshal C.R. Dunlap, Air Officer Commanding.

INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE

Exercise Sweet Briar has been designed to obtain information and experience in the conduct of tactical operations under severe winter conditions and to provide arctic training for battalion groups, support services of the Army, and combined U.S. and R.C.A.F. units and formations. In addition the February exercise will test the value of present arctic clothing and equipment including parachute and airborne stocks.

Army and Air Force will combine to develop techniques in the following roles: providing air transport, close air support, air and ground supply, air and ground evacuation.

Prior to the actual exercise all ranks will be "warm based" at Whitehorse and during the tactical move commencing February 13, the ground forces will cover about 350 winter miles to Northway, Alaska. During the actual exercise bombers, fighters, and photo reconnaissance aircraft of the allied force will move in support of Canadian and American troops from the R.C.A.F. station at Whitehorse to Burwash Landing and then on to Northway.

Luring past months hundreds of vehicles of all types have been winterized by Canadian

Army specialists and these will be used to move the troops north from Whitehorse until contact with the "enemy force" is established. The "fight" with actual airmen and soldiers of the aggressor force from Alaska Command will entail manoeuvring in temperatures which are expected to range as low as 50 below and a high degree of survival training will be necessary for the rigorous actions.

While airborne officers and men of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry practise ground roles, "C" Company under the command of Major D.L. Clarke of Calgary will carry out their first mass winter jump.

Twenty-nine R.C.A.F. fighters, including vampires, will operate from an emergency airstrip at Burwash Landing during the fighter support of the exercise. Mitchell aircraft will take the part of allied bombers and Dakotas and North Stars from the R.C.A.F. Air Transport Command will provide air transport for personnel. Lancasters from aerial survey squadrons will perform high level photo reconnaissance. A total of 53 R.C.A.F. aircraft and 47 U.S.A.F. planes will take part. In addition, three Canadian Army Auster aircraft from the Canadian Joint Air Training Centre, Rivers, Man., will provide aerial artillery observation.

COMMENCING JANUARY 23

Commencing January 23 vehicles and ground personnel will start moving north by road convoy and aircraft from Wainwright and Edmonton. American vehicle convoys will move through Edmonton on their way north within the next few days.

Realism during the fighting will be created by the wide use of umpires on both sides. These trained specialists will adjudge the course of each battle or encounter, both on the ground and in the air, and forward their reports to a Combined Compilation Centre.

In over-all command of the exercise will be Lt.-Gen. Stephen J. Chamberlin, Commanding General of the United States Fifth Army, Chicago. Working closely with him will be Maj.-Gen. M.H.S. Penhale, CBE, General Officer Commanding the Canadian Army's Western Command, and Air Vice-Marshal C.R. Dunlap, CBE, Air Officer Commanding the R.C.A.F.'s North West Air Command, both with headquarters in Edmonton; and Maj.-Gen. Robert M. Lee, Commanding General of the U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Command, Hampton, Va.

REGULATIONS ON AUREOMYCIN: Standards of purity and potency for the new antibiotic aureomycin, have been set up under the federal Food and Drugs Act the Minister of National

Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, announced on January 9. It has also been added to the list of items which may be sold to the public only on prescription.