

STRANGERS in a STRANGE LAND

(By LAC Gerke, Course 46)

The editor called me the other day and seemed to think it a good idea if you heard a little more from the Aussies. I didn't think much of the idea myself, but seeing we are almost the last survivors of that great country on this station, it seemed only courtesy that we should at least make a few "passing comments"—so read it or not.

Perhaps the best way to start would be to name a few of the things that have been missed most by the Aussies whilst training in this country.

First on the list of "missing" with most of the boys is the sun, the beaches, and the surf. It is hard for Canadians to realize what we mean by beaches. Many have remarked that there are some wonderful beaches on the lakes around here, but they are really only shingles. Most of our beaches are at least 400 yards wide (from water's edge to grass) and many are up to a 1,000 yards wide. Their length extends around the continent, but most of the popular resorts are situated on bays or inlets, so the length of the beach is only reckoned by the extent of the bay or inlet. These beaches usually average from ten to twenty miles in length. The sand on these beaches is as white as the snow of this country and as fine as salt. The sand for about 100 yards back from the water is damp and firm, then gradually dries off to become soft and smooth—a children's paradise. Usually the outer edge of the beach is lined with soft dry sea weed, some three feet deep and as soft as down—very popular with the young Romeos and their Julietts. After all, what is more romantic than to be resting here with some of the most beautiful girls in the world, under a soft moon, with the roll of the surf for music. (Confidentially, I could stand a little of it right now).

Then there is the surf, but that can't be explained. It has to be seen to be believed and to be experienced to be appreciated. All I can say, there is no feeling equal to being carried a quarter mile or more on a ten-foot Pacific roller, then dumped on the beach amid the boiling surf. I must admit the learner often ruefully surveys many bruises the next day after his first attempt, but he always comes back for some. Seems I've concentrated a bit on our beaches, but they really are our first love. I hope some of you will visit us some time so we can prove it.

Many other things have been missed by the boys—the abundance of fresh fruit always available, the outdoor sports, and the beer. Some time ago Wings Over Borden quoted an Aussie as saying we like Canadian beer. Don't you believe it! We drink it—as one must live and like it, until next day, then you wish it had been fair dinkum. Aussie beer doesn't leave you with

(Turn to page five, please)



SO THIS IS BORDEN!



WHAT! NO REDCAPS?



"SAY AH-H-H-" F/L SPRAGUE EXAMINES NEWCOMER.

Borden Airmen Welcome Airwomen

(Continued from page one)

tain R. S. Grandy, O.B.E., formed up on the parade square, and led by the band under the direction of Corporal Griffin, Bandmaster, the R.C.A.F. (W.D.) forming first flight, marched to the R.C.A.F. theatre. Divine service was conducted by F/Lt Butcher, Padre, with the band supplying incidental music and accompaniment for the hymns.

The remainder of the day was used by the women to familiarize themselves with the various parts of the station and the facilities provided for their recreation.

Culminating many weeks of extensive planning and intensive activity on the part of the Station Administrative Officer S/Ldr Badgley, the Works and Buildings Staff, the Barrack Officer, and Sgt. Albota and his crew of worthies, the former airman pilots' barracks, mess, and recreation rooms have been transformed into comfortable quarters for the new tenants. The buildings have been altered, and redecorated throughout; new floors laid and polished; cupboards, shelves built in, and laundry rooms added; all to please the eye and increase the comforts of the new occupants.

It may be of interest to the personnel to know that the graduating class of over 250 airwomen of which the Borden detachment forms a part, were reviewed by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Dr. Bruce, at the entrance to his suite in the Parliament Buildings, at Queen's Park on Friday. On the saluting base with the Lieutenant Governor, were Squadron Leader G. P. Hedges, M.C., Commanding Officer of No. 6 Manning Depot, Squadron Officer E. C. Bather, W.A.A.F. chief instructor, and Captain Bruce Young, A.D.C. Following the march past the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the women on their fine appearance.

Which is more important, the shot or the shooter?
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Strangers in a Strange Land

(Continued from page four)

a head. (Coming to Australia, boys?)

To date this probably sounds like a tale of woe, but although we've missed lots, I can truthfully say that every "digger" has enjoyed his stay in Canada and wouldn't have missed the trip for anything, but the enjoyment has been due to the people and not the country. It is generally agreed among the "diggers" that Canadian hospitality ranks second to none—or in their own words it's "good oh." Wherever we have been, whether in public places or in private homes, we have been treated like brothers and lifelong friends. This applies especially to the female of the species—God bless them! We have certainly been given a lesson in hospitality and it has been a pleasure to have been receiving that lesson. It has made our role of a stranger in a strange country a pleasure and it is our resolve that all this shall be repaid when we get to the "other side."

As we have spent months training on this station, it would hardly be fair not to mention something on the subject of flying. To us the weather conditions we have trained under the last five months have seemed "lousy" and have been a real trial for those of us who have seldom seen the temperature under 60 degrees. Once again though the people came to the rescue. Our instructors, both ground and flying, have treated us more like brothers than pupils and really took our welfare to heart. And it is this, I believe, that has done more towards making our stay here bearable than anything else. You must admit to go as long as six days without setting foot in an aircraft is a little trying, when we had been used to flying at any time any day. The instructors realized this and the appreciation of the boys from "Down Under" is best shown by the fact that almost everyone of them wished their No. 1 S.F.T.S. instructors were coming along with them into the sterner task that is to come.

These "passing comments" have gone far enough, but before ending let me, on behalf of the Aussies, once again thank the Canadians for what they have done for us while in this country, and it is our wish that one day they will visit our country.



SURVEYING THEIR NEW QUARTERS—Left to right A.W. 2 Bell, A.W.2 Lucas, and A.W. 2 Sawdon, (Drum Majorette of Station Band).



AND SO TO BED

THE DISGUISE

"Jack, dear," said the bride, "let us try and make the other people think we've been married a long time."

"All right, honey," came the re-

ply, "but do you think you can carry both suit cases?"

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Waiter: "Yes, sir, but you'll find it will take you a long time to eat it."

What a Life!



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