

**"SUN DOGGERS" HEAD NORTH:** Almost 200 soldiers who will participate in Exercise "Sun Dog" in the Fort Churchill, Man. area in February and March will put in two extra weeks in the sub-arctic because it has been "too warm" to train for the manoeuvres farther south.

Officers at Petawawa military camp where the force was concentrated said that the group left for Fort Churchill two weeks earlier than scheduled so that the men could become used to cold weather before shoving off from Churchill for a month of living in tents in the Barren Grounds.

Continuing spells of mild weather and heavy rains made Petawawa anything but an arctic testing ground through January.

Exercise "Sun Dog" will continue the Canadian Army's close study of the effects of Arctic conditions on men and equipment. From February 15 until March 15 some 250 soldiers, most of them from the Royal Canadian Regiment, will carry out a series of tactical movements and patrols over a pre-arranged 250-mile route in the Churchill area.

**1,626 FOREIGN DECORATIONS:** Twelve foreign Governments have awarded a total of 1,626 decorations and awards to Canadian Army personnel up to and including March 31, 1949.

Bulk of the awards came from Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United States.

A breakdown of the total shows that awards made by Belgium were 397; China, 6; Czechoslovakia, 41; Denmark, 3; France, 362; Greece, 23; Luxembourg, 19; Netherlands, 516; Norway, 5; Poland, 6; Tunisia, 1; United States, 247.

The awards were made in recognition of Canadian gallantry, valour and aid during the Second World War.

**CARIBBEAN TRAINING CRUISE:** Two ships of the Royal Canadian Navy, the aircraft carrier "Magnificent" and destroyer "Micmac", will sail from Halifax February 13 on a two-month training cruise to the Caribbean, Naval Headquarters announced on January 31.

Embarked in the "Magnificent" will be aircraft and personnel of the 18th Carrier Air Group, made up of 825 and 826 Squadrons of the R.C.N. Exercises involving the Group's Firefly aircraft will be carried out throughout the cruise.

The frigate "Swansea" will accompany "Magnificent" and "Micmac" on the first leg of the cruise but will part company to proceed independently to Nassau, Bahama. After a six-day visit there, February 18 to 24, she will return directly to Halifax, arriving March 1.

The "Magnificent" and "Micmac" are scheduled to make stops at Charleston, S.C., Guantanamo and Havana, Cuba, and New York City.

The training cruise, an annual undertaking of the R.C.N., is designed to give officers and men practice in ship-board evolutions and

fleet manoeuvres, including air strikes and surface actions. During the latter part of March, combined exercises will be carried out in the Caribbean with units of the America and West Indies Squadron of the Royal Navy.

**WHEAT STOCKS:** Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on January 19 amounted to 160,347,000 bushels as compared with 163,156,000 a week earlier, and 165,268,000 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week totalled 1,750,000 bushels compared with 3,646,000 a year ago, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 242,910,000 bushels as compared with 240,977,000 in the same period of the preceding crop year.

**RECORD HIGH IN CHEQUES CASHED:** Financial transactions in the form of cheques cashed at the banks rose to an all-time record total of \$87,554,363,000 in 1949, showing an increase of 8.5 per cent over the preceding year's total of \$80,687,448,000. In December, the country-wide total was \$8,395,808,000 as compared with \$7,800,091,000 in the corresponding month of 1948, a gain of 7.6 per cent.

A new maximum was reached in 1949 in each of the five economic areas. The year's gain in the Prairie Provinces was 13 per cent, while transactions in Ontario and British Columbia showed increases of 9.2 per cent and 7.1 per cent, respectively. The aggregate for Quebec was up 4.4 per cent. The relative gain in 1949 was technically greater in the Maritimes than in any other economic area, the debits for St. John's Newfoundland not being available for the preceding year.

**SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS:** Sales and purchases of securities between Canada and other countries in November declined from October totals, sales amounting to \$23,000,000 and purchases \$19,800,000, resulting in an excess of sales over purchases of \$3,200,000 as compared with \$3,800,000 in the preceding month.

As a result of transactions in November, a cumulative sales balance of \$2,000,000 replaced the cumulative purchase balance in October. This contrasts with cumulative net purchases of \$17,100,000 and \$13,900,000 respectively, that arose out of a smaller volume of trade for corresponding periods in 1948 and 1947.

Total transactions with the United States in November showed little change from the previous month. Sales again reached the October level of \$22,100,000, while purchases increased slightly to \$17,000,000 as against \$16,600,000. A sales balance, amounting to \$5,100,000, was thus produced in November for the second successive month.