



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

~~EXTRA-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE~~

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2-41

Radio Range Station, March 2nd, 1944

Charlottetown, P.E.I.

DATE

YOUR FILE

SUBJECT

OUR FILE

Dear Tommy:-

We were pleased and greatly appreciate the expression of sympathy in your letter of recent date, it seems a long time since the old days at Camperdown and sure is nice to hear from one of the old boys from the days when VCT and VCU were listened for with abated breath in case the crystal would lose its point.

A lot of water has flown under the bridge since those days and wireless has turned to radio, and altho things are a lot easier now, nothing could replace the old days when Operators were born and not made.

After two years at Camperdown, I went to Sable Island as CIC and managed to stick it for two years, coming ashore in the summer of 1926, and after a spell of relieving at Grindstone, North Sydney, Gross Isle and Montreal, I quit the Marconé Co and signed up with the Department of Transport going to Canso where we remained three years.

In the summer of 1929, I went with a construction gang to Resolution Island, in Baffin and there we built a new station, at that time a real modern setup, the construction gang finished on the 8th of October and they returned to Quebec leaving myself as OIC and two operators, a man cook and two families of Eskimo's to keep the place going, which we did, not seeing another soul until the 18th of the next August, "Sable Island was a home compared to that place", returning to civilization we next spent another three years at Canso, and then a year and a half at Belleisle, "which I relived while reading one of your short stories in Mcleans", after leaving Belleisle we went to Red Head just outside of Saint John, N.B. and remained there for four years, and was then transferred over to Charlottetown to take charge of the Radio Range Station here in connection with the Airport and believe me it is a home when compared with some of the old spots,

We have five of a family, three girls and two boys, the oldest girl is married to a boy from St John, he has been overseas nearly four years and is a Divisional Provost Marshall with the Canadian Army with the rank of Captain. the second girl is married to a boy from Charlottetown, he is with the Ferry Command and has made 23



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trips over to the other side, several by way of North Africa, also three to Australia, and became quite prominent last summer when his crew made five trips across the Atlantic in nine days, the third in the family was Clair who was lost over Belgium last October, the youngest girl is married to a boy from Sask. he is overseas a flying Officer with the RCAF and the youngest boy was turned down for active service and is taking a wireless course at St John Vocational School, going to follow in the old mans footsteps.

Was talking to Harry Inder last winter, he is OIC of Grindstone and called this way on his way to the mainland, Tom Bartlett, Mike Walsh J.W. Young (ex Pt Amour) are all at North Sydney, Geo. Cope and Td Simpson (ex Sable Island) went with the Radio Corporation of America from Camperdown, Davie Ross (ex Fartridge Island) is on one of the Great Lakes Stations, George Raine is O.I.C. Fame Pt, Allen is on the West Coast, am unable to say where all the others have gone to, occasionally I bump into one of the old gang and try to keep in touch with where everyone has finally settled.

Well Tommy operating has changed since the old days when we had to "rassel" with some old gas engine before we could get the transmitters going, My first station was at old Cape Bear "VCP" where we had a four HP engine, ten induction coil, and a magnetic detector, and strange to say exactly twenty years from the day I done my first watch at VCP I put the new station on the air here, where our transmitters are five miles away from the office and everything is handled by remote control, and only visit the transmitters three times a week to see if they are running ok.

I have read several of your stories also when my daughter was in St John she sent me a copy of His Majesty's Yankee's and it was a dandy, keep up the good work, I am sending you a snap taken at Camperdown, guess you will recognize the man playing with the kittens.

Should you ever come over to Charlottetown be sure and look us up, we are living in a Department house on the Airport so you would not have very much trouble in locating us.

Sincerely


G.E. Champion