

Five sketches about wartime time in Gander

(by Robert G Pelley, 31 October 2016)

During the war, in the days before television and Internet, most permanent information was passed along through newspapers, magazines and similar written means. Radio, censored like the written word, could certainly deliver news quickly but was ephemeral, changing as rapidly as troop movements on the front lines.

Cartoons on the hand could rapidly capture and keep the mood of the moment. The following, present as they were without other comment, came from "RCAF Wings" of March 1944.

(Use your zoom as necessary to read the captions.)





READY HUT. FIGHTER PILOTS OF THE FLYING LANCER SQUADRON SEE LITTLE ACTION BUT MUST ALWAYS BE READY FOR IT AND ARE VITAL TO THE AERODROME'S DEFENCE.



GANDER'S A BIG SPOT AND WORK PARTIES MAY FIND THEMSELVES A LONG WAY FROM HOT DRINKS ON A COLD DAY, BUT THE LEGION'S MOBILE CANTEEN TRACKS THEM DOWN.



"NICKLES AND DIMES BADLY NEEDED — OTHERWISE BUY A STRIP OF TICKETS SIX FOR A DOLLAR!" SHOUTS CORPORAL GOODMAN AT RCAP MOVIE HOUSE. GIRLS ARE SCARCE AND AIRMEN IN STAGLINE TAKE DIM VIEW OF INFILTRATING YANKS WHO HAVE DATED A PAIR OF WDs. SHOW IS OPEN THREE NIGHTS A WEEK BUT RCAP PERSONNEL CAN ALSO TAKE IN MOVIES AT U.S. THEATRE WHICH RUNS FILMS NIGHTLY



OVERALLED AND WINDBREAKERED CONSTRUCTION MEN, UNIFORMED AIRMEN AND WDs, CIVILIAN YOUNGSTERS, LEND MIXED ATMOSPHERE TO CIVILIAN GENERAL STORE. GANDER'S OTHER ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS ARE SWIMMING POOL, BOWLING ALLEYS, AND SKI TRAILS