

Fourth Annual Military Ski Race

By Lt.-Col. T. S. Morrisey

THE "Hill 70 Military Ski Trophy," which was described in the "Canadian Ski Year Book" for 1937, was again competed for on Sunday, February 20, 1938. In conforming with the principle that this race is more a test of military knowledge of map reading and the use of ground than of skill and speed on skis, the locale of the course was kept secret until it would be too late for members of the teams to familiarize themselves with the territory before the race commenced.

Morin Heights was the district selected, the course covered about seven miles, starting from the railway station and finishing in the village.

The interest in this event is growing to such an extent that this year there were sixteen teams entered. They drew lots for order of starting, and were despatched by the starter with their maps and orders for the first leg at eight minute intervals. As each team found the first report centre, they were handed orders for the second, and so on, until at the fourth report centre they were given information as to where to find the finish. They were told at what hours the report centres would be withdrawn so that any team losing their way and being obviously out of the race could return to Morin Heights before the train left. Several teams failed to complete the course.

A map was specially drawn to show accurately the buildings, roads, ski trails, streams, lakes, cantons and open and wooded country which had any bearing upon the course. The leading teams displayed their knowledge of how to make use of the map and gained much time thereby. Others located the report centres correctly but spent their energy and time in trying to navigate rough country.

On the first leg only three teams went west on the railway track until they reached the ski trail which led them directly to the first report centre. The others took the road leading south from the station, crossed the small lake and wore themselves out climbing a steep hill through thick brush.

All teams took advantage of the ski trail through the bush leading eastwards from the first report centre, but some did not scale their maps correctly and sought the second report centre at the road intersection, 500 yards northwest of the correct one. The fact that the Canadian Army Medical Corps had established an aid post at this point may have misled some teams, but this was no excuse.

The third report centre presented no difficulties, but it was surprising that some teams went to the fourth report centre by the ski trail which ran parallel to and west of the road, and were in full view of the enemy observation

post on the road some 500 yards southwest from the report centre, and so were penalized.

The team from the 2nd Montreal Regiment, R.C.A., made up of Capt. Walker and Lieuts. Riordan, Drury and Coristine won in two hours and fourteen minutes. The University de Montreal C.O.T.C. came second in two hours and twenty-nine minutes, and McGill University C.O.T.C. third in two hours and forty-one minutes. The last team to finish the course and report in took three hours and fifty-four minutes, which, while undoubtedly tiring for them, convinced those who laid out the course that they had presented a very good test of map reading.

First Annual U.S. Women's Championships

By Roland Palmedo

EVERY winter in Canada and the United States, races—and other events—are being held which will surely prove to be the first of a long, uninterrupted series. Probably the most important "First Annual" last winter on our side of "the line" was the First Annual U.S. Women's Championship at Stowe, Vermont, on April 9 and 10, 1938.

The historic significance of an event of course adds materially to its interest at the moment. And in this case an added claim to future fame was the fact that this was the first important competition between Canadian and U.S. women's teams. Let it not be supposed, however, that the importance of the occasion so weighed on the contestants that the atmosphere of Stowe before and during the races was grim and tense. On the contrary, though, the competition was keen, the entrants seemed to be enjoying the training and were quite serene about the race itself. I noticed no case of "start fever". This seems to be typical of spring races—the warmer, brighter sun no doubt has something to do with it.

At the time of the Men's U.S. National Championships at Mount Rainier in April, 1935, women's downhill and slalom events were held, but there seems to be some doubt whether the latter were officially national championships. At that time the constitution of the National Ski Association made no specific mention of women's events, as it does now. Moreover, the entry list was small, and no Eastern runners were present.

The Championships at Stowe were awarded to the Mount Mansfield Ski Club by the convention of the National Ski Association in December, and the idea of a team match with Canada was a happy, though late, afterthought. As a matter of fact, it was too late to attempt to get together a team representative of the Dominion, so the team was dubbed a "Province of Quebec" one, and at that lacked one or two