

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 They were told at what hours the report centres would be withdrawn so that any team losing their way and being obviously out of the race could return to Morin Heights before the train left.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

more-than-fair competitors from the Province. Not to be outdone in modesty the U.S. aggregation, just returned from the Engleberg FIS, called itself the "Eastern U.S. Team," although it was representative enough to take on a more national title. It was decided between the captains, Madeleine McNichols and Betty Woolsey, that the teams would be eight, with six to count. Miss McNichols, perforce, picked virtually her whole contingent. A more difficult choice faced Betty Woolsey; out of the available talent she picked Marion McKean, Grace Lindley, Dorothy Hoyt, Mrs. Albert Sise, Harriet Jackson, Joan Hinton and Nancy Reynolds. This proved canny selection, as the results will show.

During the week before the race St. Peter seemed to be trying to atone for his mid-winter contrariness. The skiing on Mount Mansfield was excellent, even though an occasional rock and stump began to sprout on the Nose Dive. Many of the Americans were out every day running and studying the course. But the weather was obviously making up, and on Friday night it began to rain. This changed to snow soon enough to pile up a good cover, although, strangely enough, on the steep upper section the running surface, when beaten down, was of icy granules set in powder snow. This made the going very fast and not easy to handle.

Although the Nose Dive is so skilfully laid out that it is suitable for skiers of a wide range of ability, from the most expert down, it is a severe test of ski-racing ability. Not only has it the greatest vertical descent of any of our Eastern standard trails (2400 feet), but its pitches and curves are so arranged that they contrive to uncover both deficiencies in technique and errors of judgment.

Marion McKean, as expected, led the field by a wide margin. The course was her oyster, and she took it in one swallow. Her time, 2:56, was only 21 seconds more than the winning time made in the Men's National Championship over the same stretch. Grace Lindley, seemingly much too fragile for such a gruelling test, flitted in second. Dorothy Hoyt and Mrs. Sise followed. Mrs. Mitchell, of Australia, who has won prizes on four continents, took a well-deserved fifth. Betty Woolsey, unfortunately, lost a ski near the finish. Patricia Paré discovered that maple *au naturel* can re-act disastrously on hickory in the slat; and Nancy Reynolds too came to grief.

Conditions for the slalom on the Nose Dive the next day were excellent. An unusual arrangement was the use of two courses. The upper one, starting at the sixth turn, used the same course as the Men's Nationals, with about 400 feet of drop. The lower course was shorter and on less steep ground, but had its points nevertheless. Sepp Ruschp, the local ski professor, set the flags, and in both instances laid out a course which was an exacting test of

judgment, accurate speed and control skill. Seattle's-loss-to-Minneapolis, Grace Lindley, made two beautiful runs, which demonstrated that she belongs in what is called abroad the "Extra-Klasse." Betty Woolsey also ran with clean and steady technique to take second honors. Harriet Jackson, one of our most promising oncomers, took third. Marion McKean ran into trouble in the first run which a good time on the lower course could not repair. The Canadian entries ran nicely, finishing well bunched in the middle of the list.

A coincidence in the timing was that in both the downhill and the slalom Ann Cooke and Françoise McNichols had precisely the same time to the tenth of a second, 5:08.4 in the former and 179.4 in the latter.

Marion McKean's wide lead of 46 seconds in the straight race survived the slalom result, and gave her the combined championship by a good margin over Grace Lindley and Dorothy Hoyt, who was third.

Special mention should be made of the performances of Joan Hinton, the young Putney School girl, who took an eighth and a sixth for the sixth place in the combined; Ann Cooke who was in the upper half of both events although it was only her third winter on skis; and Maralyn Shaw, fourteen, of Stowe, who, with Sepp's good coaching, should soon be wearing a red, white and blue shield.

The team event went to the Eastern U.S. lassies in both races and the combined, in the latter, according to reports, by 2,352 to 3,259. It is to be hoped that this team event will become an annual fixture, for its first running was a very pleasant occasion, and renewals would surely prove to be equally congenial.

The results follow:

DOWNHILL	
1 Marion McKean.....	2:56.0
2 Grace C. Lindley.....	3:42.3
3 Dorothy Hoyt.....	3:46.2
4 Mrs. Albert Sise.....	4:21.3
5 Elyne Mitchell.....	4:35.4
6 Harriet Jackson.....	4:36.3
7 Madeleine McNichols.....	4:47.2
8 Joan Hinton.....	4:55.0
SLALOM	
1 Grace Lindley.....	152.6
2 Betty Woolsey.....	158.9
3 Harriet Jackson.....	166.7
4 Mrs. Albert Sise.....	169.3
5 Marion McKean.....	172.3
6 Joan Hinton.....	172.7
7 Françoise McNichols.....	179.4
7 Ann Cooke.....	179.4
COMBINED	
1 Marion McKean.....	296.6
2 Grace Lindley.....	329.4
3 Dorothy Hoyt.....	353.2
4 Mrs. Albert Sise.....	380.1
5 Harriet Jackson.....	395.3
6 Joan Hinton.....	415.9
7 Elyne Mitchell.....	418.4
8 Madeleine McNichols.....	431.3
U.S. Team.....	2,352
Canadian Eastern Team.....	3,259