

Fifth Annual Military Ski Race

ON SUNDAY, February 19, 1939, a record entry list of twenty teams from the various militia regiments in Montreal competed in the Fifth Annual Cross-Country Ski Race for the Hill 70 Military Ski Trophy.

This race, which has been steadily increasing in popularity, was again run according to the rather ingenious set of rules which are peculiar to this event and which make it as much a test of a team's ability to find its way across rough and unfamiliar territory as a test of pure ski-ing ability.

The starting point was at the Maison Blanche, St. Adele, P.Q., and, as in the past, teams of four were started at intervals, each team receiving at the last moment a map with instructions to go to a point indicated on it. On reaching that point, they met an outpost who gave them a second point on the map, and so on. Between points, observers were placed and their position indicated on the map, and any team seen by an observer was penalized.

The first point was located quite high in the wooded hills east of Mont Rolland. This brought the contestants into a territory that is very little skied over, and teams were sorted out to quite an extent here as there was some heavy climbing to do and the outpost was rather difficult to find.

The second point was not far from Lac Violon to the northeast of Mont Rolland. On this lap an observer was so placed that in order to avoid him teams had to take a long descent towards the north, "bush-whacking" all the way. Any team seen by this observer was completely disqualified and three teams became casualties in this way by coming out of the woods too soon.

The third lap brought the teams further north and across to the west of the railway between Mont Rolland and Ste. Marguerite; and the fourth and final lap, which was the longest and ended at Mont Rolland station, was across open country and was purely a test of ski-ing speed.

For the third year in succession, a team from the Royal Canadian Artillery won the event. This means that the Artillery now retain permanent possession of the trophy.

The winning team was composed of Captain Bob Walker, Captain Bob Leggat, Lieutenant Jacques Derry and Lieutenant Gordon Savage, who completed the course in two hours and fifteen minutes. They were followed by a team from the Canadian Grenadier Guards with a time of two hours and thirty-one minutes, and the third place was taken by a team from the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals with a time of two hours and forty-three minutes.

Of the twenty teams which started four did

not finish and three were disqualified on being seen by an observer.

Actually, the times clocked are very much slower than the running time would be over a marked trail of the same theoretical length. These times, coupled with the fact that four teams did not even finish, indicate to what a large extent success in this event is dependent on a team's ability to find its way in unfamiliar territory and to navigate in deep snow and through woods. It is for this reason that the race has a special interest, because it emphasizes a type of ski-ing which is not considered in the ordinary ski-racing events.

The results are also a silent tribute to the ingenuity of those who set the course. It is a particularly difficult task and a great deal of credit goes to Major E. T. Renouf and his associates who did the planning of it this year.

The complete results follow:—

1 Royal Canadian Artillery, No. 2.....	2:15:0
2 Canadian Grenadier Guards, No. 2.....	2:31:0
3 Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.....	2:43:0
4 Duke of Connaught Royal Canadian Hussars, No. 1.....	2:49:5
5 McGill University C.O.T.C., No. 2.....	2:54:0
6 Loyola College C.O.T.C., No. 1.....	3:02:0
6 Canadian Grenadier Guards, No. 3.....	3:02:0
8 Black Watch (R.H.R.) of Canada, No. 1...	3:15:0
9 Loyola College C.O.T.C., No. 2.....	3:16:0
10 Canadian Grenadier Guards, No. 1.....	3:26:0
11 Victoria Rifles of Canada, No. 1.....	3:28:0
12 McGill University C.O.T.C., No. 1.....	3:41:0
13 Loyola College C.O.T.C., No. 4.....	3:57:0

St. Margaret's Giant Slalom

ON FEBRUARY 26 Dick Durrance, most famous of America's native skiers and one of the most consistent winners of ski races on the continent, won the giant slalom ski race on Mount Baldy over one of the best fields ever assembled for a ski event in Canada.

The race was the first of its type to be staged in the Laurentians, a combination of downhill and slalom. It started near the top of the regular downhill course, cut through the woods to the slalom hill, through flags there, back through the woods to the downhill trail and on to the finish. It was conducted by the St. Margaret's Ski Club, which plans to make it an annual affair. The course was set by Walter Klaus.

The run was over half a mile in length and the diminutive Durrance covered the distance in one minute and twelve seconds. The Dartmouth student was just two-fifths of a second ahead of his coach, Walter Prager, former champion of Switzerland, while third place was taken by another Swiss instructor, Heinz von Allmen, of St. Margaret's, also a former champion of that country. Von Allmen was timed in one minute and fifteen seconds.