

Recreation Was Amply Provided for G.I.'s Here



OFFICERS OF CORPORALS' CLUB—Here are the officers of the Corporals' Club when it was officially opened last April. Left to right, Cpl. Harry Loy, treasurer; Cpl. Douglas Sweeney, president; and Cpl. Ray Smith, secretary.

HOUSE OF GOOD NEIGHBORS— USO CLUB HAS SERVED 500,000 SERVICE PEOPLE IN PRINCE RUPERT

By Frank J. Finnerty, USO Director

The finest USO Club north of Seattle is located at Prince Rupert and it's a popular spot in town too for, during the past year, servicemen and women, both Canadian and American, have paid more than 500,000 visits to the club.

With several thousand Army, Navy and Coastguardsmen passing through, and several thousand

stationed here permanently, the USO established a club in June 1942, on somewhat of a shoe-string basis. The first club was set up in the basement of the First United Church and served the men for over two years. As many as 15 different types of programs were put on in the limited quarters. Everything was in evidence from pool games to

classic music. It was a bedlam of noise and confusion, but the men got used to reading and writing while ping-pong balls buzzed about their ears, couples danced on their feet and someone else hammered away merrily on a handicraft project.

During this time attempts were made to bring about a new building but many difficulties were encountered in obtaining authority to construct new club rooms. Lack of materials, shortage of labor, and other factors contributed to the long delay. Finally, in June 1944, the commanding officer of the sub-port was able to make available two unused two-storey barracks on Second Avenue for conversion into a club.

We went straight to the servicemen and asked them what kind of a club they wanted. Two of the men, architecturally inclined, made some sketches and then over 60 soldiers pitched in and helped with construction. On September 9, 1944, the beautiful and spacious structure of Tudor design was opened.

Said to be one of the finest USO Clubs outside of the United States, it has a large ballroom, jive room, classical music room, darkroom, library, snack bar, game room, hobby room, main lounge and complete city-wide information service. Most recent addition is an outdoor patio for snacks and dancing.

This month our club celebrated its first year in its present home with a big reception for members of the armed forces and people of this community. Just the day before this anniversary the 500,000 visitor passed through the front door. He was honored with a "Dream Holiday" pass to Ketchikan, Alaska, all expenses paid, even to spending money.

Prince Rupert's club, the only USO Club in Canada, is truly a "house of good neighbors," for service personnel of Canada and other Allied Nations join their American friends there every day. In a recent house count there were present members of the Canadian Army, Navy, RC AF, CWAC, WRENS, U. S. Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Spars, and merchant members of the Russian Navy—a total of 11 branches of Allied services.

Dreary months may have dragged by to the American and Canadian troops stationed here or there may have been an occasional serviceman who found time on his hands, but that was not the fault of the USO. The uniformed men and women liked the club as proved by those half million visits in the past year.

For myself and the assistant directors, Bob Herrick of Los Angeles, and Eva LaPierre of

Sergeants' Mess Popular Resort

It was almost a year following the arrival of the first U. S. troops to this area before the Sergeants' Mess was officially opened. M/Sgt. Thomas McCurdy, Port Sergeant-Major, was elected as its first president. He was later succeeded by M/Sgt. Harry Dietsch.

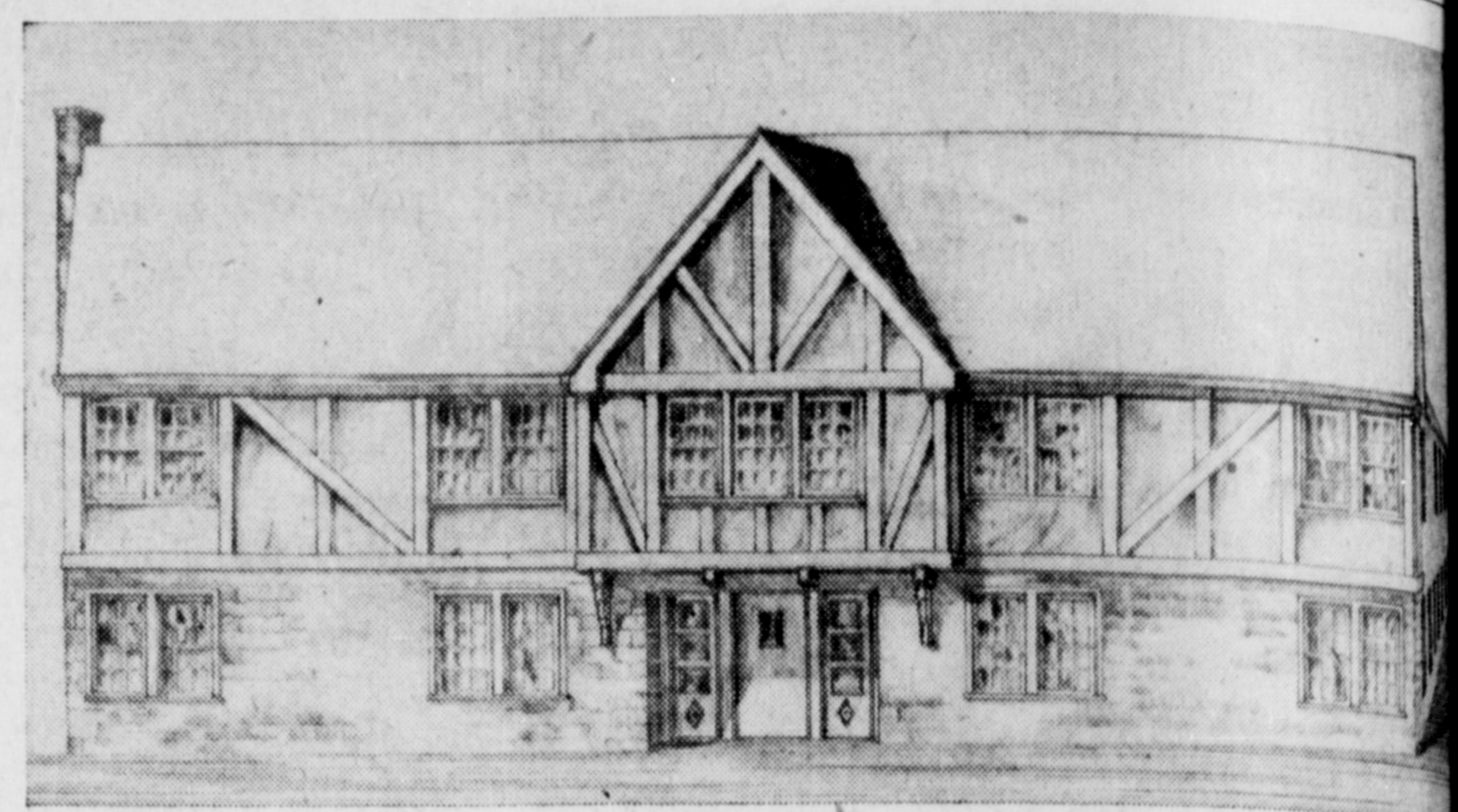
Formerly a mess hall, the sergeants remodeled the building into one of the most attractive clubs in this area. Since June 1943, its membership has swelled from 100 to more than 350.

Regular dances are now scheduled twice a week, Mondays and Wednesdays. Guest nights in which all other ranks may visit the club is one of the latest features instituted by S/Sgt. Phil Cretalla.

Officers of the club are: President, S/Sgt. Phil Cretalla. Vice-President, T/Sgt. Willis Mund. Secretary-Treasurer, Sgt. Art Lancaster. Steyard, S/Sgt. Louis Delmonico. Assistant Steward, S/Sgt. Kenney McEuen. Assistant Steward, Sgt. Bud Hayes.

Radio Broadcast

The first international broadcast from Alaska to be aired over a Canadian radio station was the Acropolis Hill Browns-Ketchikan All-Stars game last July 4. The program originated in Ketchikan and was broadcast by CFPR. Sgt. Walt Montgomerie was the announcer.



USO CLUB—Pictured above is the USO Club located on Second Avenue. Of Tudor design, the club opened its doors just a little more than a year ago. The club was largely designed and constructed by soldiers of the Prince Rupert Sub-Port of Embarkation.

PX DID LAND OFFICE BUSINESS

With such items as cigarettes, candy, and gum rationed, the two branch stores of the Post Exchange on acropolis Hill sell more than 130,000 packs of cigarettes, 28,000 cigars, 27,000 packs of gum, and 76,000 candy bars monthly.

Under the supervision of Lt. Gottschalk, the Post Exchange also maintains a snack-bar, beer-hall and barber shop. The Post Exchange Service of the U. S. Army has become one of the largest department stores in the world since the start of the war. Practically every item a GI could wish for may be found on the shelves of a PX.

Special Service

In three years the Special Service Branch of the Sub-Port has grown from a box of baseball equipment into a sizeable organization. Now, the Post Theatre, Rec. Hall, Library, Gymnasium and a host of other services come under the wing of Special Service and its chief, Captain Louis D. Maguilo.

For the musically inclined members of the port there is a great selection of instruments at their disposal. Guitars, banjos, ukuleles, various horns, woodwind and brass instruments, harmonicas, tonettes and ocarinas, have been loaned out to the men. There are also two pianos for company dances and parties.

Council books are another monthly issue to the soldiers of the port. For those who have no idea what the council book series are, they are paperback editions of about thirty new and assorted books, from fiction to technical books, thusly providing reading material for most of the men no matter what their interests may be.

Hobby kits are comparatively new but are becoming more and more popular. They are passed out at the Port Edward hobby shop in the post hospital and a few other places where hobby kits are necessary.

All "Victory" ships and troop transports that passed through this port were loaded with a box of special equipment for the men aboard. This in itself was on the whole greatly appreciated because boats coming into this port were empty as a "barrel of beer on a beer bust with a bunch of backdoor" and, naturally, gave the men some recreation on their hours off at sea.

The 16mm. film circuit, another special service feature, has been in operation for the past three years. The station hospital at Port Edward has been showing these films on a tri-weekly basis ever since its start. These films have helped pass and add enjoyment to the evenings of the fellows who have been laid away for long periods of time.

Special Service has also loaned or donated books other than library books, to the station hospital. Victory ships passing through this port, troop transports, and company dayrooms.

POST THEATRE SHOWED FILMS

More than 3,000 soldiers of Sub-Port and Allied units attend the showings at the Theatre on Acropolis Hill each week.

Formerly the Exhibition Building, the Army converted into a theatre with a seating capacity of 600. A new stage sound and projection equipment was installed. In order to provide as wide a field of entertainment as possible for the troops, showings change five nights a week. Many of the latest pictures brought directly to this port from Hollywood prior to their release to civilian theatres.

Assigned to the Special Service Office, the soldier-professionals are, S/Sgt. Eugene Bout, Sgt. Nick Roman and Victor Allen.



When Johnny Comes Marching Home!

Take Along a Present for
 Dad, Mom and the Kids.

For Mom and the Kids:

RUPERT PEOPLES STORE &
 WALLACE'S DEPT. STORE

For Dad and Lad:

RUPERT MENS' & BOYS' STORE

* * *

Your 3 Friendly Stores

SEAMEN'S CLUB USEFUL JOB

One of Prince Rupert's little known service organizations which has done a big job is the American Seamen's Club located on First Avenue just across from the U. S. Army administration building. During the past 14

months more than 20,000 seamen of the United Nations have been entertained there by A. E. Tutte, director of the club.

The club is unusual in that it is the only American Seamen's Club located in the Dominion of Canada. The building and services are maintained by the American Army. It is financed through the New York headquarters of the Salvation Army, and is staffed entirely with Canadian personnel. Women of the Canadian Navy League, under the direction of Mrs. J. R. Elfert, president, act as club hostesses.

Mr. Tutte, known as plain, ordinary "Pop" to thousands of sailors who ply the coastal waters of Canada and Alaska, meets the majority of vessels docking in Prince Rupert and welcomes the crew members to the club.



A NOTABLE VISITOR—Attractive Ingrid Bergman and other Hollywood film stars toured the north with USO shows playing for Canadian and American servicemen. Here she is seen disembarking at Prince Rupert.

CORPORALS' CLUB HAPPY RESORT

Widely publicized for its beautiful Circus Room, the American Corporals' Club was the latest GI rendezvous to open its doors this year. Present officers of the club are: President, Douglas Sweeney, Ray Smith, Secretary; Russell Horton, Treasurer.

Quick to take advantage of novelty affairs, the club introduced various original types of dancing parties to the Hill. The most successful of these was their "Gay Nineties Party". The scheduled weekly dance takes place each Thursday night, with which time all other ranks and members of the Allied Services are invited to attend.

The club has become very familiar to most of the residents of Prince Rupert as on many occasions the Corporals have offered the facilities and services of their club to assist in the entertainment of those participating in various local events.



Farewell,
 Americans!

Your presence in Prince Rupert has been another proof of the similarity of our two nations and the friendship that has grown with the past hundred years.

Glad you came!

McCutcheon
 Pharmacy

Third Ave. Prince Rupert

To All
 American Servicemen

the management and staff of CFPR extend farewell greetings and best wishes on your return to civilian life.

To Special Services and the office of Education and Information, our special thanks for their splendid co-operation and help in presenting the Armed Forces Radio Programs, which so many of our listeners have enjoyed and come to look forward to.

We sincerely hope that you will remember your stay with us, and that you may again tune in on 1240 Kilocycles and we will have the pleasure of serving you.

RADIO STATION CFPR