

R. C. A. F. SIX HAILED UPON ARRIVAL HERE

Olympic Champions Honored at
Celebration Before Leaving
for Welcome at Ottawa

By FRANK ELKINS

Canada's ice hockey squad, considered the "ugly duckling" of the Dominion's Olympic team arrived here yesterday in the role of conquerors aboard the Cunard White Star Flagship, Queen Mary, especially proud of its world championship cup and individual gold medals, symbolic of Olympic honors. The joyous return to these shores is a marked contrast to the departure of the Royal Canadian Air Force Flyers who were considered too weak to represent Canada against the heavily favored entry from Czechoslovakia and strong teams from Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

Last night, prior to their leaving for Canada, the first of many celebrations to toast the meritorious record compiled by the Flyers in international competition, was held at the Canadian Club. This afternoon, the citizenry of Ottawa, capital of Canada, will pay tribute to the array.

Not only did the Canadians score in the Winter Olympics and the world championships which were held concurrently, but they went through unbeaten, a 0-0 deadlock with the Czechs, whom they were to defeat later in Czechoslovakia, being the lone blot on their record.

During the Olympics, the Maple Leaf sextet rolled up sixty-nine goals and held opponents to five.

Following the Olympic competition, the champions went barnstorming and continued their remarkable performances. All told, the RCAF sextet played forty-four games, gaining thirty-four victories, five ties and suffering five setbacks.

The players were officially welcomed to New York by Air Commodore D. E. MacKell of the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Hon. M. T. Stewart, Canadian Trade Consul; John C. Deacon, Commander of the Canadian Legion, and J. C. McMullin, president of the Canadian Club.

Returning with the Canadians yesterday was the former Miss Birthe Grontved of Denmark, who became Mrs. Hubert Brooks at the finish of the Olympics. Her husband is the flashy left winger of the Flyers, one of the few members of the R.C.A.F. to earn the Military Cross in the second World War.

Others of the squad to arrive yesterday included Ross King, Louis Lecompete, Frank Dunster, Andre Laperriere, Orval Gravelle, Irving Taylor, Andy Gilpin, Roy Forbes, Patsy Guzzo, Pete Lietchnitz, Ab Renaud, Ted Hibbard, Reg Schroeter, George Mara, Sgt. Frank Boucher, nephew of the Rangers' coach, A. G. Watson, and Trainer George McFoul. Murray Dowey, George Mara and Wally Halder returned earlier.

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