

# Lonely Sky Trails Forgotten by Injured Fliers Convalescing on Beautiful Flanagan Estate

The long road home to recovery isn't lonely any more for boys in the Royal Canadian Air Force who have been enough flying in this war.

When their planes are shot down and they are shot up, it often takes months for them to get back to normal after they have passed the hospital or active treatment stage.

So it was to remedy this that War-time Convalescent Homes War Charity Fund Inc., a private, non-profit company without share capital, took it upon itself to uncover and organize convalescent homes—rambling estates, privately owned mostly, which could be converted to accommodate convalescing airmen.

Six of them have been organized in Eastern Canada, and it is doubtful if any of them can match No. 3 Convalescent Home, Flanagan Division, which is the official title of Toronto's home.

This is Divadale (pronounced

Deevadale), so named by its owner, Lt.-Col. James W. Flanagan, after his daughter, Diva. It is a 45-room residence and 118-acre estate.

Work was begun on Divadale last October, but only recently have patients begun to arrive in any numbers. What they have found is a home away from home, which makes convalescing a distinct pleasure.

## Pool Quite Popular.

Perhaps its most popular feature is a magnificently appointed swimming pool with constant room temperature of 78 degrees and clear, always-changing water.

The commanding officer, Sqdn. Ldr. Harvey Doney, a Toronto physician before the war, says there are numerous other activities. He figured it up the other day, he said, and discovered 15 sports were played at Divadale.

The grounds are wooded and a stream runs through them. Tobogganing, skiing and skating will be feature winter sports, while there are numerous nature trails, a bird sanctuary and an elaborate greenhouse.

"Having the swimming pool, we are particularly adapted to take orthopedic cases," explained Sqdn. Ldr. Doney. "Patients who come here are at the stage where they can come down for their own meals, yet aren't well enough to be entirely on their own."

"In a general way, here is a typical day. The boys get up at 7:30—some of them later if they are feeling none too well—and breakfast until 9. We have divided our 50-odd patients into five flights and at 9:30 two flights go outside for what we call occupational therapy; cut wood, work on the farm land, maybe just

pick up sticks for the exercise. Meanwhile, two other flights play organized games and the fifth goes into the pool. After an hour in the pool, it changes with one of the games flights.

"After lunch every one rests for an hour and then repeats the morning procedure.

## City Loses Urge.

"In the evening we have movies—up-to-date ones—the Red Cross comes in for bridge and we have concerts. In short, we try to make it attractive enough here so they don't feel like going to Toronto for amusement; so that it's just as good as home."

Eventually it is expected Divadale will be occupied in the main by repatriates. Right now there are a few, such as FO. Bill Grieve of Chicago, a Spitfire pilot in the R.C.A.F. for three years who was shot down by flak over Tunisia, and F.O. M. W. Doyle of St. Louis, a Boston bomber pilot in the R.C.A.F. who was hurt in England.

One of the nicer features of Diva-

dale is its informality. Rank means nothing in the finely appointed lounges of the spacious grounds. Sergeants and flight lieutenants are simply men moving along the road to complete recovery in complete accord.

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