



*CFS Alert is usually a tropical resort at the best of times; in May it looked like this after a 48-hour snow blow (not a snow fall). The depth of snow is shown by 20-foot huts.*



*In the ham radio shack at Alert, VE8 RCS amateur radio operators kept personnel of Alert in touch with the outside world, patching through southern hams to commercial telephone lines and families. This is the crew which maintained radio contact with Polar party.*

Operation Sugar had completed its mission.

Then, this year, we were graphically reminded of the episode. It started with a receipt of a foreign-looking, travel-worn envelope. After the usual "wonder what this is" gambit, I ripped it open . . . and out poured memories.

First came four sergeants' mess cards — WO2 Ron Watson, Vancouver Wireless Station; WO2 Dick "Charly Brown" Roth, RCSME; WO2 Ozzie Freeman, Camp Gagetown; WO1 Jack Blair, Penhold. Next to the membership cards was a British Columbia vehicle registration made out to WO1 Mick Bennett, Nanaimo. Stuck to Mick's memento was a cardboard sign identifying Lt. W. G. Hil-laby SNODOF and I recalled some hilariously good times with Bill, the self-acknowledged Senior Naval Officer District of Franklin. Two more souvenirs tumbled out. One was a comic Valentine from my wife "Pippy", the other a packet of "scrip" money which was then legal tender in Alert. On it I had facetiously written: "Finder may redeem for cash at Canadian Forces Station Alert."

An enclosed letter, datelined February 1969, completed the nostalgia.

"November 21, 1968 a bottle was found on the East coast of Iceland. The enclosed papers were found in the bottle and sent to the daily newspaper Timinn in Reykjavik. The name of the finder is Arni Sveinsson, Hol, Borgarfirói eystra, N. Mulasystu Iceland.

Sincerely, 'Frioja Bjornsdottir' Timinn, Reykjavik Iceland"

Well, Arni and Frioja, thanks for the memories. How that insignificant bottle got to you, through the calving icebergs and those inhospitable fiords, no one will ever know. But there are some grateful men who will ponder it, including the Polar party of leader Hans Weber, Axel Geiger, Leif Lungaard and Neil Anderson, all from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources; Bob Lillestrand, Control Data Corporation; Ivy Iverson, US Army Map Service; Mike Pearlman, Ocean Research Equipment; Don Braun, Wardair, plus Harold Morley and Jock Cameron — three "seat of the pants" pilots whose guts and gusto made it all come out right. ✪