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CABLE RESCUE TRAINING
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PARK WARDENS AND R.C.M.P. UNDERGO NEW CABLE RESCUE TRAINING
FOR MOUNTAIN RESCUE WORK
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Banff National Park, Sept., 1961

Mountain rescue work is an important phase of the duties of Park Wardens and Constables of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who operate in the mountainous regions of Canada. Every year, a two-week mountain training rescue course is undertaken by these personnel from Jasper, Banff and other western Canadian National Parks. This fall, fifty Park Wardens and eight members of the R.C.M.P. went through this rigorous training on Mount Cirrus, near the Columbia Icefield, under the expert guidance of Chief Instructor Walter Perren, Assistant Chief Warden of Banff National Park, and his staff of instructors.

This year something new was added to the training course with the introduction of a special cable imported from Austria, and which will be used instead of ropes for all major rescue operations. The cable comes in rolls of 300 feet and can be connected together up to a length of 1,500 feet. It can be used for the rescue of a seriously injured climber who has to be lowered in a basket or for a less serious case where the injured party can be lowered on the back of the rescuer strapped on by a canvas seat called the Graminger carrier. A victim can be lowered on this cable 1,000 feet on a vertical face; or 1,500 feet on a 45 degree slope. The strength of the cable is tested for 4,000 lbs. Our story covers these two methods of rescue work.

For traversing a canyon, gorge or huge ice crevasse the cable is stretched over the canyon as a static line. Once the line is across, the stretcher is attached to the cable on pulleys -- the pulleys are operated up or down by a smaller cable 750 feet long and tested for 1,300 lbs. -- the stretcher speed is controlled on this small cable -- and the cable is then controlled by three pulleys as a block and tackle system. An "injured climber" is shown being rescued on one of these spectacular traverses in our footage.

Mountain climbing is becoming more popular every year in Canada and, as more people go "adventuring" in the mountains, more Park Wardens trained with the latest equipment available are required to assist injured people. The Warden Service Mountain Rescue teams have done a terrific job of rescuing persons trapped on the mountains, and it is the intention of the Government to keep a well trained staff available for this work.

## Shot list

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- ① ✓ 1. MS wardens arriving at foot of mountain for tyrol traverse practice
2. MCS wardens walking
- ② ✓ 3. MS wardens walking past camera with rescue equipment
- ③ ✓ 4. LS mountain in mist
5. MLS pan down cliff, wardens ascending
6. CS warden clipping rope on piton
7. CS warden climbing, pan down to pitons in belt and boots
8. MS warden climbing
9. CS warden driving in piton
10. CU attaching rope to piton
11. MCS warden climbing
- 4 ✓ 12. MLS three wardens on cliff face
- 5 ✓ 13. MCS as above
- ~~6 ✓ 14. MCS wardens as above~~
- 7 ✓ 15. CU face of warden
- 8 ✓ 16. MLS cliff face, warden swinging into shot (pendulum traverse)
- 9 ✓ 17. MS second warden swinging across frame, left to right
- 10 ✓ 18. MS end of swing, warden landing on rock face
19. MS pan up to rock face, to rope anchored in cliff
- 11 ✓ 20. MS two wardens inching along rock face
- ~~12 ✓ 21. LS wardens on rock face~~
22. MS same as above
- 13 ✓ 23. MS pan up rock face past wardens and ending on top of cliff
- 22 ✓ 24. MS mountain in mist, pan up to top of mountain
- 15 ✓ 25. MCS wardens preparing to lower "injured" climber
- 16 ✓ 26. CS same as above
- 17 ✓ 27. CU warden watching
- 18 ✓ 28. MCS cable running off drum
- 19 ✓ 29. LS man being lowered across mountain gap by cable and pan down with warden
- 20 ✓ 30. CS warden, pan down to cable drum with cable running out
- 21 ✓ 31. LS looking across mountain range with warden slowly descending on cable
32. MS wardens controlling cable
33. MS wardens tying cables to tree
34. MS placing "injured" warden in basket



23. ✓ 35. MCS preparing "victim" in basket for descent
- 24 ✓ 36. MS starting to lower basket down mountain
- 25 ✓ 37. L/MLS basket coming down mountain and across gap
- 26 ✓ 38. LS basket crossing mountain gap
39. MS warden on receiving end watching "injured" man in basket arrive
- 27 - 40. MCS wardens taking up slack in cable
- 28 - 41. MS injured man in basket arriving and wardens assisting
- ~~29~~ 29 42. LS mountain range, lake in lower frame, mist in top of frame
- 30 43. MS injured warden on basket being lowered down mountain side
44. MLS same as above
- 31 45. LS same as above
- 32 46. MCS two wardens operating cable drum
47. LS man in basket being lowered down mountain side
- 33 48. LS injured man being carried piggy back down mountain side
- 34 49. ELS as above but showing mountain ranges in background
- 14 ✓ 50. LS mountain peaks in mist