

## RCAF Air Crews Share in Berlin Raids

### EXCEEDED TONNAGE DROPPED ON LONDON

Squadrons of Canadian Bomber Group Made Heavy Attack on Ruhr on Monday Night

ST. NAZAIRE HIT ON TWO OCCASIONS

**H**ALIFAX squadrons of the Canadian Bomber Group took part in the heavy raids on Berlin on Saturday and Monday nights. According to an Air Ministry statement, about twice the tonnage of bombs was loosed on the German capital than the Luftwaffe had ever dropped on London in the heaviest raid.

First reports to come in as WINGS ABROAD goes to press state that W/C Pitt Clayton's squadron was out on the second Berlin raids as well as many Canadians on RAF squadrons. Bomber Command also sent their aircraft to the Ruhr on the same evening.

Speaking of the first Berlin show, Sgt. A. T. Bowby, of Middleton, N.S., said, "I saw one terrifically big explosion and a fire that sent smoke up to 10,000 feet."

F/O Cliff Hattie, Simmie, Sask., said, "The rear-gunner saw five 150 miles away through 10/10 cloud."

Sgt. F. E. Mackay, of Westminister, B.C., had this to say, "I think it was a better pranging than we gave it last time. The fires were more concentrated and heavier."

Sgt. C. D. Hemling, of Pelly, Sask., let us about 100 rounds at an Me.109 which came at his crew on the way home.

Other Canadians taking part were: Sgt. A. Patry, of Montreal; Sgt. W. J. McAlpine, of

Bancroft, Ont., who flew his aircraft home on three motors; Sgt. S. Sietth, of Brantford, Ont.; Sgt. R. H. Speller, of Sussux, N.B.; F/S Norman Kellner, of Toronto; and P/O A. D. Smuck, of Weston, Ont.

Crews from squadrons commanded by W/C Crooks and W/C Carscallen bombed St. Nazaire. A week before the Ferris and Clayton units did likewise.

**Nice Concentrations**

P/O D. La Kennedy, of Merlin, Sask., and P/O Doug Shuttlesworth, both of the Crooks squadron, saw "nice concentrations of fires." Sgt. Austin Thomson, of Drumheller, Alta., flew on his first operation as second pilot with W/C Crooks.

P/O Bill Dark, navigator, from Edmonton, made his first trip after a long rest. He is with W/C Carscallen's squadron. Sgt. Joe Kucinsky, of Wilkes-Barre, Penn., who says he attacks nightfighters like so many flies, drove away a twin-engine enemy aircraft which attacked twice. F/L Fletch Taylor, of Gull Lake, Alta., had to take evasive action to dodge nightfighters.

Sgt. Stan Aspinall, of Stratford, Ont., had trouble with a pigeon which escaped from his box and fluttered around inside the aircraft. "I gave him some beans before we took off and I guess they made him ambitious," he explained.

P/O Charlie Wattle, of Barrie, a navigator, whose aircraft was over the target for 28 minutes, did a special reconnaissance job.

P/O Cecil Paddock, of Elkhorn, Sask., a member of W/C H.M. Carscallen's squadron, flew to the Ruhr and reported that he saw one particularly large fire shining through the haze right below their aiming point. Sgt. Phillip Heden, of Halbrite, Sask., and F/S Thompson, of Lloydminster, Alta., saw nightfighters which didn't bother them.

Flashes of bursting bombs were reported by members of the squadrons commanded by W/C M. M. Fleming, D.F.C., and W/C D. A. R. Bradshaw, who went also to the Ruhr. Among those making these reports

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A dispersal hut is no cathedral but these pilots of a Canadian Spitfire squadron are taking part in a service in the same spirit as if it was. In the front row is their Commanding Officer, S/L L. S. Ford, D.F.C. and Bar. The Service was conducted by S/L F. K. Belton, a Vancouver padre. (Official RCAF Photograph.)

### DESERT CORRESPONDENT SENDS SQUADRON COPY

Canadian Unit Completes 1,600 Miles in 11 Days In Record Trek

One lone copy of WINGS ABROAD recently arrived at this unit and was eagerly passed from hand to hand and scoured for news of friends in other squadrons. An immediate resolution was made to select a contributor, so that this squadron, the only Canadian unit in the Middle East, would not continue as a lost tribe wandering forgotten across the sands.

Early this year the squadron completed what is probably the longest overland trek undertaken by any Canadian unit in this war. Despite bombed roads, sandstorms and torrential rains, all bringing inevitable mechanical trouble, the main party under F/L Jimmy Sinclair, of Vancouver, completed the 1,600 miles in the record time of 11 days.

To F/O Carpenter, of Winnipeg, and Sgt. Phil Lapp, of Victoria, must go the credit for keeping the trucks and trailers rolling, for they scrounged from army units near and far and stripped the endless wrecks along the road for springs, fans, clutches, wheels and tyres to keep the convoy moving. Chief honour for the trip goes to Sgt. Hayward and his cooks, who turned out three hot meals a day throughout.

An early tendency to crowd trucks and tents too close to the cook tent and to be careless with lights was quickly corrected after half an hour's brisk bombing near Benghazi. Henceforth Cpl. Dougal of the S.P. claimed that it took him over an hour each morning to walk around the farflung dispersal blowing reveille.

**To Almond Grove**

S/L Brad Foster, of Montreal, led the aircrew up two days after the arrival of the main party. In the next two weeks a further four moves were made—to a lovely almond grove in full blossom where the squadron stayed with a New Zealand Division and made many firm "cobbers" with the boys from down under; to the take-off end of a huge bomber airfield where the thunder of the bombers going out right overhead each night gave little sleep; to a model Italian farm complete with creaking windmill, vineyards and Chianti at four bob a gallon. Our next move was our quickest and best made at two hours' notice, to a magnificent palm grove with grassy glades, hot sulphur baths nearby, and the blue blue Med. sparkling along a white beach in front.

A fine Italian pub was requisitioned and turned into the first Canadian pilots' mess. The Canadian artists, led by F/O Gibson, of Windsor, and P/O Jack Evans, of Saskatoon, soon had the walls suitably decorated with diving Spits, crashing Me.s and

### WELL PLAYED, SIR!

It was softball, they said. One team was composed of RAF officers, the other one of WAAFA. Not one player had ever played before. The game took place at a RCAF bomber station before a Canadian audience. The audience had a swell time. Final score was 32-12 for the RAF officers; final comment was a parody on Burns, as mutilated by one P/O A. Dale: "Oh, wad some power the gift fae gie us To see ourselves as Canadians see us."

lewdiered pilots. The walls of the billiard room were enhanced by the silhouettes of all members of the mess, and distinguished visitors, the A.O.C. and the Group C.O., were silhouetted in a special visitors' gallery. Suitable decorations for the fine marble bar were speedily arranged by LAC Clotter, of Montreal, whose fluent Italian soon located stocks overlooked by the army. Most impressive of all, this location provides ring-side seats in the biggest barrage in the East—which resulted in the deepest slit trenches to date.

Our first visitor in this site was A/V/M Nairn, who spent the night and visited each section of the squadron in the morning to speak individually to the airmen on their pay problems. With the A/V/M was W/C Patterson, our ever-popular District O.C.

Most noticeable addition to our squadron has been the creation of a Desert Swing Band, led by P/O Johnnie Koplitz, of Hoboken, former American band leader, with W/O F. L. Roberts, F/S Doug Gaudin, Cpl. Red Bulman and LAC Marples as music makers. Their soft sweet music from the wistaria-clad verandah of the mess, a tropic moon flooding down over the palms and acacias and weeping willows, and the dry rustle of the night wind in the palm fronds merging with the soft roll of the sea breaking along the moonlit beach, is a combination guaranteed to make even the most hardened pilot nostalgic for Muskoka, Clear Lake or Bowen Island.

Recently commissioned are the following pilots: J. S. Bushe, J. W. Bickford, S. A. Corbett, T. M. Percival, R. B. Henderson, J. F. Koplitz, J. Leguerrier, G. C. Armstrong, M. W. Bakkan and J. R. Harmer.

The squadron has been in first-class health for the last three months. Despite bombing, minefields and booby traps, the only casualty in all our moves was Cpl. Joe Rainville's puppy. The

(Continued on page 2, col. 2)

### PILOT'S FEAT IS BRILLIANT

A Chicago pilot in the RCAF formed a Canadian crew performed a spectacular feat in bringing his crippled aircraft back to base from Berlin.

The kite was hit by heavy flak on the way to the target. The controls were partly shot away and there were holes in the port wing and tail.

"We went on and bombed Berlin anyway," he said. "Over Denmark on the way home our port outer motor caught fire and we went into a spin for 10,000 feet. We put out the fire with the automatic extinguisher and then prepared to ditch. All the escape hatches were opened and an SOS sent out. I couldn't see a hope of getting home but we managed to stooge back with three motors and only part-use of the controls."

The pilot deliberately crashed his aircraft 200 feet off the runway in order to avoid damaging the airfield and leave the way clear for later arriving aircraft. No one was hurt. Canadians in the crew were: Sgt. A. F. Scanes and Sgt. J. I. Labow, both of Pembroke, Ont., and Sgt. N. G. Action, of Meadow Lake, Sask.

**HODSON HONOURED**

W/C K. L. B. Hodson, of London, Ont., flying leader of a Canadian fighter wing, was honoured recently by officers of the wing at a dinner to mark his departure for another post.

An engraved silver tankard was presented to him by S/L Bud Malloy, D.F.C., of Halifax, on behalf of the officers of the wing.

### SEVEN CITATIONS FOR SKILL AND GALLANTRY

Spence, Cochrane, Taylor, Sherk, Berry, Anderson and Blumenauer

Seven immediate awards of the D.F.C. make up the distinctions awarded to Canadian airmen in the last week.

Award-winners are F/Ls J. A. Spence, of Fergus, Ont., and Arthur Cochrane, of Vernon, B.C.; F/O Richard Taylor, of Victoria, B.C.; and P/Os W. S. Sherk; Jack Berry, of Parkensburg, West Virginia; Peter Anderson, of Union Point, Man.; and Charles Blumenauer, of Enderby, B.C.

F/L Spence "has been instrumental in rescuing seven survivors from crashed planes," according to the official citation. "In February," it goes on, "he flew to within five miles of Le Treport, brought his aircraft down on to the sea and rescued a Canadian pilot who had been

shot down three hours previously."

A pilot and flight commander, F/L Cochrane has destroyed seven enemy aircraft, including one three-engine plane, his last victory to date.

Detailled to attack Cologne one night in February, P/O Sherk had flown the aircraft of which he was captain to within 70 miles of Cologne when the port engine failed. He kept on, however, and successfully bombed his target.

Berry and Taylor, who are now missing, are both commended for their skill and devotion to duty.

Targets in Italy and France have been the principal scenes of action in the operational careers of P/Os Anderson and Blumenauer. Anderson is praised for completing a successful attack on Lorient under difficult circumstances, while Blumenauer is cited for obtaining excellent photographs in the course of operations against Lorient, Milan and Cologne.

### RCAF FLIERS HELP ATTACK U-BOAT PACK

S/L R. C. Patrick, D.F.C., Sees Sub Straddled By Depth Charges

### DEFENDING CONVOY

**A**IRCRAFT of Coastal Command played a great part in the defence of the big convoy which was attacked last month by packs of U-boats in the North Atlantic. Many Canadian aircrew took part in the action, which has been described as one of the greatest battles of the war.

Patrolling Liberators, Fortresses, Catalinas and Sunderlands, often flying in the worst possible weather, made a total of seven attacks on U-boats before the convoy reached its destination.

Probably the most spectacular attack was that carried out by S/L R. C. Patrick, D.F.C., of Richmond Hill, Ont., flight commander in a comparatively new squadron.

He was leading a Fortress patrol when he saw a U-boat fully surfaced six miles away. As the patrol neared the submarine they could see five hatless figures standing in the conning tower.

"They stood there and watched us," said Patrick later, "as though we were a friendly craft making a practice attack. Our depth charges straddled the U-boat just forward of the conning tower. In the explosion that followed, the U-boat was lifted out of the water and slewed around 30 degrees. When things had quietened down a little there was not a sign of the hatless men. The sub was fully four feet higher out of the sea than before the explosions. There was a terrific uprush of bubbles over a large area and we saw that she had lost all forward water. Two or three minutes later, as my gunners raked her with cannon-fire, she settled and sank."

Sgt. G. J. Duckworth, of Toronto, was WOP/AG in another patrolling aircraft in the action.

Coastal Command chalked up thousands more miles of patrols within four days. A single Liberator attacked three U-boats in four hours, depth-charging two and raking the third with cannon-fire. Though the U-boat pack was estimated to be 20 strong, the convoy came through with comparatively small loss. This was attributed to the relentless hunting of the enemy by long-range aircraft, and the close liaison between them and the Royal Navy.

### FERRIS CREW ARE INTERNED

Forced Landing in Sweden When Kite Shot Up Over Berlin

A Halifax from the RCAF squadron commanded by W/C "Tiny" Ferris came down in Sweden after bombing Berlin on Saturday night. No one in the village could speak English, so one of the crew motioned for paper and pencil.

He drew a sketch map of England and the Scandinavian countries and then placed a question mark on Norway and Sweden.

The peasants told him—by pointing on the map—that he was in Sweden. The airman then drew a small ship, sailing to England, which meant he would like to return home.

The peasant answered by drawing barbed wire around Sweden, indicating that he would be interned.

The tank of the plane had been hit by several shells. The Canadians in the crew were: Sgt. R. M. Hall, of Montreal; Sgt. Harold Grayson, of London, Ont.; Sgt. F. W. Grant, of Winnipeg; and Sgt. Alois Neebin, of Cosine, Sask.

### MOUSE PIONEER FINDS AVIATION TOUGH GOING

P/O Howard MacDonald, of Sydney Mines, N.B., doesn't particularly mind taking passengers in his Spitfire when he goes on a sweep; but he takes a poor view when the passengers start to bite.

MacDonald, who flies in a RCAF fighter squadron overseas commanded by S/L F. H. Boulton, of Coleman, Alta., went with his squadron on a sweep the other day. After he had been in the air a few minutes he felt something scratching at his head. Later, the scratching turned into outright bites. Puzzled, he felt his helmet. He detected a fair-sized lump in it. He concluded—rightly—that a mouse had crawled into his helmet during the previous

night, and was registering disapproval of being sent on sweeps without fair warning.

At 18,000 feet, the scratching and biting stopped. The mouse had died from lack of oxygen. MacDonald removed it from the lining of his helmet when he returned from the show. He got no sympathy from the other pilots. The general comment was: "Any guy that would take a mouse up that high without fitting it up with an oxygen mask..."

The rest of the sentence was left in bitter silence.

Around the squadron the story is that next morning MacDonald was heard singing loudly in his bath. The words were: "With the wind and the mouse in my hair."

WINGS ABROAD

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EDITORIAL

TELLS THE STORY

ON page 1 of this issue is a budget of squadron chatter from the desert. When it reached the editorial room of WINGS ABROAD, it told us dramatically as a war correspondent's front-line despatch of the collapse of Mussolini's "shoddy empire."

WITH THE R.A.F.

PERMANENT Force men will be interested to learn that Sgt. "Em" Woolsey, of Dundas, Ont., has graduated from A.F.U. He is a pilot and will fly with Coastal Command.

CASUALTIES

For the week ending March 30, 1943: KILLED IN ACTION. G. P. MacKay, P/O, Sweetsburg, Que. MISSING BELIEVED KILLED IN ACTION. J. B. Chester, P/O, Dundas, B.C.; J. A. Goss, P/O, Springfield, Mass.; H. Johnson, Sgt., Michigan, U.S.A.; R. J. Kres, Sgt., Grayville, Mo.; F. Mel, MacDonald, P/O, Edmonton; N. J. Dain, Sgt., Fort Francis, Ont.



Left to right are Mrs. R. W. Isbister, the former Miss Vicky Hartley, of Kenton; P/O Isbister, of Toronto; Mrs. T. F. Todd, the former Miss Valerie Newton, of Beddau, South Wales; and P/O Todd, of Hamilton. The four were main-eventers in the first double wedding ceremony in Canadian Fighting Wing, S/L F. E. Green, D.F.C., of Toronto, the commanding officer of the squadron in which Todd and Isbister are pilots, attended the ceremony. (Official RCAF Photograph).

RED INDIAN UNIT

By F/O ART SAGER. KLAHOWYA! Red Indian squadron has big double marriage feast. "Brave Warriors" Todd and Isbister ketchum heap skookum maiden. Make good squaw. Plenty firewater. Much beating of tom-toms. Ugh!

WITH THE RADIO MECHS

VISITING FIREMEN

YOU'VE got to give him credit for individuality: P/O Jim Carrick, of Toronto, who was stationed in a certain group of gorgeous northern islands for many months, is going back there to finish off his leave. Seems he liked it.

D.U. IN MIDS

By Cpl. B. Underwood. CPL. HANLEY has just returned from a three-day visit to Kent. George says his landlady down there was very apologetic when she had to tell him she only had bacon and eggs for breakfast.

WILTSHIRE M.U.

By LAC Louis ZIR. JOHNNY STRAIN has established himself as the Fred Astaire of Wiltshire M.U. by taking first prize in a waltz competition, held at a station dance, against spirited English competition.

DESERT NEWS

(Continued from page 1) other squadron mascots, one monkey, one guinea pig and five dogs came through in fine condition. Everyone has found our moves of endless interest. From Almeria to Aghella the road was blanketed with Jerry and little tanks, planes and transport, and even the least observant G.D. was an authority on enemy aircraft by the time we reached Tripolitania.

RECORDS OFFICE

A2 (CAN)

By LAC WALLINGTON. COUNTING up the bigheads we surmise that it must have been a hard night last night. LAC Ralph Biggar is still fulfilling the ancient adage of "Three down and four up."

G1 (CAN)

By "MEN" AITKEN. I HEREBY confess to a "lie." Last week I mentioned mid-July baseball form, but on this week-end's game I retract all previous statements.

I see we are losing "Angel" LeBlanc, Nels "I'm in love" Greenwood and "Zip" Francis. The boys are all "happy" at the thought of going back to their former stamping grounds.

WITH THE NEWZIES

By P/O JOHNNY SYMONS. YESTERDAY old Buck Moore returned (on the stumps of his knees) from his third nine-day leave in the last six weeks. He got back just in time to apply for another leave in April.

Our crack engineer, Fabian Sansoucy, of Longueuil, Que., has just returned from a hectic fourteen days' leave, spent in Southgate and district. He still hasn't got over it. What are the prospects down that way, Fabian?

EXCEEDED TONNAGE

(Continued from page 1) were: Sgt. J. A. Mills, of Toronto; Sgt. J. A. Lantagne, of Carleton Place; Sgt. Lawrence "Happy" Hornham, of Toronto; P/O Phil Weedon, of Paddock Wood, Sask.



It is right and just that British officers should wear the best-tailored uniforms in the world. Our job is to see that the standard never falls.

AUSTIN REED

103-113 REGENT STREET, W.1. CHEAPSIDE, E.C.2. Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Harrogate, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield, Southampton. Also at Aldershot, Amesbury, Barmouth, Bothwell, Coventry, Dunbar, Hove, Plymouth, Richmond (Yorks). London Tel. Regent 6789.

WINGS ABROAD

TIP FOR SAFETY RAZOR USERS

No. 1 LATHERING. Most shaving soaps contain an ingredient which softens the stubble. Give time to work. Your razor blade will last longer if you lather for as long as you usually do.



WITH RADIO MECHS

(Continued from page 2)

NORTH WALES M.U.

By LAC Bill Sellors

CPL HARRY SAYERS is in London for a couple of days, supposedly for an interview at Headquarters, but I believe his real reason is to get the low down on the "Three Jacks": Allen, Knox and Wallis, who have been doing the big town this past week with Jim Bond.

far and wide this week. Frank Walker is off to London to see the boys (?), Jack "Toar" Bailey, the Irishman, is going "home." Bill Turnbull and his father are getting together in Scotland. "Smiling" Fred McEwan is going down the coast of Wales, then spending a few days in Bristol. Sounds good to me.

Keith Knox is getting along well in hospital, and why shouldn't he? I understand he had still another letter from the lassie in Edinburgh. Archie Wright is also in hospital. Heaps of luck, fellas.

Padre Sergeant was in this week. It was great to see him, but it was a tough session wasn't it, Padre?

Gord Duff, Auxiliary Services Officer for our district, performed his first official duty for us when he distributed cigarettes. That's the spirit, Gord.

Our new arrival for this week is Alvin Loggie, from somewhere on Vancouver Island.

Your usual correspondent, Harry Sayers, arrived back from London and says he met Jim Bond and Jack Wallis, who looked somewhat the worse for wear.

Jack Allen and Jack Knox were skating at Richmond, and from all accounts were no better off. P/O Perry Vogt was seen at the Beaver Club and is looking quite happy—still!

S/L BALL SUCCEEDS S/L BRETZ, D.F.C.

S/L Donald Ball, of Edmonton, has been given command of a famous RCAF Spitfire squadron until recently commanded by S/L Norman Bretz, D.F.C., of Toronto.

Ball was formerly a flight commander in the squadron with which he has been serving for some time. He has a score of two destroyed. Before joining his present squadron, he was attached to a Spitfire wing of the U.S. Army Air Force.

Flight commanders' positions in this squadron are now filled by F/L Charles Semple, of Toronto, and F/L William Johnstone, of Calgary.

Ball is not yet 23, while Semple and Johnstone are 26 and 25 respectively.

CASANOVAS WIN

By LAC J. COTTINGHAM

THE Casanova Club, more officially known as the groundcrew softball club, clipped the wings of the aircrew squad to the tune of 10-4 when the two teams locked in mortal combat in the back pasture last Monday evening. Star of the game was LAC "Junior" Reilinger, first baseman for the Casanovas, who turned in a solid game throughout. The aircrew lads were helped along by F/S Johnny Higgins, who hit a homer in the third inning.

The line-up for the Casanovas consisted of LAC "Moose" Leone, Niagara Falls; LAC "Red" Stephen, Toronto; LAC "Junior" Reilinger; F/L E. T. M. Duggan, Calgary; LAC "Lucky" Pynn; LAC "Flare-path" Smith, Toronto; LAC Johnny Ruttan, Toronto; LAC Jack Lansdell, Porquos Junction, Ont.; and LAC Jimmy Scale, the "Callender Kid."

The aircrew boys pinned their hopes on F/O "Mickey" Cochrane, Brantford, Ont.; Sgt. "Ed" Evans, Long Branch, Ont.; F/S Johnny Higgins, Verdun, Que.; F/S Ernie Dickey, Middle Stewiacke, N.S.; Sgt. Bill Gunn, Mount Royal, Que.; Sgt. J. Robertson, Fairview, Sask.; Sgt. Bill Tew, Dryden, Ont.; and Lyle Nelson, Sardis, B.C.

This week's social news was highlighted by the wedding at Christ Church, Esher, Surrey, on Tuesday, March 23, of P/O H. D. "Hank" Baker, of Neepawa, Man., to Miss Julie Wilkinson. The bride, a member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, wore a white bridal gown, and according to the several representatives of the squadron who were present at the ceremony everything went according to plan. The happy couple are honeymooning in Devon. The whole squadron wishes Hank and his bride the best of everything.

Among the recent arrivals on the squadron was S/L C. C. Moran, who, before coming to England, was a flying instructor at No. 5 S.F.T.S., Brantford, Ont.

Their technical books disappeared faster than the section clears come quitting time. The "A" Group trade test must be over.

LACs Don Streich and Ralph Keady were out on the tennis court last week. They were playing an interesting game of doubles—with a couple of interesting doubles. Maybe there's more to this game than batting a pill over a fish net with a tennis racket. If so—let's go!

HEADQUARTERS

PROTESTANT airmen at H.Q. marched to St. Sepulchre's on Church Parade last Sunday. G/C G. O. Lightbourn conducted the service, while G/C W. E. Cochran delivered the sermon, and S/L W. B. Willan assisted. After the service the airmen paraded to the main H.Q. building, in front of which A/M H. Edwards, C.B., reviewed the march past. The RCAF band accompanied the parade.

That cute little trick doing the high-speed typing in photo is LAC Cheney. F/L Drole has a hard time keeping the "Speed ball" solvent. The only thing that slows him down is an overheated typewriter. Have you tried the latest model, Cheney? It's a glycol-cooled job for high-speed work.

The boys realised how hard the shortage of labour had hit the hotel when they came down to breakfast one morning and saw Tuxford's grinning face at the order window. The "Kitchen Front Commando" had taken to slinging hash. When he's not serving side plates of arsenic he is eating the odd razor blade. Recently he added a lick of a white-hot poker to his diet of "Gillettes." He didn't feel well the next day and wondered why. "Sometimes I even scare myself," the Commando confessed.

S/L Norm Bretz, D.F.C., recently posted to RCAF Headquarters, celebrated the occasion by distributing daffodils to everyone in the building.

The most exciting thing since Davis beat McConnell at checkers happened in the M.T. drivers' room recently—a civilian came in to replace part of the flooring. The boys stopped work long enough to raise themselves on one elbow and watch the pro-



F/L Harry Donkersley, Powell River, B.C., recently received from His Majesty the King the D.F.C. and Bar awarded to him for noteworthy success in sorties against enemy shipping in the Mediterranean.

Donkersley recently returned from a long spell at Malta. He is credited with the destruction of five enemy ships and with helping in the sinking of two others.

Other Canadians who received awards from His Majesty at the same investiture are W/C A. C. Brown, D.F.C., of Winnipeg, a former C.O. of the "Demons," F/L Burton Murchie, D.F.C., St. Stephen, N.B., P/O Albert Smith, D.F.C., Toronto, P/O Ernest Falge, D.F.C., Toronto. (Official RCAF Photograph.)

WOMEN'S DIVISION

IT was nice to see all the cheerful smiling faces that greeted us Monday morning. The reason? Just a bit of well-deserved leave, we suppose. LAW Louise MacBride, of Victoria, B.C., seemed exceedingly happy about her visit to Bournemouth. We wonder why? And what's all this about Cpl. Pat Boreham, of Peterborough, Ont., and LAW Lois Leavens, from Toronto, going up to Edinburgh and seeing a "dead" elephant? Sounds sort of fishy. Cpl. Betty Dewar, another Torontonlian, was also on leave. And LAW Long, of Arden, Man., came back with long tales of the beautiful country in Devon and Cornwall, Spring must be in the air!

And a bit of news from the gals at Bomber Group—LAW Stagg, whose home is in England, and Irene Blott, of Leader, Sask., have had 43—no doubt much appreciated. Cpl. Goodeve visited London, we understand. Oh, yes, the aforementioned Blott is proudly displaying a diamond ring on her third finger, left hand. A P/O at Dishforth is the lucky man, but the wedding won't be till their return to Canada—at least that's what they report at the moment.

Back from the Scilly Islands—Daffodil Land—after two weeks spent there on her honeymoon, came Section Officer Nancy Smith—beg your pardon—McArthur is the name. The couple flew there from Cornwall—in an old crate according to the bride.

Advertisement for Deanna Durbin in 'The Amazing Mrs. Holliday' at Leicester Sq. Theatre.

Advertisement for ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE.

Large advertisement for the movie 'Immortal Sergeant' featuring John Brophy and Henry Fonda.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Table listing theatre programmes including Hippodrome, Palace, Palladium, Prince of Wales, Saville, Strand, Victoria Palace, Windmill, Carlton, Dominion, Empire, Gaumont, Leicester Sq., and others.

Advertisement for 'Cargo of Innocents' featuring Robert Taylor and Charles Laughton, showing 3rd week at Empire.

Advertisement for 'Star Spangled Rhythm' featuring a host of stars including Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, and Fred MacMurray, showing 5th week at Plaza.

# SHORT SQUADRON FLASHES

## BACK TO THE LAND

By LACs D. W. HAROLD and C. K. WOLFF

**B**ON SOIR and the best of luck go to W/O "Irish" McIlraith, Toronto, and LAC A. Cordingley, of Lake View, on their repatriation. The popular devil-may-care Irish boy, one of the squadron's air crew "old originals," will be missed, shure and he will. Cordie in his hey-day represented Canada at the Olympic Games. Weight-lifting was his specialty.

"Something new has been added" applies to Dick Thomson, of California, on the acquisition of a new hook. Keep it clean, Dick (you know what we mean).  
The weekly squadron sports headline centres around the Swordfish five's first basketball game with Havant N.F.S. as the visitors. Keen and clean play was the keynote throughout. Damn good sport and equally fine sportsmen for opponents, as all who participated will readily agree. The line-up and point scoring summary for our squad was as follows: Cpl. Al Harrop, Winnipeg, 4; Cpl. Sully Sand, Toronto, 2; Pte. Bill Polosky, Toronto, 10; Cpl. Eric Tatham, Winnipeg, 6; and LAC Perc McGillivray, New Waterford, N.S. Subs.: Sgt. Paul Bergamini, Windsor, 2; LAC Nick Carter, Toronto, 6; LAC "Red" Catto, New Westminster, B.C.; LAC Harry Thompson, Hamilton; and LAC Doug Harold, Vancouver, 4; for a total of 34 points as against 12 for the firemen, 8 of which were banged in by the exponent of handball, Fireman Wm. "Big Bill" Davis. Referee: F/O Bill Main, Winnipeg; score-keeper and Air Force audience: LAC "Pause" Pozner, of Toronto.

## LATE ARRIVALS CLUB

(Thank You from the Club)



THIS IS TO CERTIFY that A 1944 No. 10000 of Squadron is hereby nominated a member of the Late Arrivals Club

AS MUCH AS HE, is

when obliged to abandon his Aircraft, he the ground in the Air, as a result of uniformly acting in the manner.

CELEBRATED in remaining in his Squadron, on foot in his aircraft, long after his Estimated Time of Arrival.

has been obliged to abandon his Aircraft, he the ground in the Air, as a result of uniformly acting in the manner.

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Here is F/S Edward Geeves, a Montrealeur who should be a member of the Goldfish Club but got into the Late Arrivals Club instead. The Late Arrivals, by the way, are British airmen shot down in the North African deserts who have trekked back to base safely. Geeves, however, qualified for membership in a watery waste and did all his trekking in a dinghy. He and his crew crash-landed in the Mediterranean off Malta last Christmas night and were rescued on the morning of Boxing Day. Not knowing of the existence of the Goldfish Club (featured in last week's "Wings Abroad" in this position), they applied for entry into the Late Arrivals. As a result Geeves sports a Winged Boot instead of a Flying Fish. "It was wet," he admits "but it was better than walking anyhow."  
(Official RCAF Photograph.)

## OSCAR THE BARD

By P/O GEO. BAIN  
I'm keen, very keen, and I'm anxious to fly.  
The weather's not fit? Not a bit? My, oh, my!  
Eight to ten tenths of the blackest of cloud?  
It's horrible fendish, it can't be allowed.  
And here I was set for a night on the Ruhr,  
But now I stay home—very sad to be sure.  
A whole evening free and there's nothing to do,  
Except for the Bull and a pint—maybe two.  
Or that book in the mess that I've only half read,  
Perhaps, for a change, going early to bed.  
Or a picture in town and a restaurant meal.  
(How much would I rather a jaunt over Kiel.)  
I really don't care very much for the rest,  
I'd much prefer Hamburg, or Bremen, or Bresl.  
The weather is clearing? We may even fly?  
Impossible! "Stupid! Why, look at that sky."  
The front has passed over you're sorry to find?  
Well, what about me—my God, what a bind.  
I've a date, I feel ill, my kite is u.s.  
My aunt has just died. My nerves are a mess.  
Gotta have time off; just one evening free.  
Not very keen? Why—who d'ya mean? ME?

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## TEARFUL FAREWELLS

By ARKAYBEE

**T**EARFUL farewells to some good flight engineers: Sgts. "Al" Dutton, Brantford; "Bill" Ellard, Mortlake, Sask.; and "Johnny" Hooper, Ceylon, Sask. No, we didn't know there was a "Ceylon" in Saskatchewan either until Johnny was posted to us. No longer will they be checking "boost 'n revs," for the Moosecraft, but will carry their toolkits for a Con. Unit for a while.  
Even though the Chimney Sweep (an old English institution) was around doing his stuff the other day, you needed a knife to cut the atmosphere in the adj.'s (F/L W. G. "Goldie" Harrison, Ottawa) office yesterday. After checking the fuse to make sure someone hadn't stuffed an old sock or something down it, we discovered that the cause was the adj.'s new pipe going at forced draught. Turns out that as the Winco is going on leave he thought up the dodge of laying down a smoke-screen as a protection against having too many "callers!"  
"Moochin' Around the Moosemen" we noticed: LAC J. "Jimmy" Todd, Vancouver, busy with palette and brush doing some artistic painting on a Moosecraft; Cpl. R. "Bob" Lingard, Brandon, scraping some of the caviare he had for tea off his tie with his knife; LAC J. "Charlie" Donnelly, Stanleyville, Ont., chewing mightily on a huge bite at an adjacent table, heckled by LAC C. "Mac" McFadden, Ottawa.  
Understand from our Maintenance Correspondent (that oughta clear me) that there has been a sensational improvement in the serving of the rations (grub to you) in the sergeants' mess lately since a W/O armourer (guess who) has ceased monopolising the attentions (culinary and otherwise) of one of the "Waitresses, Group V." That "Coat of Arms" sure gets the gals!

## ON LEAVE

CPL JACK MORRICE, of Winnipeg, says he was in town last week to find out if one can spend a quiet leave in London. Outcome of the corporal's experiment is debatable, as he didn't try very hard.  
If Sgt. Jack Gill, of Toronto, scans this hunkacopy he is invited to write to Morrice, care of the Canadian base P.O.  
After a spell on detachment, LACs Dave Connelly, of Midale, Sask., and Stanley Lasoski, of Windsor, Ont., sandwiched a few days' leave in town before returning to their home unit.  
Two others who descended "like wolves on the fold" of this much-tried metropolis last week are LACs P. J. Lee, of Prince Albert, Sask., and Wilfred Newhouse, of Birch Hills, Sask. The pursuit of happiness got too swift for Wilf and after a few days he whipped up to York for a quieter time.

## SPITFIRE ERKS

By P/O J. SANCTON

**E**VERY one of the nine provinces is represented in the arrivals of recent months for the ground crews of the Canadian Spitfire squadron now commanded by S/L Eugene L. "Jeep" Neal, D.F.C., of Quebec City.  
From farthest afield, British Columbia, have come LAC E. W. McMurtrie, armourer, of Port Alberne, and ACI R. S. Glaas, fitter, of Vancouver.  
Alberta has gone one better by sending three, all riggers: Cpl. H. A. Ferbey, of Fendehah, and LACs E. A. Fernie, of Calgary, and N. R. Yousochok, of Coleman.  
Saskatchewan's gifts are F/O J. H. Barclay, adjutant, from Watrous, and ACI H. J. Hollands, a fitter, from Swift Current.  
Manitoba's quartette comprises two Winnipeggers, LAC V. Vogle, rigger, and ACI S. Bermack, wireless mech, and ACI-fitters R. Curiston, of Petersburg, and H. S. Hunt, of St. Vital.  
Ontario gathered together an even dozen: Cpls. L. A. Gurney G.D., of Toronto; A. G. McFarlane, wireless mech, of Gravenhurst, and H. C. Parson, rigger, of Fort Erie; LACs G. E. Boughs, R.T.O., of Toronto; A. B. Bowland, armourer, of Ancaster; J. D. Ewen, rigger, of Toronto; W. D. Edestrand, R.T.O., of Strathroy; D. E. Gignac, armourer, of Windsor; W. L. Martin, clerk, of London; and C. Mann, armourer, of Dundas; and ACIs W. A. Gledhill, fitter, of Grimsby; and A. Guolla, R.T.O., of Timmins.  
La belle province de Québec, mails out: Cpl. W. S. Westcott, photographer, and ACI W. A. Perrin, armourer, both of Montreal; and ACI F. L. Mahoney, armourer, of nearby Lachine.  
New Brunswick's sons are all ACI-R.T.O.s: K. G. Kelly, of Saint John; H. B. McNeil, of Wayerton; and K. R. O'Regan, of River Herbert East.  
Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown in particular, is designated as home by the new M.O., F/L E. L. Thorne.  
Finally, Nova Scotia's delegation is a couple of R.T.O.s, LAC L. F. Crosby, of Brazil Lake, and ACI W. L. Langille, of Halifax.

## BASEBALL SEASON JUST AS I THOUGHT!

By CPL ED. CANCELLA and G. S.

**H**UTS 140 and 142 rushed the baseball season in with a bang-up game recently. In the last innings the score stood at 3-1 for 140, but 142 put on a spurt and cleaned up nicely by 11 to 3. Wow! It's easy to tell who's got good night vision around here. LAC Stewie Murray pitched for the victors, and Cpl. Jim McKee was catcher when he was looking. How's about that shiner, Jim?  
Since baseball has more or less seized the squadron spotlight, the basketball team have sort of slipped out of sight. But for the sake of the record, be it known to all youse that we shellacked the local police by 42-21. Boy! but those cops are big and tough, er, F/O Avery?  
Off on leave is F/S Larry Sullivan, while Sgt. Doug. Welch is visiting his brothers in the Canadian Army. Cpl. Jack Turquist is off as well, and LAC Pat Goldring is attending a friend's investiture in London. As we go to press, F/O Jimmy Bolton has left us to go on another captain's course. We wish you all the luck in the world, Jimmy.  
A few of the lads singing "Me and My Shadow" these days are LAC Jim McKee, Don McKenzie, Jim Gauthier and a whole flock of others. Just listen to those nickels clicking back home—m'm!  
The lads in Hut 142 would like to know why Cpl. Jerry Gerrond goes to bed so early these evenings. Whazzamatter, Sparky? Is five miles there and back too much?  
At time of writing we welcome F/L Ian "Moose" Mills back from a leave just in time to see him rush past with a clearance chit in one hand, and a cheque book in the other. "Moose" has been with the squadron since its earliest pre-natal moments, and we hate to see him leave us. But wherever you go, Moose, you'll be ever in our hearts and in the Squadron Scrap Book. So long, fellah, and come again soon!  
Moose got back just in time to attend the wedding of F/L "Sandy" Powell and S/O "Minnie" Johnson. What a wedding! F/O Lingard drank a neat upside-down beer, but the low rat who emptied his glass down our hero's trouser-leg is still at large. You look well riding a bike backwards, too, my Fran!  
As we close, we bid farewell to Cpl. Tom Bradley, off on a course. Be sure and study the right forms, Corp. S'long.

## JUST AS I THOUGHT!

By LAC M. J. SEELEY

**T**HE Winco's "Just as I thought!" coming as it did at his recent informal parade, more than set the men at ease. The airmen (with and without wings) present heeded, among other things, the slight inferences of the squadron's Chief Goose, with the result that within a few days the station barbers were suffering relapses and most of the erks were sporting well-cropped heads. Despite that, don't any readers think we can't get 'em all of the deck either, for we can and DO!  
Cpl. "Earthquake" McGoon, Broadhurst (the Brute to his friends) assures us that his heart belongs to a lass back home. More power to you, Brute. Considering the epidemic of engagements, etc., prevalent in the squadron, all we can muster is a quote from friend Billy: "Et tu Brutus!"  
Wedding bells will soon ring for LACs Glen Poole, of Vancouver, who now belongs to a Gloucester miss, and Cpl. Steve Jansen, of Windsor, who finally succumbed to another English girl's charms. "Notta" so bad, Steve!  
Two weeks ago Judy gave birth to quintz—the result of an open door and a frustrated puppy belong to our former Groupie, Molly, of the WAAF's, finds little time for leisure these days, what with Judy's family to care for and plans for her own wedding to Benny Bennetto (the Hamilton Flash) next week to complete.  
Ian Rose, of Vancouver, who claims he could make a living selling refrigerators to Eskimos if he had to, just came back from a wee visit with the Mrs.-to-be.  
Penfold, of Guelph, runs a Cyclatorium in "B" Flight's sugar hut, otherwise known as the scrounge shack. Eade, that busy little bee, l/c squadron mail (grrrr), has moved again. It only took us 40 minutes to locate him this time, tucked away in a wee corner in a strange hangar. How about some mail now, old man?  
"M". Flight's only senior Canuck N.C.O., Sgt. "Hogle" J. A. Hogan, who hails from Windsor, Ont., soon expects to hit the road to Ireland on leave to visit relatives.  
Lindon and Holden, also of "M", tarried a little too long in a nearby city, viewing with speculation and interest some of the local art exhibits. Dabbling with art once in a while can be fun, but boys—there are other painters besides Goya you know!



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## "MAPLE LEAFS" WIN IN EXHIBITION GAME

In an exhibition hockey game staged recently in the North the RCAF "Maple Leafs" defeated the RCAF "Bostons," 10-9. Mitt Schmidt and "Porky" Dumart, of Boston Bruins fame opposed each other, and their smooth style and stickhandling brought rounds of applause from the fans. Although they were feature players, Schmidt and Dumart did more play making than scoring.  
Line-up:—"Maple Leafs": Cpl. Mike Fenlon, Montreal; Ken McAdam, Ottawa; LAC "Scotty" Myles, Windsor; LAC Sherry Cherrington, Hamilton; LAC Eric Heffler; LAC "Red" Baldwin, Saskatoon; LAC "Swiftly" Mills, Dartmouth; LAC Lloyd Copeland, Ottawa; LAC Mitt Schmidt, Kitchener; ACI Pete Snell, Calgary; W/O Jim Bland, Kingston. "Bostons": Sgt. "Van" Vanderveiden, Los Angeles; Cpl. Roger Alain, Three Rivers; Sgt. "Mac" McInnes, Carroll; LAC Ted Belland, Windsor; LAC Bill Legg, London; Cpl. "Porky" Dumart, Kitchener; Sgt. Jim Pwera, Montreal; LAC Bill Wall, Windsor; Cpl. Gordy Adamson, Toronto; LAC Louis Lepine, Montreal; LAC Bob Racine, St. Hyacinthe.

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