WINGS ABROAD

THE OFFICIAL ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE R.C.A.F. NEWSPAPER

Vol. II. No. 93 LONDON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1944 Price 1d.

Bombers Smack Reich With Old One-Two

BERLIN AND MAGDEBURG RECEIVE PASTING ON CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS

German Capital is First Target for New Squadron

FLAK INEFFECTIVE

AFTER dropping a record bomb load on Berlin last Thursday evening, RCAF Bomber Group aircraft went right back to Germany the following evening when Magdeburg took a pounding. Many Canadians flew with RAF squadrons on both attacks.

At least nine RCAF units were over Berlin. Many crews visited the Reich on both nights. The men reported that ground defences were relatively weak, but the Nazi nightfighters clustered around the target as the attacks progressed.

There was little doubt in the minds of the returning crews that both Reich centres absorbed terrific punishment during the battles.

Berlin

Thursday night's attack marked the debut for RCAF Bomber Group's youngest squadron, the Porcupine. The unit was led on its first trip to a major target by W/C C. B. Sinton, D.F.C., Bristol, England, who enlisted in the RCAF at Vancouver at the outbreak of war. F/L D. W. Simpson, D.F.C., Islington and Stratford, Ont., reported that there were a few fighters around but none near his aircraft.

Among other members of the wing commander's crew were F/O P. Dormand, D.F.C., Sunderland; F/O B. A. Russell, Bathurst, N.B.; and F/S W. E. Powell, Chelan, Sask., and New Westminster, B.C.

It was the start of a second tour for S/L H. T. Patterson, Fredericton, N.B., a flight commander of the Porcupine Squadron.

Baptism of Fire

The new squadron ran into the usual flak during their first show. Says W/O C. Neilson, Bayside, Long Island: "I saw one of those rockets for the first time. The ground defences seemed rather weak."

Some of the other men who flew with the Porcupine include: F/O R. Potentier, Victoria, B.C.; F/O G. N. Walls, Aneroid, Sask.; F/S D. F. Wilson, Montreal; F/S G. F. Fielding, Nanaimo, B.C.; W/O W. Cooper, Vancouver; F/S L. V. Milward, Regina; F/L J. A. Cruickshank, Toronto and London, Ont.

Agreeing that Berlin was not well defended is F/S J. G. Herron, Barrys Bay, Ont., who made his 30th trip Thursday night. He says, "I saw plenty of fighters and flares, but the searchlights were ineffective."

The Canucks who flew in RAF kites seemed unanimous that it was a successful raid. "There must have been lots of fires down there," said W/O Bud Wilson, Palmerston, Ont.

"You could pick out fires through gaps in the clouds," adds F/S Bob Reynolds, Toronto.

Sgt. Louis Blakeney, Hamilton, Ont., also with the RAF, was impressed by the pyrotechnic display. "They're shooting up a shell which explodes with red and green flashes."

Two other Canadians in Blakeney's squadron are F/O Joe Filmer, Lethbridge, Alta., and P/O Maxie Manser, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Magdeburg

Returning crews were satisfied with their efforts Friday night. Said Sgt. Les Dymant, Toronto, "Between the pathfinder flares, fighter flares and the burning target it was really bright as day."

LEADS PORCUPINE SQUADRON TO BERLIN

W/C Clive Sinton, D.F.C., took his newly formed RCAF Halifax squadron to Berlin on their first operation over enemy territory. The following night the Porcupines were dropping their bombs on Magdeburg.
(Official RCAF Photograph.)

AIR SICK OFFICER STAYS WITH JOB

F/O A. C. Bell, Saint John, N.B., navigator with the Goose squadron, gave a fine example of aggressive spirit recently on a mission against Brunswick. Violently air sick, he refused to abandon his work or turn back from the mission.

Instead of permitting his skipper to turn around and head for home, Bell stayed at his navigational table, and continued to work over maps, charts, calculation instruments and navigational equipment in order to reach the target.

He worked in spasms as his illness permitted, and with the help of the crew members, they were able to drop the bomb load in the target area and return safety to base. Others in the crew were P/O A. L. McQuarrie, Fergus, Ont., bomb-aimer; Sgt. A. Claus, Osawa, mid-upper gunner; F/S W. H. Laughlin, Larcombe, Alta., rear-gunner; 2/Lt. W. R. Humphrey, Pawnee City, Nebraska, pilot.

FORMER PITCHER

Well known in Windsor, Ont., LAC R. H. "Ray" Doumani, 23-year-old former semi-pro pitcher with the Amsterdam Rugmakers of the Can-Am Baseball League, is now an instrument maker with the Thunderbird Squadron.

A pilot, F/S Walter Hrynkiw, Plunkett, Sask., was in agreement.

"It was a pretty good do," added F/S Les Preece, Hawkesbury, Ont., Hrynkiw's bomb-aimer.

"I haven't seen enough to be a really good judge," says F/O Hugh McNabey, Toronto, who made his second trip Friday, "but it looked good to me."

Some of the RCAF men who visited the Elbe river city with RAF squadrons are F/L Harry Hudson, Tampa, Fla.; F/O Wilbert Robertson, Edmonton; F/O Bill Uyen, London, Ont.; Sgt. L. F. Sumak, Hamilton, Ont.; F/O E. Dyson, Chilliwack, B.C.; Sgt. H. L. Morrison, Fullerton, Ont.; P/O X. Risi, Fort William, Ont.; F/O J. R. Boyes, Monrose, Wash.; Sgt. G. A. Coon, Hines Creek, Alta.; C. E. O'Neil, Windsor, Ont.; F/O J. B. Armstrong, Peterborough, Ont.; F/S T. H. Dobbin, Qualicum Beach, B.C.; F/O E. M. Cooke, Toronto; F/S J. M. Cassidy, Camrose, Alta.; F/S W. B. Dalgleish, Toronto.

DRAGS INJURED PILOT OUT OF BLAZING BEAU

"Aircraft 'G' failed to get properly airborne due to engine failure and crashed . . . the navigator dragged the injured pilot from the cockpit of the burning aircraft to safety."

Brief and coldly factual, that was the entry on the official report that recorded an heroic feat performed by a member of the RCAF overseas. That short entry is the official account of how W/O W. K. McGrath, Bartonville, Ont., Buffalo squadron navigator, hung by his legs from the cowling of a burning Beaufighter loaded with high explosives to release his pilot, F/O J. S. Cummins, Ottawa, and then dragged him to safety.

Soon after the two fliers got clear of the machine, fire and high explosive destroyed the aircraft.

It all started when the two Coastal Command airmen were taking off for a routine patrol off the Norwegian coast. As they became airborne, one motor conked out. Cummins attempted to circle for a landing on the remaining engine, but the second motor quit and he was forced to crash land

Cummins Knocked Out

The aircraft was badly damaged in the crash. The tail was almost severed from the fuselage and Cummins was knocked out. Later the undercarriage of the machine was found a good 50 yards from the fuselage. The aircraft started to burn immediately. McGrath escaped the crash without injury, but Cummins was strapped into his cockpit by his safety harness, with the control column jammed against his body and one foot locked in the rudder gear.

Disregarding the danger from exploding fuel tanks and bombs, McGrath climbed into the machine and released Cummins while hanging by his legs. Nearby farmers took the two fliers to a cottage to await the ambulance. When F/L G. C. Beacock, Chapleau, Ont., the squadron medical officer, arrived on the scene, he thought the fliers were still in the burning machine. He warned his assistants to stand clear and then dashed over to the plane to try and save its occupants. He managed to get away just before it started to explode.

BUCK McNAIR CONDUCTS PILOTS' BULL SESSIONS

Buck McNair's bull sessions are a success. He instituted them when he was a flight lieutenant in charge of a section, continued with them as a squadron leader with the Red Indians, and now as a wing commander in charge of a Canadian fighter wing, he finds them equally useful.

Discipline is observed at these informal meetings, but whether he is a squadron leader or a sergeant, each pilot is free to express his opinion of anyone else's flying or tactics. Even Winco McNair with his D.F.C. and two Bars and 17 enemy aircraft destroyed, is not above criticism.

The pilots go straight to the bull session after landing from either an operation or a practice flight. Tea and small talk are first on the agenda and then "the chief" takes over.

In the course of his remarks he may say that so-and-so (naming an outstanding flight leader in his wing) nattered too much over the RT. "We can't have nattering on the RT," he'll say, "it's crowded enough under the best of circumstances." After that he'll probably tell So-and-So that he allowed his section to fly out too wide a couple of times.

McNair will then ask the men for their criticisms or suggestions. On one occasion a sergeant flying No. 4 in the wing said he'd had difficulty keeping up in a particular turn. "The Chief" remembered the particular turn and promised not to make such a tight one again.

Fighting tactics are roundly discussed. The criticism is not acrimonious; each pilot believes his participation helps to build the wing into an outstanding fighting aggregation.

The wing changed to the new Spit "nines" when W/C McNair took over from W/C B. Dal. Russel, D.F.C. and Bar, under whose leadership the wing with old Spit "fives" did not lose a single bomber to enemy fighters during six months of close escort over enemy territory.

LEASIDE LANC WRECKED IN FIVE SECOND FIGHT

Pilot Pulls Heavy Kite Out of Vertical Dive After Two-and-a-Half-Mile Drop

Hugging the control column and planting both feet against the instrument panel, P/O J. A. "Jim" McIntosh, Revelstoke, B.C., hauled about 27 tons of Lancaster out of a 13,000 ft. vertical dive during the last Berlin raid.

Flying with the Leaside Squadron, the Lanc started to dive when cannon-shells from a Nazi nightfighter smashed the elevators. As the skipper reports, "I felt the cannon-shells hitting the kite like sledge-hammers. The first few shells did most of the damage and the control column slammed forward when a shell hit the elevator."

Although the attack only lasted five seconds, damage to the Lancaster was heavy. The steep dive added to the chaos.

When the skipper levelled off the aircraft, after a long wrestle with the control column, the crew assessed the damage.

First chore was to pry the mid-upper gunner, Sgt. A. F. Dedauw, Tilbury, Ont., from a mass of tangled wires, shot loose by one of the shells. His foot was jammed in a damaged flare chute.

Fun's Fun, But . . .

Apart from a riddled and battered fuselage and an oil drenched floor, the damage affected parts of the aircraft necessary for complete control. Both starboard gas tanks were holed and the hydraulics were u.s. When three shells burst inside, near the navigator, F/O A. J. Small, Norris, Man., he lost all his instruments. The wireless op, W/O C. N. Schell, Toronto, was in the same plight, although he reported the radio in working order.

The dinghy was hanging out of the starboard wing. The tailplane was riddled and every propellor blade had at least one hole. One was completely split. The starboard oil tank was holed and the starboard tire was missing.

Guns, ammunition and oxygen equipment were among the articles tossed out of the plane during the action and the subsequent dive.

Uninjured after the confusion were the members of the crew, including rear-gunner, Sgt. L. Bandle, Toronto, who with the mid-upper, got shots in on the attacker: the bomb-aimer, Sgt. R. C. Elvin.

The lads brought the battered kite back to base after coping with severe icing, flak, and lanes of tracking flares. Relief came only when McIntosh set the kite down in what he terms a "half-ground-loop and a sudden halt."

SPITFIRE PAIR GET FW EACH

Finley and Weaver Add to Scores in Sweep Over France

Peeling off from an RCAF fighter formation which covered American heavy bombers on a sweep against targets in Northern France recently, P/O Claude Weaver, D.F.M., Oklahoma City, Okla., and F/O Hart Finley, Westmount, Que., added an FW190 each to their scores. Weaver brought his total to 15 while Finley's victim was his second. The pilots are members of the Wolf squadron.

Both men wheeled away from formation at 20,000 feet to chase four Germans and then Finley saw one "sitting by itself" over a French town.

"It broke away and turned to him," Finley said. "He started down over a town and I thought he was leading me into a flak area but I kept on him. He went straight down and I got strikes on him when near the ground. I shot over him and nearly hit a tree top. He was underneath me and going into the ground."

Weaver blacked out when he pulled out of his dive at 4,000 feet.

"I knew I was blacking out but I had to keep at it and pull out," Weaver said. "I had sent two bursts into the FW that made him skid. I left him in an inverted dive and he couldn't get out of it. When I looked down I saw him burning."

F/L J. D. Browne, Madison, N.J., was credited with badly damaging another FW190. He sent two squirts at the Jerry from 400 yards, saw a number of strikes and left him in obvious trouble when four other Germans appeared above.

LIB DISPERSES HEINKEL 177's SAVES CONVOY

Nazis Retreat Hurriedly When Canuck Gunners Knock Off Two

TRIO DECORATED

FLYING through a hail of flak thrown up from the decks of the convoy it was protecting, a Coastal Command Liberator with six Canadians in its crew engaged and drove off a formation of long-range enemy aircraft armed with glider bombs, in a running battle recently. For this act of gallantry three of the crew received immediate decorations.

The Liberator's gunners set two Heinkel 177's on fire and both broke off their attack with dense black smoke pouring from their starboard engines. Another He. was damaged during the battle, but the convoy reached a British port safely and the Lib. returned to its base unscathed.

Her skipper, F/L Hugh Sutherland, was an Englishman who won his wings in Canada. For his leadership and devotion to duty Sutherland was awarded an immediate D.F.C. Immediate D.F.M.s went to the 21-year-old navigator, P/O A. P. Gibb, Vancouver, and the front gunner, F/S M. N. Werbiski, Rorketon, Man. (Gibb was a flight sergeant when the action took place.)

The convoy was 700 miles out on the Atlantic and Britain-bound when the enemy bombers struck. Alone on escort with the odds stacked heavily against him, Sutherland went after the Germans, taking them on one by one. In 35 minutes he fought four separate combats with He. 177s.

Trailed Smoke

One Heinkel broke away from the convoy and disappeared eastward into a cloud bank. The Liberator then took after another He. which was making its bombing run over the strung-out line of ships, and sent it off trailing clouds of smoke.

Bursts from F/S Werbiski's nose armament knocked the enemy's tail cannon out of action and as the Liberator closed in again to shorter range the Germans jettisoned their bombs. A few minutes later the starboard engine caught fire and the third He. headed for home in a pall of smoke. Seeing what happened to their comrades, the remaining German pilots decided to avoid action and left the convoy.

Throughout the entire action P/O Gibb directed the gunners' fire as well as navigating, and the Lib. came through it all without sustaining a single hit.

The other four Canadians in the crew, all from Ontario, were: F/O J. M. Ketcheson, Trenton, second dickie; F/S W. P. Foster, rear gunner, Guelph; F/S E. E. Davison and F/S D. H. Griese, both beam gunners and lifelong pals who grew up together in Beachburg, Ont.

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

BUCKSHEE CULTURE

One-week leave courses at a number of British universities are now given free of charge to Canadian servicemen. Formerly there was a nominal charge of £1 12s. for other ranks and £3 12s. for officers. Courses are available at the universities of Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Manchester, Nottingham and Oxford. Application should be made through the unit educational N.C.O. or officer, or direct to the Senior Educational Officer, RCAF Overseas H.Q., London.

WINGS ABROAD

Published weekly at RCAF Headquarters Overseas.
Postal Address: RCAF Headquarters, 20, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2.
Publication Date: Wednesday of each week.
Closing Date of Advertising Copy: Friday preceding date of publication.
Advertising Rates on request.
Subscription Rates: 3 months, 3s.; 6 months, 5s.; 12 months, 10s. Single copy, 1d.

EDITORIAL

THE PORCUPINES

ANOTHER squadron, which has followed the Canadian tradition and given itself a colourful nickname of "Porcupine," has begun operations with the RCAF Bomber Group. Its Halifaxes will from now on help to add to the weight of bombs being showered on Germany during these early months of 1944.

The accent is still on bombing; and there is some danger that the enormous effort now being put forth by the crews of Bomber Command and of the heavy bombardment groups of the USAAF will come to be regarded as routine and commonplace. When it is recalled that the force of over 1,000 bombers which attacked Cologne in May, 1942, dropped 1,500 tons of bombs and that well over 2,000 tons were dropped on two successive nights last week, some measure will be seen of the extraordinary progress of Bomber Command's technique during the operation of its major offensive.

Much of the development of that technique has been so spectacular that it is still secret. But the enemy knows that there is something more than even the most careful tactical planning behind the now regular achievement of bombing at the rate of 100 or more tons a minute over a carefully designated target area. The "back room boys" of the Air Ministry, the Ministry of Aircraft Production and Bomber Command are to-day shielded from the credit which is their due by vital considerations of security; but one day, perhaps not until after the war, their work will be recognised.

In the meantime, what can be freely recognised is not only the courage (which is self-evident) of the bomber crews, but also their wide technical skill, for courage alone will not bring a bomber safely through the perils of a concentrated attack and of the massed defences of a desperate and resolute enemy.

What must also be emphasised, once again and at the risk of repetition, is the importance of the part which the ground crews play in operations of this nature. In these days, when tremendous assaults are delivered within fifteen minutes, it is not sufficient that a bomber and its engines are good enough to get to the target and back again. It must be good enough to get there at the right height, on time, and without undue petrol consumption. This involves an extremely high standard of maintenance. It is striking that one of the most eloquent of recent tributes to ground crews was paid by a distinguished Canadian path-finder pilot, Group Captain John E. Fauquier, D.S.O., D.F.C., in an informal chat with a couple of newspapermen. "They work," he said, "a lot harder than we do. I've seen them on the job in the foulest weather imaginable—servicing aircraft in a rainstorm with water dripping down their necks and soaking their clothes clean through. By the time they get through, those kites are spotless. They are magnificent; without them we would be nowhere."

WEDDINGS

ROBB-PAWLEY.—S/O Edythe Muriel Pawley, WAAF, and F/O Malcolm Robb, Toronto, were married Saturday, Jan. 15, in the officers' mess of the City of Toronto Mustang Squadron, S/L T. Jolly, Regina, RCAF Protestant chaplain, conducted the service.

F/O E. E. Tummon, Foxboro, Ont., was best man for the groom, while the bride was given away by Col. T. Russell, of the RAF Regiment.

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THREE "RED ROOSTERS" OF HEADQUARTERS

RCAF Court Reporter Shorthand Experts Have Ringside Seats at Courts-Martial

THE only RCAF court reporters overseas have something in common with the little red hen, inasmuch as they all have to scratch like hell to get results.

In the process of aforesaid scratching they can take down words at the rate of 175 per minute. They have to rattle along at this more than rapid clip in order to get a transcript of what is said at various courts-martial, courts of inquiry and summaries of evidence at which Canadians appear throughout the United Kingdom.

All three RCAF court reporters are sergeants. Mike Galaza used to do court reporting in Calgary before he joined up. Jack Allen was a longshoreman with a Vancouver shipping firm, and Doug Vaisey was a newshound for the *Toronto Star*. They were sent on the RCAF court reporters' course in Canada, during which time they did practically nothing but write shorthand for ten hours a day. They emerged from the course with their sanity and the knowledge that they were qualified in their job.

In doing so Doug Vaisey had to overcome an almost insurmountable difficulty. He is normally a southpaw and the shorthand speed system was not originally designed for the lefties. Doug has always written, lifted tankards and shaved with his left hand. He had to learn to take shorthand with his right hand. "Bags of practice did it," said Doug.

Their duties over here are interesting. The tension at a court martial can be intense. Some witnesses are scared as the devil, while others are as cool as Scotch mist. However, the reporters must not permit the atmosphere to affect them any more than if they were taking down the details of the proceeds from the ladies' aid quilting party. They are generally too busy to take much notice of any dramatic moments that may arise, for the simple reason that if they miss what is being said because their mouths are open in drooling, they will be involved as principals in a drama of another nature later.

As crime is not localised, the three sergeants see quite a bit of country. From their numerous trips they have built up a system of "Gen Cards." These cards tabulate stations as to their messing accommodation, treatment, entertainment and, most important of all, transportation. One such card reads: "Accommodation in town very good, variety of hotels, two cinemas and 48 pubs." Another is more to the point. "See Blondy" is all it contains.

The court reporters have built up a code of short phrases and commonly used terms to facilitate their note taking. In their shorthand books "conduct to the prejudice of good order and Air Force discipline" is only a squiggle and "serving together and acting in combination of the forces under the command" is not much more. They got quite used to handling technical and medical terms that are hard enough to pronounce, let alone spell.

The RAF accent in its various forms sometimes provides a problem, but on the other hand RAF court reporters say they have to work extra hard when Canadian witnesses are on the stand.

A "dogfight" to a court reporter is somewhat different than to a fighter pilot or a guy who hangs around the poolroom at home. In their parlance, it is an unhappy occasion when the prosecutor, the defending officer, and maybe the court, are all talking at once. The reporter is supposed to take down what they say.

When they return from a court martial the work of transcribing the notes begins. The boys are quite handy with a typewriter and can tap out a brisk 70 to 80 words a minute. Many shorthand clerks in this Air Force have trouble transcribing their notes which they have painfully scribbled down at a frenzied 80 per minute. If they miss a phrase, "So what?" Most clerks know how they can improve on the boss's phraseology, anyway. But not our court reporter types. Every word is vital, and on their transcription may depend the conviction or acquittal of the accused.

The work may not appeal to all, but to at least two of the "little red roosters" of Headquarters it does. Mike Galaza and Jack Allen figure on staying in the business after the war, while Doug Vaisey thinks maybe a newspaper man's life isn't so bad after all.

Serious types, these three RCAF court reporters. When they are studying some technical terms in a flying case they dress for the occasion. Left to right: Sgt. Jack Allen, Sgt. Doug. Vaisey and Sgt. Mike Galaza.
(Official RCAF Photograph.)

COMMISSIONED

Pilots.—H. P. Boness, Edmonton; A. Robertson, Tide Head, Restigouche Co., N.B.; A. Cooper, Hamilton; R. T. Lloyd, Regina; N. V. Chevers, Niagara Falls, Ont.; J. A. H. Coulombe, Montmagny Co., P.Q.; A. N. Maclennan; P. V. M. Escaravage, Winnipeg; D. Morrison, Winnipeg; E. P. Devaney, Edmonton; M. P. Gray, D.F.M., Vancouver; W. S. Middlemiss, Aneroid, Sask.

Navigators.—D. L. Petleys, Royal Oak, Mich.; E. A. Brown, Bateman, Sask.; D. F. Thorn, Vancouver; E. Gruninger, Sunny Brook, Alta.; J. P. La France, D.F.C., Trenton, Ont.; H. M. Schade, South River, Ont.; W. K. Maxwell, Winnipeg.

Navigators "B."—M. N. H. Graham, Sherbrooke, P.Q.; J. C. Grover, Montreal; G. E. Wilson, Victoria, B.C.

Air Bombers.—E. T. McDermott, Port Robinson, Ont.; J. P. Scott, Toronto; R. B. Baroni, New Ross, Lunenburg Co., N.B.

Wireless Operator/Air Gunners.—J. W. Bingham, Stratford, Ont.; H. B. Currie, Montreal; G. O. Parker, McAdam Junction, N.B.

Air Gunners.—J. A. Coles, Hanley, Sask.; J. L. McDonell, Rossland, B.C.; J. G. Cramer, Arborfield, Sask.; R. H. Ginson, Hartland, N.B.; J. L. E. Cabana, Montreal; J. B. Morison, Hamilton.

Flight Engineer.—F. G. Acres, Penticton, B.C.

Administrative Branch.—E. J. Underwood.

Provost and Security Services Branch.—D. I. MacKenzie, Truro, N.S.

Radio Branch.—D. G. Madill, Doonside, Sask.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR,—On page four of your Jan. 5 issue of WINGS ABROAD you published a puzzle under the heading of "Solve it quick, we're stumped."

Having lived in The Pas for almost sixteen years and trying to find the answer to that particular puzzle for almost as many years, I feel that I am qualified to say there is no answer. It just can't be done.

The text-books of the pupils of The Pas Collegiate are literally filled with attempts at solving this problem and I know that I will be backed up by every ex-student of T.P.C.I. when I say that it has no solution.

Yours sincerely,
F/L J. P. COYNE, D.F.C.

LANCASTER IS JINXED ON CREW'S NIGHT OFF

F/L W. A. Russell, Mt. Dennis, Ont., flew "D for Dog" from the time it arrived on the station as a brand new Lancaster. The Goose Squadron deputy flight commander was proud of the many trips she made and returned without a scratch. She was well-groomed and fast, and had the most flying hours of any kite on the squadron.

One night she went to Berlin—but with a different crew. As fate would have it, she ran into nightfighters. She finally got back safely, but reposes in one of the hangars with a smashed rear turret, an engine cowling shot away, wings and bomb-doors riddled, and plenty of other damage.

She'll fly again as soon as the ground crew nurses the cannon shell and machine gun wounds. In the meantime, Russell and his crew patiently await the return of "D for Dog."

RCAF NAVIGATOR TELLS OF AZORES CHRISTMAS

F/O Garnet Wilson Has Highest Praise For Islanders' Hospitality

In an atmosphere of Escudos, festival, fruits and food, Canadian personnel on RAF squadrons in the Azores celebrated Christmas and welcomed the New Year with as much gusto and good humour as any previous war-time Christmas, according to F/O Garnet Wilson, Coastal Command navigator attached to an RAF unit in the Portuguese islands.

On leave in London along with the English members of his crew, Wilson was high in his praise of the hospitality of the Portuguese people on the islands. Many had been hosts to Candian airmen over the holidays and had taken them into their homes to celebrate the Yuletide.

"Although I spent Christmas on the camp, I understand from the boys that they had a very good time over the holiday," the Edmonton airman said. "The people are extremely friendly and made us very welcome."

The men lacked little in the way of Christmas foods, and in some respects were better off than their fellow airmen in other parts of the world. In addition to turkey and the other staple Christmas foods, there were oranges, bananas, pineapples, excellent wines and champagnes and a host of other foods common to the Azores with which they could help to "celebr-eat" the holidays.

"Some of the boys had Christmas off and others had New Year's, so they still were able to celebrate although the program of 'work as usual' still went on," Wilson added.

Bullfights and Dances

The Portuguese celebrated both events with traditional festivals. There were bullfights and dances, much as the Canadians had expected would be typical of the Latin inhabitants of the islands. Wilson was impressed by the bullfights, and told of one which had been put on for the RAF shortly after their arrival.

"They put on a special one for us and the boys had a good time," he said. "We had our first peanuts in the shell for some time. It was just like a ball game. There were little wine stalls open around the place and instead of hot dogs there was roast corn. They attempt to roast it but the corn doesn't pop. It's their idea of popcorn, however, and tastes alright. Roasted sunflower seeds are popular and tasty."

There were a great many other things about the Azores which left their mark in Wilson's memory. He spoke of the religion of the people. Roman Catholic principally, yet with many different and typical rites of their own. He talked of little wine shops—"Much as I imagine Parisian wine shops would be," he qualified—where coffee, cakes and wine could be ordered and consumed at sidewalk cafés. He described primitive farming, the principal industry of the island, the scarcity of bird life and the prevalence of a type of dog, a mongrel variety part way between an airedale and a fox terrier.

Although the people on the island are extremely friendly and try their best to entertain the British airmen, the biggest problem and one which is being tackled as swiftly and as well as possible, is that of entertainment. There is a station picture theatre which has already shown two pictures; a Canada Club which has been organised by F/O McFaull, a technical radio officer on the camp, and which meets regularly to provide some social activity for the Canadians; a combined concert party organized on the station with camp talent.

"It is always good, surprisingly so, and Canadians are well represented in the comedian groups," Wilson added. "Some of the English lads appear to have had experience in the music halls. They are extremely good."

Hard On Wolves

There is the occasional dance at the camp, for the dances in the villages and towns are a "bit formal," Wilson explained. He pointed out that this was because of the island custom of girls never going out with men until they are married, and courtships are carried on from the street or the garden below a balcony. The absence of island social life forces the need for extra entertainment on the camp.

Among some of the aircrew members of the Canadian group on the station are F/O Laurie Croft, Flin Flon, pilot; F/O Alex Chisholm, Toronto, pilot; F/O Bruce McFarlane, Toronto, navigator; F/O Max Glard, Montreal, wireless op; W/O Bill Hardy, wireless op, and S/L "Butch" Patrick, of Vancouver.

PATRIOTIC ACT

Remittance of £10 "in aid of Canada's war effort" has been received at London headquarters from an anonymous donor. The letter in which the money was enclosed was mailed at Uxbridge. It is announced that the money will be used as requested by the donor.

CASUALTIES

KILLED IN ACTION.

W. W. Coons, P/O, Morrisburg, Ont.; W. V. Crockett, F/S, Ridgedale, Sask.; E. A. Good, S/L; C. E. McGillivray, Sgt., Toronto; D. A. Payton, W/O, Toronto; R. G. Eaton, F/O, Thornhill, Ont.; B. A. Elmore, P/O, Montreal; A. K. Hodgkinson, F/O, Toronto; A. E. Mackenzie, P/O, Winnipeg; L. L. Witham, F/O, North Bay, Ont.; W. E. Merrifield, F/L; A. J. Pudifin, F/S, Storneway, Sask.; D. B. Sinclair, F/O, Montreal; G. Young, W/O, Bath Ont.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED IN ACTION, NOW PRESUMED KILLED IN ACTION.

S. H. Spallin, F/S, Edmonton; J. F. X. G. Berthiaume, P/O, Hawkesbury, Ont.; W. L. Chatfield, F/S, Ingersoll, Ont.; W. J. Hills, W/O, Perdue, Sask.; R. H. Logan, P/O, Winnipeg; R. H. Van-Camp, Sgt., Burketon, Ont.; A. C. Worden, F/S, Lacombe, Alta.; P. E. Barron, Sgt., Mafeking, Man.; S. V. Bradshaw, Sgt., Saskatoon; B. A. Grant, F/O, West Vancouver; R. J. Gunn, P/O, Wilkie, Sask.; R. C. MacQuoid, F/O, St. Andrew's, N.B.; W. Reynolds, P/O, North Bay, Ont.; J. D. Steele, F/S, Arcola, Sask.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING, NOW PRESUMED KILLED IN ACTION.

J. J. C. Arpin, Sgt., Outremont, Que.; W. G. Francis, Sgt., Weston, Ont.; J. Kowalski, Sgt., Edmonton; M. P. Myers, F/S, Montreal; A. B. Amirault, Sgt., Pubnico, N.S.; L. O. Armstrong, F/O, Toronto; W. J. Arnold, Sgt., Rainy River, Ont.; G. R. Baker, P/O, Medicine Hat, Alta.; R. F. Beckett, Sgt., Valois, Que.; G. A. Calder, P/O, White Fox, Sask.; H. A. Crouse, F/S, Etobicoke, Ont.; R. De Bourke, F/S, Newton, Mass.; L. A. Dingley, F/O, Forest Hills, L.I., N.Y.; R. I. Edwards, Sgt., Los Angeles, Calif.; J. E. Evans, Sgt., Akron, Ohio; E. J. Fry, P/O, Westmount, Que.; J. O. R. Gauthier, Sgt., New Westminster, B.C.; H. S. Glinz, F/O, Winnipeg; L. G. Haines, Sgt., Montreal; C. O. Henderson, Sgt., MacRory, Sask.; A. R. Hickie, F/O, Alberni, B.C.; A. M. Horne, F/S, D.F.M., Edmonton; P. J. Howe, Sgt., Toronto; D. C. Hunter, F/S, Fort St. John, B.C.; P. J. Ireland, Sgt., Silver Park, Sask.; L. T. Izzard, F/O, Toronto; P. C. Kelly, Sgt., Guelph, Ont.; J. C. Kennedy, Sgt., Robson, B.C.; E. E. Lundy, Sgt., Toronto; E. McDermott, F/S, London, Ont.; D. M. McKenzie, F/L, Stellarton, N.S.; N. M. McLellan, F/O, Toronto; B. MacNail, F/S, St. Albiony, N.Y.; W. E. Mann, Sgt., Regina; R. R. Mantha, Sgt., North Bay, Ont.; J. R. Mowbray, F/O, Brooklin, Ont.; L. Murphy, Sgt., St. Thomas, Ont.; G. D. Nisbet, Sgt., Conquest, Sask.; W. W. O'Brien, F/O, Winnipeg; H. N. Petts, F/O, Calgary; A. Podolski, Sgt., Edmonton; F. W. Ralph, F/S, Fayetteville, N.Y.; A. F. Relf, P/O, Hamilton; J. L. Rossignol, P/O, Miami Beach, Fla.; A. S. Thomson, Sgt., Newcastle, N.B.; D. C. Way, Sgt., High River, Alta.; E. A. Whalen, F/S, Montreal; W. H. Wyatt, Sgt., London, Ont.; C. K. Coker, P/O, Brandon, Man.; J. N. P. E. Comeau, W/O, Godbout, Que.; A. P. Cattam, Sgt., Jasper Park, Alta.; L. T. Deforme, Sgt., Labret, Sask.; K. H. Masterson, F/S, Preston, Ont.; W. N. Partridge, Sgt., Rose Rae, Sask.; L. A. Rivest, F/S, Montreal; J. R. Stewart, Sgt., Vancouver; L. G. Sutherland, Sgt., Corunna, Ont.; R. A. Urquhart, F/O, Moose Jaw, Sask.; J. V. J. R. Veys, F/S, Montreal; F. E. Weingarden, Sgt., Windsor, Ont.; A. J. Bagg, Sgt., Le Pas, Man.; C. R. Bird, Sgt., Lachburn, Sask.; C. R. Black, Sgt., Hamilton; C. S. Campbell, F/L, D.F.C., Vancouver; E. E. Cheuiniere, P/O, San Francisco, Calif.; W. Colanselo, F/S, Toronto; W. J. R. Davies, Sgt., Sherbrooke, N.S.; W. B. Drake, Sgt., Ganges, B.C.; C. J. Fee, W.C., D.F.C. and Bar, Calgary; A. F. Guillemette, F/S, Montreal; M. D. W. Hambrook, F/S, Vancouver; W. D. Hartney, Sgt., Calgary; C. W. Hollingshead, Sgt., Edmonton; J. A. Hunter, F/S, Vancouver; F. S. Jenkins, Sgt., Kelloe, Man.; E. C. Kendal, F/O, Macnutt, Sask.; J. H. M. Kerr, Sgt., Ingersoll, Ont.; J. W. Loree, F/O, Toronto; D. H. Loyns, Sgt., Saskatoon; R. N. McCleery, F/O, Ottawa; D. C. MacDonald, Sgt., Victoria, B.C.; J. C. McDonald, F/O, Islington, Ont.; L. J. McDougall, P/O, Avonlea, Sask.; D. M. McLeod, Sgt., Belmont, Man.; M. G. MacLeod, S/L, Pictou, N.S.; H. S. McPherson, Sgt., Antigonish, N.S.; E. C. Malone, Sgt., Winnipeg; D. R. Manley, P/O, Witaskwin, Alta.; W. McK. Martin, Sgt., Toronto; E. K. Matlock, Sgt., Vulcan, Alta.; O. K. Middleton, F/L, Revelstoke, B.C.; H. R. Millson, Sgt., Windsor, Ont.; J. E. O'Grady, F/O, Saskatoon; W. McL. Palmer, F/O, Woodstock, N.B.; A. G. Paterson, Sgt., Windthorst, Sask.; N. F. Paterson, Sgt., Ottawa; M. Patrick, P/O, Edson, Alta.; W. H. Penn, Sgt., Vicksburg, Miss.; J. G. Ripley, P/O, Alberta; J. E. Robinson, F/S, Arcola, Sask.; J. J. Rooney, W/O, Verdun, Que.; K. Rushby, Sgt., Mount Brydges, Ont.; H. A. Sharpe, W/O, Kingston, Ont.; A. J. Skirten, Sgt., Calgary; J. H. Stillborn, F/S, Fennel, Sask.; L. J. Switzer, Sgt., Calgary; J. Takvor, P/O, Winnipeg; J. A. M. Tremblay, Sgt., Montreal; W. J. Vandervoort, F/S, Vancouver; E. L. Wagner, Sgt., Ritzville, Wash.; J. D. Williams, Sgt., Edmonton; R. W. Wilsdan, F/O, Woodstock, N.B.; H. E. Wilson, F/S, Toronto.

MISSING.

D. H. Disney, F/O, Mimico, Ont.; C. H. Guest, P/O, Winnipeg; J. A. Horsfall, F/O, Jasper, Alta.; R. V. Lynch, P/O, Montreal; E. E. Muffitt, F/O, Coe Hill, Ont.; J. L. D. Armstrong, F/O, Westmount, P.Q.; A. J. Brown, F/O, Victoria, B.C.; J. A. MacKinnon, F/O, Coleman, P.E.I.; O Peck, F/O, Lethbridge, Alta.; M. O. M. Bell, F/S, Toronto; C. W. Blagborne, F/O, West Summerland, B.C.; R. H. Butler, Sgt., North River, P.E.I.; G. J. Byers, F/S, Vancouver; E. J. Helm, Sgt., Toronto; T. W. Hilliard, P/O, Winnipeg; W. H. Jacobs, F/O, Toronto; J. E. James, Sgt.; J. L. Kelly, W/O, Ottawa; N. McBride, Sgt., Hamilton; F. T. McCutcheon, F/S, Sault Ste. Marie; C. M. MacDonald, F/S, Ripley, Ont.; A. V. McIntosh, Sgt., Dunvegan, Ont.; G. F. McKinnon, W/O, Truro, N.S.; C. P. Miller, F/S, Newbury, Ont.; D. A. Naismith, F/O, Elmvale, Ont.; J. E. Sauve, F/O, Richmond, Que.; R. C. Smith, Sgt., Davidson, Sask.; R. H. Vance, F/S, Vancouver; R. A. Young, F/S, Niagara Falls; D. G. Addison, Sgt., Otterville, Ont.; S. A. Anderson, F/S, Radville, Sask.; G. O. Carefoot, F/O, Swift Current, Sask.; E. E. Case, Sgt., Woodstock, Ont.; R. Dixon, Sgt., Edmonton; J. P. H. Dube, F/S, Sanmaur, Que.; S. G. Ericksen, F/S, Armena, Alta.; K. A. Farmer, Sgt., Ottawa; E. D. Fegg, F/O, Unity, Sask.; A. F. Gander, Sgt., Sarnia; W. J. Gerow, Sgt., Toronto; W. C. Gilchrist, Sgt., Chipperfield, Sask.; G. A. Graham, P/O, Halifax; A. C. Harding, F/L, D.F.C., Caletta, Ont.; G. P. Herman, F/S, Netherhill, Sask.; P. G. Jolliffe, F/S, Toronto; P. Kennedy, F/O, Windsor, Ont.; R. H. Larson, P/O, Dinsmore, Sask.; D. J. MacDonald, Sgt., Winnipeg; G. L. McLaughlin, F/O, Chesterville, Ont.; R. K. Megit, Sgt., Toronto; E. C. Millidge, W/O, Winnipeg; R. D. Mutch, P/O, Toronto; M. L. Nesveld, Sgt., Camrose, Alta.; W. J. M. Nickerson, F/S, Edmonton; G. J. Partridge, F/S, Winnipeg; M. L. Richardson, P/O, Toronto; A. E. Roden, Sgt., Rapid City, Man.; J. S. Smith, F/O, Vancouver; E. F. Uren, Sgt., Sioux Lookout, Ont.; F. W. Winter, F/O, Toronto.

MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED IN ACTION.

D. H. Petch, F/O, Gananoque, Ont.; A. L. Sedzwick, F/S, Toronto; K. C. Smith, F/S, Vancouver; C. E. Brandt, F/O, Verdun, Que.; J. T. Costello, Sgt., Goderich; K. L. Dale, F/S, Ottawa.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

L. B. Abelson, F/O, Ottawa; A. Horn, F/O, Waterdown, Ont.; M. C. P. Jones, P/O, Moose Jaw; I. S. Sellows, F/S, Yarmouth, N.S.; A. J. F. Symes, F/O, Ottawa; E. A. Hoagg, Sgt., Edmonton.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE, NOW REPORTED KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

R. F. Ready, P/O, Reston, Man.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE, NOW PRESUMED KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

L. A. Hoskins, Sgt., Westbank, B.C.; J. K. Potter, F/O, Wood Bay, Man.; D. E. S. Cameron, Sgt., Arden, Ont.

DIED OF WOUNDS OR INJURIES RECEIVED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

H. H. Welch, P/O, Thornloe, Ont.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING, NOW PRESUMED KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

D. L. Hozben, Sgt., Saskatoon; V. H. Knutsen, Sgt., Swift Current, Sask.; O. W. Stone, Sgt., Kentucky; J. R. MacKinnen, Sgt., Armadale, P.E.I.

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

W. A. Smith, F/S, Toronto; W. W. McArthur, Sgt., Vancouver.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING, NOW REPORTED PRISONER OF WAR.

J. E. Abbotts, P/O, Dauphin, Man.; J. D. Gelds, F/O, Guelph, Ont.

RATCLIFFE NAMED NAVIGATION BOSS

F/L R. E. "Ted" Ratcliffe, Kingston, who navigates for the C.O., W/C Bill Swetman, D.F.C., is the new navigation leader for the hard-hitting Thunderbird Squadron.

The Winco, a two-tour pilot, is a gen-man who swears by Ted's navigation, and Ratcliffe is proud of the fact that the C.O. has had no other navigator on the trips of his second tour.

Overseas since May, 1942, the new navigator leader has 16 trips to his credit. He spent much time with an army co-operation squadron, made two round trips from Britain to Gibraltar to North Africa in ferrying Blenheims and has had plenty of shaky targets so far on four-engined bombers.

POTINS et NOUVELLES

LE commandant d'escadre Joe St. Pierre, D.F.C. américaine, est de retour en Angleterre après un congé d'un mois au Canada On se rappelle qu'il avait été remplacé à l'escadrille "Alouette" par le commandant d'escadre Baxter Richer, de Montréal.

Le commandant d'escadre Georges Roy, D.F.C., est revenu également du Canada; il est en ce moment à l'étude comme chef-instructeur dans une école préparatoire au vol de guerre particulièrement fréquentée par les Canadians de langue française.

Le sergent Gilles Poirer, de Saint-Lambert, près Montréal, vient d'être promu au grade de sous-officier breveté de première classe. Il était de passage à Londres, cette semaine, après avoir complété sa première série de vol de guerre avec l'escadrille "Demon" de la défense côtière.

Le père Barnabé, ancien aumônier de l'escadrille "Alouette" et maintenant affecté au dépôt de l'effectif de Lachine, envoie ses salutations aux aviateurs qu'il a connus outremer. C'est le commandant d'escadre Saint Pierre, qui l'a rencontré pendant son séjour là-bas, qui nous rapporte ce message.

Le chef d'escadrille Roger Brault, medecin au centre de réception du C.A.R.C. en Angleterre, était de passage à Londres la semaine dernière. Le docteur Brault a profité de cette courte visite pour saluer ses amis du Quartier-Général.

Le sous-officier breveté de 1ère classe Lucien Bouchard, du Lac Mégantic, vient de terminer sa première tournée d'opérations. Il a fait tout son vol de guerre avec une escadrille canadienne de la défense côtière.

Nous apprenons avec plaisir que le mitrailleur J. G. L. Mercier, de Verdun, Québec, a reçu son brevet d'officier. Nos félicitations.

PAY TABLE CRUMBS

THREE W.D.s out noon-hour shopping last week walked into veg. store to see that famous movie actor, Ian Hunter. The three came back to the office spreading the good news. Result—blank faces and "Who's he?" O.K., so he isn't an Academy Award

In the last few weeks we've seen on leave Marge Murray, who took life easy around the high spots of London with her cousin; S/O Reynolds putting on a few "lbs." with a "real-egg" diet down Lancs way; LAW Kay McKay week-ending at Harrogate; Cpl. "Tiny" Henry had fun on her "48" at Bomber Group, seeing lots of the old gang, including "War Horse" Clem Cavanaugh.

Freddie Stein sent out a debit balance for a W.D.'s underclothing allowance, annotated "Undie Allowance." How sweet, Fred. LAC Al Hunter made out a fictitious promotion for himself to W/O1—threw it in a basket—someone dug it out and took it to our accounts officer, who called Al in to pay the huge credit.

The few loyal supporters of our hockey team who journeyed to Purley last Sunday were treated to a brutal demonstration of hockey, wrestling, boxing and a dash of rugger. Tempers flared in the first period, but after a few penalties were handed out the boys settled down a bit. The first period closed with the lads from under canvas holding a 2-to-0 lead on our "All Macs." One of these goals came from a scramble in front of the nets, while the other was a neat solo effort. "Mac" McGovern circled the defence early in the second period to make it 2 to 1. Sticks were starting to creep up, elbows were being thrown freely and the knee was being brought into action. "Sully" Sullivan breezed in our second counter, with Jack Ireland sending us into the lead near the end of the second period. Early in the third session Joe Joseph had his front molars cleaned with a nice cross-check. It was sensed that Joe resented this treatment, and when he planted his hickory on the head of an opposing defenceman it was the necessary spark for a melee. W/O1 Wingate, refereeing the game, tried to act as peacemaker and was rewarded for his effort by getting his upper lip cut by one of Joseph's flying skates. Soon as things quietened down a bit, Joseph netted the final counter. The line up: Goal, Loiselle; defence, Heenan, Mackie; centre, Sullivan, "wings," Joseph and Anderson, Alternates, Peachy, Sharpe, Ireland, McGovern, Barnes, Corral, Hunter, Windover, Morris and Payton.

Weekly "here and there." The "Webster Family" started out for the "Dogs" on Saturday. They bought their tickets and entered the stadium and prepared to spend a few bob, but when the show started it was a soccer game. Better indent for a few "Pathfinders" next Saturday. Visitors last week were ex-F/L Rod Sutherland, now a captain with the U.S. Army, and our old Adj., Howie Butler.

G/C GOAT IS A CHAIN SMOKER

Groupie Goat was recently promoted from the rank of wing commander in recognition of "long and meritorious service." He is seen here having a friendly cigarette with W/O Don "Buck" Buchanan, of Ottawa. "Buck" flies with an RAF Typhoon squadron.
(Official RCAF Photograph.)

WHEN a RAF Whitley met a Nazi submarine in the Bay of Biscay one day last summer, depth charges went down and flak came right back up. W/O Bill Wood, Winnipeg, who was the second dickie on the Whitley that day, doesn't know what happened when the depth charges hit, but the flak conked one Whitley engine and messed up the controls.

The Whitley boys were in no condition to wait around and see how the U-boat made out with depth charges. They headed for home, as Bill says, "like a dog with his tail between his legs." The bomber staggered along for about 25 minutes and then hit the ocean.

The entire crew got out of the aircraft in reasonably decent condition and floated around for about 12 hours before two Flying Fortresses spotted them and diverted a trawler to their position.

The only other Canadian with Bill in the crew was P/O Barny Russell, who, as Bill says, "comes from the East." Barny was bomb-aimer.

After that Bill waited while the unit converted to Halifax bombers, and now has resumed action in the four-engined machine with a new crew.

Two other Canadians are in Bill's new crew, Sgt. Carl "Bill" Williams, Hilda, Alta., and Sgt. Steve White, Calgary. Steve is really with the RAF. He came to England with his family just before war broke out. Later he joined the RAF and went back to Canada for air crew training. He's bomb-aimer on the Hally.

Berlin Commuter

With 15 trips to his credit F/O Bill Tranmer, Toronto, has made seven of these night-time jaunts to Berlin. Bill guides RAF Lancs. to their target and then navigates the way back home. Some of the other towns he has visited include Gladbach, Hanover, Hagen, Munich, Bochum and Frankfurt.

Bill's military career began while he was still a student at Victoria College, University of Toronto. He was commissioned in the C.O.T.C. and transferred to the Air Force branch of the corps at varsity.

After enlisting in the RCAF he was called on to do 30 days' square-bashing. His experience at U. of T. relieved him from guard duty and hastened his training by four months. He was winged at Maldon and came overseas. He began his operational career last August.

F/O Bill Tranmer

Working with him as a mid-upper gunner is F/O Irvin Keeler, Edmonton.

The most hectic period in Bill's life came during one of the Berlin shows. A searchlight cone caught the Lancaster and for four minutes it was held in the glare. The kite slithered out before any serious damage was done.

After 12 operational sorties, W/O W. G. McClelland, Estavan, Sask., is headed back to O.T.U. again for re-crewing. "Mac" was previously with an Aussie squadron. In his new crew is F/S Dave Smith, Toronto.

LAWMEN ARRIVE

A small group of RCAF legal officers arrived at a British port recently to take up duties with the Judge Advocate General's branch overseas.

Among the arrivals were S/L B. W. Hopkins, Hamilton, Ont., previously at No. 1 Training Command H.Q., Toronto; S/L J. E. Tanner, Toronto, who was at A.F.H.Q. Ottawa; F/L H. W. Grant, Orillia, Ont.; F/L C. A. Edwards, Vancouver; F/L J. E. Friel, Moncton, N.B.; F/O G. F. Sullivan, Toronto and St. Catharines, Ont.

when things irritate you—

TEA REVIVES YOU

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BOMBER MEN BAG IMMEDIATE GONGS

The boys who fly Bomber Command's battlewagons come in for a bit of recognition in this week's list of immediate awards. All five go to bomber personnel. In addition there are eight non-immediate decorations.

Immediate D.F.C.s go to F/O J. W. Einarson, Shellbrook, Sask.; F/O A. W. Parry, Victoria, B.C., and P/O E. H. J. Suarez, Fort William, Ont.; immediate D.F.M.s to F/S P. W. Dennis, Whanapetie, Ont., and Sgt. J. H. L. Quesnel, Winnipeg. Each of the citations mentions some act of determination and skill in beating off enemy fighters or disregarding flak damage to proceed to the target.

Non-immediate D.F.C.s go to P/O G. J. S. MacMillan, Delisle; Sask.; P/O M. W. Warren, Geraldton, Ont.; P/O G. W. Coburn, Beaton, Ont.; P/O H. C. Card, Cardston, Alta.; P/O A. C. Sondergaard, Ponoka, Alta.; W/O G. H. Porter, Salt Coats, Sask., and W/O W. J. Simpson, Owen Sound, Ont. F/S J. R. Pollock, Saskatoon, wins the D.F.M.

RECORDS OFFICE

A2 (CAN)

By LAC A. G. WALLINGTON

THIS week heralds the departure of another old hand. Willie has been with us a long time and he will be missed by all—mostly by Cpl. Gord Hornstein. As a morale-builder Willie was the tops; as an N.C.O. i/c he was the tops, so we all say: "The very best of luck, Cpl. Myers. We hope you like it down there in the sunny southland." Perhaps you can convince someone down there that Winnipeg is in Canada—I still don't think so.

The lucky lads laxing for a week are Sgt. Cliff "Mind my moustache" Doughty, LACs Gord Smalley, Charles Meder, Bill Harrison, Joe Thorlacius, Jack Anderson, Ken Longrigg, "Penny" Pennylegion and that's all. They are scattered far and wide, so I won't elucidate on locations. See you all too soon.

Cpl. Bob "The Ginsberg" Heiser seems to be making a real do of it this time. Bob has been catching up some lost sleep in sick quarters. Wishes for a swift recuperation, kid—you shouldn't let Records get you down like that.

Davey's Delight

It's like old times when F/L Russ Davey starts to go down to London on "temporary duty." Mr. Davey sure is one of London's best customers.

F/S Doug Spalding claims that he has never worked so hard in his life. We always thought that when one became a chiefie it was time they stopped working and drew the old-age pension. What hours did you say you worked, Doug?

I'm taking my life in my hands here, but I still want to ask Cpl. Gord Hornstein if he knows how he paid for the suppers on the night of Willie's party. It wasn't by communal collection, either.

G1 (CAN)

By F/S "MEM" AITKEN

THE light of our lives, the little bit of laughter in this cruel world, has left us. We refer, of course, to our own A/Cpl./Pd Benny (F. L.) Turpin. Benny has gone to display his happy and mischievous ways to an airfield. We're sorry to see you go, Ben, but keep up the cheerful disposition, eh?

Making his first bid into the theatrical world, Monty (Basil Rathbone) Axler stepped into the villain's breach in our local drama skit, to come through with a brilliant performance, and afterwards—with pride—remarked, "See, no eggs!" We hate to tell him, they're hard to get nowadays! And tomatoes, unless tinned, are out of season. So what else!

Away on well-earned leaves are Cpls. Ted Bennett, Carl Walstrom, ACIs Murray, Page, Tommy Boydell, "Red" Ellis, "Romeo" Renamiuk and Ken "Shadow" Franklin.

Conversation overheard: Monty Axler (to anyone in general): "I could have had a commission in the army!" Len Craig: "You couldn't even get a liquor commission!" Short and sweet?

Wonder why the boys are really "hep to the step" these days. Couldn't be the new (with emphasis) morning and noon parades—or could it?

Sgt. Reg Gardiner says it will take more than the S.W.O. to get him out in the rain! We wonder!

Looks like our "corridor lovers" will have to do some more more conversion work to "night fighters"! What say you, "Zip" and Bill? Enough for now—Adieu!

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MOOSE CLUBMEN

By "ARKAYBEE"

THE good-fellowship which comes of long association and a slight seasoning of good ol' beer, made the first official "do" of the Moose Club (now renamed the "Moose" Fulton Club) a terrific success. The "Old Originals" of the gang have banded themselves into this august organisation. Any personnel of the squadron who were with the gang under the command of W/C "Moose" Fulton, D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., are eligible for membership.

The ceremony of the evening was the election of officers, and after the shootin' had finished and the smoke had died down, the following Moosemen assumed office: President, Sgt. "Oley" Olson, Blairmore, Alta.; secretary, Cpl. "Mac" Macauley, Winnipeg; treasurer, Cpl. "Andy" Andrews, Augustville, Man.; entertainment, F/S "Sinc" Sinclair, Cayuga, Ont.

F/O Johnny Turnbull, Govan, Sask., put another band of braid on his battle dress this a.m., and, closely followed by his entourage in the persons of his crew, grabbed a rattler en route to join some of our companions-in-arms further south as a "Depputty" Flight Commander.

S/L Eric Hamber, Hamilton, Ont., blew in the other day with his gang, and took over command of "B" Flight. "Welcome, fellas!"

The gang had a lightning visit from F/O H. "Smitty" Smith, Toronto, who used to go air-gunning with us. He was on his way for a spot of leave—and he deserves it. Just stopped in long enough to put in a claim for a raincoat which he avers was lost on ops—of course the Accountant Officer wanted to know what the heck he was wearing a raincoat on ops for—looks as though you'll have to bear the cost of a new one yourself, Smitty!

A Bouncing Boy

Speaking of raincoats and stuff, W/O Les Partridge, Vermilion Alta., is ankling around these days with a brand-new warrant officer's zoot soot on. Seems Les gained weight between the time of measurement and delivery (no wonder—it took six months!) and had to move the buttons of the greatcoat over about four inches to accommodate the increase in the size of his torso.

You oughta get an eyeful of the passionate pajams Cpl. Lefty Lefler of Vancouver wraps around his frame these winter nights—like something out of the Arabian Nights or else a creation by Irene of New York! The fellas in his room got out their sun-glasses the first night, but forcibly re-attired Lefty in his Canadian Red Cross issue the second night—the glare was too great.

P/O Cliff Nevins, Pennant, Sask., is at present away on a course learning how to swim or something—the boys who miss him most are the gang in the Discip. Office—they miss his morning visit (rain or shine) except Sundays to glom the morning papers for the latest doings (or undoings) of "Jane."

One thing is certain in the life of F/O Dave Taylor, of Regina—he'll never be an adjutant. During the absence of F/L Art Crawford, of Toronto (the "pukka" Adj.) on leave, Dave was "Adj. Mark II," ably assisted, excepting when there was work to be done, by F/O Neil Beauchamp, of Dauphin, Man., who was delegated the post of "Adj. Mark III." During the last few days of his spell of office, Dave's nerves gave way badly, and more and more frequent were the anguished yells emanating from the office, mostly consisting of the words "Dey can't do dis to me!" or "Censored Censored, I never hoid of de guy!" and like phrases.

Couple of chesty second-tour types on the squadron these days—F/L Tommy Toms, of Niagara Falls, Ont., and P/O Moe Morrison, of Montreal West, P.Q., received their operational tour badges the other day. "Good goin', fellas!"

GODFREY'S FIELD

By "MID" MIDDLETON and "COLLY" COLLINGWOOD

HAVING just returned from leave in Bonnie Scotland, your correspondents are finding it difficult to concentrate on this week's column.

We were surprised to find all the boys looking "verry, verrry bonnie" (pardon our Scotch accent!) in their battle dress. The majority favour the loose-fitting uniform "because it's so much more comfortable than the dress uniform."

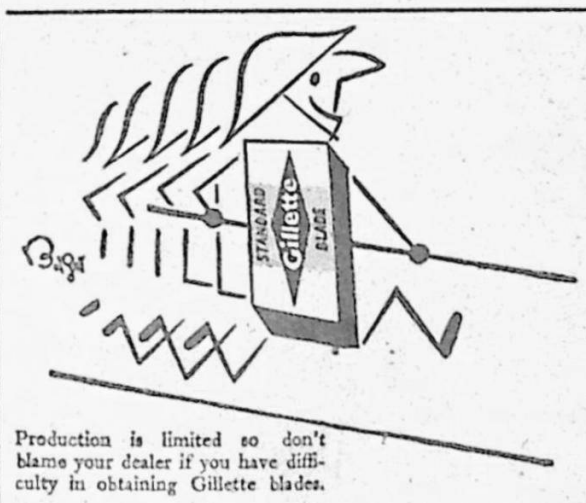
The enthusiastic way in which the personnel received the "Blackouts" show on January 18 and 19 would have warmed the hearts of the most hardened stage stars, and even those who make a habit of looking for the worst in a show proclaimed it "one of the best." We've been waiting a long, long time for an all-Canadian, all-RCAF show, and the "Blackouts of 1943" even topped our greatest expectations. The selections by the orchestra should serve as a warning to Goodman and Miller to look to their laurels, and this unit would welcome them back should it ever be possible to have them play at one of our station dances.

LAC Bill "Edward Kennedy" Aiken has moved from the orderly room to Maintenance Section, and we understand he has been given the position of i/c publications. We expect to see him cutting out paper dolls any day now.

LAC Feeney breezed into the orderly room the other day wearing a smart blue girdle. Feeney claims it's a stores issue for D.R.s only.

A newcomer this week is Cpl. "Ben" Turpin, the much-publicised man from Records Office.

Cupid struck a direct hit on F/O Malcolm Robb this week and by the time this reaches the press he will be a married man, and ditto F/L Day. All here wish you both happiness.



Production is limited so don't blame your dealer if you have difficulty in obtaining Gillette blades.

Into Action. Man-power in blades is restricted so treat your Gillette "Standard" Blades carefully as you did the Blue and Thin Gillette blades they have replaced. They're the best shave you can buy.

Gillette in battledress

Gillette "Standard" and "Standard Thin" Blades (plain steel) 2d each, including Purchase Tax. Fit all Gillette razors, old or new.

INTRUDERS EDGE MUSTANG SEXTET

Flying over ice this time instead of through clouds, W/C Paul Davoud's Intruder Squadron lived up to its name last week on Brighton ice, intruding on Goalie T. G. E. Jones, Windsor, Ont., repeatedly in the first and third periods for a 6-2 win over W/C Moncrieff's Mustang Squadron, as the second half of the South England RCAF Airfield Hockey League got under way.

Led by LAC A. F. Valenti, North Bay, the Mosquito gang had the game pretty much in hand throughout. The losers began to find the range as the third period wore on, but the spark came too late, for two hard-earned markers were not enough to threaten the four-goal lead built by the Mossies.

The stocky Valenti, well known in the NOHA before enlisting, had the most lethal sting of the Mosquitos with four goals, two in the first period and another pair in the third. LAC L. B. Kilgour, Toronto, and F/O N. J. Gibbons, Vancouver, fired the other Davoud tallies. Best of the losers was W/O Ted Miller, Ottawa team-mate of the Schmidt-Bauer-Dumart line with the RCAF Allan Cup champions. He flashed in for one Mustang marker and LAC J. R. Thompson bagged the other score.

DAVOUD.—Goal, LAC W. J. Delance, Nepewan, Sask.; defence, P/O Gibbons, Vancouver, and LAC W. J. Rellinger, Kitchener; centre, LAC Valenti; wings, Cpl. L. Humphreys, Brandon, and LAC C. V. Woolnough, Niagara Falls; subs.: LAC Kilgour; F/O E. J. Storey, Kirkland Lake; LAC C. Palladine, Toronto; LAC A. K. Hill, Toronto; Cpl. D. W. Prentice, Regina, P/O Pete Huletsky, Montreal.

MONCRIEFF.—Goal, LAC Jones; defence, Cpl. Jimmy Conn, Ottawa, and Cpl. A. Anderson, Baldur, Man.; centre, LAC N. A. Galbraith, LaFleche, Sask.; wings, W/O Miller and LAC J. A. S. Armstrong, Toronto; subs.: LAC E. G. Jackson, Kingston; LAC W. V. McMartin, Edmonton; F/O D. A. Whittaker, Toronto; F/O C. E. Butchart, Sudbury; LAC H. A. Krause, Jansen, Sask.; LAC Thompson, Ottawa; Cpl. J. M. Allx, Ottawa; Sgt. A. M. Martin, Toronto; LAC K. C. Penfold, Montreal; LAC J. I. Fletcher, Toronto; F/O G. W. Burroughs, Toronto; LAC Lexier, Winnipeg.

Referees.—F/S A. K. Dowds, Winnipeg, and LAC J. Rodrigue, Verdun, Que.

THE MAIL BAG

By Combined Ops

THUS far men have had all the say around here, so this week we cover the feminine side of things around C.O.P.D.

Greetings to our new clerk steno, AW Mary Lochhead, Calgary. If you haven't met her take a peep at Canada's Weekly. Nice picture, Mary. In the hospital after Christmas rush are Perry, Pike, Parko, Seguin, oh, and Lindsay again. What's the big attraction, Anne?

Cuff notes: three doughty W.D.s in the shapes of Elliott, Quartz, and Debourt sloshing through mud and rain to raise their voices in a discussion on station education. How about a few more heroines next time? . . . LAW Jessiman seen sewing on stripes for a certain sergeant. Maybe she's taking one of his courses in needlework. . . . Beware of careless talk—LAW Paynter now excels at shorthand. . . . There are gypsies among us: LAWs Taylor and Blair are seeking fresher fields again. . . .

Hen parties. Does that canteen rumour mean Wids will be absorbing tea as well as gossip during "break"? Definition of a gentleman: a wolf with patience. . . . Sorry, Mrs. Crump, about that wanted girl turning out a boy. Thank

THIS LIFE WE LEAD — CAPS AND HATS

CREWROOM CHATTER AT CANADIAN BOMBER GROUP

MR. TOM CHAO, Reuter's Chungking manager, now in England with a Chinese goodwill mission, recently made a flying visit to the RCAF Bomber Group. He stayed at a station that is home to the famous Moose and Ghost Squadrons, was greeted by G/C A. D. Ross, commanding officer, and generally made welcome. Mr. Chao got the "gen" on what kept the bombers going, and is cabling a story back to China which will probably be the first on record about the group written for Chinese readers by one of their countrymen.

The third of the Saskatoon Thompson brothers has arrived overseas. F/O Bert Thompson (equipment) is the newcomer, and he has been assigned to one of the bomber group stations. He has a younger brother, S/L Bob Thompson, in Ireland, while still a younger brother, S/L Al Thompson, has been reported missing for many months.

Members of the Lion and Bison Squadrons honored in the New Year's list included W/C R. S. Turnbull, Govan, Sask., O.C. of the Lions, who adds the Air Force Cross to his D.F.M., and S/L D. H. Kenney, D.F.C., of Fredericton, N.B., commander of a flight with the Bisons, who was also awarded the A.F.C.

Oh, Goody! Promotions

Add promotions: F/S L. A. Netherey, Hamilton, Ont., navigator with the Lion Squadron, is now a pilot officer. Jean Mercier, Sherbrooke, Que., one time an AC1 in the Lion Squadron orderly room, has been made a corporal since transferring to the U.S.A.A.F. Cpl. Mercier was born in New Hampshire. F/S Cliff Clifford, Hamilton, Leaside Squadron air-gunner, was a better than

nephew of Desmond Grubb, one-time Regina Roughrider football star.

Talking about Regina brings to mind that F/S Eddie Quinn, Montreal, and air-bomber with the Leasiders, played for Montreal Westmounts, who lost to Regina Dales in the Canadian junior finals back in '38. "We had to get out and scrape up around $900 to bring them to Montreal and then they up and beat us," related Quinn.

The first Canadian operational base formed overseas, from which operate the Goose, Thunderbird, Leaside and other squadrons, has been officially named the "Beaver Base." It is commanded by A/C C. M. McEwen, M.C., D.F.C. and Bar, Montreal.

The Flat Hat Order

Newest members of the Order of Wearers of the Flat Hat are six veteran members of the Bluenose squadron, commanded by W/C C. E. Harris, Annapolis Royal, N.S. The former N.C.O. air crew who now inhabit the officers' mess are P/Os Ed. Devaney, Edmonton; Don Morris, Winnipeg; K. Maxwell, Winnipeg; Bob Brown, Toronto; Arnold Hupman, Rockland, N.S.; Ross Baroni, Arnprior, Ont.

F/L L. D. Smith, Wellington, Ont., of the staff of the air armament school at Mountain View, Ont., is visiting group stations to get genned up on operations.

F/O Murray Sonshine, Toronto, whose brother Harry cut quite a figure in Canadian football circles a few years back, is one of the newest members of the Iroquois squadron commanded by W/C Bill Newson, D.F.C., Victoria, B.C. F/O Sonshine is a pilot.

BLACK BULL BOYS

By PRO

AH! wedding bells, flowers, spring and all that sort of thing. Yes, the old matrimony bug really got some biting hours in lately. Our pilot friend, W/O Jack Kelly, Toronto, recently exchanged vows with a certain Miss Moss, of Reading, England. "Honey King" Grossman and W/O Galer supported the groom. Brother Galer has just returned from a session in India. Both he and "Honey King" hail from Toronto.

Congrats. were also in order for F/O "Holly" Hollingsworth on the occasion of his marriage to that lady in blue from the Signals Section. "Holly" is our P.T. officer and the station's best wishes go out to him and to Florence. He's a lucky fellow!

We understand that Clay Pettipiece intends to spend his next leave in Lancashire. That still doesn't explain why Lill keeps singing "Two Lovely Black Eyes." Or does it? And we would still like Cpl. John Todd to give us the gen on what happened to the Vancouver-Mimico lacrosse trophy. The boys and girls were sorry to say good-bye this week to F/S Milton and to Johnnie Little, the finance man.

Wizard Dance

The girls had a wizard dance this week. Don't tell Santa Claus, but it was a delayed Christmas effort. That didn't deter Miss Holland and F/L Conner dancing a mean hoki coki, or F/S Wimsett doing a roaring conga. Bugle Boy Jack Price was there in fine fettle, but says, "Brrr, it's a cold walk to the gymnasium!" The burning question was the whereabouts of Gwennie Rhodes and the name of the mistletoe man who met her in front of the airmen's mess on that almost forgotten festive day. Wow!

They tell me the Two Stripers Club is going full blast these days, and it's pukka gen that brother Poppitt, the Calgary cowboy, has been handing out invitations to his special friends. At least six sweet young things have told me, "Pop's given me a special invite to the club's opening nite!" Woof, woof! Better spend that next leave in Manchester, Pop.

Art Hynes tells me that Cpl. Johnson is raising whoopee this week down in London town, and that Sgt. Vic West still manages the odd evening in the local village. Be it beer or be it that blonde? Saw Eddie Harper in Leeds the other day. He was trying to get a musical score for Sgt. Bruce Watt. I believe it was called "Someday I'll Find You."

Must run along now and see the laugh of the week. It's this way, folks. Some of the ex-London erks just can't live without drums, right dresses, open order march, and stuff like that there. So I must go watch chiefie (I love it) Cavanaugh put the boys through their paces. My mother told me there would be days like this . . . but she didn't tell me there would be so many of them so close together! That's all the dope for this week, fellows. Next week we'll give you a rare little poem by our rhyming friend, Harold Small, of the unit Postal Section. It's called the "Jankers Pair," and it's next week's treat, if, in the meantime, I don't make it the "Jankers Trio."

RCAF WEDDING

VISITING FIREMEN

WHOOPING it around town in a solemn reunion with former radio mech, F/O Bernie Yuffy, now a resident of the big city, are F/O Bob Soper, Hamilton and Vancouver, and LAC Sam Schwartz, Montreal.

Bob attended McMaster University in the old home town before getting into the service. Came enlistment and a basic radio course. Bob moved over to Kingston to learn all about tubes, condensers and resistors at Queen's University. While attending the good Presbyterian hall of learning he met with pals Yuffy and Schwartz. Came many happy hours of toiling over ailing radio sets, to say nothing of tipped tankards, then England. In this merry land each went about his appointed task and only last week did the trio re-unite. This time there were no dead radios, just the tankards and Bernie's music.

Bob's brother, Jim, is a civilian serving in this country with the RCAF as an engineer.

More radio mechs. who claim they have completed a satisfactory leave in London are Bernard; "Rosey" Rosenberg, Winnipeg; LAC Joe Turner, Winnipeg; LAC Murray Aiton, Sussex, N.B. Bound for Scotland's ancient capital were Herb Runge, Ottawa, and Herb Cox, Toronto. The boys tell us of Stan McNeil, Toronto, who has returned for air crew training, and Jerome McCormick, Vancouver, who has just plain returned home.

Another Scotland-bound mech. is Cpl. Milette, of the Hamilton, Ont., Milettes. He hied up north with his brother, who is an air-frame mechanic.

A radio mech. who has been around England for some time now is Cpl. Fred Vogelsang, from Perdue, Sask. Fred took a pre-enlistment course at Saskatoon Tech. before getting into the Service as a radio mech. Once in he went over to Brandon for a spot of square - bashing and then to Toronto for his draft.

Cpl. F. Vogelsang

Although he wasn't a radio oe in civvy life, Fred has taken to the radio business pretty well. Over here for nearly two and a half years he has done all his radio work in England, missing the usual trips to remote sections that are the lot of the radio mech.

Fred is just finishing up a spot of sick leave. It seems he stuck a finger in the wrong part of a radio set a while back, which he admits wasn't a very bright thing for a man of his experience to be doing.

A couple of weeks ago WINGS ABROAD published a little puzzle that has been sticking many people in this section of the country. A couple or top - flight mathematicians assure us the puzzle os impossible of solution, and radio mech. Bob Darrell, a Toronto corporal, assures us, too. Bob sent in a couple of solutions that were pretty fair, if you drop the

Ken Craig, "Cy" Sizeland and Cpl. Johnnie Walker were heard to cuss the other morning when ye discip. staff caused them to get out of bed at eight o'clock on a day off. Are you happy, men? Which reminds us that Jim Steele and "Doctor" Reg. Jackson were overheard to say after the "Ensa" show on Tuesday that it was just like being back at Toronto's "Casino"—the dark past will out!

Good friend John Livick was posted this week on what should have been a compassionate posting. Good luck, John, we'll be seeing you! John is a married man of three weeks standing.

Well, our "resistance" has weakened, so we'll "coil" around sometime soon and give you a "condenser" version! Some smart guy might say "What, some mho?"

SOUTH WALES M.U.

By Cpl. Goldsmith

A PARTY was given this week by our flight commander, F/L Murphy (RAF) in the village. Although the majority were RAF, the Canadian section of the flight was represented by Jack Freeborn, George Irvine, Bob Wood, Walt Sherley and Sid Goldsmith. A good time was had by all. Highlight of the evening was the presentation by the Winco of the "Llantwit Cross and Four Bars" to F/L Murphy for outstanding endurance. The feat of endurance was serving on the station for four years.

Heintzman Hitched

We have learned that Cpl. Heintzman is engaged to be married. This lad was with us among the original U. of T. crowd, and we wish him all the luck in the world. Not mentioning any names, we expect more engagement announcements momentarily.

Cpls. Goffin and Fraser are paying a short visit to a shrine of R.M. learning this week. We expect them back bubbling with gen, wearing green corduroys and telling tales of the Unicorn. Perhaps they'll run into LAC Bill Rogers, our outdoor type. Don't stay away too long, "Buck." We miss your jokes.

LAC Harris, recently out of hospital, was seen courting a relapse in a local jive dive this week. He was dancing with a nurse. You just can't keep these guys down.

DOWN SOUTH

By "Butch"

GOING on leave next week is Cpl. Al Lyons, Toronto. Al, as usual, is headed for London. How about an explanation? Al presided at a big feed held in the section last week. Cpl. Ray Miller and Sgt. Fred Dorward were the cooks. The menu consisted of soup, mutton chops, liver, bacon, sweetbreads, chocolate pudding and jelly sauce. What we all want to know is just where it all came from.

LAC Wally Harwood, Chatham, Ont., wants to be remem-

HEADQUARTERS

GET ready, gates, and swing it pearly! The H.Q. dance goes ahead at Porchester Hall (you know where that is, we hope), and the melodic strains of the No. 2 RCAF dance orchestra will do the sending. Get out those dancing pumps, hep, hep, and start droolin', you wolves. Oh, yes—the date! It's Feb. 9, 1944.

Then there's the gent in the orchestra who knows a guy who knows a girl who thinks the Beaver Club is a service hostel for pre-war Canadian trappers.

You've heard of hangovers. Have you ever heard of a delayed action hangover? Ask Cpl. Cleary about his. He started off in his right flight last week, shook himself and walked up to No. 2 when he thought he was in the wrong one, and then finally had to be sent back to his own.

The whole truth and nothin' but—that's the slogan of LAC Jack Darby. With gaping cavities in his face, he prepared to visit the saw-jaws, and as he went he struck a pose and swore, "I shall not flag nor fail," and as he walked away was heard to mumble almost under his breath, "I'll probably faint."

Jack Cowan, LAC equipment basher around here for some time now, was racing around to familiar offices the other day giving every one of his old acquaintances a handful of skin. He's headed for an airfield, away from these familiar pastures.

Kelly, a Character

Another familiar sight whose cheery, ungriping face will not be seen around for awhile is Pte. Kelly, of the Dental Corps. He's eventually homeward bound. Some unfriendly gent tried to give him a poor farewell near Russell Square just the previous night with robbery and violence as the motif. Through stitched lips Kelly muttered, "The violence was successful." The robbery wasn't.

If you nip into the post office some day and hear an anguished moan which sounds like "Ah, Marie-Paule," don't start searching under postal bags for some bomb victims. It's just LAC Jerry Courtois suffering. He claims he's like that all the year round, constantly miserable and longing for some word of his beautiful "Marie-Paule" way back in God's country. He does look starved, doesn't he!

ECHELON ERKS

By CPL. J. R. HAMEL

SQUADRON LEADER J. S. DARRANT, F/O G. W. Jacques, and a committee comprised of Sgt. Howarth, Cpl. Anderson, LAC Simpson and LAC Farrell, have made arrangements for a Servicing Wing dance for Thursday, the 27th. Come on, lads, and don't forget the gals. Tickets can be obtained from any member of the committee for a couple of tanners. Sgt. Lepage and the Orderly Room Staff have been working on programmes and goodness knows what else, for the past ten days.

LAC McGreevy, the Irishman from Montreal, has been overseas for nearly two years now, and he still gets a big thrill watching the bombers flying over at night. He spent his last leave in Ireland and his best friends wouldn't believe that he was Irish. We wonder why? (Could it be that perfect Montreal accent he's got?) What say, Paddy?

Cpl. MacNaughton was not at all pleased to meet a long lost cousin of his on his last leave.

Heigh Ho, These People.

Sgt. "Lummy" Lumsden and LACW Barber were going on a special mission, I guess, so Lummy thought he had better take a Commando Course before doing so. We are sorry for the both of them, so here's better luck next time.

We wonder who it was that was seen walking up the perimeter with an ATS under his raincoat. Could it be our tall crooner, Tex; or our wavy-haired Flash Gordon, who uses the car beside the pilot's shack as a Honeymoon Suite?

Congratulations are in order to Sgt. J. B. Tait, of the Wing Orderly Room, and to LACW P. Coles, of the M.T. Section, on the happy occasion of their marriage. The newlyweds are enjoying a perfect honeymoon

LAC "Pop" MacMillan sure got the shock of his life when some unknown called up and asked him if he had any Ration Cards.

SKATING INSTRUCTOR

An instructor and expert professional figure skater, LAC Nick Krilow, North Battleford, Sask., is now a P.T.I. on a station commanded by G/C W. A. Jones, of Vancouver. Nick taught at clubs in Stratford, Kitchener and Portage le Prairie.

A/V/M CURTIS

A/V/M ANDERSON

Word has been received at RCAF Headquarters that Air Vice Marshal W. A. Curtis, C.B.E., D.S.C., has arrived in Canada. His duties as Deputy Air Officer Commanding in Chief, RCAF Overseas, have been taken over by Air Vice Marshal N. R. Anderson, C.B.

(Official RCAF Photograph.)

"PUKKAH STUFF"

By F/S J. A. CAMPBELL

WE no longer enjoy the gen tree, but Sgt. "Tomb" Stone, the undisputed king of liars, now presides over the open-mouthed, susceptible ground crew, dishing out first-class "duff" from around a little old iron heater. The question at present is whether Sgt. MacLauchlon (of the new ginger moustache) will replace Sgt. Freddy "Bad Boy" Prudence (of Victory plot fame) as squadron's No. 1 pest. There are other things, too, that even "Tomb" Stone can supply no answer to. They are briefly:

Does Sgt. Bill Atwell make those long cycle trips for exercise or what?

With Eyes Wide Open

Does F/S "Sidi-Ben" Arsenault really carry all his kit in those bags and can he see as much as if his eye were opened all the way?

Is it true that "our" Bert Bertrom is using up all his talent singing in the locals?

Does having the fairer sex around make Sgt. "Dapper Dan" Deans any happier at his work?

One thing, however, has been irrevocably decided. F/S "Ollie" Oullette holds the undisputed title of "The Vino Kid."

Perhaps all that is needed is a boiling pot, three winsome witches and a little of Cpl. McIntosh's savory consomme and Stonie might be able to give us all the answers.

Congrats. are in order to Sgts. Barlow, Fisk, Revie, Allon, Jervis, Green, Staples, Armstrong, Morgan and Russel—all to be seen when the bar opens. Not many of our old air crew are on our ops. list, but this squadron intends to carry on the torch held so high by our old originals now instructing at various O.T.U.s.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

WELL, the W.D.s should be a versatile bunch of gals when they shed their present Air Force blue garb and return to "civvy street" when the war is won. Cooking classes are being held at the Good Housekeeping School of Canteen Cookery and have been made available to air women. That takes care of food. "Keep Fit" classes have really shown progress, and on Monday night the girls touched their toes to the tinkle of the ivories. Figures *should* improve. Various invitations are received to attend interesting lectures and discussion groups at the English Speaking Union.

Congratulations to all who got their names in D.R.O.s t'other day. Remusterings to higher grade groupings seemed to be the order of that day. And that brings to mind the shorthand and typing classes that have been arranged for personnel who require instruction.

Saturday saw two more W.D.s married. LAW Jean Knox, from Sarnia, changed her name to Kennedy, the groom being P/O John Kennedy, a navigator from Montreal. LAW Shirley Chambers, that cute red-head in D.P., was Jean's attendant, while L/O Murdock Harvie, also of Montreal, was best man. The other wedding was between LAW Hawkins, recently arrived overseas, and Lt. George Buch, of the Canadian Black Watch.

Sgts. Marge Morris, a Vancouverite, and Mae Jamieson, of Westmount, Montreal, are back from leave in sunny Devon. Some of our girls are in hospital again. Hope to see them back soon. ASO Kenny Kendall, from Toronto, now stationed at Bomber Group, is enjoying leave in London, while ASO Margery McLaren spent a 48 at the aforementioned group and had fun despite the rain.

ON THE AIR

(FORCES)

Wed., Jan. 26.—1.15 p.m., Greetings from Home. 7 p.m., News from Canada—Quebec, in English.

Thurs., Jan. 27.—7 p.m., News from Canada—Ontario. 9.25 p.m., Mail Call. 10 p.m., Canadian News Round-up.

Fri., Jan. 28.—7 p.m., News from Canada — Prairie Provinces. 9.20 p.m., Charlie McCarthy.

Sat., Jan. 29.—7 p.m., News from Canada—British Columbia.

Sun., Jan. 30.—1.15 p.m., Jack Benny Programme. 2.15 p.m., Hockey by Foster Hewitt. 2.30 p.m., Johnny Canuck's Revue. 7 p.m., News from Canadians in Mediterranean Area."

Mon., Jan. 31.—6.30 p.m., Canadian Calendar. 7 p.m., News from Canada Maritimes. 7.30 p.m., Command Performance.

Tues., Feb. 1.—7 p.m., News from Canada—Quebec, in French.

BISON BANTER

THE opening of the crew room saw more work done by our heroes than most of us have indulged in since we've been overseas, especially the carting of lockers some 300 yards. No casualties, though, outside of a few blisters. I did notice that one of F/O Arbuckle's arms was slightly longer than the other the following morning. However, since he was out that night, we can't exactly blame the day's efforts for said outcome.

The week's entertainment consisted mainly of two parties—that, at any rate, is the polite name for it. The first was a ground crew brawl and I'm told "Joe" Erk had quite a time for himself. The second was a dance given by our A/G's to the armourers. And were they having fun! And who was making the most of it? None other than Sgt. "Hangover Hang-up" Hank Goodis, but we don't talk about that. It was a well organised "do," judging by the beer kegs, not to mention such types as Sgt. Keely, who was supposed to be a waiter but found it much nicer serving himself. I would say the target was well pranged. Sgt. Shierlaw, who was responsible for it, really did a bang-on job. When F/L "Snubby" Pollard, Gunnery Leader, was asked to say something to all those who could still hear, it was hard to tell whether or not he was hiding behind the mike or talking into it. P/O Doug. Eastham fell down badly on the job as Chief Bouncer for he was the only one bounced. Probably due to misrepresentation of character or something. Several statements were made by certain pop gun types. P/O Calderbank just said "I'm happy," original to say the least. Sgt. Ellis remarked, or rather swore, that he would never, NEVER, have another U/S turret.

It was at this party that F/S Nolan "Night Fighter" to most of us, our Squadron Discip., gave his farewell address. His parting words were "I'm speechless." We all know better than that. However, we all join in and wish him the best.

FILM LOG

"LOST ANGEL" (Empire)

A little foundling is scientifically reared by a group of scientists. They reject the name of Mary for her because it is too sentimental and call her Alpha. At the age of six she is a genius. She meets newspaper reporter Mike Regan, who introduces her to the magic of humanity. The result is not one-sided.

An astonishingly good performance is given by wee Margaret O'Brien as Alpha. The picture is refreshing. Unless you are exceptionally hard boiled you should enjoy it.

"WUTHERING HEIGHTS" (Pavilion)

Emily Bronte's brooding tale of the Yorkshire moors, which had a successful first run some years ago, should still be good box-office in this year of star turned soldier and restricted production budgets. Laurence Olivier as Heathcliff and Merle Oberon as Kathy dominate the familiar proceedings, with Flora Robson, Donald Crisp and Geraldine Fitzgerald in strong support.

"THE GIRL HE LEFT BEHIND" (Gaumont)

Alice Faye helps Benny Goodman put over two more hit parade numbers while she romances through a continuous stage setting with James Ellison. Ellison as the scion of a wealthy family, playboy turned soldier, woos Alice, night club queen, under an assumed name. Off to war he goes, leaving Alice to warble "No Love." He leaves another childhood sweetheart, and eventually the two girls meet in the same continuous stage setting, the third party as a dancer. He comes back a hero to a mammoth stage setting in his own backyard. Plenty of music done well; dancing by Tony De Marco; clowning by Charlotte Greenwood, Edward Everett Horton and Eugene Pallette; all this against lavish and typical Busby Berkley chorus routines to match Carmen Miranda's millinery. It's a good cast and good entertainment.

"HAPPY LAND" (Tivoli)

An absorbing tale of a father (Don Ameche), proprietor of a small-town drug store who is embittered by the loss of his son (Richard Crane) serving in the U.S. Navy. "Gramps" (Harry Carey), long dead, reappears in a vision, takes the father for a three-hour stroll and convinces him that his son has led a full and happy life and that his death was not in vain. Ameche gets hammy in spots. Frances Dee turns in an adequate performance as his wife. The tale is a touching, tender one—but maybe this writer is an ol' softie.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

THEATRES

HIPPODROME. Ger. 3272.
Evgs. 5.40; Weds., Thurs., Sats., 2.25.
GEORGE BLACK tells
THE LISBON STORY
A Play with Music

PALLADIUM. Ger. 7373.
Twice Daily at 2.30 and 5.20.
ALL STAR VARIETY
Max Miller, Ivy Benson & her Ladies' Band
Webster Booth and Ann Zeigler, etc.

PRINCE OF WALES. Whi. 6681.
Twice Daily at 2.40 and 5.30.
STRIKE A NEW NOTE
SID FIELD

PRINCES. Tem. 6596.
Evgs. 6.30. Mats. Thurs. and Sat., 2.30.
FIRTH SHEPHARD presents
HALFWAY TO HEAVEN
Bobby HOWES and Sydney HOWARD.
"One long glorious laugh."—Evg. Standard

SAVILLE. Tem. 4011.
Evgs. 6.15. Wed. and Sat., 2.30.
FIRTH SHEPHARD presents
JUNIOR MISS
"Brilliantly acted. . . screamingly funny."
—Sunday Dispatch.

SAVOY. Tem. 6888.
Evgs. 6.30. Wed. and Sat., 2.30.
FIRTH SHEPHARD presents
MY SISTEN EILEEN
Sally Gray, Coral Browne, Max Bacon.
A "Riot. . . intensely funny."—Star.

STRAND. Tem. 2660. 2nd YEAR.
Evgs., 6.30. Mats., Thur. and Sat., 2.30.
FIRTH SHEPHARD presents
ARSENIC AND OLD LACE
Lilian Braithwaite, Mary Jerrold, Naunton Wayne, Frank Pettingell, Edmund Willard

WINDMILL, Picc. Circus. 12th Year.
REVUDEVILLE, 170th Edition (4th week)
Continuous daily 12.15—9.30 p.m.
Last performance 7.50.
A VIVIAN VAN DAMM PRODUCTION.
"WE NEVER CLOSED"

CINEMAS

DOMINION (G-B). Tottenham Court Rd.
HUMPHREY BOGART, BETTE DAVIS, EDDIE CANTOR, ANN SHERIDAN
THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS (U)
Weekdays: continuous 11.45 to 10.
Sundays: continuous 3.30 to 9.

EMPIRE, Leicester Square. Ger. 1234.
Continuous 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
LOST ANGEL (U)
MARGARET O'BRIEN, JAMES CRAIG, MARSHA HUNT

GAUMONT, Haymarket. Whi. 6655.
Alice Faye, Carmen Miranda, Phil Baker, Benny Goodman & Orchestra.
THE GIRLS HE LEFT BEHIND (U)
(In Technicolor)
Weekdays: continuous 11 to 9.30.
Sundays: continuous from 3.30.

LEICESTER SQ. THEATRE. Whi. 6252.
Olsen and Johnson
in
CRAZY HOUSE (U)
Progs. begin 11.45, 2.20, 4.45, 7.15.

LONDON PAVILION. Friday.
Continuous 10 a.m. to 9.40 p.m.
JAMES CAGNEY in
JOHNNY VAGABOND (U)
with GRACE GEORGE

MARBLE ARCH PAVILION. May. 5112.
Alice Faye, Carmen Miranda, Phil Baker, Benny Goodman & Orchestra.
THE GIRLS HE LEFT BEHIND (U)
(In Technicolor)
Weekdays: continuous 11 to 10.
Sundays: continuous 3.30 to 9.

NEW GALLERY, Regent St. Reg. 8080.
HUMPHREY BOGART
in
SAHARA (A)
Weekdays from 11. Sundays from 3.30.

NEW VICTORIA (G-B). Opp. Vic. Stn.
HUMPHREY BOGART, BETTE DAVIS, EDDIE CANTOR, ANN SHERIDAN
THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS (U)
Weekdays: continuous 11.45 to 9.45.
Sundays: continuous 3.30 to 9.

ODEON, Leicester Square. Whi. 6111.
ORSON WELLES, JOAN FONTAINE
JANE EYRE (A)
Showing at 10.35, 12.55, 3.15, 5.35, 7.55.

PARAMOUNT. Eus. 4175. Tottenham Ct.Rd.
GEORGE SANDERS, BRENDA MARSHALL
THE NIGHT IS ENDING (A)
SONJA HENIE, TYRONE POWER
LOVELY TO LOOK AT (U)

REGAL, Marble Arch. Padd. 8011.
SAN DEMETRIO London (U)
Daily at 1.0, 3.20, 5.30, 7.50.

TATLER TH. (G-B). Charing Cross Rd.
ANGLO-SOVIET SEASON
THE DRIVE TO THE WEST (A)
(The Start of the Summer Offensive)
SPRING SONG (U)

TIVOLI, Strand. Tem. 5625.
DON AMECHE, FRANCES DEE, HARRY CAREY, ANN RUTHERFORD
HAPPY LAND (U)
Henry Haunts a House (A), News, &c.
Weekdays: continuous 10.45 to 10.
Sundays: continuous from 3.30.

WARNER, Leicester Sq. Ger. 3423
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THIS IS THE ARMY (U)
(In Technicolor)
Special Finale: MY BRITISH BUDDY
Continuous daily from 10 a.m., Sun. 3 p.m.
Attend morning shows to be sure of a seat.

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"A film that'll make history."
—*Norah Alexander, Sunday Pictorial.*

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James CRAIG, Marsha HUNT. (U)
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