



Bomber Group Hits Targets Near Paris

LEIGH LIGHTS OVER BISCAY FOIL U-BOATS

Bombers Sink One Sub and Straddle Another With Charges

GERMANS SURPRISED

TWO more Nazi submarines, attempting to slip out of French ports and reach Allied shipping lanes undetected, have been intercepted and attacked in the Bay of Biscay by Coastal Command Leigh Light aircraft.

Most unusual feature of the first attack was that the Germans made no attempt to fight it out. Taken by surprise after surfacing in the darkness, the sub tried to crash dive as soon as its crew discovered the aircraft overhead. But the plane roared down and dropped its depth charges from 100 feet before they could submerge. A violent blue flash lit up the sea, the bow rose right out of the water, and three seconds later the sub disappeared. The bomber, which was navigated by W/O T. C. Brayshaw, Vernon, B.C., circled the area for 4½ hours, but found no further trace of the underwater raider.

Three nights later another bomber from the same squadron sighted a surfaced submarine, zig-zagging at 15 knots. The Germans saw the kite coming, and sent up an intensive flak barrage, hitting her several times, though none of the crew was injured.

Depth charges were dropped and straddled the U-boat across the conning tower, as the front gunner raked the deck and silenced its guns. The submarine sank immediately, and later the crew could see two bodies in the water below. Their claim has now been supported by the award of an immediate DFC to the English skipper, after close investigation by Coastal Command and the Admiralty. Only Canadian in the crew was the second pilot, F/O Doug Biggs, Toronto, who was making his 13th operational trip. This was his first sub attack.

FLIER SWIMS EIGHT MILES

Desjardin Reaches Island After Three Hours In Water

When the Wellington of which he was a crew member crashed off the Italian coast during a night mission, Sgt. Raymond Desjardin, Hull, swam eight miles in his water-heavy flying suit to reach an island in the Tyrrhenian Sea.

The bomber was returning from the attack when one engine cut out. For the next two and a half hours the machine went on toward base on one engine. Three times it started to pack up, the aircraft lost altitude, and the five crew members stood ready to bail out. Then the engine did fold, and the bomber hit the water, sinking in 30 seconds.

Desjardin got out of the machine in time, but the tail fin turned over on him and pushed him down.

"I thought I'd had it," he related. "I wish I knew how far down I was. It was a long way. I said to myself, 'You've had it,' and I wondered what my mother would think."

But the chubby sergeant fought his way to the surface. He swam with the tide for three hours, reaching the island about dawn, to find two others of the crew there. The Italians treated them royally, and after a few days they went to Naples by boat.

KILLER



F/S G. P. A. Bodard, Edmonton, observed for his pilot the night they knocked down two German raiders attempting to reach the London area. They doo'd it in an RCAF Mosquito. (Omcia. RCAF Photograph.)

RUGGER STARS BAGGED 'FREAK'

Dubbed "aerial train busters" since their success in bringing down a Heinkel 111 and the two gliders it was towing, F/Ls Charlie Scherf and Howard Cleveland, each now piloting an Intruder, were both prominent rugby players before the war at opposite ends of the globe.

F/L Scherf, who hails from Glen Ennis, New South Wales, was well known in the Northern N.S.W. league down under, while Cleveland, at 16 years of age, made the Vancouver All-Stars who played the touring All-Blacks.

That was in 1931. Subsequently the West Coast pilot played with the University of British Columbia and toured California with them in 1935.

In his pre-war career, Cleveland has opposed such top-drawer outfits as the Warateks and the Maoris. In the middle thirties Cleveland, now a flight commander with an RCAF Intruder squadron, played for a B.C. team that took on a touring Imperial Japanese squad from Tokyo.

Production Step-Up

IN a 30-day period—Jan. 27 to Feb. 27—the RCAF Intruders, now led by W/C Dick Bennell, D.F.C., have shot 23 enemy aircraft out of the sky, damaged two and scored one probable.

The scoring jamboree got under way with a daylight trip on Jan. 27, when four Intruders knocked down seven German machines. The Mosquito squadron have been white-hot ever since and staged a gala welcome for the new C.O. when he took over from W/C D. C. S. MacDonald, Vancouver. That day, Feb. 26, they destroyed six Jerry kites and damaged another.

How the Intruders have stepped up their pace is revealed by these statistics:

	Destroyed	Probables	Damaged
Until Dec. 31, 1943	22½	3	17
Since Jan. 1, 1944	24	1	4

Leading scorer is F/L Charlie Scherf, Glen Ennis, N.S.W., Australia, with 7½ destroyed, 1 damaged. Other high scorers are S/L R. Kipp, Kamloops, B.C., with three and a damaged; F/L J. Johnston, Omeme, Ont., and F/O Johnny Caine, South Edmonton, both with four destroyed.

TIGER SQUADRON CREW SIGHTS SIX NAZI KITES

Halifax Snakes Past Pack To Carry Load To Leipzig

No fewer than six German nightfighters were seen by men of a Halifax of the Tiger squadron on their first operational sortie. It was during a recent raid on Leipzig.

"C for Charlie" was flying to the target uneventfully when F/S V. Poppa, tail gunner, of Hamilton, saw the first Hun in time to enable the pilot to evade and out-dodge him.

Shortly after an FW190 attacked from starboard above. "I gave the captain evasive action," related Poppa. "I saw a rocket approaching horizontally toward us. It seemed to come from another aircraft. The one I sighted passed directly under the midupper turret."

F/L E. L. Mallett, of Vancouver, the pilot, was zig-zagging so violently that when another FW190 went past within 25 feet from Poppa's tail turret he was unable to train his guns on it.

"A minute later three rockets were fired at the Halifax from dead astern by one of the enemy fighters," Poppa continued. "The pilot pulled the nose of the kite up to avoid them, and we lost sight of the Jerry."

The plane now was over the target, and about to swoop into its bombing run when the mid-upper gunner, F/S G. F. Freeman, of Toronto, saw a JU88 on the starboard beam. At the same time Poppa in the tail turret reported an FW190 on the port quarter below, and Mallett spotted an Me109 on the port bow above.

All three moved in on the Halifax at once, but evasive action by the bomber was sufficient to lose them, although it prevented the gunners from hitting back. The pilot's account of the trip ended thus: "We continued to the target and dropped our load." The Halifax returned undamaged, with no one injured.

HORN OF PLENTY

The town of Leaside, Ont., foster home of the Lancaster bomber squadron that bears its name, has done handsomely by its boys.

Service organizations and clubs in the Toronto suburb have contributed 160,000 cigarettes, 5,000 bars of chocolate, 100 pounds of life-savers and chewing gum, 200 pairs of socks, 300 handkerchiefs, 250 pairs of pyjamas, 200 pairs of gloves, 200 assorted sweaters, hundreds of scarves, tins of soup, nuts, biscuits, canned meats, cheese, powdered beverages, and a myriad of eteteras.

So great has been the flood of comforts that the C.O., W/C "Mac" MacKay, Vancouver, has set aside a special storage room for the masses of stuff arriving.

MONTREAL SCOT GETS BUSY FAST

Scottish blood may be the answer to F/O Ian MacKenzie McRobie's urge to waste no time in doing his work over German targets. In his first six nights on the Thunderbird squadron, the Montreal pilot turned in three trips.

He joined the unit on New Year's Eve, participated the next night in an attack on Berlin as co-pilot and followed it up the next evening with another trip as second dickey. Three nights later he went over the Reich as captain of his own aircraft with his own crew. In three weeks he carried-out five raids and since then he has boosted his total to nine—three against the capital and the rest against Stettin, Brunswick, Magdeburg, Leipzig, Stuttgart and Augsburg.

NONE MISSING FROM ATTACKS ON FRANCE

Light Flak, Few Fighters Oppose RCAF Traffic Over Stuttgart; Clouds Aid Attackers

ASSEMBLY PLANT, TRAIN YARDS SMASHED

MEN of the RCAF Bomber Group contributed further blows during the past week to the still mounting air offensive against Germany and the occupied countries.

Monday night Canadian squadrons were with the force which flew almost unopposed to Trappes, west of Paris, where they blasted the strategically important marshalling yards. All Canadian aircraft involved returned safely from the mission, carried out in bright moonlight with good results.

Early Friday morning the squadrons were over Meulan-Les-Mureaux, north-west of Paris, where an aircraft assembly plant was the target. Stuttgart had been visited 24 hours earlier, on Thursday morning, where many fiery wounds were inflicted on industrial areas by bombs from four-engined aircraft.

SIX CANADIANS AWARDED D.F.C.

Non-immediate D.F.C.s have been awarded this week to six Canadian airmen. Their stories, published in the *London Gazette*, tell of varied and colorful experiences over a long period.

F/L Robert Bonnar, Ottawa, who fought in Singapore, Java, Sumatra and Ceylon, is cited as "a valuable asset to his squadron." F/L Ralph Manning, cited for "exceptional valour and determination," is a veteran torpedo bomber pilot. In April, 1942, he participated in an attack on an enemy convoy in the Skagerrak and the following month piloted one of a formation of kites which penetrated the heavy defences around the Prinz Eugen off Norway and successfully attacked the cruiser. In October of the same year the Vancouver pilot destroyed an enemy tanker proceeding under heavy escort to Tobruk.

F/L R. H. Stringer, Davyroyd, Sask., F/O W. H. Reid, Toronto, W/O A. J. C. Mower, St. Catharines, Ont., and W/O Jean Fernand Racette, Montreal, have all seen action in the Meriteranean. Racette, a tail-gunner, fought off and probably destroyed a Ju.88 in a long combat following an attack by RAF bombers on aircraft dispersed at an enemy airfield. Mower, a WOP/AG, is described in the *London Gazette* as an efficient, reliable and enthusiastic. He flew throughout the North Africa, Sicily and Italy campaigns and has completed "many telling attacks on enemy targets." F/O Reid, who flew many nightfighter and fighter bomber sorties, has destroyed four enemy machines; and F/L Stringer is cited for a special daylight mission when, in the face of withering ack-ack fire, he made a steady and accurate run over the target at low altitude and later brought his damaged kite back to base.

Wing Commander "Bill" Newson, D.F.C., Victoria, led the Iroquois squadron which he commands on Monday night's attack. G/C J. G. Bryans, Saskatoon and Victoria, who commands one of the group stations, made the trip flying as second pilot with S/L D. H. Kenney, D.F.C., A.F.C., of Fredericton, N.B., Bison squadron flight commander.

Pathfinders did their work well in the opinion of P/O "Jack" Snelgrove, Regina, a Bluenose squadron pilot. "They were right on time and their markers well concentrated," he reported. "The yards could be seen clearly in the light of the flares. Explosions were bursting over the entire target area."

For France

"It seemed very queer at first bombing my own country, but I knew it was for the liberation of France," said a pilot officer whose home before the war was in France. He flew as a mid-upper gunner with the Alouette squadron. His pilot, P/O Louis Renaud, Montreal, said: "It was an extremely easy trip; no fighters, no flak, no searchlights—a very pleasant voyage." F/O "Tommy" Cooper, Brantford, Ont., Lion squadron pilot, found the target easily. "One heavy flak gun indicated it perfectly," he said. "We just had to head in the direction of the gun on our run and there it was. The railway tracks and vans could be seen clearly, along with heavy flashes on the ground as our bombs struck home."

A Dull Trip

P/O "Ed" Gargette, Bison squadron navigator, Medicine Hat, Alta., opined on his return that it had been a dull trip. "Not enough excitement to make it interesting," he said.

P/O "Len" Webb, Geraldton, Ont., who mans a mid-upper turret for the Lion squadron, saw one of the few fighters seen by the attacking forces. "The skipper took evasive action as he came in on us and we lost him," he related.

Sgt. Mitchell Scott, Edmonton, Ghost squadron bombardier, said there was a flood of light on the PFF markers. "The bombs were flooding down and you could see flashes everywhere you looked."

Meulan

Heavy bombers of the Royal Canadian Air Force made up more than one-half of the force which attacked the aircraft assembly plant at Meulan-Les-Mureaux.

In the attack were Halifaxes from the Moose, Iroquois, Bison, Bluenose and Ghost Squadrons, and all returned safely.

P/O E. O. Johnson, Barnwell, Alta., Iroquois pilot, told of an engine failure, but he said, "We were able to go in and bomb and then return home, all without any trouble."

Two of the RCAF Group's station commanders made the

(Continued on page 4, col. 5)



These Canadians formed part of a Liberator crew which broke up a formation of Heinkel 117s attacking an Allied convoy. Left to right: P/O A. P. Gibb, Vancouver; F/O J. M. Ketcheson, Trenton, Ont.; F/S E. E. Davison, Beachburg, Ont.; "Dinty," the mascot; F/S W. P. Foster, Guelph, Ont.; F/S D. H. Griese, Beachburg, Ont.; and F/S M. N. Werbiski, Rorketon, Man.

BEAVER BASE

Base Command Changes

THIS has been a week of major changes in this district. With the departure of Air Vice-Marshal G. E. Brookes, C.B., O.B.E., for Canada, this base was called upon to supply his successor, and so we bid adieu to our former A.O.C. and offer congratulations to Air Vice-Marshal C. M. McEwen, M.C., D.F.C. At the same time we extend a warm welcome to our new Base Commander, Air Commodore A. D. Ross, who was until recently commanding officer of a nearby bomber station. A native of "The Peg," Air Commodore Ross will find quite a few fellow exiles here.

Recent Wld arrivals suffered an attack of "heart trouble" this week due to the arrival of a strange handsome officer. However, he was no stranger to the veterans around here. The name is Wing Commander Pitt Clayton, D.F.C. and Bar, and he is paying us a short visit following completion of a course at the RAF Staff College. He comes from Vancouver.

Another recent visitor for a day was Group Captain Earl Scott from Group Headquarters. While here Group Captain Scott visited all squadrons and stations within the base, accompanied by S/L Tufts.

Back from leave for a rest is F/S Chuck Addison. He maintains it was the air raids that kept him up nights in London, but we have our doubts. Also returned to brighten up the local social scene is Rene Belair, who, according to all reports, managed to cover most of England on one warrant to London. He was fascinated by the revolving stage at Manchester's Ritz ballroom—particularly the half with the girls orchestra on it.

LAW Danny Bushell is also taking the rest cure following a hectic holiday. She maintains that the handsome lad she was seen with was her brother.

Horrendous local female lamentations were caused by the departure from the base station of Bill Sears, who has been transferred to another station in the base. As a Waaf morale builder Bill is in a class by himself.

Also departing via the posting route to another station in the group is Mac Cardel, who will be sorely missed in certain night life spots in a nearby city.

Eire looks like the "resort of the week" just now. Prominent among recent landing parties were those well-known Irishmen, Jim Donnelly, Charlie Brown, Gordon Arscott, Walt

O'Perchaluk and Ray Fitzboulcin. They departed dreams of civilian sartorial perfection, complete with clay pipes and shillelaghs.

The air crew boys are operating at full steam in the local metropolis. Among devotees of the "De Grey Glide" are Don Berry's Wildcats, including Sammy and Aggie, and Wing Commander Bill Swetman, D.F.C., whose Kapuskasing Kapers are a ball-room treat. Also courting Terpsichore were S/L W. L. Marshall and F/L Eric Strathdee, while F/O Frank Maher was also getting in some fancy footwork.

Devotees of the simple country life these days are Sgts. N. P. Mallin and Jack Maddox on one of our base stations. Far from the maddening throng they now take their pleasures in the simple style.

Back from an advanced drill and P.T. course with a shiny new P.T. emblem personally presented to him by Group Captain Denton Massey is W/O Squire Tumilty. The Squire is now converted to the school of "health through exercise," and it is rumoured that he proposes to introduce daily P.T. periods at the Manor. Graduated at the same time from Harry Hinton's Select School for Drill and Decorum was W/O Bill Ard. After the spryng out process it is reported that Bill can now run 100 yards in 25 seconds flat.

With the commencement of a new quarter there has been a general exodus to various parts of the country. Among those visiting London are Mel Melstead, Taffy Jones and Bob Silk, who plans to study G.P.O. procedure while there. Honey-mooning are W/C W. A. McKay and his bride, former S/O V. Thompson.

—Sgt. R. J. Gunn.

Bar Review

THE first news item of interest to come out is a rather hazy account of the WAAF dance. Nearly everyone that mattered was present. Looking quite pert, Sgt. Brown (Mec. Sgt. Laverick), of the WAAF Admin. Gestapo, was present, doing her best to see that her girls conducted themselves in a manner becoming to the little ladies they are. The final conga was really something, never has it been surpassed on any dance floor. Everyone who could swing a hip was in there pitching receiving a fair share of the "Thumping." The fond farewells at the picket post were long-drawn-out affairs, with one of our very popular WAAF senior N.C.O.s shoeing the gals to their quarters.

Sgt. Husband, chief of the orderly room pen toters, returned from leave the other day. When asked how and where it was spent all the sarge would say was "London—swell time." What Sgt. Husband didn't say was that his betrothed, Cpl. Marjorie McCormack—also his right-hand pen totter—went to London on leave, departing the same day and returning the same day as Sgt. Husband—coincidence, wot? Incidentally, Marjorie is sporting a really splashy Canadian diamond these days.

Sgt. Bob Justice, of Toronto, chief of some fifty hash-slingers, has his worries. Bob doesn't strut around the kitchen in uniform bawling orders, but wears a white jacket and trousers which proved almost fatal the other day when an erk was snooping around. Bob asked, "What do you want?" in a very matter-of-fact tone.

The erk promptly replied, "The way you talk you'd think you were the sergeant around here."

To which Bob retallated a simple, "I am."

The erk pushed off in a hurry. If you see a fellow who seems to be wearing stilts around the camp, forget it. It's LAC Ferdie Walter, of Regina, Sask., and he is not on stilts. Ferdie is really a human skyscraper and reaches into the clouds to the height of 6 feet 7 1/2 inches.

—Doc. Doherty.

FLIGHT LEADER

S/L Bob Kipp, a former drug-gist's apprentice in Kamloops, B.C., has just been promoted from flight lieutenant and named a flight commander with the RCAF Intruder Squadron. Before coming overseas Kipp served as an instructor at various training centres in Canada. His younger brother, F/O W. M. Kipp, a navigator, has been reported a prisoner of war in Germany after being posted as missing following an operation.

BOMBER GROUP SPARK PLUGS



Schmidt Bauer Dumart

ROSS SQUAD COP HONORS

Krauts Spark Both Teams In Big-Top Tilt

With a circus tent top serving as a roof and with no less than 10 huge tent poles rearing out of the ice to hold up the canvas, G/C A. D. Ross's sextet slalomed their way to the RCAF Bomber Group hockey championship with their second straight win over a rival Lancaster crew in the best-of-three final. They won 4-3, having taken the first game the week before 5-0.

Cpl. Ken Smith, member of the

1937 OHA Intermediate champions from Preston, started the Rossmen off after they had trailed 2-0 going into the final period. Bobby Bauer tied the score and another third of the famed Kitchener Kraut line, Milt Schmidt, scored the final two goals for the winners.

Cpl. "Scotty" Gourlay, Calgary, was the best of the losers, rapping home all three of his team's scores. Kept off the tally sheet, but easily the driving force of the same team, was P/O "Porky" Dumart, the final third of the Kraut line. Cpl. Howie Sells, Gull Lake, Sask., played an outstanding game both ways for the winners.

THE MAIL BAG

Discip From the West

THE absence of a discip has been short-lived. Yes, we have another in W/O2 Crozier, who comes from the west. Welcome, sir, and if all are willing, a helping hand down in the mail bag always is appreciated.

The trials and troubles of an MT driver were revealed when someone's fender "got it." But it's O.K. now, for the mail still comes and goes.

Who is the W.D. who believes the Army Guards are lonely? Shall we tell, Fluffy?

F/S Meads informs us our dance will be held March 28, so fellas and gals, let's get behind it and make it a big success.

Soap, we know, is rationed, but someone has saved up enough to do a smashing job of cleaning up on the top lip. What's wrong, AC Smurlick, didn't she like it after all?

We sincerely welcome two new arrivals, AW2s Wetherup and Gore. A certain W.D. sgt. and cpl. have become "partners-in-crime." It all began one recent blue Monday morning, during roll call.

LAC Delafontaine recently on leave from Prestwick was seen at the Park Royal dance with a new partner; wrong again—'twas LAW McDonald. We note that an old timer, LAW Jessiman, is studying the duties of an S.P.

Come on, girls, let's get hold of "Pop" Poplowsky and "Duck" Duckworth, who have been seen "tripping the light fantastic" with a couple of civvies.

Ye Olde (Newe) Ed. of the Mail Bag says hello to all at No. 6 Group headquarters. A certain truck guard, LAC Robby Roberts, suggests that in order to speed the mail all green traffic lights should be blonde.

—LAC Ray Comstock.

"THREE TIMES—OUT" SAYS SICKBED PILOT

Three times a hospital case, P/O Maurice Laycock, Fairy Glen, Sask., has finally shaken sickbed and is ready to do some serious flying from a mobile Canadian airfield.

"I'm a believer in three times and out," said the 21-year-old pilot, "and now I'm out, I'm going to stay out."

He was confined with contusions and bruises when a truck in which he was riding as passenger was sideswiped by a bus. Exactly one week before this he had been discharged after a bicycle mishap. Previously he had been to sick bay with a bad cold.

Hiltz Hotshots

WE see by the police gazette that the fleet-air-arm has recently been apprehended for low flying in his Mercedes (short for jeep). The culprit in question is none other than Lt. Miller, one of our strongest hockey rosters. Slow down, boy!

The four star achievement of the week goes to S/L Anderson, Toronto, of "A" Flight, for his two Jerry effort. Nice going, Andy! It is rumored that "B" Flight had a hand in it, but they can dream, can't they? They're favorite question is "Have you heard of 'Joe' Schultz?"

We would like to mention at this point, the departure of W/C Elms. We wish you the best and "happy landings." It also gives us the opportunity of saying hello to our new boss, W/C Hiltz, St. Stephen, N.B.

Also a hearty welcome to our new air crew and ground crew members.

Cpls. Findlay and Darby, LACs Fidge, Carruthers and Farmer have been posted.

Wedding congrats to LAC "Hot-lips" MacLean, who married a comely lass from Scotland way. The lucky girl!

Quite a few of the boys have completed a tour of bicycle ops. But a few are unfortunates, such as LAC Edwards, who attempted "Prang Valley" and is due back after two months' convalescence, and F/S Dunn, Winnipeg, who attempted to not only ride but ball out with full chute at the same time.

Our hockey manager, in the short space of two minutes while watching a hockey game, became the proud possessor of a beautiful shiner.

Congrats are also in order to Sgts. Echstrand, Roegen and Patterson, who have just received their third.

—Mic and Mac.



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TEN TALK

Jive Tribe Hold Fort

THE spotlight this week centred on the station dance at which the dance band of the "Blackout" revue gave out with solid jive for the boogy-woogy rug-cutters.

Canucks, seemingly starved for this type of entertainment, let loose with all they had, and the gym took on the appearance of a native tribal dance, with rug-cutting, jump and jive, and jitterbugging holding full sway.

Among the many Canadians who came to dance, or just to watch, were LAC Bill Stojack, of Winnipeg, teaching the Waafs how a jitterbug should be jittered, LAC F. Creswell, of Vancouver, Cpl. Cotter, also of Vancouver, Cpl. McKaster, Vancouver, LAC Townsend and Cpl. H. Baynam, Ontario.

Despite the fact that it was "verra verra cauld" and "verra verra dry" in Scotland, we understand LAC W. B. Syer, of Hamilton, and LAC W. J. Taylor, of Toronto, had a "bonnie wee" leave.

We welcome LAC G. S. Bevington, Alberta, and Sgt. G. L. Wilcox, of Sherbrooke, Que., to the fold.

It seems that some of the boys in No. 3 Hangar have left us for a place where the grass is greener, we hope. Good luck, boys.

Who doesn't know Cpl. Foxon in the sergeants' mess? Every month end we hear him swearing as he juggles with figures. O.K., Joe, we know it isn't easy working out one-third of a day's pay in dollars to f.s.d., but at least the local dance hall sees you once in a while. Someday you'll get back to the old home in Winnipeg, Corp., so take it easy.

Cpl. Finkelstein, Montreal, went to see the M.O., hoping to get a week or so off, but his treatment was much less pleasant. That must have been a bitter pill.

AC Provencner, St. Rouyn, Quebec, recently returned from leave in Scotland. "When I arrived in Edinburgh I walked

straight into a Temperance Hotel," he said. We lost our bearings in the fog recently, too.

AC Pollit, Winnipeg, and AC Snell, Sask., have also spent their leave in the Highlands.

Don said he went to Scotland to look up some relations, but we really think they both wanted to find out if the people from Jim Young's own land were really human. They came back convinced they were and cannot be shaken from the belief that Jim is an exception. Never mind, Jim, with Lionel Roderick Scholey, of Windsor, Ont., and C. G. (Suds) Sutherland, Ont., on your shift, "B" shift will always keep its name.

SCATTERED CREW MEET AT PALACE

Four Canadians and an Englishman who had flown two complete tours together in a bomber crew, and are now separated as instructors at various training units, were brought together again at a recent investiture in Buckingham Palace.

The five, all of whom received decorations from the King, were:—F/O L. M. Holtby, DFM, Hawkesbury, Ont.; P/O R. H. Welch, DFM, Belleville, Ont.; F/O H. W. Fenton, DFC, Ottawa; F/O G. S. McMenemy, DFC, Hamilton, and F/O R. J. Williams, DFM, Birkenhead.

Other Canadians decorated at the same investiture were:—W/O R. E. Hicks, DFM, Carthage, N.Y.; P/O P. F. Connell, DFM, St. John, N.B.; W/O S. H. Nutting, DFM, Radisson, Sask.; W/O G. H. Lancaster, DFM, Michael, B.C.; W/O E. B. Carleton, DFM, Toronto; W/O E. K. Bergey, Guernsey, Sask.; and W/O E. H. Anthony, Port Williams, King's County, N.S.

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WOMEN'S DIVISION

SORRY we missed the press last week. That will explain the staleness, if any, of this particular column. The dance at a RCAF fighter airfield makes the headlines. Some eighty W.D.s from headquarters journeyed out to the field on a recent Saturday night to give the boys a bit of fun. And what fun! Good music provided by the station dance orchestra. Good food—and great quantities of it. A good dance floor and plenty of space. What more could one ask? A very successful evening, but let's go on.

The girls arrived back in London at a not-so-early hour Sunday morning, and some of them had a rather unusual experience. Among those who called on a London bobby for assistance were Cpl. Campbell and LAWs Baker and Kay Starchuk. Did you have a good sleep, girls?

Last Saturday afternoon saw a get-together of the majority of the "veteran" W.D.s, that small group which arrived here some eighteen months ago. It was occasioned by two weddings. Cpl. Pat Tofflemire recently changed her name to Donnelly, while Sgt. Jill Wiggs, of Nelson, B.C., is being married on Saturday, March 18. A most enjoyable afternoon was reported by all present.

We wonder why LAW Jemmett, a Torontonian who labors in the D.A.S. orderly room, looks so happy these days. Friend husband couldn't be around?

S/O Ruth McJannet, an intelligence officer from one of our bomber stations, visited H.Q. on temporary duty last week.

HEADQUARTERS

DOLGIE, the demon digit detective, is back again. His charming personality and infinite calm can be seen daily in the Fields as he casually probes the brassy appearances of the firewatch and his own faithful crew. Glad to see yuh, boy! Glad to see yuh!

His joy at returning to the scene of his greatest triumphs may be tempered by the presence of that great glamor boy, Elmer Leadbetter. In addition to his success with the members of the opposite sex, Elmer the Great is also some punkin's with a nail file and a string of assorted bottles. Anything from "Prelude in C Sharp Minor" to "Pistol-Packin' Mamma."

Expressions of wonder and awe have been cast about the hallowed halls of the airmen's canteen. All credit for the spotless walls and floors go to the mad motor-cyclists, Cunningham, Tennant, Gee and Co. They're wondering if they get time off for good behavior. Ten bobs is ten bobs, and if you don't think so ask Sgt. Harrison. Especially if they're your last ten. Bruce shuffled out of the sheets t'other morning, glimmed his watch and went into a panic. He shouted shrilly for a cab, leaped inside much as you've seen in the movies and screamed something about ten of the best if the guy could make Holborn by 8.30. The race to the parade ground came to an end and Harrison was dumped outside of the building shortly before eight o'clock. That's the story of a watch. They're like women, and you can't trust them.

EX-BUSHWHACKER IS VETERAN NAVIGATOR

Eric Hurd, 24-year-old navigator from Sawyerville, Que., has done a double job of doing his bit in this war since he landed in this country in the first month of the war.

The Goose squadron airman enlisted in the Canadian Forestry Corps two days after the outbreak of war. He came overseas at the end of September that year and started many months of back-breaking bushwhacking in Scotland. He transferred to the RCAF in February, 1942, trained in Britain, and has since turned in 23 operational flights against enemy targets.

BOMBER GROUP

Skunk Holler Goes Wild

SADIE Hawkins dance was the main topic here this week. It was up to the girls, W.D.s, to do the inviting. The men found them to be very shy. Owing to a shortage of males 30 airmen from a nearby station were welcome guests.

Elsa Merikello, Montreal, acted as M.C. in the absence of Dot Wilson, Ottawa. Music was provided by the popular "White Wings" band.

The hostesses kept a close watch for any men who might have been wallflowers. Betty Chappell, Fort William; Joan Bryon and June Taylor, Vancouver; Cpl. Hull, Ottawa; Kay Anderson and Sylvia Rom, Montreal, and Fay Ashley, London, were the hostesses. They saw that all took part in the "doings." The programme was well arranged and included many novelty dances. The broom dance made a hit, so much so that a visiting sergeant nearly took the broom home with him. It was dressed up in a uniform complete with spam ribbon.

LAC Cameron, full six feet tall, dressed as Daisy Mae, and Elsa Merikello appeared as Lil Abner. They put on a show to the tune of some swing music.

The dance was a success and the boys enjoyed themselves. The refreshments were good and the programme excellent. Thanks for a fine time go to F/O Engelson and F/O J. Chisholm.

The dance did something to Ray Jolliffe, Windsor, and Jimmy Deasy, St. Catharines, Ont. Traditional non-dancers, it brought them to their feet at last.

News in Brief

Howie Streich, Sudbury, has been very quiet since returning from leave in London. He didn't skate or dance and keeps saying something about soft lights. And who is the W.D. in signals who was so taken up on a recent visit to a tailor that she is trying to find an excuse for a return trip.

—C. B. Higgs.

THE DEMONS

Note Starts Stampede

A NOTICE in orders recently told all air crew who were interested in leave to report to the Gunnery Office. We are happy to say that F/L "Night-fighter" Brown, Amherst, N.E., lived through the rush. Some of the "C" flight gunners got up so early to report that they actually had dinner in the mess.

"Body Beautiful" Geger, i/c Squadron Plumbers, is digging deep, for the third time, to pay for an issue bicycle. That and the worry of how to grow six inches taller is beginning to tell on our "chiefs."

Introducing more squadron members, we give you: F/Os "Dutch" Schultz, Toronto; "Mac" McLean, Toronto; "Ken" Dawson, Winnipeg; "Tiger" Hilton, Courtenay, B.C.; W/Os Jimmy Allen, Quesnel, B.C.; George Blyth, Toronto; Frank Travers, Talbotville, Ont.; Sgts. "Gable" McGrath, Kitchener; LACs "Boy" Gallinger, Port Arthur; "Cards" Hale, Windsor, Ont.; "Blondie" Sinclair, Timmins, Ont.; "Frenchy" Tanguay, Dixville, P.Q.; and "Gable" Hart, Peterboro, Ont.

Can it be the Dublin "Crusader" story brought back by Sgt. "Stew" Gunn, Winnipeg, that is enticing the boys to go there for leave? Seems like you shake the ancient

crusader's hand and it brings you luck, and from Stew's personal account of his leave it sure paid dividends.

The "A" flight boys finally found the source of that breeze through the hut every morning. Naturally, it was "Ears" Shilling, London, Ont., loosening up his receivers when he rolled out. Still wet from the Atlantic spray, LAC Stan Perrie, Montreal, spent his first leave in the smokey city and came back raving about a certain blonde whom he intends leading to the altar shortly. We are wondering why the worried look on Sgt. "Red" Miller this past week. Is it the wind or just plain being in charge? "Red" hails from Old Fort William, P.Q., but there is a possibility that you will find him in London, England, after the peace bells ring.

—Smockey.

FINISHES TOUR.

With a tour of ops in Blenheim, Boston and Mitchell bombers behind him, S/L Willie Gray, Merlin, Ont., is on his way back to Canada. As a flight commander in an RAF Mitchell squadron, he has flown about a score of sorties, softening up the invasion coast of northern France. He is returning to Canada after more than two years overseas.

FRANCE HIT

(Continued from page 1.)

trip as second pilots. They were G/C D. M. Edwards, A.F.C., and G/C J. L. Hurley, both of Ottawa. The Moose and Ghost Squadrons were led by their commanding officers, W/C W. P. Pleasance, Calgary, and W/C D. T. French, Hamilton, respectively. It was the latter's 21st sortie.

F/S Edgar Baker, Bison pilot from Tompkins, Sask., told of seeing fire and smoke as his crew left the target. F/S Andy Marlon, Hull, Que., described the attack as an effective one. "We saw smoke surging to 9,000 feet," he said.

Stuttgart

Several Canadian squadrons were with the attackers over Stuttgart, including the Leaside, Alouette and Snowy Owl units.

Fliers reported seeing big fires as they left the target. Others told of seeing a stream of bombers filling in formation through the heavy cloud over Stuttgart. "It was a real traffic test," said one.

It was a good beginning for the crew in which Sgt. Jack Pigeon, Stratford, Ont., is bomber. It was their first trip together. "We left the target blazing fiercely," Jack related.

According to W/O N. H. Jones, of Dechesnes, Que., an Alouette skipper, "flak was slight to moderate. The few searchlights were kept under by nine-tenths cloud, and we evaded them and the barrage without trouble. I saw a couple of nightfighters shooting rockets. I don't know if they were shooting at us, but they weren't very close."

District H.Q.

"TAKE me down, take me down!" yelled LAC "Screwball" Krogh as he stood equipped in all the gear of a flyer behind the pilot. "Take me down, I don't feel so good!" But the pilot of "S" for "Certain" (?) didn't stop, but did tell Krogh to look out. And as the observer handed him back his stomach, Krogh looked out—the wheels were still on the ground. But he stayed for the ride and really enjoyed himself—only cost him ten bob to clean the plane out.

As for LAC George Symon, he took a little tin can with him, just in case. And apparently George held on to the parachute ring most of the time, for he pulled the darn thing. He claimed it to be an accident, but we sincerely believe that when the plane started to bank George thought all was at an end. The pilot had to tell him not to start opening the emergency door. As for yours truly, I held on tight, shut my eyes, and kept thinking of my home and the wonderful life I might come back to. They tell me my face had a little green colour in it when I came down—must have been the change of atmosphere.

LAC Larry Hewitt was telling us some stirring tales of the days when he went fishing and hunting for wild game in the wilderness of Alberta. As he began on the one about trapping the rattle snake, a mouse appeared in the far corner of

WITH RADIO MECHS

NORTH ENGLAND

By George Maybee

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for P/Os Rudy Picherack and Andy Laprade, recently commissioned. Both got their start on this unit. Andy, resplendent in his new uniform, called around one day last week to renew old acquaintances before going overseas.

"Sandy" Sanderson, while on leave, celebrated the acquisition of his third and helped Rudy to celebrate his commission. He reports that Rudy looks like a fashion plate. Needless to say, they celebrated only as they can. In a letter to "Sandy," Pat Patmore tells of a safe arrival back in Canada, a wizard reception and bags of good eats. He disclosed that he is planning matrimony in the near future. He sends his regards to all.

Maurice "Shadow Adj" Kope-low is very busy these days, along with Vic Swirzon and Paul Maissonneuve, whipping the forthcoming show into shape. That there is a lack of romance on this station is evidenced by the fact that Jack Scarellif and Herbie Parks visited the station cinema twice last week to see Jean Arthur in "The More the Merrier." They liked the technique.

Cpl. Gil Miller, Reg Jackson and Jim Steele are tired of suffering from the shortage of beverage at the N.A.A.F.I. dance. This week they got theirs ahead of everyone else. They couldn't see the table for bottles, but later on they couldn't see period.

SOUTH WALES M.U.

By Cpl. Goldsmith

"FRANKLIN D." SHERLEY has been claiming he was told to stay away from cigarettes. A cigarette holder does look rather eccentric.

Three patients think they are pulling the wool over the M.O.'s eyes. They are Cpls. Clearhill and Freeborn and LAC Bailey. "Mauri" has quite a cornorona due to the super cookhouse food. He could never fit into one of those Fraser-Nash's now.

Cpl. George Wilson has had the call to adventure in the skies and departs this week. Already he is worrying about the beer ration at home. It's back to milkshakes again, Georgie.

Cpl. "Red" Franklin is on leave this week in south England. Bill Rogers has returned to the folk. He will be a welcome voice around the toaster of evenings. Alec Merlin, our Heinz representative, is still adding his product to our nightly orgies, cementing Anglo-Canadian relations.

the room. Believe it or not, Larry almost trampled us to death in his rush for the open outdoors. And we almost believed you, Larry. Anyway, rattle snakes aren't found in Alberta—you mean just snakes—with two legs.

—Freddie Otto.

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

THEATRES		LONDON PAVILION.	
HIPPODROME. Ger. 3272. Eves. 5.40; Weds., Thurs., Sat., 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 Ziegler, etc.	MARBLE ARCH PAVILION. May. 5112. TOMMY HANDLEY and EVELYN DALL in TIME FLIES (U) Weekdays: continuous 11 to 10. Sundays: continuous 3.30 to 9.	NEW GALLERY, Regent St. Reg. 8080. MARGARET LOCKWOOD, JAMES MASON PHYLIS CALVERT THE MAN IN GREY (A) Weekdays: continuous 11 to 9.40. Sundays: continuous from 3.30.
PRINCE OF WALES. Whl. 0681. Twice Daily at 2.40 and 5.30. STRIKE A NEW NOTE SID FIELD	SAVILLE. Tem. 4011. Eves. 5.30, Wed., Thurs., Sat., 2.15. FIRTH SHEPARD presents JUNIOR MISE "Brilliantly acted... screamingly funny." —Sunday Dispatch.	NEW VICTORIA (G-B). Opp. Vic. Stn. THE LODGER (A) CANDLELIGHT IN ALGERIA (U) Weekdays: continuous 12 to 9.45. Sundays: continuous 3.30 to 9.	ODEON, Leicester Square. Whl. 6111. NELSON EDDY, SUSANNA FOSTER, CLAUDE RAINS
SAVOY. Tem. 8888. Eves. 5.40, Wed. and Sat., 2.30. FIRTH SHEPARD presents MY SISTER EILEEN Sally Gray, Coral Browne, Max Bacon. A "Hit... Intensely funny."—Star.	STRAND. Tem. 2660. 2nd YEAR. Eves. 5.30, Mats., Thurs. and Sat., 2.0. FIRTH SHEPARD presents ARSENIC AND OLD LACE Lilian Braithwaite, Mary Jerrold, Naunton Wayne, Frank Pettingell, Edmund Willard	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (A) Showing at 10.45, 1.5, 3.20, 5.40, 8.0.	PARAMOUNT, Eus. 4175. Tottenham Ct. Rd. LUISE RAINER, WILLIAM BENDIX HOSTAGES (A) BING CROSBY, SHIRLEY ROSS PARIS HONEYMOON (A)
CINEMAS	DOMINION (G-B). Tottenham Court Rd. THE LODGER (A) CANDLELIGHT IN ALGERIA (U) Weekdays: continuous 11.45 to 10. Sundays: continuous 3.30 to 9.	REGAL, Marble Arch. Pad. 6011. ERROL FLYNN in NORTHERN PURSUIT (A) with JULIE BISHOP Times: 12.00, 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00.	TIVOLI, Strand. Tem. 5625. ANNE BAXTER and THOMAS MITCHELL THE SULLIVANS (U) Weekdays: continuous 11.45 to 9.40. Sundays: continuous from 3.30.
EMPIRE, Leicester Square. Ger. 1234. Continuous daily 10 a.m. to 9.40. GREER GARSON, WALTER PIDGEON in MADAME CURIE (U) 3rd week.	GAUMONT, Haymarket. Whl. 6055. TOMMY HANDLEY and EVELYN DALL in TIME FLIES (U) Weekdays: continuous 11 to 9.50. Sundays: continuous from 3.30.	TATLER TH. (G-B). Charing Cross Rd. ANGLO-SOVIET SEASON Revival GENERAL SUVEROV (U) RUSSIAN STORY (A) A Cavalcade of Russian Heroism down the Ages.	WARNER, Leicester Sq. Ger. 3423 ANNE CHAWFORD, DAVID FARRAR, FREDERICK LEISTER, MARY CLAIRE in THE HUNDRED POUND WINDOW Continuous daily from 10 a.m. Sundays 3 p.m.

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