

RCAF HEAVIES HIT HUN TARGETS

NAVIGATOR RECEIVES BAR TO DFC IN LATEST AWARD LIST

17 Immediate DFCs and One Immediate DFM Round Out Gong Announcement

Immediate awards to Canadian fliers announced this week in the *London Gazette* include a Bar to the DFC for F/L Robert John Clark, DFC, Edmonton, 17 DFCs and one DFM. Clark, a navigator, receives his decoration for outstanding work on a mine-laying mission in October. The citation states that the success of the attack reflects the greatest credit on his ability. He has participated in many sorties.

Winners

DFCs are awarded to F/L Ben Erwin Plumer, pilot, Bassano, Alta.; F/L William Warren Hargrove, observer, Sombra, Ont.; F/L Geoffrey Slocombe, pilot, Vancouver; F/L Larry Robertson Van Kleeck, pilot, Vancouver; F/L Jean Galpeau, pilot, Ottawa, now reported POW; F/L Joseph Frank Xavier Veroneau, pilot, Bruderheim, Alta.; F/L John Everett McAllister, pilot, Milltown, N.B.; F/O Craig Alexander McKenzie, pilot, Aurora, Ont.; F/O William Edward Dennet, pilot, Toronto; F/O Gordon Edward Plyley, pilot, Niagara Falls, Ont.; F/O Thomas Arthur Shore, pilot, Ottawa; F/O John Thomas Barlow, pilot, Paris, Ont.; F/O Ronald Mitchell Fleming, navigator, Dartmouth, N.S.; F/O Harry Knobovitch, pilot, Montreal, now reported missing; F/O James Allister Weir, pilot, Windsor, Ont.; P/O John Malcolm Cochrane, Jackson, Mich., midupper gunner; P/O Henry Oliver Stevenson, air gunner, Toronto.

P/O Harold Cecil Annable, midupper gunner, Lindsay, Ont., receives the DFM. He was a flight sergeant when he won the decoration.

F/Ls Plumer and Hargrove were pilot and observer respectively in a Cougar Mesquite which engaged an enemy fighter in October near Venlo. Their starboard engine was hit and set on fire but Hargrove put it out with extinguishers while Plumer continued to press the attack. The Hun was destroyed and Plumer then got his damaged plane to a field and a safe landing.

Gunner Hurt

F/O McKenzie piloted an aircraft which had a motor go out of service en route to the target. Then the machine was hit by flak and the midupper gunner wounded severely in the leg. McKenzie made a successful attack and then, with assistance from his navigator, reached a field in friendly territory, where he landed so that his gunner could have immediate medical (Continued on page 6, col. 1.)

SPITS SCORE IN QUICK TIME

Pilots of a RCAF Spitfire wing with TAF spotted 20 enemy planes while on a rail cutting mission recently and shot down two Hun aircraft and damaged three.

The two planes destroyed were a Me109 and a FW190. The damaged machines were two Mes and one FW.

The enemy planes were spotted in two "gaggles" at 20,000 in the Coesfeld area.

The same Spitfires made two rail cuts and bombed a factory at Ringenberg and silenced three light flak guns south-east of Borken.

BOMBER GUNNERS BEAT OFF ME 109

Though his rear turret had frozen up making it necessary for him to operate his guns by hand P/O V. N. Matheson, Charlottetown, P.E.I., helped beat off repeated attacks by an Me109 as his Lancaster bomber took part in an attack on Wesseling.

Shells from the fighter hit the inner port engine, cut the starboard rudder control in half, hit the main plane and the propeller of another motor.

With the rudder control gone, they couldn't take evasive action. The enemy fighter made two more attacks, but the gunners drove him off. The midupper still had all his guns working.

The Australian skipper made an emergency landing at a U.S. airfield close to the Channel coast. The air bomber of Matheson's crew is P/O George Eall, Ayr, Ont.

RCAF Fighter-bombers Disrupt Nazi Transport

Spitfires, Typhoons Make Impressive Show in 10 Weeks' Operations Against German Railways

In the unspectacular but vitally important work of disrupting Nazi railway lines and rolling stock behind the Western Front, Canadian Spitfire and Typhoon fighter-bomber squadrons have made 54 per cent. of rail cuts effected by 2nd TAF in the last 2½ months.

Official Survey.

An official survey released this week, shows that Canadian squadrons of TAF in the ten weeks up to mid-December have achieved 470 rail cuts and the destruction or damage of 194 locomotives and 678 railway trucks in German-occupied Holland and northwest Germany.

These impressive results have been achieved by continuous rail interdiction and armed reconnaissance that has been carried out almost every hour of every day on which weather permitted flying.

RCAF formations have played a large part in this phase of air operations, in addition to other army support duties, which included attacks on troop concentrations and strong points, flying thousands of fighter

patrols and reconnaissance sorties.

Canadian squadrons daily are reducing the Nazi locomotive reserve and cutting lines over which enemy supplies and troops are moved up to forward battle areas. Moreover, locomotive repair facilities and railway line repair gangs are being shot up regularly.

Because of this program the Nazis have been forced to abandon many rail lines. Locomotives are being reduced to scrap because existing repair facilities no longer can cope with the number of vehicles requiring attention.

In official quarters, it is believed that morale of German railway personnel is reaching a new low because of the repeated attacks on lines, trains and repair crews.

CHRISTMAS YET!



This harassed-looking Wld probably smiled at those Christmas yarns on the front pages of Canadian dailies that used to describe the problems of the post-office worker at Yuletide. Now she knows.

(Official RCAF Photograph)

TAF's Long Arm Reaches Deep Into Third Reich

Holland.—With the long arm of the RAF 2nd TAF which reaches out in search of targets well inside the Reich frontiers, Holland-based Tempests recently made their deepest penetration of Germany yet when they flew over Uizen, south-east of Hamburg and only 110 miles from Berlin.

Hit Transport

They were on patrol, on the look-out for German aircraft but they found none.

During the few hours of available flying weather Typhoon and Spitfires also struck heavily at German rail transport feeding the Western front. Nearly 60 sorties flown by 2nd TAF aircraft yielded 29 separate rail cuts for the loss of three planes.

Trains were smashed by bombs and cannon. Pilots of the RCAF Typhoon squadron saw German troops panic as they poured out of a train east of Wesel to avoid cannon fire and strafing.

F/L Donald Jenvey, Ingersoll Ont., who led the City of Ottawa squadron, said, "Judging by the number of trains we saw in this area, we must have over-ruled the Ruhr fixed."

His squadron destroyed three locomotives and 18 freight cars as well as damaging three tank flat cars near Dülmen west of Munster. F/L Jenvey also mined out four camouflaged flak nests at Dülmen.

Spitfires on armed reconnaissance over the Zuider Zee damaged an armed trawler and a small coaster with bombs while a direct hit with a 700 pound bomb, also from a Spitfire, destroyed a road bridge over a canal at Goor, west of Hengelo.

BOMBING LEADER

Promotion to the rank of flight lieutenant and appointment to the post of bombing leader with the Plan squadron have been announced for W. T. Glass, Victoria, B.C.

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION CENTERS FEEL HEAVY BLOWS

Munich, Duisburg, Ludwigshafen, Essen Take Brunt of Bomber Command Attacks

Lancasters and Halifaxes of RCAF Bomber Group continued their hammering blows on Germany over the week-end and during last week. Targets which felt the might of Bomber Command included Munich, Duisburg, Ludwigshafen and Essen. Attacking through layers of cloud Sunday night, substantially more than 200 aircraft took part in a repeat attack on Duisburg, the already heavily bombed German industrial city in the Ruhr Valley.

Assessment of results was difficult. Duisburg was last pounded by the Canadian Group at the beginning of this month. The object of the latest onslaught was to complete the destruction of railway and other facilities important to the Nazi armies.

"I saw concentrated explosions and two in particular were very large," said W/C F. P. Sharp, Mocsomin, Sask., returning from his first operation as C/O of the Goose squadron.

Sunday

Twelve thousand pound bombs went down on Munich, the most remote German target to which Bomber Command has yet carried factory busters, on Sunday night. One of the six bombers who loosed his six ton missile over the Hun town was P/O Ray Gran, Meadow Lake, Sask.

"The sky was perfectly clear," said Gran, "and the markers were right on the aiming point. We dropped our bombs right after the area had been marked by the target indicators. Those six ton jobs certainly panted the area."

Friday

The Moose, Ghost and Iroquois squadrons shared Friday night's attack on the great I.G. Farben industry's chemical works at Ludwigshafen, near the German city of Mannheim.

Although some flak opposition was encountered, all the Canadian-built Lancasters returned safely to base. Several large fires and orange explosions seen at the target testified to the success of the attack.

Fire-red cloud bore testimony to the success of Tuesday night's attack by Halifaxes on bomb-battered Essen.

"One spot in the clouds, which completely covered the target was very red and there was a full glow around that," reported F/L K. W. Fowler, rear gunner from Stratford, Ont.

TEMPESTS HIT OUT AT NAZIS

Flying with seven other RAF Tempests who tangled with a force of Me109s, F/O Dave Ness, Sudbury, Ont., destroyed one of a total of three enemy planes shot down.

The Tempests were five miles south of the Rhine when they saw four Me's slightly below them. Not far away they saw four more, and further still another four and a pair.

As four of the Tempests went down to attack the first enemy planes sighted, the remaining four held themselves ready to deal with any interference from the nearby groups of Me's. But these showed no inclination for battle and left the scene at top speed.

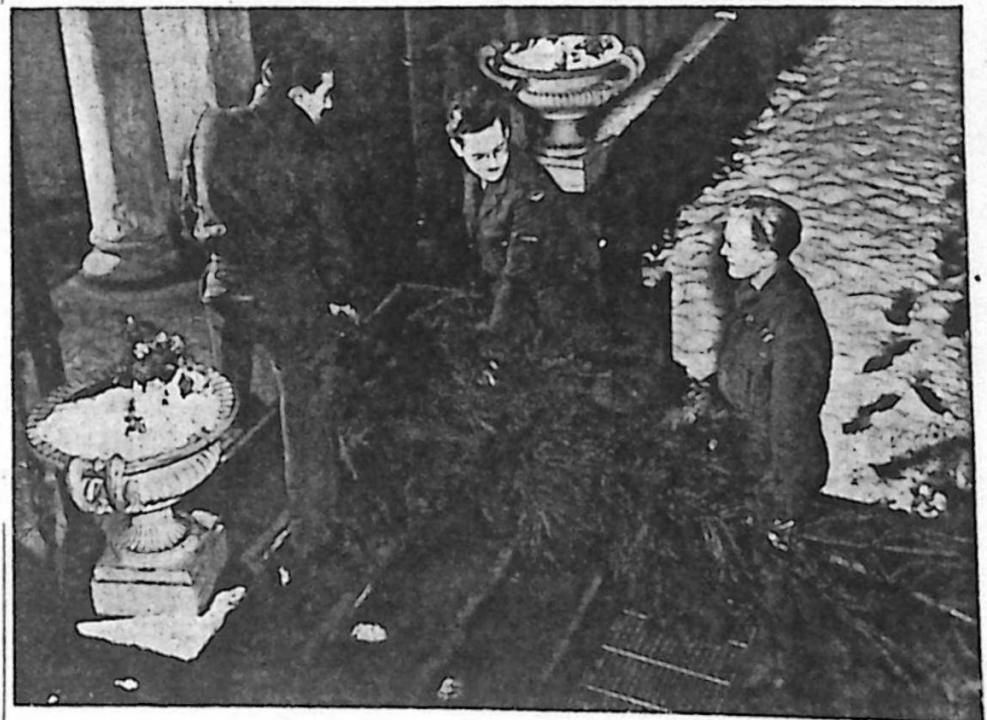
"As the Me's approached us I could not make out what they were," Ness said. "Then I called out, '109s.' We went down on them. I picked a straggler, got on his tail as he was diving to the deck and weaving like mad in an attempt to make a get away. I got a burst on him, saw him go straight down and blow up in the air."

Ness then made for another 109, but he only fired three rounds before running out of ammo. He was going so fast he overshot his quarry.

BOSS NAVIGATOR

Rising from the rank of sergeant to squadron leader in less than 12 months, G. M. Ewan, DFC, Esquimaux, B.C., has been appointed navigation officer at the station commanded by G/C J. B. Milward, DFC and Bar, in the RCAF Bomber Group.

LUGGIN' IN THE LOG



With snow on the ground, Christmas at th's Canadian YMCA club, somewhere in England, is pretty close to the Canadian type. The tree-toters are: Sgt. T. Evans, Toronto; LAC K. Middleton, Toronto; and F/S R. Erickson, Edmonton.

(Official RCAF Photograph)

Canucks Boss Instructors Of Burma Bombing Wing

India.—S/L D. W. Connor, Vancouver, and F/L Jack Mason, Yorkminster, Sask., are chief instructor and 2 i/c respectively, in the bomber wing of an Air Fighting Unit in southern India. The two Canadians' job is the development and dissemination of new techniques in the specialised air warfare of South-eastern Asia.

TEMPEST TURNS TABLES ON NAZI

Belgium.—One of the few Canadians piloting RAF Tempests, F/L J. M. Weston, Toronto, destroyed his first German aircraft, an Me109, recently near Bielefeld airfield.

Nine Me109s were spotted by the Tempests after the latter had destroyed three Ju88s on the ground.

"We were climbing to rendezvous 5,000 feet two or three miles south of the airdrome when these 109s attacked us," said Weston. "One of them got on my tail. I couldn't turn because he was firing at me before I realised what was happening."

"I spiralled down to deck and opened up full bore, drawing away from him easily. He gave up and I turned around to get back into the scrap. There was nobody else around but him so I gave him a two-second burst and saw him blow up. The pilot baled out and the kite crashed into a field."

Coastal Joe

Connor joined the RCAF at the start of the war, did two years as an instructor in Canada, then was posted to a Coastal squadron in the West Indies. That was early in 1942, when German U-boats were operating almost at will in the Caribbean and along the United States coastline.

Later he went to a Liberator squadron in India and took part in the first attacks on Palembang and other Japanese strongholds in Sumatra. At the time, these were the longest raids of the war, involving more than 2,000 miles of over-water flying.

Eastern Veteran

Mason's operational experience has been gained entirely in the Burma theatre, where he flew Beau fighters when the Japanese threat of invading India was at its most serious. Posted to the AFTU a year ago, he has become a heavy-bomber enthusiast and dreams now of piloting a B-29 Super-Fortress, or the newer B-32s against the Jap homeland.

"Our job is a combination of experiment and study, instruction and missionary work," says Connor. "First we have to keep abreast of advancements at home—new bomb sights, improved gun turrets, new air tactics. We try them out, and if necessary adapt them to meet climatic conditions, or to counter the difference between German and Japanese tactics. The fruit of this study we pass on to the students. Then, as often as possible, we visit operational squadrons and give them sales talks on what we're trying to do for them."

NO SWIMMING



F/O Doug McPhail, Vancouver, ponders the fine points of this sign on the Madras water front. It is apparently much more effective than the simple "no swimming" notice on the creek back home. In case you're interested the sign is also printed in Urdu and Tamil. (Official RCAF Photograph.)



A bitter fight that lasted most of the way back from the target at Essen was recently experienced by five Canadian airmen, part of a Halifax crew. Soon after they had bombed the rear-gunner, F/S C. E. Essex, Montreal, saw a Me110 about 800 yards off. As it came in for the attack Essex opened fire, hitting the starboard wing.

Almost at the same time a cannon shell from the fighter burst under the bomber's rear turret, putting it out of action. The starboard flaps and ailerons were also damaged. The pilot, F/L E. E. Huribert, Fort Saskatchewan, Alta., dived to escape, but the fighter followed and with another burst shot off the Halifax's port elevator and rudder.

There was a cloud nearby, but before Huribert could get into it the Messerschmitt attacked again, this time setting one of the petrol tanks on fire. The mid-upper gunner, Sgt. W. R. Dobson, Ninga, Man., did his best to beat the fighter off. "In the third attack," he said, "I fired several bursts, and I am sure that I hit the wing pretty hard."

On the first trip made by F/O J. C. G. Howie, Winnipeg air-bomber, a long jaunt to Koenigsburg, deep in Prussia, searchlights coned his RAF Lano over the target. They were too low to get out of the glare by ordinary evasive tactics, so streams of flak poured past them. The skipper ordered the gunners to fire on the lights, so they shot down into the beam and it went out.

What the crews of the big bombers might call a rough trip was recently experienced by F/L J. D. Morison, Ponoka, Alta., pilot, who has since been screened from further operations. The attack was on the railway yards at Trappes, and just after the bombs were away a German night-fighter burst in on his Halifax.

The bomber's gunners opened fire and drove off the enemy, but four minutes later another night-fighter attacked from below. German cannon shell and machine-gun bullets smashed through the nose. In spite of the damage, Morison brought the aircraft safely back to an emergency landing base in England.

Flak barrages and enemy fighters are things of the past for P/O William A. Guthrie, Winnipeg bomb-aimer, who was recently screened on completion of a tour. Veteran of a Middle East tour, F/O E. W. Dorsey, Hamilton, Ont., is now well into his second tour as the rear-gunner of a Halifax bomber crew based in England.

Screened from active operations several months ago, F/O J. A. Coles, Hanley, Sask., is now instructing air-gunners on RAF squadrons scattered over a large section of England. Coles spends five days on each station putting tyro gunners through exercises in Halifax bombers on which a friendly fighter aircraft simulates attacks which might sometime be the real thing over a German target.

Bomb-aimer with a Halifax crew, F/O Lyle Kemp, Creston, B.C., has a high regard for his Mae West. They were over Bochum and flak was being hose-piped from the enemy ground defences. Kemp was flat on his stomach in the nose of the bomber. When the target was squarely lined up he pushed the bomb release.

And then things began to happen to the Hally. She was caught in a burst of flak and jagged steel fragments poured into the kite. One piece smashed through the bomber's nose and into the Mae West he was wearing. Instead of performing him, the steel lodged in the batteries carried in a side pocket of the lifebelt.

When F/O G. A. Lavigne, Ottawa pilot, and F/O A. C. Whitson, Prince Albert, Sask., air-bomber, ditched 10 miles off shore in the English Channel, they were picked up within 20 minutes by a Lake Ontario freighter returning from Normandy. "It was good to see a Canadian vessel so far from home, particularly in our position," said Whitson.

Veteran of almost 40 bombing missions, F/L C. S. Bryson, Ormstown, Que., pilot, was recently screened from further operations. Included in his many trips were 12 to major German targets, Bottrop, Gelsenkirchen, Kiel, Sterkrade and Duisburg being among them. Best trip of his career was one to Venlo.

Natives Greet Canadians After Bengal Bay Swim

India.—Bailing out of his damaged Beau fighter over the Bay of Bengal, F/O Robert Reikie, navigator, Edmonton, swam to an island where wide-eyed natives welcomed him as a celebrity and immediately wanted to name one of the islands of their group after him.

The natives thought that the island which should bear his name was the one on which his aircraft crashed after he and his Scottish pilot took to their parachutes. Reikie weighed the offer and then modestly declined. However, the natives accepted his suggestion that they call it Kito Island.

After bailing out Reikie and his pilot swam for three hours through waters where shark traffic is said to be heavy. "A flying fish made me panic once," he said. "I thought for a minute that I had seen the fin of a shark."

They reached the island and found their crashed aircraft. It was the next morning that native Bengalis arrived in a fishing boat. The pilot decided to stay by the wrecked Beau to await possible rescue by air, while Reikie set out on what proved a four-day triumphal tour of the Sunderbans in search of a telephone or telegraph.

As he travelled from settlement to settlement on the islands in the vast jungle silt-land at the mouth of the Ganges, word of his presence spread far and wide. Persons from miles around who seldom see a white man, flocked around to gaze at him. He was received with considerable ceremony by the head men of several villages. Once the natives asked him to sing to them, and though not a singer he relates, "I had to try, so I gave them 'Old Man River.'"

On the second day of his trip he found a telegraph station, got a message away, and then learned his pilot had been picked up by another aircraft. Two days later he reached a rail point and was able to get back to his outfit.

During the siege of Imphal he and his pilot shot down a Jap army bomber one night over the Chindwin river after chasing it from over the Imphal valley. His squadron had played a big part in the defence of Calcutta when the Japs were bombing it in 1942.

Bomber Group HQ

"Under the B-12, etc.," has been heard ringing out loud and clear every Wednesday night as Canada's indoor pastime, Bingo, has captivated the attentions of personnel. With the wolverine from the Sergeants' mess leading the pack in search of "O Henry's" or cigarettes, "Y" supervisor Ron Hupfield has been doing the number calling, back on the beam after a short illness bout in the hospital.

Apparently a rumor to the effect that the swimming pool was frozen killed the swimming enthusiasts' pep. Not one name appeared on Tuesday's list. Roller Skating however stepped into the breach like a true champion and drew a strong turnout. A recent overhauling on the rollers has given the skaters the old confidence, and the hospital staff have been able to relax without an injury being reported.

The basketball team came through with flying colors when they rolled up with a 27-15 victory after only six men turned out. F/O Harry Lewis LACs Webster and Davies and Cpl. Bill Cathness played without a rest.

Wedding Bells rang so merrily as LAW Eileen Court became Mrs. D. A. McLaren when Air Vice Marshal C. M. McEwen giving the bride away. Eileen pounds a teleprinter and will soon be able to give a few friendly tips to her co-worker, LAW June Johnson who is also awaiting the chimes.

TOUR ENDS

A flight commander with the Bluenose squadron, S/L George Nickerson, Kenora, Ont., has recently been screened from further operations on completion of his first tour.



INDIGESTION? -no thank you!

Two Moorland Tablets are all you need in order to enjoy your meals without fear of gastric trouble.

Read what the soldier writes to us—

"I have suffered from Gastritis for years and on joining the Forces I had to enter hospital for treatment and diet. On discharge the trouble recurred, but I was recommended to try Moorland Tablets. I can safely say I am now much better than I have been for ages, thanks to 'Moorlands'."

(Signed) Cpl. H.E. R.A.O.C.

Moorland Indigestion Tablets are the best method of warding off indigestion. If you feel stomach pains coming on simply take two Moorlands—that's all. They are as pleasant to eat as sweets. They bring instant relief from indigestion, biliousness, dyspepsia, flatulence, acidity, heartburn, palpitation, gastric catarrh, etc. Sold at all Chemists, 1/5d., also in 8 1/2 packets (incl. tax).



KEEP YOUR TAIL UP!

TEA REVIVES YOU

Service and Auxiliary Personnel can obtain Coloured Copies of the above and similar pictures free for pin-up purposes Apply to "Wings Abroad," RCAF Overseas H.Q., London

Maybe — not a SPARKLING WHITE Xmas -but we wish you a happy one. Remember SPARKLING WHITE teeth are yours with the aid of KOLYNOS

CONTEMPORARY CHARACTERS... by MUFF

"FOR VALOUR"

Canadians Star as Amateur St. Nicks

WIDS PLAY SANTATO LONDON TOTS AT BIG PARTY

Here it is Christmas 1944; for some Canadian airwomen this will be their third Christmas spent in Britain.

There isn't snow to remind one of happy Yuletide seasons in Canada, and there won't be sleigh bells "dashing through the snow." Windows won't be brightened by myriads of colored lights and streets will not be lined with fresh spiced pine trees. There won't be tinsel and coloured decorations will be sparse. Yet, in the hearts of the WIDs separated from their loved ones at the one time in the whole year when families gather together around the home fireplace the spirit of Christmas burns strong.

Forgetting their own loneliness these Canadian women are remembering Britain's children—and her sixth Christmas at war. They have planned and worked and saved in order that Santa Claus will not miss at least some of his charges on these islands.

Sixty toddlers, ranging from two to five years of age, from two of London's day nurseries, will be the guests at a party arranged by a number of "WIDs" of the RCAF. A collection of money was made and a toy purchased for each child. Wooden horses, dolls, games, stuffed cuddly animals and puzzles will each wear a tag bearing the name of one of the tiny guests, and Santa Claus will distribute these gifts from a big Christmas tree, ingeniously decorated with whatever paper is available. And for 30 babies too small to attend, a gift will be taken to each. Sandwiches, animal cookies, ice cream and milk, contributed by the K of C, will be served by a number of the airwomen who are members of the WD sports and entertainment committee. And there will be music and singing.

On a smaller scale, a group of about a dozen airwomen, some of whom did "Cub" work back in Canada, are treating some English Cubs to a pantomime, "Peter Pan," and then to a little party at one of the girl's flats. And there will be other such get-togethers to gladden the hearts of the children whose country these Canadian women have grown to love.

At one of the bases in the Canadian Bomber Group, the airmen and airwomen have planned a party for orphans who live nearby them. They have organized a concert party and have performed at both RCAF units and outside points. All proceeds will help make Christmas just a little happier for the orphans. Each WD is taking a toy which she has either made or bought.

Numerous invitations have been extended the WIDs by British folk themselves and by various organizations. Many airwomen will spend Christmas Day—and indeed some the entire week-end—with British families. Others will be cooking their own dinners, with special friends as guests for the day. Christmas morning will find them, wherever they happen to be, opening their boxes from friends and relatives in Canada.

To every man and woman in air force blue, scattered over the width and breadth of the world, from Canadian airwomen serving in Britain to-day goes warmest Season's Greetings together with a prayer that 1945 will bring us victory, and with that victory, peace and reunion with loved ones.



WIDs at RCAF Headquarters assembled a huge number of gifts for London's children. Working on this particular pile are Cpl. D. Jenkins, Windsor; Cpl. Kay Starchuk, Vancouver; LAW Anne Harrison, Toronto; Flt/O DI Cameron, London, Ont.; LAW Kay Hubak, Chapman Camp, B.C.; LAW Evelyn Grace, North Cobalt, Ont.



S/L Ian M. Fraser, Willowdale, Toronto, made a spelling set for his 2 1/2-year-old daughter. He is CO of a meteorological unit in Iceland, spent 12 years in Canada before returning to Britain to join the RAF.

SQUADRON LADS MAKE PLAYTHINGS FOR YOUNGSTERS

During working hours the armorers' section of the RCAF Tiger squadron sling high explosive bombs into the bellies of four-engined Halifaxes and make sure that the machine guns in the turrets are functioning properly. In their spare time they're making Christmas toys for children of a war-time nursery in Rochdale, Yorkshire.

Fathers of the children are nearly all away in the armed services. The mothers are working in war factories.

LAC L. A. Roberts, Ormstown, Que., an armorer of the squadron, was visiting friends in Rochdale when he learned of the difficulty mothers were having in finding toys, which are both scarce and expensive. He returned to his squadron and got his entire section interested in making toys for the nursery, where the ages of the kiddies range from one to five years.

LAC P. P. Wilkinson, Cumberland, B.C., proposed and all agreed that a week's candy ration from each member of the section be presented with the toys.

The plan has been in operation for some weeks, and dozens of brightly-painted toys have been completed and ready for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve.

Sgt. C. G. Russell, Windsor, Ont., is in charge of the section. Others working on this effort are LACs Sam Kirshenbaum, Toronto, George Brown, Weston, Ont., Larry Lawrence, Vancouver, Eric Barkley, Easton's Corners, Ont., B. J. Leavell, Calgary, C. T. Moyer, Dutton, Ont., Howard Norman, Brant, Ont., and Ron Humes, Moncton; Cpls H.M. Smith, Toronto, and Ernie Krauss, Lemberg, Sask.

BC PRISONERS SEND GREETING

With thoughts of their homes in the west coast province, have written to the POW office at British Columbia House expressing their thanks for services and their hopes that they will be home soon.

W/O R. G. Findlow, Trail, B.C., has written from Stalag Luft III saying he was anxiously awaiting the arrival of fags, for, due to moving camps, the supply had run short.

He also says: "Would appreciate any books on all methods of welding if you think they will get here before we are back there. All mail is very slow to us."

F/S W. J. Clarke, Vancouver, writing from Stalag VIII B, praised the work being done through the B.C. POW office. "You have no idea what a great name British Columbia has here with the boys from the other provinces, and I believe they enjoy the news letters just as much as the B.C. boys." He also says: "Many thanks for the news letters and cigarettes."



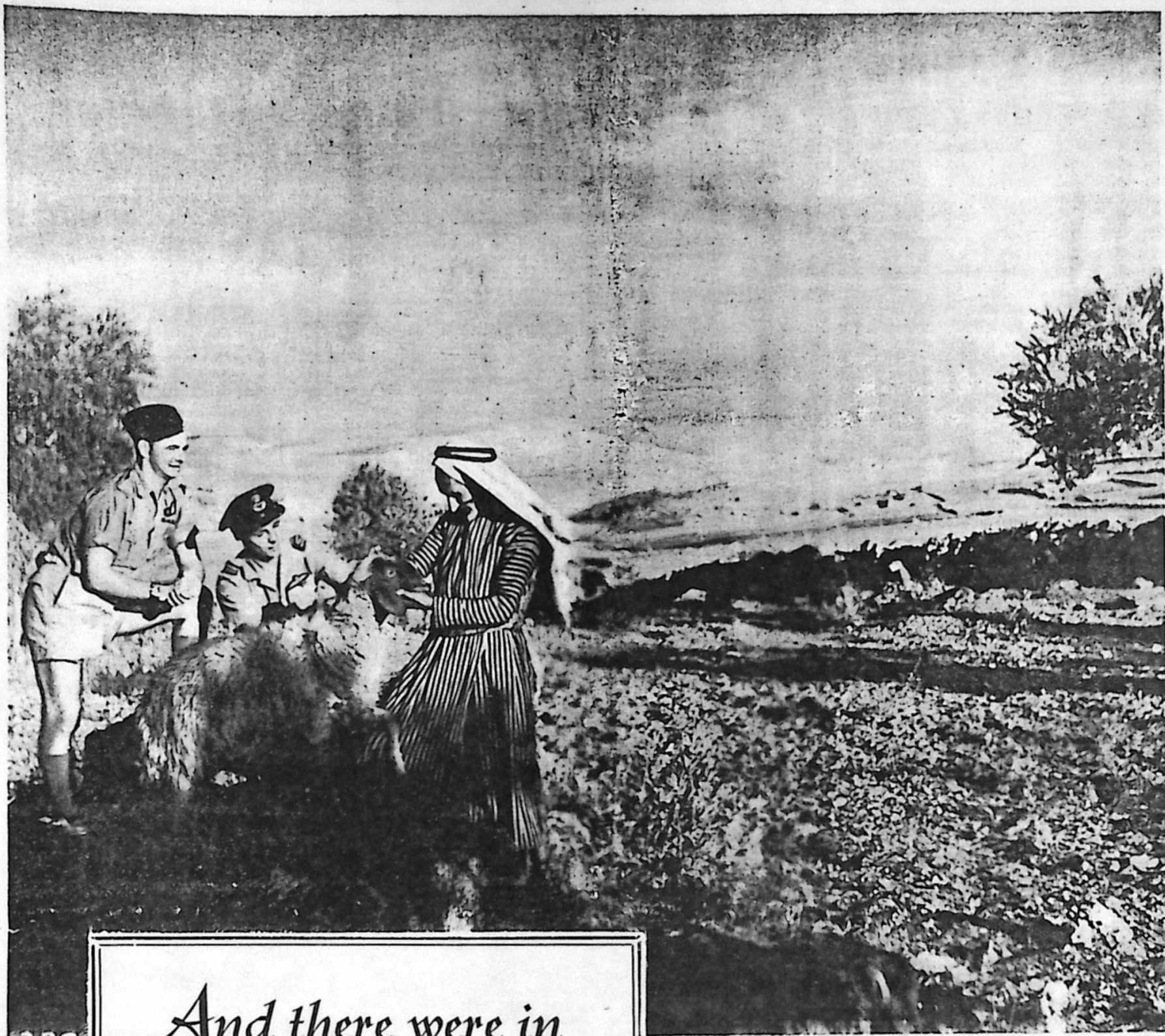
The finishing touches are being applied to a scale model of a Canadian Lancaster by Cpl. Ross Gropp, Milverton, Ont. The kite is going to his three-year-old son Barry as a Christmas present. The corp is a fireman with an RCAF bomber squadron. Ross makes these models in his spare time from salvaged materials. Any Canadian youngster would like to have one of the corporal's life-like Lancs, hanging on his Christmas tree come Monday morning. Looks like young Barry will be skipper on plenty of bombing missions across the street.



The Santa Claus helpers above are (left to right) LAC Sam Kirshenbaum, Toronto; LAC George Brown, Toronto; LAC L. A. Roberts, instigator of the toy scheme, Ormstown, Que.; LAC Howard Norman, Brant, Ont.; LAC Eric Barkley, Easton's Corners, Ont.; LAC P. P. Wilkinson, Cumberland, B.C.; LAC C. T. Moyer, Dutton, Ont.; LAC Ron Humes, Moncton, N.B.; and LAC Larry Lawrence, Vancouver.



Decorations are the main problem for LAW Ruth Vogler, Bridgewater, N.S., and Detroit, Mich.; LAWs Mary Bockewick, Winnipeg, Evelyn Grace, North Cobalt, Ont., and Sophie Bockewick, Winnipeg. The girls worked hard to make the Overseas Headquarters party for a group of London children a success.



With the RCAF in the Holy Land

*And there were in
the same country
shepherds abiding
in the field,
keeping watch over
their flock . . .*

- Luke 2:8 -

**WINGS
ABROAD**
Christmas 1944

OUR WISH

For five years past, as the snows of Canada have fallen in the still night that precludes the great day in the Christian calendar, the climax of the year, Canada's sons and daughters have been absent. The torrential downpour of tropical Africa has been their snow, the dry monsoon of southern Asia their frost, the raw fog of England their clear, crisp sky.

These wanderers with a purpose are spending yet another Yuletide far from home, another ersatz Christmas; a substitute in spite of those amongst whom we find ourselves. Have not our hosts opened their hearts and their homes to us, shared their little with us and, as they got more, shared more? They have done everything to make our festive season real, our stay in their land happy. Except where duty keeps him at his post, every Canadian can have a warm fireside and a full stomach Christmas day.

But Christmas is more than a plump bird, a tankard of good ale and the pungence of fine Havana. It is an affair of the heart. That much we have learned in our travels. It matters not where the airman may be next Monday, in a cheery English home, on the flooded flats of Holland, on the sands of the desert, his spirit will flash across the seas, faster and surer than all your winged galleons, and spend its Christmas where the snow is white and the pines are green.

So, Canadian airman, hang your heart on a Christmas tree, in a teeming eastern city, on the open prairie, beyond the Rockies. We of "Wings Abroad" wish every happiness to you and your spirit on this Christmas of 1944 and hope that next year you can also hang your hat in the hall.

PHOTO FANTASY

Erk Plays Santa Rôle

"St Nicholas came from Spain" to a Mobile Field Photographic Section in Holland when RAF and RCAF personnel entertained 120 Dutch children at a Christmas party. Donning a flowing red cloak and bishop's mitre, and carrying the golden staff of St. Nicholas, LAC T. L. Schutema, Pearce, Alta., Canadian born of Dutch parentage, spoke to the youngsters in Dutch and gave gifts, chocolate bars and gum.

Spanish Nick

According to Dutch legend, St. Nicholas, a Spanish bishop, comes from Spain on a ship be-decked with flags. When in Holland he rides through the countryside on a white horse and delivers presents to the good children. He is accompanied by a Negro slave, called "Swarte Piet," whose sharp eyes are on the look-out for bad children to put in his black bag.

LAC Arthur Epstein, Calgary, Alta., made an excellent "Swarte Piet." Wearing a feathered beret, brown velvet jersey and trousers, he strutted among the young guests and received due respect by waving a menacing baton. In place of the traditional black bag he carried an open RAF white kit bag.

LAC J. R. Perry, P.E.I., displayed his culinary art with lemonade and jam tarts. They were for children only, to the great dismay of the many hosts. There was an agreeable hubbub when the guests scrambled for white bread sandwiches, considered a delicacy in comparison

with the local ration of heavy brown bread.

Following Santa's visit and the eats, the children were entertained with colored movies, including an "Aladdin and His Lamp" short and other stories of fantasy.

Music was supplied by a local orchestra, directed by Mary Heuts at the piano. Christmas songs like "St. Nicholas Comes Here on a Steamer from Spain" and "See the Moon Is Shining Through the Trees" were included.

As each little guest left, he or she received a souvenir photograph designed by Cpl. Frank Juzak, Winnipeg. It depicted Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands and King George VI at the top, and a Christmas tree and a small Dutch boy in clogs shaking hands with an Allied airman were shown on the lower portion.

F/L J. R. T. Richardson, London, Eng., directed the party and program, assisted by F/S Douglas Baker, Toronto.

Christmas Messages

AOC-IN-C RCAF OVERSEAS



Air Marshal L. S. Breadner, CB, DSC.

"My greetings and good wishes go to all members of the Royal Canadian Air Force Overseas on this sixth Christmas of the war. May you have a happy Christmas and be heartened with the thought that Victory is not far away and that this New Year may find you re-united with your kin in Canada. Good luck and happiness to all in the coming year."

L. S. BREADNER, Air Marshal, AOC-in-C RCAF Overseas.

"At this season, our thoughts turn to Christmas and hopes of victory in the New Year. I extend to all members of the Royal Canadian Air Force Overseas my sincere wish that you may enjoy a Very Happy Christmas and a victorious New Year."

N. R. ANDERSON, Air Vice-Marshal, Dep. AOC-in-C RCAF Overseas.

"I am pleased to be able to send through WINGS ABROAD my heartfelt Christmas greeting to men and women of the RCAF, wherever they may be scattered in the far-flung theatres of war.

"This will be the sixth Christmas away from home for many of you. It will be the first overseas for others.

"You can all, men in the air, men and women on the ground, take cheer in the knowledge that the splendid achievements of the RCAF, in which you have shared, will ensure happier Christmases in the future.

"At home we all pray that the next Christmas will find you by your own hearth. Our wish to you for this year is a Happy Christmas, Good Luck, and may God take care of you."

ANGUS MACDONALD, Acting Minister of National Defence for Air.

"WINGS ABROAD, with its wide circulation to men and women serving in the RCAF all over the world, affords me this opportunity to send you all on behalf of RCAF Bomber Group, Christmas Greetings and best wishes.

"To those of you who have finished your operational tours and are now enjoying a well-earned rest and to other former Group personnel who have been posted elsewhere or repatriated, I particularly desire at this time to send a personal message of good cheer from your many friends in the Group.

"At this time of year, our thoughts are naturally with our homes and our old friends, but you may rest assured that we do not forget for a moment our main task in which you have played and are now playing such an important part. May its successful completion bring about a happier Christmas for us all next year."

C. M. McEWEN, Air Vice-Marshal, AOC RCAF Bomber Group.

A Wee Message To Wish

All Our Friends In The R.C.A.F.

A Happy Christmas

The Gift Shop
Edinburgh.

Up 7 Steps.

Chief Padres Send Wishes To RCAF Personnel Abroad

Christmas has again returned. Unfortunately, the bright hopes held by some that the Christmas of 1944 would see the surcease of war's tragedy in Europe have not been fulfilled. Hence, once more there is no peace; this Holy season; ruin and starvation and death still stalk the earth on the anniversary of the Saviour's birth—a grim reminder to nations and statesmen that man is a morally responsible person and that peace is the fruit of justice.

Despite the horrors of war, however, indeed in some measure because of them, this Christmas as others of happier days will present a vision of beauty and grandeur to the hearts of Christians and will fill their souls with Joy and Hope and Peace.

The Manger, the Christ-Child, Mary the Mother, the Shepherds, the Angelic Message, the Wise Men, all these will again bring courage and refreshment to a sad, weary and parched world, which despite its infidelities still seeks, if gropingly, for truth and beauty and good.

Christmas then is not just a season of the year, not just a commercial opportunity. It is a vision of the real. At no time in the history of the world is it more necessary to stress this truth than at present. Christmas is the anniversary of a great fact—the birth of the Son of God. It is a happy reminder, too, of Divine love and mercy.—"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." It is a perpetual resuscitation of eternal hope in the human heart for lasting peace, for on that day there came the Divine promise: "Peace on earth to men of goodwill."

That you, dear men and women of the RCAF Overseas, may enjoy in full measure the real vision of Christmas and may share in the happiness and peace emanating therefrom, is my sincere prayer and wish. May 1945 be filled with all good things for each of you and Victory for all of us.

W. V. McCARTHY, G/C, Senior R.C. Chaplain, RCAF Overseas.

There is a great longing in the hearts of many this Christmas—longing for HOME. Christmas is the festival when we are accustomed to foregather with our families, and never before in history has there been a time when so many are separated from those they love.

Mall mags are bulging with letters, telegraph offices are deluged with messages, because we want those at home to know that we are thinking of them and praying that we may be worthy of their love and their trust.

There is a great longing in our hearts for PEACE. The whole world is war weary. We want no armistice or patched-up peace; we are grimly resolved not to fall nor falter; we will continue to play our part until the victory is won; but in our hearts, particularly at this season, there is a wistful yearning for the coming of the day when the bells of peace will peal forth their joyous message.

There is also—though we may not all realize it—a great longing in our hearts for GOD. The prelude to the angels' song of peace and goodwill was the ascription of "glory to God in the highest." So it must always be. The establishment of a lasting peace and the security of our homes and all we hold dear will ultimately depend upon whether or not we seek God's Kingdom and try to do His will. My wish for all who read these words is that they may in the deepest and truest sense enjoy a Merry Christmas. May they know that unshakable gaiety of spirit which belongs to those who put their trust in God and in the triumph of His love.

G. O. LIGHTBOURN, G/C, Senior Protestant Chaplain, RCAF Overseas.

HAMILTONIANS SEND PARCELS TO TIGER

Citizens of Hamilton, Ont., have assured a happy Christmas for men of the Tiger squadron of RCAF Bomber Group, W/C C. Marshall, Kingston, Ont., Tiger CO, has received word that the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the squadron, are sending 500 individual parcels.

Already 250 of them have arrived, ready for distribution at Christmas. They contain just about everything an airman wants, from peanuts and hot chocolate powder to a tin of boneless chicken. Rough figuring puts the cost of the parcels and postage at about \$1500. In addition there is the work involved in packing each parcel separately.

2,000TH SORTIE

The recent attack by the Iroquois squadron against railway yards at Hagen in the Ruhr, was the 2,000th sortie for the RAF stations were present. A unit. Taking part in this trip number of WD personnel were was F/O Roy Harrison, Vancouver, making the last flight of his tour.

Nos Aviateurs de Hollande Organisent La Fete de Noel

Pour nous, en Grande-Bretagne, les préparatifs de Noel ont été assez complets. Rien n'a été négligé pour en faire une véritable fête, et la manifestation de l'esprit de Noel, si symbolique, ressemblera à celle des années passées. Mais que penser de nos confrères qui doivent passer ce Noel en Hollande?

Nous avons cru qu'un message de notre correspondant là-bas, le lieutenant de section Charles Miville-Deschênes, pourrait nous faire comprendre leur situation, et réfléchir sur la nôtre.

"Avec le mois de décembre, dit-il, surgit dans l'âme des aviateurs canadiens stationnés en Hollande le tableau pittoresque de la Noël. Il est humain et bien normal qu'ils évoquent les Noels d'antan et qu'ils éprouvent un peu de mélancolie à songer que cette année leur nuit de Noël aura pour décor les longues pistes désertes et les baraquements sommaires des bases aériennes. Plusieurs d'entre eux seront outremers pour la cinquième fois à Noël. Ceux-là sont endurcis et appréhendent un peu moins ces impressions de lourdeur et d'amertume que la distance et l'absence suscitent dans leur âme. C'est le premier Noël outremers qui est le plus angoissant car les souvenirs du foyer et du pays remontent encore trop aisément à la surface.

"Ici en Hollande, c'est le 5 décembre la Noël. Comme au Canada, les Hollandais ont échangé des cadeaux à cette date, en se réservant ensuite le 25 pour la partie religieuse de la fête. Le Père Noël est donc venu le 5 pour les petits Hollandais. Hélas de nouveau cette année, il n'était pas riche le pauvre vieux à barbe blanche: les boutiques étaient vides, et tout était rare. Je connais plusieurs Canadiens qui ont partagé leurs paquets de Noël avec les familles pour éclairer un peu l'atmosphère, et faire des heureux.

"Ici, à une base aérienne, on avait décidé d'organiser une fête pour ce jour là. Le padre René Michaud consentit à incarner le Père Noël et tout un programme de réjouissances enfantines fut préparé. Des centaines d'enfants battirent des mains: cette délicatesse des alliés leur fit peut-être oublier les faces grimaçantes des Boches, les derniers Noël d'occupation allemande.

"Et pour la nuit du 25, c'est dans la grande hutte des aviateurs que se dérouleront les réjouissances. Déjà on a construit un grand foyer, comme ces foyers massifs de chez nous, bâtis de pierres des champs, avec de longs traits de ciment et des chenets attachants. Ils ne pendront pas leurs bas à la cheminée ces grands gaillards, mais ils feront groupe autour du feu. Et pendant que les flammes lécheront les bûches et que la leur rougira les figures sympathiques, la vision du 'home' hantera tous les cœurs.

"Et même s'ils seront tentés de se plonger et de se replonger dans la rêverie, nos aviateurs seront gais car ils songeront que sans doute l'an prochain à pareille date ils seront récompensés de leur fermeté d'âme et de leur généreuse contribution à la victoire. Ils se souviendront alors de leurs messes de minuit, et du réveillon au front, dans ce pays de Hollande qu'ils avaient adopté et qu'ils avaient réjoui de leur jeunesse et de leur courage."

Ainsi se termine le message du correspondant. On peut dire que son message d'optimisme s'étend à tous les aviateurs canadiens outremers: et c'est là le souhait de la rédaction en vous répétant la formule traditionnelle: JOYEUX NOEL! BONNE ET HEUREUSE ANNEE!!



Christmas Greetings

GOOD WISHES-GOOD LUCK AND A SAFE RETURN TO ALL OUR FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

Cuticura SOAP · OINTMENT · TALCUM

"Ici et La"

Le sergent de section Roger Vienneau, un mitrailleur de l'escadrille Leaside, a été promu ces jours-ci au grade d'officier-pilote. Originaire de Campbellton Nouveau-Brunswick, Vienneau a effectué un bon nombre d'opérations avec cette escadrille du Groupe de Bombardement canadien.

On apprend cette semaine que le lieutenant de section Joffre Gravel, de Gravelbourg, Sask., un médecin de l'aviation canadienne, a été affecté à un hôpital du Groupe de Bombardement canadien. Le docteur Gravel, pendant plus d'un an, a fait partie des services médicaux aux escadrilles de chasse du CARC.

Mlle. Esmée Labrecque de Québec, garde-malade dans le Corps d'aviation, est arrivée en Angleterre depuis quelques jours; elle est maintenant stationnée à l'hôpital d'une base aérienne en Angleterre.

Le sous-lieutenant d'aviation J. F. Miller, du Lac Mégantic, qui sert dans l'aviation canadienne depuis le mois de février 1941, a accompli un premier tour d'opérations avec une escadrille de la RAF, et vient de compléter un deuxième tour avec l'escadrille canadienne des Hiboux Blancs.

Nos félicitations à ces trois pilotes de l'escadrille "Alouette" qui se sont distingués au cours de leurs missions en territoire ennemi, maintenant complétées, et dont on annonçait dernièrement l'octroi de la DFC immédiate: ce sont les sous-lieutenants d'aviation Jacques Terroux, de Montréal, Pierre Haché de Petit Rocher, N.B., et Jacques Côté de Joliette.

Le lieutenant de section Paul Brunelle, second en commandement de l'escadrille de reconnaissance "Sarula" sur le continent, a été forcé d'abandonner son appareil dernièrement au cours d'une envolée où il allait observer les mouvements de l'ennemi dans un secteur de la zone Siegfried.

Frappé par la DCA, le Spitfire de Brunelle prit feu: il se dirigea rapidement vers les positions alliées, et fut quelque difficulté à ouvrir sa carlingue, si bien qu'il n'était qu'à deux mille pieds de la terre lorsqu'il sauta. Il atterrit dans un bois de Hollande à faible distance de l'ennemi, mais un jeep américain vint vite le secourir.

Le lieutenant d'aviation Eddie Bérault, qui a enregistré comme bombardier-pointeur 18 sorties avec l'escadrille des Hiboux Blancs est une figure bien connue dans le monde des sports: dans le domaine de la boxe il remporta en 1936 le titre de champion de la ville de Montréal pour sa catégorie, et se rendait en semi-finale pour le tournoi d'essai des Jeux Olympiques.



BEAVER BASE

Cupid Prangs Chiefie

Dan Cupid has been working overtime in these parts. Latest victim to his wiles is F/S George Waters, base orderly room maestro, who recently walked up the middle aisle in a Liverpool church with WAAF Sgt. Connie Paul. The happy couple are honeymooning in Scotland.

Promotions

Now sporting two rings is Johnnie Weibe, ex-adonis of the sergeants' mess, who has assumed the duties of Thunderbird bombing leader. Also recently promoted is S/L J. Tomis, two-year expired AG gen man, who is the new base bombing leader.

The past week has seen several of the base old-timers pack up their effects and depart for greener fields. Heading the procession was F/S Chuck Addison, formerly doyen of the base orderly room, who is now definitely a group HQ type. Also leaving us is W/O Tubby Reid, equipment accounts pundit who will soon be paying the boys in across the channel. His departure was the occasion of quite a celebration in the base station sergeants' mess.

Another veteran leaving our happy circle is F/S Joe Smart, Sudbury's gift to the accounts section. Our loss is London's gain, as Sgt. Ronnie Joel leaves to operate at Overseas HQ. Members of the local poker fraternity will sorely miss him. New arrival on the base is Winco F. R. Sharp, Trenton, Ont. He succeeds W/C Jack Easton as chief of the Goosemen.

The base station MT section is a veritable centre of spit and polish these days, now that the boss, F/L Phil Lapp, is sporting two rings.

Newest graduate of the local commando course is F/O Dave Dougall. "I'm glad we won," he gasped the other morning as he limped into the office after a hard week's square bashing.

With the approach of the Yuletide season, base and station orderly rooms are assuming the appearance of menageries as wild personnel acquire teddy bears, elephants, etc. The toys were manufactured or purchased by the girls, ostensibly for the local orphans, but they seem to be enjoying them in the mean time.

The base adj. F/L Strathdee was shocked one day to enter the office and see Cpl. "Red" Cameron hugging a huge purple elephant. "If it had been pink I would have known the score," he commented.

—Sgt. R. J. Gunn.

Pay Table Crumbs

Weddings take the top spot in this week's bevy of news. Cpl. Helen Townley recently became the wife of LAC Fraser at a ceremony that took place in Putney. The couple are both from Ontario. Completing the bridal party were Cpl. "Dot" Sim, Toronto, and LAC C. Fraser, Cornwall, Ont.

A week later, Cpl. Sally Brooker tied the knot with W/C Hugh Dyer, DFC, Manitoba. Again, Putney was the scene and the two Vancouver witnesses were Cpl. "Terry" Vannier and F/L S. Swinerton. The third contract was signed between LAW Ethel Baldwin and Cpl. Jack Wright, both from Ontario. The marriage took place at St. Jude's, Gloucester Road. LAW Edith Findlay, of CR, and Cpl. "Muscles" Cox were the attendants.

Included among those who left recently are W/O Max Webster, Ontario, Sgt. Lyle Humeston, Saskatchewan, both of officers' pay, F/L and Mrs. D. Treleven, Cpl. Black and Cpl. Timothy Peter Doyle. Top-notch of the backroom boys, Jack MacLean has recently received his W/O.

—Tee-Vee.

NIGHTFIGHTER CORNER

Repats for Nightmen

The Nighthawk squadron veterans of Maintenance Lane have been going around with an Arctic stare in their eyes—seems they are suffering from repatriation fever. For the past few weeks, Scotty Thompson, Dave Wilkin, Roy Weeks, Frank Williamson and many other seasoned vets have been wearing out shoe leather running back and forth to the orderly room, in quest of the latest gen on their repats.

All Ready

Williams has had his entire kit packed for over a week and refuses to unpack. Weeks is busy dismantling a Jerry Tiger tank, which he plans on driving down the streets of Toronto.

Cougar squadron armorer, LAC George Stephens, Alliston, Ont., is one of the happiest erks in the outfit. He loaded Lt. A. A. Harrington's cannons the night the Yank skipper bagged three Ju88s. Stephens has armed Harrington's Messie for every one of his seven kills.

Nighthawk cagers moved into the win column this week by downing a local team 35-22, with Nicholas pacing the win with 16 points. Crowder, Stewart and Harwood netted two baskets each.

The champs of Northern France still held their own by a 50-41 margin. Nicholas, Stewart, Crowder, Williams, Heaney and Pierce all scored, with Stewart sinking five baskets and three foul shots. Nicholas followed with 11 points. In both games Sorenson, Pitts, Dougan and Phillips showed top form in their defensive spots.

It's Cpl. Jim Wilson, Vancouver, now—he put up the pair last week. Charlie Smith has a prosperous little business these days, cutting down the furniture on Jerry Mausers. Does a mighty slick job too!

Newly-hooked Nighthawks include Cpls. Tommy Phillips, Lloyd Young, Jack Connelly, Lou Reed and Sgt. Splett.

The first eight airmen of the Cougar squadron to be affected by the three years' overseas repatriation plan have left for England en route to Canada. First of those who will soon be home are Sgt. S. M. Edwards, Toronto, who will be followed by his English wife from Forest Gate, London; Sgt. C. V. Owens, Drumheller, Alta.; Cpl. R. Erskine, Canfield, Ont.; Cpl. R. H. Lannigan, Montreal; Cpl. D. McDonald, Rockwood, Ont., who has an English wife from Bradford, York; Cpl. C. R. Nash, Winnipeg; Cpl. H. R. Patience, Bethune, Sask.; Sgt. F. A. Roegren, Rocanville, Sask.

One member of the Nighthawk squadron, LAC George Moore Millet, Alta., will lead the repats from that unit.

NEW NIGHT MEN

France.—A new nightfighter team is joining the Nighthawk squadron here. They are F/O E. E. Hermanson, Buchanan, Sask., pilot, and F/L Doug. Hamm, Lunenburg, N.S.

Odds 'n' Ends

from G/C McGregor's Airfield

Holland.—Highest-scoring Spitfire wing since D-Day, this Canadian unit also is the most-travelled, its present location somewhere in Holland being the 10th Continental stop along the route from Normandy.

The competition element between squadrons which helps keep the McGregor-Russell Canadian Spitfire wing as hot as it is, even has a domestic side.

With sturdy wooden buildings in place of tents at their new location, squadrons are vying for top honors in the matter of smart-appearing billets and dispersal quarters.

"Our pilots' billet doesn't look exactly like the Royal York lobby as yet," said F/O George Glover, of Toronto, adjutant of the Ram squadron, "but the place has been just as busy the last couple of nights with guys busting around moving and hanging things here and there."

Flight commander in the newly adopted City of New Westminster Spitfire squadron, F/L Stan McLarty, DFC, of Winnipeg and Calgary, has finished his first operational tour. He has started on leave and a term of ground duty in England, and possibly Canada.

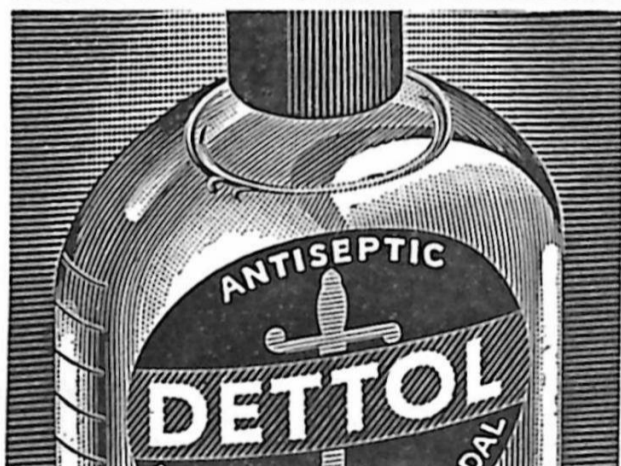
Credited with four destroyed German aircraft, McLarty also has shot up an impressive total of road and rail transport. His successor is F/L Norm Keene, DFC, of Vancouver.

To be home in Toronto for his wedding anniversary late in January is the hope of F/O Bernard Eskow, veteran member of the Grizzly Bear squadron, who has just completed his first operational tour. Joining the squadron in England last winter, Eskow has served continuously throughout the invasion and advanced from Normandy, through France and Belgium into Holland.



HIS SHOES HAD THEIR NUGGET
this morning!
THE SHINE for EXTRA SMARTNESS

IN BLACK BROWN & DARKER BROWN
SUPREME for QUALITY



Here is an antiseptic several times stronger germicidally than pure carbolic acid, and yet non-poisonous and safe. You could use it in the dark. To the germs that cause and spread infection 'Dettol' is deadly: a swift and ruthless killer. But to the delicate tissues which the germs invade 'Dettol' is kind and gentle and safe. Ask at the drug-store for 'Dettol' and use it promptly to prevent infection.

OVALTINE

for Energy and Endurance

DELICIOUS "Ovaltine" has definite advantages as a restorative and revitalising food beverage. It presents the nourishment derived from Nature's best foods in a concentrated and easily digestible form.

The special properties of "Ovaltine" provide nutriment for body, brain and nerves, and help to build up adequate reserves of energy and reinforce the powers of endurance. For these reasons it should be your regular daily beverage. Make "Ovaltine" your bedtime beverage, too. On the advice of their Squadron Medical Officer many pilots are now drinking "Ovaltine" on retiring to promote restful, restorative sleep.



Prices in Gt. Britain and N. Ireland, 1/4, 2/4 and 4/- per tin.

NAAFI— AT YOUR SERVICE

Here are but a few of the many ways in which NAAFI serves the RCAF

- NAAFI provides RCAF units with a wide range of commodities for service messing.
- NAAFI canteens serve Canadian units and airmen attached to British units.
- NAAFI supplies all kinds of canteen goods for units without a NAAFI or a Canadian Philanthropic canteen. (10 per cent. discount is allowed for unit funds on all such purchases.)
- NAAFI clubs in Britain and overseas offer many amenities for Canadian Forces.
- NAAFI mobile canteens serve remote or scattered units.

NAVY, ARMY AND AIR FORCE INSTITUTES
Ruxley Towers, Claygate, Esher, Surrey

NO ZONING

KLEEN BLADES are being sent all over Britain. The supply is only a fraction of the demand, but our Wholesale customers still get their fair share.

Because the quality remains high the demand is still increasing. But they are obtainable—and they're worth looking for.



24 THE PEOPLES BLADE Through Wholesale Trade only W. R. SWANN & CO. LTD. SHEFFIELD

NAVIGATOR

(Continued from page 3.)

attention. He took off from this field and reached England safely.

P/O Cochrane was midupper in an aircraft on a mine-laying mission. Leaving the target, his aircraft was damaged by a burst from a fighter which killed the rear gunner and severed the aileron controls so that no evasive action could be taken. Coolly he held his fire until the fighter came into very close range and then with a well-placed burst he shot it down.

F/L McClarty is credited with destruction of three enemy planes in air fighting and effective attacks on many mechanical vehicles and several locomotives.

F/L Galipeau had completed a successful attack on an enemy sub base in the face of heavy ack-ack and was leaving the target when one starboard engine failed. Shortly after, the other starboard engine also failed and it appeared the crew would have to ditch. By skilful work it was possible to restart one of the motors and Galipeau got his aircraft back for a safe landing.

Hard Work

F/L Veronneau maintained control of his bomber after it had been badly damaged over Bonn. He headed for home after making his attack while the flight engineer, F/O Frederick Harry Burdett, RAF, worked in vain for 1 1/2 hours to clear the rudder control, which had jammed. Burdett then gave assistance to the pilot by working on the aileron controls and throttles and a safe landing was made.

CHRISTMAS DINNERS



Drumsticks on the hoof get the once-over from P/O N. Nalmick, Winnipeg, and Santa Claus. The birds are stationed near an RCAF Bomber unit. The lad "making like" the old man with the beard is F/S Pat Lassardo, Toronto. (Official RCAF Photograph.)

YANKEE TEMPEST PILOT BAGS TWO

Holland.—Of the 11 German aircraft destroyed by RAF Tempests during the week-end, two fell to the guns of F/L David Fairbanks, Ithaca, N.Y., a member of the RCAF.

The panic of the Hun flyers, despite the fact that more than 200 Luftwaffe machines were in the air, was borne out by Fairbanks, who said: "One of the Nazis gave up even before I fired. I was rolling on my back to get a line on him when, the next thing I knew, his hood was off and the pilot came out like a rocket. The kite crashed in flames."

TIGER HOWLS

Gifts From Tiger City

Rumor has it that our CO, W/C Marshall, will be calling a Christmas Eve muster parade with all personnel bringing their largest stocking. Reason, the Winco will be acting the role of that popular gent, Santa Claus, on behalf of our foster parents the Chamber of Commerce of Hamilton, Ont. A bumper supply of parcels is now reposing in F/L Dick Howard's office and everybody naturally is HAPPY.

The many new faces that have been welcomed to the squadron in recent weeks have been proving that these new Tigers are giving solid signs of being worthy successors of the old guard that helped to build the squadron to its high standing.

Among the old faithfuls who have been receiving sincere farewells are F/Ss Bateman and Campbell, Sgts. Morgan, Reive Lemieux, Cpls. Morrison and Brown and that indomitable corporal of "C" flight, Chin McNeill. BEM, and LACs Pete Wilkinson, BEM, and

"Shorty" Lawrence. All the aforementioned have weathered tea, Woodbines and bitter for more than three years before returning home according to plan.

The station's dramatic society recently presented E. Lynn Williams' play "Night Must Fall". Fine efforts were turned in by LACW Barbara Ellison, Valerie Langford and LAC John Martyn-Baxter. Discussion groups have been attracting popular attendance. Recent topics included Germany and Post-War Years, Political Parties of Canada.

Radio Mechs SOUTH WALES MU

There are undoubtedly some of our friends who have been wondering what the Canadian radio mechs in this section have been doing. After a long absence from Wings Abroad we are back again with news and views.

To start things off: Cpls. MacInnis and Wood have just returned from the Big City. Wood says he spent a nice quiet leave, but MacInnis tells us nothing. However, when he came back he made enough noise to wake up the whole billet.

LAC Love is still preaching the gospel of systems. Incidentally of late he has been very careful to look into the mirror before coming in the room after an evening out. Back in camp for a short stay is Bud De Vito.

With Christmas close at hand we are endeavouring to make sure of one hilarious evening; and under the able command of Cpl. Clearhill a big party is looming on the horizon. One thing is certain, there will be no dearth of the where-with-all. The boys have been making use of their connections and have been stacking up for some time now.

LAC Irvine's bicycle has been having a well-earned rest during the past week, but it is expected that he will be trill-blazing again very soon.

Cpl. Frazer is still pounding the perimeter. However, he manages to have sandwiches during break time, while wicket-minded men have to put up with bricklayer's doubtless Cpl. Yoffin went through the vows about a month ago and already has that married look about him.

Repatriation papers have been the main topic of conversation around here for the past week. In all, nine of the fellows have received theirs and are looking forward to the return trip.

Well, that seems to be about all for now, except to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all from the Canadians at South Wales MU.

—Cpl. E. F. Guy.

RESCUE CHIEF

It has been announced that F/L W. B. Coucill, Montreal, has taken over the duties of ASF officer at the station commanded by G/C J. B. Milward, DFC and Bar, in the RCAF Bomber Group.

The long-awaited "Car-Mobile" has finally blossomed forth as F/Os Brady and Bieber managed to get Cpl. Przanaski's touch into repairing the generator. The two popular gunners raced down to the "Hang Over Inn" and broke the happy news to the armorers.

F/O Red Walker is now sporting a well-earned DFC. Seems he wasn't contented with just dropping his bomb-load on enemy territory; he practically left half his plane there. Nevertheless he manoeuvred his well-drilled kite back to base. An immediate DFC has also been awarded to F/O J. L. King, who brought down his flak-blasted kite safe and sound after ordering his crew to bale out.

FILM LOG

"THE MERRY MONAHANS" (Leicester Square Theatre)

The Donald O'Connor-Peggy Ryan team are at it again, with Jack Oakie thrown in for good measure. This youngster combination shows a marked improvement with each new vehicle, losing some of their slap-stick and growing up to the extent that O'Connor almost sings the wedding bells. Oakie gives just the final touch that is needed to carry you back to the "good old Vaudeville" days when the audience joined in the singing of "In My Merry Oldsmobile."

A newcomer to Universal studios, Ann Blyth, is a made-over Deanna Durbin, singing as nicely as she looks. And that's good. Rosemary De Camp's acting will remind you of the hats she wears. And that's bad. Gavin Muir, who took part in the last riot the kids let loose, showed up well in his bit part and is deserving of something even better.

"DREAMING" (Empire)

Anything can happen in a dream, but when that dream is fashioned in the mind of Bud Flanagan things really get mixed up.

Flanagan always takes Ches Allen along with him on his imaginary escapades, which makes it all the crazier. Of course, the situations lead the boys into several songs and they give out in the true Flanagan-Alan style. The supporting cast takes a back seat to this pair, but Hazel Court and Dick Francis find their way appropriately into Flanagan's different predicaments. It is just light entertainment.

Headquarters

HQ cagers burst forth with an overwhelming 84-18 blasting of DA and AP to highlight last week's two basketball contests. APA Team 1 turned in a last-quarter 22-16 win over APA Team 2 in a riotous contest which saw 21 personal fouls handed out.

F/L McKibbin and Cpl. Jack Marks sparked in the Headquarters troupe. McKibbin racked up a terrific 34 point effort while Marks broke out in a typical Hank Luisetti scoring rash to net 30 points. S/L Jackson was the backbone of the winners' defence and totalled a neat 18 points to boot.

F/L Hayward and LAC Dorsey were the sparkplugs for the APA Team 1's win over their blood-brothers. The keenness with which the two teams fought was witnessed by the elaborate distribution of bodily contact fouls. LAC Roblin was the losers' top man.

The entertainment side of Headquarters found the Knightsbridge Dart Club holding its dance at the Harroddian Club with a good-sized turnout of jive-hounds.

CONTEMPORARY CHARACTERS... by "MUTT"

BENITO the BRAVE

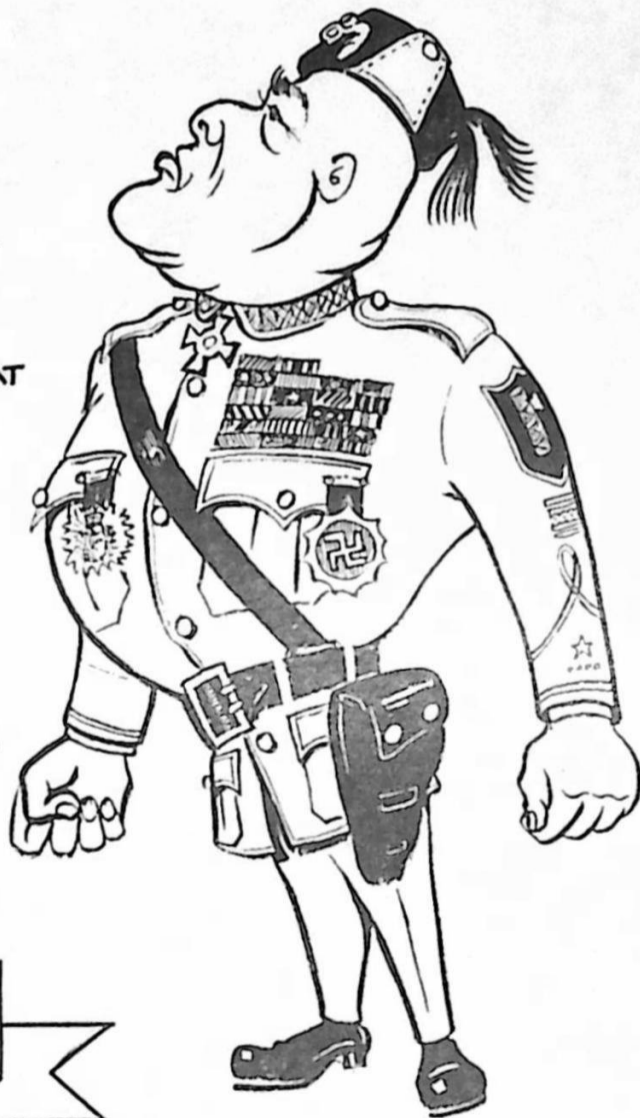
HE STUCK OUT HIS CHEST AT SELASSIE,

SHOWED MONTY HIS "BEST" AT BENGHAZI,

BRAVE AND STRONG - OLD MUSSO WAS,

'TIL HIS FACISTS FOUND A BETTER CAUSE

AND STRUNG HIM UP BY THE HEELS IN VIA STRAZZI!



I'LL DUCE!

But, of course... THE GREATEST XMAS SHOW OF ALL IS AT THE EMPIRE!

MAGIC and ROMANCE straight from old Baghdad... COLOURS more varied than the rainbow's—more mellow than a Persian carpet's... BEAUTIES (unlimited)... ACTING as perfect as only Colman and Dietrich, and the great supporting cast, could supply.

RONALD COLMAN MARLENE DIETRICH



"KISMET"

— IN TECHNICOLOR — EDWARD ARNOLD JAMES CRAIG Hugh Herbert, Joy Ann Page, Florence Bates, Harry Davenport, etc., etc.

EMPIRE - FRIDAY

LEICESTER SQ. * GER 1234 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer