

GROUP STRIKES OVER WEEKEND

MAJOR GERMAN CITIES FEEL BRUNT OF BOMBS

RCAF Bomber Group Hammers Hanover Twice In One Evening; Flak Moderate During Shuttle Attack

RAIL, INDUSTRIAL CENTRE STRUCK

Two major German cities, Hanover and Munich, and the railway and industrial centre of Hanau near Frankfurt, were targets of heavy blows struck by RCAF Bomber Group and Canadians flying with RCAF Bomber Group and Canadians flying with RAF Bomber Command squadrons in three week-end blows.

Hanover was twice a target in the same night, as RCAF Bomber Group sent a force of Halifaxes over the city at 7.30 in the evening and followed it up with a Lancaster attack several hours later. Only four squadrons of the Group accompanied RAF heavies in the major assault against Munich Sunday night.

FRIDAY

Group went to Hanover twice to open the week-end crescendo. Although heavy cloud obscured the target, crews bombed on markers and the bombing appeared well concentrated.

"We left it a checkerboard of flames and debris," said F/L Art R. E. Clark, RCAF, Moose squadron pilot from Kentville, N.B., who was finishing the last trip of his second tour. Two other Mar timers in his crew also finished their second. They were F/O Danny McNeill, St. Margaret's Village, N.B., and F/O M. K. Campbell, Glace Bay, N.S., rear-gunner.

Crews of the Lancasters last to attack claim that fires could be seen for over 100 miles and the terrific glow was reflected on the underside of the heavy cloud. Flak was moderate, but many fighter flares were seen by crews.

Several combats with fighters took place, and one enemy fighter was seen going down in flames. Airmen taking part in the attack include W/O R. E. Clark, Buffalo, N.Y.; F/O F. M. Ages, Ottawa; F/O Gilles Simard, Quebec City; F/L A. C. Davies, Mount Royal, Que.; F/O W. H. K. MacDonald, Vancouver.

SATURDAY

The RCAF Group swelled RAF squadrons going to Hanau to attack the rail and industrial area. Many Canadians flew in the RAF units.

"Many fighter flares took strange forms," according to F/O Andy Rughala, Blairmore, Alta., Iroquois squadron pilot. "One burst just ahead of us and was obviously intended to resemble a pathfinder plane being shot down. All kinds of target-indicating flares cascaded down as well as showers of other fireworks."

SUNDAY

Four squadrons of RCAF Bomber Group joined fleets of RAF Lancasters bombing Munich. The four units were the Moose, Ghost, Iroquois and Bluenose squadrons.

Postal-Folk Here Do Fast Job on Christmas Mail

Christmas mail from home broke all existing records, W/C D. C. Kerr, chief of the RCAF postal operations overseas announced this week. Every item sent from Canada before the holiday deadline found its way to the men in every theater before December 25.

More than 1,500,000 articles were received at the depot and re-routed to the airmen serving in United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Africa, India and Burma, and remote outposts.

Here is the breakdown of the staggering total:—665,881 ordin-

McBURNIE IN SENIOR POST

Ottawa Air Commodore Takes Over From Fauquier

Air Commodore R. E. McBurnie, Ottawa, has been appointed senior air staff officer of RCAF Bomber Group HQ succeeding Air Commodore J. E. Fauquier, DSO and Bar, DFC Ottawa, who leaves for a new and important post.

Fauquier won the title "King of the Pathfinders," given by the British press for the key part he played in effecting the terrific concentration of the bombing of the Ruhr Valley, Berlin and other major enemy targets.

Member of the permanent force since 1927 after three years with the auxiliary, McBurnie was attending RAF Staff College in Britain at the outbreak of war. After filling important posts in Canada, he returned to Britain as a group captain to take command of a heavy "con" unit. Prior to his recent appointment, he commanded an operational base from which Canadian-built Lancs fly.

G/C ANNIS LEAVES FOR STAFF COURSE

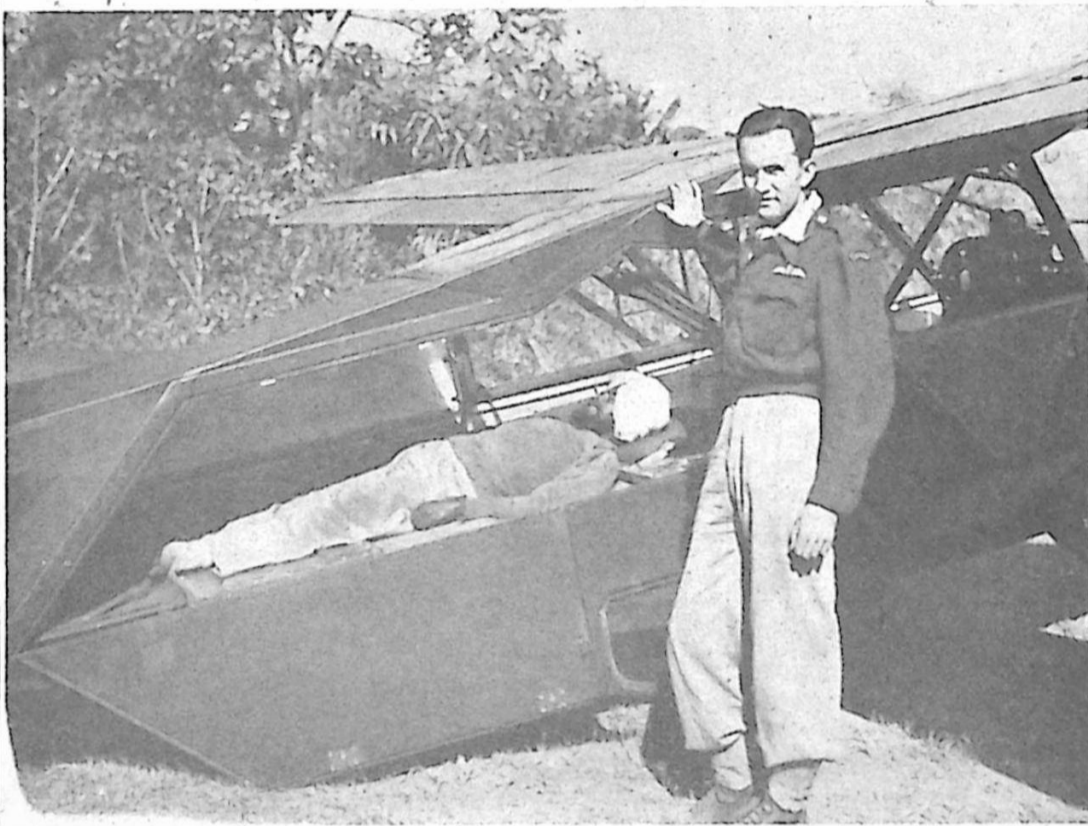
Popular commanding officer of the station here, the Goose and Thunderbird squadrons, G/C L. L. Annis, OBE, Highland Creek, Ont., takes leave of his command to embark on a War Staff College course.

A permanent force officer with nine years' service, G/C Annis has served in Canadian Bomber Group since Good Friday of last year. Previous to that he served a long period in Newfoundland

ary letters, 368,708 blue letters, 170,358 ordinary parcels, 108,224 tobacco parcels, 50,175 news items, 18,825 airgraphs, 18,682 pieces of registered mail, 17,027 cables and 6,470 airmail items.

Another contributing factor towards the speedy delivery was that every letter was sent by air. The perennial quota of broken and badly-wrapped parcels was kept down to a minimum which made everyone happy all around. Personnel are reminded again that any perishable goods, bottled fruits and lighter fluids or other inflammable goods are definitely taboo for obvious reasons.

FLYING STRETCHER



An obliging Sikh rigger plays patient in a Stinson Sentinel flown by W/C Joe Edwards, Regina, to clear casualties of the 14th Army from small jungle clearings in Burma.

(Official RCAF Photograph.)

RCAF Heavies Increase Bomb Total Sevenfold

Canadian Group Drops Tonnage in Excess Of Luftwaffe's London Sum

Canadian Bomber Group dropped more than 85,500 tons of bombs on enemy targets in 1944—increasing the tonnage dropped in the first year of its operation almost sevenfold.

Born simultaneously with 1943, the Group was one of the strongest units in Bomber Command when 1944 dawned. In August, it led RAF Bomber Command with the largest number of heavy bomber sorties flown. Aircraft of the Group made 3,700 sorties, and dropped more than 13,000 tons of bombs, more than the Luftwaffe dropped in London.

It continued to lead Bomber Command for the largest number of aircraft dispatched in a 24-hour period until October when a RAF Group took the honors.

Group personnel flew approximately 150,000 operational hours three times the 1943 total, equivalent to nearly 19 years flying time. Throughout the year there was constant improvement in equipment, and many squadrons were converted to newer Halifax types and Canadian-built Lancs.

Ground crews established an enviable record for serviceability of aircraft.

FIORD ATTACK BLASTS BOAT

P/O F. J. Kaufman, Odessa Sask., saw numerous rockets smash below the waterline into a medium-sized enemy merchantman, when RAF Coastal Command Mosquitos caught the enemy completely by surprise in an attack on two vessels sheltering in Flekker Fiord on the Norwegian coast recently.

Kaufman, who was piloting one of the Mossies, said, "The big fellow was billowing out bags of smoke even in the short time we were attacking. They put up fairly intense light flak but only the shore positions were still firing after the first wave of our Mosquitos had gone in. I could see rockets and cannon, including my own, smash into the largest merchantman just below the waterline. It was really a good beat up."

MOSSIE BAGS LANDING HUN

Cruising over a Hun airfield at about 1,500 feet P/O Walter Kirkwood, DFC, Edmonton Mosquito pilot with the City of Saskatoon Lynx squadron and his navigator, P/O Neill Mathe-son, DFC, recently polished off a German plane on the ground.

"The Hun had just turned his lights on and off after landing," explained Kirkwood. "We were cruising at about 1,500 feet and went right after him. He turned off the end of the runway when we hit him with a couple of short bursts. He blew up when we were roaring over about 50 feet off the deck."

Searchlights went on and guns started firing but the Mosquito clipped out neatly. It was the 11th kill for Kirkwood.

On beach-head patrols after D-Day, Kirkwood and Matheson got three German aircraft.

Earlier Kirkwood, with F/C Bill Ward, Toronto, as navigator chopped down a Ju188.

TAF TYPES WRITE OFF TWO 109s

Two Canadian pilots "wrote off" two Me109s which were seen south of Osnabruck recently. They are F/O Dave Ness, Sudbury and F/L "Buck" Ryan Toronto, who fly with an RAF Tempest wing of 2nd TAF.

F/O Ness made a head-on attack on his and then did a turn that brought him around on the 109's tail. The Hun went on to his back and jettisoned his hood. "As I whipped by," said Ness, "I could see him leaning over trying to climb out of the cockpit."

The German pilot baled out and landed on the roof of a house, where Ness took a camera shot of him. The other Luftwaffe flier also baled out following the Canadian's attack.

EXPENDABLE

Belgium—One thing there's no black market in around here is shoelaces. The market is glutted with at least two pairs arriving in every parcel, and there isn't an erk or officer who hasn't at least enough to hang himself.

There are reports around the Wolf Squadron and the other units of the same wing that one guy with a practical, if sceptical, eye on the future is quietly buying up the surplus at rock-bottom prices. He's doing his own post-war planning.

TWO-TOUR VETERAN

On his way home after two tours as a pilot of heavy bombers with the RAF and RCAF, F/L L. J. Kennedy, DFC Portage La Prairie, Man., is now at an RCAF Repair depot.

New Fighter Star Boosts His Total of Hun Planes

F/L Dick Audet, the 22-year-old Lethbridge, Alta., Spitfire pilot who broke into world prominence December 29 by shooting down five German aircraft during one dogfight, continued his sure-firing pace last Friday over Germany, destroying one FW190 and sharing a second with a squadron mate.

His, together with his first big five and a twin killing negotiated on New Year's Day brought his total to 81 within exactly one week.

His 11 Friday was a share of six Huns, all FW190s, destroyed by the Gizzly Bear squadron in a mid-afternoon scrap with seven Germans just north-east of Hengelo. One of the aircraft was a Me109.

Other marksmen were F/O MacGraham, Dutton, Ont., with two; F/L J. J. Boyle, Toronto; F/L H. D. Carr, Saskatoon, one. On a subsequent show by the Caribou squadron, F/L M. Johnson, Selkirk, Man., probably destroyed a Me109, while F/L R. C. Smith, Ancaster, Ont., damaged a FW190.

The day's abbreviated flying session also was productive of one outstanding smash of German rail transport by the Canadian wing. Five locomotives were disabled and upwards of 10 freight cars damaged. F/O J. J. W. Lalonde, Cornwall, Ont., figured pro-

GROUND NCOs WHACK Me109

Fitter, Armorer Send Strafing Nazi To Earth

Holland.—Two NCOs destroyed an Me109 with fire from Bren guns while the Hun was strafing runways of an airfield here from which RCAF Typhoons fly.

The sharpshooters are Sgt. Richard Large, Pleasant Dale, Sask., senior fitter with the City of Montreal squadron, and F/S Charles J. Magee, County Durham, senior armament NCO.

"The Hun was so close I saw our strikes march along the fuselage," Sgt. Large said. "He just dropped into the deck."

"We fired about half a length or a length ahead of him as he was doing a turn," F/S Magee added. "I could see bits of the cowling fly off. We could see right into the cockpit. He couldn't have been more than 125 yards away from us."

Magee is a veteran of fighting in the Far East and was in France at the beginning of the war.

ROBOT CHAMP RAISES TOTAL

W/C Russell Bannock, DFC and Bar, Edmonton and Toronto, CO of the RCAF Lynx squadron, recently added one Heinkel 111 destroyed and one Ju88 damaged to his bag, which now reads nine aircraft destroyed and two damaged.

He attacked the Heinkel 111 from as low as about 1,000 feet above a German airfield and the Heinkel exploded in the air. This was Bannock's first kill since assuming control of the RCAF City of Saskatoon night intruder squadron.

The damaged Ju88 was taxiing around the perimeter track. Many strikes were seen, but the aircraft did not catch fire.

Bannock, who was top Canadian in the destruction of robot bombs with a score of 181, is former CO of the City of Edmonton squadron.

The winco's navigator is F/L C. J. Kirkpatrick, DFC, Saskatoon.



F/L Richard J. Audet.

minently in the attack carried out in the Rheine-Munster-Osnabruck area.



F/L P. J. VanBeek, 31, Montreal, who joined the RCAF in September, 1939, has completed a tour of ops as mid-upper gunner with a Lancaster squadron and also finished a gunnery leader's course.

On Sgt. W. H. Moody's first op, an attack on the Dortmund-Ems canal, a four-inch chunk of flak pierced the tail plane three feet from his bomber tail turret.

F/S J. B. McCrae, of Guelph, Ont., a cousin of Col. J. McCrae, writer of the last war poem "In Flanders Fields," flies as wireless operator with a Lanc squadron.

F/O J. H. Johnston, Nashwaaksis, N.B., shook off two nightfighter attacks on his Lanc bomber over Heilbronn without a shot being fired on either side.

With three feet shot off his port aileron, F/L G. N. Kilgour, Shawville, Que., 21-year-old Lanc pilot, flew his craft back from Koenigsberg.

W/O J. D. Smith, Moose Jaw, Sask., who has completed more than 25 trips against the enemy, now regards a chunk of flak taken from his leg as a good luck charm.

CASUALTIES
KILLED IN ACTION.
F/S H. F. Anderson, Vancouver; P/O C. Axford, Hamilton; F/O I. Kirshner, Vancouver; F/O C. P. Payne, Toronto; W/O D. C. T. Jones, Edmonton; P/O M. J. C. H. Leduc, Beauharnois, Que.; P/O M. E. Millar, Leithbride.

FLIERS LEARN PSYCHOLOGY
Psychology classes are really taking hold on one of RCAF Bomber Group's major stations. And if enrolment increases, G/C Clare Annis, OBE, the commanding officer and one of the pupils, has stated he will have the lectures broadcast over the public address system to all corners of the station.

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UNIT CO PRAISES ERKS' FAST JOB
Holland.—Praise for ground crew members of his Canadian Ram Spitfire squadron was extended recently by the CO when his unit was scrambled suddenly against enemy fighters.



The Wids shown above look almost happy enough to have received the dolls for Christmas. But they didn't. The babies wound up on a tree for 150 wards of the Port of Hull's Society for Sailor Orphans.

COMMISSIONED

Air Bombers.—C. W. Anderson, Edmonton; R. Armstrong, Winnipeg; W. L. Baker, Ridgeway, Ont.; M. G. Brittain, West St. John, N.B.; F. M. Brown, London, Ont.; J. F. Burke, Erieau, Ont.; J. G. Charlier, Montreal; W. E. Corbett, Montreal; R. P. Eason, Keene, Ont.; A. Feldman, Norwalk, Conn.; Hollenbeck, Edmonton; J. MacIntyre, Toronto; S. J. Maloney, Sudbury, Ont.; R. L. McInnes, Regina, Sask.; K. E. Mills, Smith Falls, Ont.; R. W. D. Murphy, Halifax, N.S.; A. M. Murray, New Glasgow, N.S.; G. G. Niles, R. H. Rose, Victoria, B.C.; F. A. Scott, Frumont, Sask.; J. E. Scott, Durban, Man.; H. Smith, Marquette, Man.; R. E. Stabford, Pasadena, Calif.; R. T. Steele, Rothessay, N.B.; L. E. Toder, Ft. William, Ont.; A. W. Trimble, Norwood, Man.; K. R. West, Carleton Place, Ont.; P. C. Vaskel, Buchanan, Sask.

HOLIDAY SMILES

FLIGHT LEADER GETS BAR TO DFC IN AWARDS LIST

Daring Attacks on Hun Ships Earn Decoration; Fourteen Other RCAF Fliers Included
Daring attacks against enemy shipping earned the Bar to the DFC for S/L John Aldridge Reynolds, Winnipeg, flight commander with a New Zealand squadron, according to the latest list of awards announced in the London Gazette.

ELECTION OFFICER MEETS RELATIVES

Honorary F/L Phil Danis, Edmonton, an official for the Alberta government, didn't get lonesome on his trip overseas to serve as returning officer for the armed services vote in the provincial election.

ARMY WELCOMES UNKNOWN GUEST

Holland.—Officers and men of a British field unit were midway through their Christmas dinner when a parachutist was spotted. The soldiers left their dinners, grabbed pistols, and hurried to a nearby spot where they found the man suspended a few inches above ground.

UNIT CO PRAISES ERKS' FAST JOB

Holland.—Praise for ground crew members of his Canadian Ram Spitfire squadron was extended recently by the CO when his unit was scrambled suddenly against enemy fighters.

"Ici et La"

De passage à Londres cette semaine le lieutenant d'aviation Maurice Lefebvre de Montréal se rendait au quartier-général avec son ami le lieutenant Yves Vilandré de l'artillerie canadienne.

Le navigateur Maurice Lefebvre a été affecté à une unité anglaise chargée d'un travail spécial de coopération avec l'armée: son poste demande une compétence exceptionnelle pour un travail de précision: la navigation des appareils de transport de parachutistes exige l'arrivée à la cible à une seconde déterminée.

Le lieutenant d'aviation Richard Barri des Trois Rivières, un pilote arrivé outremer au mois d'août l'an dernier, a été affecté d'abord à un poste de pilote des avions préposés au transport des forces aéroportées.

Une dépêche des Indes nous apprend que le sous-officier breveté Rosalre Belvet de Montréal a été promu au grade d'officier-pilote. Fils de monsieur Joseph Belvet, ce pilote canadien-français effectue ses opérations avec la Royal Air Force dans ce commandement de l'Extrême-Orient.

Le jeune pilote c.-f. Richard Audet, dont "Wings Abroad" parlait la semaine dernière, est le nouveau héros de l'aviation canadienne. Après huit appareils tués, il a tué trois avions ennemis, deux Messerschmitt dans la même journée, ce jeune lieutenant de section sa classe d'embellie parmi les as de l'aviation allée.

Quelques notes biographiques sur Richard Audet: né en mars 1922; enrôlé à Calgary le 26 août '41; officier-pilote avec ailes le 23 octobre '42 à Uplands; arrivé outremer, décembre '42; 1ère escadrille RCAF en déc. '43, 2ième escadrille en septembre '44. A épousé Mile Iris-Christine Gibbons-Audet à Northampton l'an dernier. En janvier '45, devient le héros incontesté de son escadre, et au-delà...

When you're dog-tired... TEA REVIVES YOU
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BOMBER DOES ESCORT DUTY

Halifax Stays Back to Keep Company With Damaged Kite

Returning from a daylight attack against Munster, P/L E. W. Andrew, D.F.C. Toronto gambled his own chances of getting home safely to remain behind with a crippled British bomber.

Andrew's Halifax had been hit by flak going in to the target, but not badly enough to handicap its flying qualities. Fighter escort had gone back with the main British bomber force, when the Toronto pilot sighted a RAF Halifax in difficulty.

It was holed badly by German ground fire and was laboring along on three motors, losing height and air speed. Andrew's crew, all but one of whom were Canadians, feared it would fall prey to German fighters, so they decided to stay with it to add their gunfire to that of the crippled Halifax, in case of an enemy attack.

Fortunately they met no fighters on the way back, although they were bombarded by flak. Both bombers got back to base 55 minutes late.

MAIL SQUADRON HAS BUSY YEAR

The record of the RCAF overseas-mail squadron for 1944 included the carriage of nearly 2,000,000 pounds of Service men's mail, representing approximately 120,000,000 letters, it is announced.

Flying Fortresses and Dakotas which formed the nucleus of the fleet are being augmented by the latest Liberator model.

F/L MASSEY WOUNDED

It has been announced by RCAF Overseas HQ that F/L Hart Massey, son of the High Commissioner for Canada, Rt. Hon. W. L. Massey, was seriously wounded recently while on duty at an advanced RCAF airfield in the Low Countries.

He is being flown to England to a military hospital. He was commissioned as a pilot officer in the RCAF in October, 1939, and arrived in Britain in September, 1941.

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SPECIAL SERVICE



Serving on isolated radio posts with RAF bomber stations, many Canadians in the UK got service de luxe come Christmas dinner through the work of special service officers. Larry Deebank, former Cornwall, Ont., hockey star and now a Salvation Army supervisor, is shown bringing the victuals to Cpl. A. W. Beattie, Three Hills, Alta., Sgt. R. J. Chisholm, Toronto, and LAC E. N. Yates.

(Official RCAF Photograph.)



INDIA

Burma.—With Japanese troops only four miles away and their base fires clearly seen at night, and our own troops north of Maungdaw 20 miles away, F/L Harold Northover, Hamilton, Ont., and Cpl. Harold McElmore, Winnipeg, with 21 other radio-mechanics lived and worked securely aboard a barge for three months in the most advanced unit on the whole Arakan front.

Life did not always seem secure to the little complement of men though no attack came during their stay. The RAF and the Navy saw to that. But as the monsoon approached, the unique station was withdrawn. The next day, a Jap army bomber flew up and down the island close by which they had been anchored and gave it a pounding.

One night, Northover and several of his men nearly drifted ashore where certain capture awaited them. They fixed the broken feed system of the small power-boat's engine by siphoning petrol from the tank into a can, puncturing the bottom of the can and placing it directly over the carburettor. By the time they had done all this, they were almost aground but managed to get back to the barge undetected.

Northover is 47, probably the laddy of all Canadian radio mechanics. He joined up in the last war at the age of 16, spent most of it in the Royal Canadian Navy. That's one reason why he was chosen to command this advanced radio outpost aboard a 120 foot coal barge.

The barge had no power of its own. Even if it had, a certain amount of seamanship was necessary to handle anchors, kedges, winches and cables. In time, every air force man on the barge became something of a seaman.

Northover was one of the first Canadian radio men in India and was responsible for the installation of many stations in the chain. He was stationed in Bombay and Karachi and the Northwest Frontier as well as Arakan.

McElmore joined the RCAF in 1941 and was a member of the first class of radio mechs at the University of Manitoba. He came overseas in October, 1941. Both are expecting repatriation home.

NORTH ENGLAND

After an absence of weeks we are back again with greetings to all. Most of the lads have survived the Christmas and New Year's "anti-freeze" applications and are back to intensified effort once more. Unfortunately George Maybee and Hugh

WITH THE RADIO MECHS.

McVitty are in sick quarters. F/O Ted Wildgoose, who comes operational from the City of Edmonton squadron, has just been initiated into our inner circle. At the local we discovered that he can sing "Alouette" with feeling.

Other new faces on the unit are LAC Les Plumb, LAC Westgate and Cpl. Reg Lesarge, and LAC Ted Tuori. With regret we announce postings from the originals. Charlie McKinnon has moved down south; "Hank" Tuero is now speaking Dutch; Bud Backhouse is also south; Jock McGougan is now in West Africa; Cpl. Ted Mathew is now eating salami; and our RAF friends, LACs Bob Austin, Arundel and Tom Platt, are in the tea country.

Cpl. Don Smith and RAF Cpl. Andy Anderson have left to take up text books. Cpl. John Walker has returned from the Gen College after a pleasant Christmas. Greetings are sent from this column to the team of Moore-Hepburn-Chisholm-Jolly-McLaren whom we met there a few weeks ago. Seeing that the "Groupie is dropping in on a social call (inspection) tomorrow, we might as well whip out the button stick and polish.

—J. B. Scarelliff, LAC.

AROUND THE BEND

India Types Play Ball

Bombay.—Main purpose of this column is to introduce the first chapter of what is hoped will become a monthly "Pukka Gen Session." The idea is to let you lucky people know something about our way of life in the Far and Mystic East, so that if any of you consider taking the trip you will have a hazy idea of what not to expect.

The selection of an appropriate title was rather difficult. Some thought "One Man's Family" would be suitable, but its significance would only be understood and appreciated by UKBAU and his unit. It was then decided "Around the Bend" be the title as it illustrates so aptly our distorted and sun-stroked state of mind.

For those of us here at BAO, softball and swinging a repat are the chief activities. So far our success lies in softball only. At present the Canadians are leading the league against the Americans. Many of the ex-UKBAU ball players are doing a good job out here in India.

Max Faibish is the elected coach and manager, and under his guidance the brand of baseball has improved. Lloyd Batty and Eddie Hope do the work behind the bat. The arrival of Sid "Hooker" Lang from UK has created a sensation in pitching circles. Jack Peirer, Bill "Red" Hill, Paddy Kent and Elmer Reddeman take care of the infield, while the star fielders are Myron Carr, Ray Falardeau, Gord Ireland, Lloyd MacDonald, Freddie Granger, Les Casselman and Jack Young. Reg Gilmore acts as the official statistician and scorekeeper.

Speaking of softball, the House League started off in grand style with S/L Wynn burning the first

NIGHT FLIERS BANISH HUNS

Down 10 Enemy Planes In West Front Flare-up


France.—Nightfighter men of the Nighthawk and Cougar squadrons flying their Mosquitos from an airfield in France downed ten enemy planes in operations which commenced the night of December 23 and continued for the next seven nights.

The burst of activity came as the Nazis sent Stukas, nightfighters and bombers over the west front to assist the German push. The night skies had been quiet for some time previously. The Cougar squadron claimed six of the kills made, to boost their score since the invasion to 47. The four which fell to the Nighthawks gave them a total of 45 shot down since D-Day.

Two teams scored doubles in the Christmas session. F/O Don MacKenzie, London, Ont., and his navigator, F/O George Bodard, Edmonton, Alta., of the Cougar squadron, got two Ju88 bombers on the 23rd. A Nighthawk squadron Mosquito, with F/O Ralph Britten, Arichat, N.S., pilot, and F/L Leo Fownes, Bedford, N.S., navigator made a double header by knocking out two Ju88s on the night of the 27th. It was their first patrol since their last success when they shot down a Ju88 and damaged a Ju158.

FAST WORK

In less than 18 months Wilfred Allan Peters, Laird, Sask., made the jump from sergeant pilot to flight lieutenant and took command of a flight with the Bear Spitfire squadron.



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CITY OF WINDSOR

Ma's Cakes Still Tops

Christmas was hardly a white one here with brown Italian mud proving a poor substitute for snow. The landscape had our spirits at a low point, but they rose to an all-time high when the mailman, on three separate occasions, returned to camp with more than one hundred bags of parcels, Christmas and otherwise.

Although the holiday spirit permeated the surroundings ops went on as usual and there was plenty of work. The squadron took another jump in the Italian leg and later came the switch-over from billets to tents.

No sooner had the parcels arrived than the cooks began to wonder why so much of their chocolate pie was left over from meals. It appears that Ma's Christmas cake has much more appeal.

New Quarters

The Windsor Club, our wet canteen, now is housed in a large central building which also accommodates the moving picture theater. The building now is surrounded by warm, new tents. They bristle with chimneys which are the result of successful experiments in home-made heating arrangements.

F/O F. A. Doyle, Vancouver, newly appointed sports officer, plans a gym for the second-floor of the canteen building, and is getting a basketball squad together.


CREW REACHES FIELD WITH NO GAS LEFT

Returning from a heavy raid on Hamburg, S/L J. C. Hovey, Woodstock, N.B., landed his bomber at the nearest field with just enough gas left to fill a cigarette lighter. The crew was 100 miles from base when it was discovered there was only five minutes' gas left.

Hovey has just received his promotion to squadron leader and is acting commanding officer of a squadron in the Beaver Bomber Base.

Three new Canadians joined the squadron recently. They are F/Os J. T. Rose, Chapleau, Ont., A. A. Desormeaux, Ottawa, and R. Edge, Toronto.


Eddie Cantor's "Show Business," Somerset Maugham's "Christmas Holiday," and Lena Horne in "Stormy Weather," are three recent movies which brightened up some of the off-hours.



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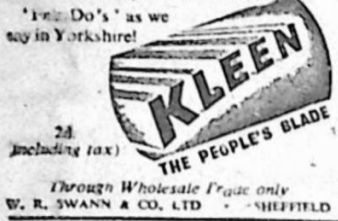
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'FAIR DO'S'

Quality always creates demand. Even in peacetime we had the greatest difficulty in making enough Kleen Blades to supply all our customers. Now we can satisfy only a fraction of the demand. But we prefer to sell a few to the many rather than many to a chosen few.



Mail Bag

A great many changes have been made since the Mail Bag column went to press and as some bright wit remarked, the liberation of the Base PO is nearly complete. W/O Meads and Sgt. Gamey have gained their commissions and are now engaged in a hectic command session. F/Ss Compton and Flanagan are now homeward bound. New promotions include F/S C. D. Davies, Guelph, and Sgt. O. L. Simpson, Regina.

Everyone seems to have recovered from the New Year's festivities. We still are anxious to know what happened to the contents of the large crate F/L E. W. Kingscott received by special delivery marked—Live-stock, Push—Handle with Care. Hoover's Ltd., entertained personnel with a pantomime. Amongst those present at the show were Col. Alice Revell, L.A.W. A. M. Russell and L.A.C. A. Glavinisky.

Owing to the conscientious work of Sgt. C. L. Cagnon, our Education NCO, our canteen is a very popular place. Information regarding rehabilitation, educational items and entertainment features can be found on the various bulletin boards erected for this reason.

LAC Ted Szpak, Winnipeg will soon be ending his regular jaunts to the North of England for the date has been fixed and it won't be long now.

LAC Harold Small.

MOOSE PILOT SCREENED

F/L J. A. Anderson, DSO, Winnipeg, now is screened at the end of his first tour as pilot with the Moose squadron.

NIGHTFIGHTER CORNER

Practice Punches Fly

"Cauliflower Corner" is flourishing under Cpl. "Mickey" McGuire, who is whipping into shape a Nighthawk boxing squad to take on the French fisticufflers in the New Year. Sluggers attending regular gym workouts and exchanging punches in practice bouts include B. Mitchell, N. Sibley, T. Silberman, B. Smith, Paddy Graham, K. Garnett, J. Featherstone and C. Comfort.

Inter-squadron hoopla saw the Hawks clip the claws off the Cougars, to the tune of 36-25, to settle for an earlier defeat. It was a winning week for Cpl. Frank Crigg's capers, who dealt summarily with F/L Hal Leitch's air crew unit and a crew of French slickers.

The Hawk-Cougar contest was marked by close checking and accurate passing. Nick Nicholas collected nine baskets for the winners. Crowder, Dougan, Pierce, Penhorwood, Stewart and Sorenson all scored for the Hawks. Cougar manager "Doc" Bellamy claims he didn't have his regular team out and is itching for a return engagement with Crigg's five.

Under the direction of F/O Dor Fortune, the Cougars' Christmas party went off in great style, with Fisher (Al Jolson), Couch (Fred Astaire) and "Eing" Scott highlighting a very fine variety of talent.

The Cougars' weekly dance is proving a great hit with the boys and the local belles, who seem to take a liking to the Canadian way of entertaining. The ground crews' welcome mat was dusted off in honor of the return of "Ace" Joe Schultz and "Shorty" Christy, back in their old squadron after leave, and a brief session with the Lynx squadron for Joe.

Promotions

Bags of promotions around the cougar squadron include the "Chieftain" for Sgt. Williamson and three stripes for "Porky" McKillop, Art Farral, Doug Parks, Dave Cresswell, Johnny Park and "Sleepy" Clugston. For corporals we now have Sam Soldan and Bob Blaine.

Nighthawks R & I lost two of its leading corporals last week when Bud Crowder and Mac Etches went out to flights. Jack Cockgrave returned to maintenance. Looking forward to gold-places in the aircraft industry is the "Scanner King," Jim Mumford, one of the squadron's hands and i/c scanner section.

When it comes to model aircraft, I. Hudson is the man. He's

Tiger Howls

An interesting address was given personnel here last week by Graham Spry, Winnipeg, who was a member of Sir Stafford Cripps' mission to India in 1942. Mr. Spry traced the various phases of the trip.

The station has lost the capable services of Gord Patrick, popular "Y" supervisor, who helped us immeasurably by securing good entertainment and arranging other bright moments. Parties arranged by crews for work have been the rage in recent days. F/L Smith's crew, after completing its second tour, treated the gang to a good do. Not to be outdone, S/L Fentiman popped off a party for his bunch by trotting out some delicious steaks and onions.

HOME FIRST TO PUT FINISH TO OPS TOUR

After braving a flak-storm over Cologne to bomb that city, F/L Bob Tonnellier, Carlyle Task, returned ahead of the bomber stream to land first at his base and complete his first tour.

The stocky Canadian admitted that the Nazi welcome over that target area was "hottish," but his American rear gunner, F/C Fred Mitchell, Chicago, was more emphatic. Several flakbursts had occurred underneath his tail turret and he said it was as if "the sky was caving in on us." Mitchell was completing his tour also.

PILOT GOING HOME

Pilot of a Halifax with the Canadian Bomber Group in England, F/O E. S. DeBow, F.C. Moncton, N.B., is now passing through an RCAF Repair depot on his way home.

HEADQUARTERS

New Schedules Begin

Christmas and New Year's festivities have passed in the shuffle and the HQ types are just getting around to routine again, according to the recent gathering of entertainment moguls. Basketball, bingo bridge et al resume the regular league sessions this week.

Cage types got things underway during the week, and Sgt. Win Greer has been concentrating on drafting a new schedule to complete the rest of the games.

The entertainment committee has things cracking for a Valentine dance on the customary day (February 14 in case you folks forget what day it is), and another hefty roller-skating effort is also planned for the end of this month, January 28 to be exact, with the falls to be made on the floor of Alexandra Palace.

Badminton fiends are preparing a tournament which will start some time in February. Entries must be in by the first of the month, and then final arrangements can be instituted.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALDWYCH. Tem. 6404. Matis. Wed. and Sat., 2.30. Evgs., 6.45. FIRTH SHEPARD presents TOMORROW THE WORLD. Robert Harris, Elizabeth Allan, Jean Cadell, David O'Brien.

HIPPODROME. Ger. 3272. Evenings, 6.15. Matis. Weds., Thurs., 2.30. GEORGE BLACK'S New Musical JENNY JONES.

PALLADIUM, Argyll St. Ger. 7372. Twice Daily, 2.30 and 6.20. GEORGE BLACK'S New Musical Funnies HAPPY AND GLORIOUS with TOMMY TRINDER.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE. Whl. 8091. Twice Daily, 2.30 and 6.10. GEORGE BLACK'S STRIKE IT AGAIN with SID FIELD.

SAVOY. Tem. 6888. Matis. Wed. and Sat., 2.30. Evgs., 6.30. FIRTH SHEPARD presents THE LAST OF MRS. CHEYNEY. JACK BUCHANAN, CORAL BROWNE.

STRAND. Tem. 2690. Matis. Thurs. and Sat., 2.30. Evgs., 6.30. FIRTH SHEPARD presents ARSENIC AND OLD LACE. Lillian Braithwaite, Mary Jerrold, Naughton Wayne, Edmund Willard. Third Year.

WHITEHALL, Trafalgar Sq. Whl. 6592. CONT. DAILY 2 to 9 p.m. PHYLLIS DIXEY England's Popular Pin-up Girl in "PEEK-A-BOO" Stars! Mannequins! Models!

WINDMILL, Picc. Circus. 13th Year. REVUEVILLE. 180th Edition. (2nd week) Cont. daily 12.15-9.30. Last perf. 7.50. A VIVIAN VAN DAMM PRODUCTION. "WE NEVER CLOSED."

CINEMAS. DOMINION (G-B). Tottenham Court Rd. MADONNA OF THE SEVEN MOONS (A) Music in Manhattan (A), News, etc. Weekdays: continuous 11.20 to 9.40. Sundays: continuous 3.30 to 9.

EMPIRE, Leicester Square. Ger. 1234. Continuous daily, 10 a.m. to 9.40 p.m. SPENCER TRACY 30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO (A) VAN JOHNSON, ROBERT WALKER.

GAUMONT, Haymarket. Whl. 6655. PHYLLIS CALVERT, STEWART GRANER, CHARLES COBURN. MADONNA OF THE SEVEN MOONS (A) Weekdays: continuous 11.15 to 9.45. Sundays: continuous 3.30 to 9.40.

LEICESTER SQ. THEATRE. Whl. 5252. DONALD O'CONNOR, PEGGY RYAN, JACK OAKIE in THE MERRY MONAHANS (A) Performances at 12.10, 2.30, 4.50, 7.10.

LONDON PAVILION. Ger. 2982. Continuous from 10 a.m. to 9.20 p.m. MERLE OBERON, FRANCHOT TONE, THOMAS MITCHELL in DARK WATERS (A).

MARBLE ARCH PAVILION. May. 5112. PHYLLIS CALVERT, STEWART GRANER, PATRICIA ROC MADONNA OF THE SEVEN MOONS (A) Weekdays: continuous 11 to 10. Sundays: continuous 3.30 to 9.

NEW GALLERY, Regent St. Reg. 8090. PAUL HUNT and MERLE OBERON A SONG TO REMEMBER (A) In Technicolor Weekdays: continuous 11.15 to 9.40. Sundays: continuous 3.30 to 8.40.

Bomber Group Chief Gets Anniversary Messages

The following messages were received by Air Vice-Marshal C. M. McEwen, CB, MC, DFC and Bar, AOC Canadian Bomber Group, on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Group's formation.

From the Canadian Prime Minister: "Accept and convey to officers and other ranks of the Canadian Bomber Group my warmest congratulations on the occasion of its second anniversary. Canada is very proud of the skill and daring displayed by the Canadian Bomber Group and of its magnificent record. I recall with particular pleasure my visit to the Bomber Group last spring. I send you the heartfelt good wishes of the Canadian people, together with my own personally, for continued marked success in the coming year. (Signed) W. L. MACKENZIE KING, Prime Minister of Canada.

From the Canadian High Commissioner in London: "On the occasion of your second anniversary, I am grateful for the opportunity to extend to you and all ranks of Canadian Bomber Group, my sincerest congratulations. Canadians everywhere have watched your magnificent achievements with pride and admiration. To the Group and everyone in it, I send my warmest good wishes for continued successes in all your enterprises in the New Year." (Signed) VINCENT MASSEY.

From the AOC-in-C, Royal Canadian Air Force, Overseas: "The second anniversary of the formation of the RCAF Bomber Group gives me the opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the superb work done by you and the personnel of the Group during 1944. Your record is a magnificent one and adds lustrous pages to the annals of Canada's contribution to the war in the air. I thank all in the Group, for making such a brilliant record possible. I know that you are all aiming to achieve still more in the New Year and my good wishes go with you." (Signed) L. S. BREADNER, AOC-in-C, RCAF Overseas.

GAUMONT Haymarket MARBLE ARCH PAVILION Starts Jan. 14 DAVID O. SELZNICK "Since You Went Away" His first production since "GONE WITH THE WIND" and "REBECCA" Directed by John Cromwell. Cast: Claudette COLBERT, Jennifer JONES, Joseph COTTEN, Shirley TEMPLE, Monty WOOLLEY, Lionel BARRYMORE, Robert WALKER.

THANKS, Mr. WILSON, Mr. MANNOCK. The public thinks so, too. Second week, of course! "ONE LONG SUSTAINED THRILL, shot through with suspense and interest. A GRAND AND EXCITING PIECE OF WORK."—A. E. Wilson, The Star. "MAGNIFICENTLY MADE WAR PICTURE—fitting tribute to a bunch of heroes—racy humour and character—THE MAGIC OF AVIATION."—P. L. Mannoek, Daily Herald. "30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO" VAN JOHNSON, ROBERT WALKER, Phyllis Thaxter, and SPENCER TRACY as Lt. Col. James H. DOOLITTLE. A Mervyn LeRoy Production. Continuous daily from 10 a.m. GER. 1234 EMPIRE LEIC. SQ.

Leicester Square THEATRE What a Team What a Scream! The MERRY MONAHANS A. DONALD O'CONNOR PEGGY RYAN JACK OAKIE ANN BLYTH With Rosemary De Camp, Gavin Muir, Isabel Jewell, John Miljan Directed by Charles Lamont Performances at: 12.10, 2.30, 4.50, 7.10 A NEW UNIVERSAL PICTURE

Showing at 10.25, 1.15, 4.5, 6.55 ODEON Leicester Square PHONE WHI. 6111 NEVER SUCH ACCLAIM! "Vivid and gorgeous... most daring film ever made." Campbell Dixon, Daily Telegraph. "Wilson is 5-star entertainment for every cine-goer." Ewart Hodgson, News of the World. "Exciting, dramatic and masterly." A. E. Wilson, Star. Darryl F. Zanuck's WILSON in Technicolor HENRY KING Written by the Screen by LAMAR TROTTI