





HEADQUARTERS

New Blades Arrive

Ice skaters from Headquarters who have been cavorting around the Queen's Road and Richmond ice arenas lately will welcome the news that 80 pairs of skates have arrived from Canada. They are available on request.

Our truly hard-working entertainment committee after many meetings, again proves to be right up to scratch with many new dances and sports diversions planned.

Dances coming off shortly are the St. Pat's Day dance which will find the Streamliners and Overseas Band No. 1 playing. The massive crowds that have been turning out have necessitated a new policy in that a limited number of tickets only will be sold.

F/O Cameron reports that the Badminton tourney is progressing nicely with the racket-wielders approaching the semi-final stage in some classes. Tennis players will be using the Lincoln's Inn Fields courts as soon as the sports committee completes routine enquiries.

Headquarters pucksters with Johnny Mowers in the nets, are travelling to Paisley on March 24 to play off for the overseas championship.

Reeces' crack girls' basketball team walked off with the ladies' cage championship with 35 points following by a three-way 15 point tie between Doughgirls, Peepees and Ceegals. Sixdees and Kagettes followed with 10 points each.

The WD all-star basketballers have commenced workouts for the inter-Service championship series against the CWACs and WRENS. They also may play the girls from Group on April 6-7. Airmen may also have a series at the same time.

Deadline for Mothers' Day flowers is March 21.

VETERAN BOMBER MAN GOING HOME

Pilot Flew Heavies Against Hun in 1941

One of the first pilots to fly four-engined bombers against Germany, F/L Donald Fink, AFC, is bound for his home in Hamilton, Ont., for 30 days' leave.

Overseas four years, Fink flew Stirling bombers in 1941, attacking many of Germany's most heavily defended targets. In attacks on U-boat harbors in France and Germany his bomber was hit several times by heavy flak.

After his tour he carried out experimental test-pilot duties on all types of heavy aircraft. He was awarded the AFC for his keenness and devotion to duty at this work. For ten months he was stationed in India.

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TAF MEN FIND GOOD HUNTING

Loco Busters Name Own Tactical Area

If you hear an Air Force type talking about the "Game Preserve," it's ten to one he is referring to the tactical area which is the special hunting ground of the loco busters, fighter and bomber pilots of RAF 2nd TAF.

Game sometimes is hard to find, but the fliers notice that the hunting is better after a spell of bad flying weather when German repair engineers have had a chance to make good the cuts in the railway lines. After these quiet spells the Typhoon, Tempest and Spitfire pilots comb their preserve with great care.

Claims are checked strictly, and a pilot only is credited with a destroyed locomotive when a direct hit by rockets has been corroborated.

"A near miss might stop the train and damage the engine, but direct hits save the repair gangs a hard job, for there is probably little of the locomotive left," said F/L H. T. Mossip, DFC, London, Ont., RCAF pilot with an RAF Typhoon squadron who has destroyed at least 30 locomotives.

On a recent trip he helped to account for six trains near Bremen. Two hits knocked two locomotives off the lines, and the four others blew up.

FORMER STENO ENDS TOUR WITH LION UNIT

At one time a clerk stenographer in the Ottawa office of Air Marshal L. S. Bredner, CB, DSC, AOC-in-C, RCAF Overseas, F/O G. C. Weir, Toronto, has completed his first tour as a wireless operator with the Lion squadron.

He enlisted in Toronto in December, 1941, and after nine months at Air Force HQ in Ottawa he remustered to air crew, winning his single wing and commission at Jarvis, Ont., in August, 1943.

PIN-UP BOYS



This collection of pin-ups admired by LAW Anne Starr, Edmonton, and Mildred Davis, Montreal, is rather exclusive. They are photos of Miss Starr's fiance and Mrs. Davis' husband.

BEAVER BASE

Author Blows Base

A recent posting meant the departure of Sgt. Jimmy Gunn, Pincher Creek, Alta., one of the Base originals and a key figure in the sergeants' mess organisation. Gunn also authored this column for WINGS ABROAD, since the Base was formed.

David Petegorsky, director of the Canadian War-time Information Board's industrial information division, spent two days here recently, investigating the reception, circulation and popularity of WIB pamphlets and literature, such as "Canadian Affairs." Mr. Petegorsky obtained much information regarding the rehabilitation work of the Personnel Counselling and Educational sections; F/L Neville Kirk, Calgary, and F/O Larry Evans, Kelowna, B.C., supplying the facts.

The WD basketball team points proudly to a pair of victories over teams from neighboring U.S. hospitals, with scores of 14-10 and 14-5. But there's one game they prefer not to mention—a 13-9 win for the U.S. nurses. Nucleus of the WD team is formed by Sgt. Ruth Anderson, Montreal, Sgt. Zella Clark, Vancouver, LAW Teddy Fyfe, Hamilton, LAW Mary Henderson, Vancouver, and Sgt. Paddy Secombe, Toronto.

A/S/O Louise LeClair, Charlottetown, has been promoted to section officer, and S/O M. C. McInnes, Calgary, has added a second ring to her tunic sleeve. Air Commodore J. L. Hurley, Ottawa, Base Commander, is back from a leave spent in Ireland, while G/C W. P. Pleasance, DFC and Bar, Calgary, is on a 7-day rest and F/O Dave Dougall, Windsor, Ont., is sojourning in Scotland.

The Base Station and the station from which the Alouette squadron operates were visited recently by G/O E. C. Bather, Bomber Command WAAF staff officer. She visited most sections and was particularly interested in the WAAF and WD quarters.

PILOT STEERS WOBBLY SPIT

Flier Attacks After Aircraft is Damaged

Holland. — Hitting a high-tension wire as he swooped down to strafe a train in Germany, F/O William Whittaker, Montreal, lost about 12 inches of his Spitfire tail-top and part of a propeller blade was sheared off, but he flew on to damage the locomotive and then brought his plane back to base where he made a normal landing.

Whittaker and three fellow-pilots from the RCAF City of Winnipeg "Bear" squadron were lying on the deck near Ahaus on armed reconnaissance when the leader spotted the locomotive. As Whittaker turned in to attack he caught sight of the wire and tried to sweep under it.

He had no time to clear it, but despite the damage carried on to pour cannon and machine gun fire into the engine.

"The pull on my Spitfire's tail gave the kite a jolt and after that the controls were a little wobbly, making it difficult to fly on instruments with the low cloud base then existing," said Whittaker after landing. "I was quite happy when the trip was over," he added.

NIGHTFIGHTER CORNER

Hawks Look Ahead

A packed classroom of Hawkmen listened carefully while F/L Smith, education officer, gave a talk titled "Will There Be Jobs?" The Hawks were eager for the latest gen on the post-war set-up and joined in the informal discussion following the talk. Weekly rehabilitation talks are planned for the future.

LACs Gary Weir and Elmer Turansky are the latest of the Nightmen to plunge into matrimony. They are marrying English girls and are enjoying Blighty leave while getting hitched and honeymooned. The station sends congratulations and best wishes.

New Birds

Recent arrivals in the nest include Cpls. Ryan and Knowles, and LACs Gaudry, Williams, Burgess, Bradley, Casey, Armstrong, Froggat and Vincent.

"B" Flight dance went over big with rug cutting local belles and their escorts. Orchids are due to Cpls. Neal and Crowder for a fine job of dance promoting. French Rhythm Wranglers provided the "B" fliers with the staccato harmonies that are hep at Continental hops. LACs Jeff Dube and Labovitz acted as bartenders.

Maybe it was just maintenance section ahead of schedule. At any rate the boys have been busy doing a thorough job of house-cleaning.

Cpl. Jim Mumford has assumed command of a rigger crew and once more his smile lights up the hangar.

Looking keen and in high spirits after his leave, F/L Fiksdal took over the reins of maintenance this week. Back from leave are Cpl. George Ross, and LAC Stevens. Adjutant "Red" Rowley has discovered the form for leave. Ski-ing in the French Alps, he managed to wrap himself around his skis and on his return here the Doc banged him in bed for a few days' more rest. While he rests up his bad knee, he catches up on his back correspondence.

Sgt. Topham and Cpls. Cole, Matheson and Stewart are sporting brand new hooks.

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Three victories against German nightfighters in February is quickly earning a reputation for F/S Creswell Elsworth Jones, Ottawa, as a most accurate marksman. Jones is 20 and a mid-upper gunner on an RAF Lancaster squadron. Recently he, with his English rear-gunner, destroyed a Messerschmitt 410. The rear-gunner was the first to damage the enemy machine, which replied to the fire and then flew alongside them. Jones blasted the Me410, which burst into flames, and the Lanc crew saw it dive down and crash. Earlier in the month the two Lancaster gunners had a combat with a Ju88.

On their way back from bombing Duisburg they saw the Junkers attacking another Lancaster. They swung to the rescue and took the enemy completely by surprise, giving him no chance at all. The Junkers burst into flames and when last seen disappearing into the haze both wings were on fire and flames were gaining rapidly. Two weeks previous to this encounter, when setting off for the Ruhr, F/S Jones found that the mechanism of his turret was askew and he could work his guns only by hand, but the crew decided to carry on.

After the target had been bombed and the rear-gunner had beaten off a FW190 another FW attacked them, and the rear-gunner again replied. Jones, however, also swung his guns on to the fight, and the Hun went down in flames. Jones has had six combats since he began his tour of operations. During one of them the Lancaster was badly damaged and caught fire. Jones' parachute had, however, been burned, so he immediately set about the flames and extinguished them, and F/O W. J. Buchan, Southey, Sask., the pilot, was able to get back to base.

Two Canadian gunners in a RAF Lancaster proved themselves during Bomber Command's recent attack on Pforzheim. They are Sgt. E. W. Farris, 19, Fredericton, N.B., and Sgt. G. J. Cleary, 20, Montreal. They were completing their twelfth op when a Ju188 turned to attack them after shooting down one of their bombers. They met the nightfighter's attack with a concentration of fire and sent the enemy down in flames. Before they had time to watch results a twin-engined fighter intercepted them. They poured fire at the second enemy machine, which broke off its attack.

Among Canadians flying with RAF squadrons who have recently completed an operational tour in the Mediterranean theatre is W/O Brian Udal, Maple Creek, Sask., wireless operator air-gunner. Coming overseas in February, 1942, Udal commenced his tour with UK-based RAF Beauforts engaged in torpedo-bombing enemy shipping in the Bay of Biscay. When the squadron later converted to Wellingtons, he and his crew headed for the Middle East, where they operated in Mediterranean waters from bases in Malta and North Africa.

Operating in support of the Eighth Army he rates trips eight and nine as the most successful of the 12 missions he flew there. "For the first job," he says, "our flight was briefed to bomb an SS Divisional headquarters, as a welcome change from hunting down enemy transport. However, after the kites that bombed before us had had their fun, there wasn't much left of the buildings for us to maul. The next night, while patrolling our beat, we found a German train of about 40 to 50 cars pattering along below us. It was a lovely target for our four 500 pounders. We followed up with a strafing run—smoke and flame from the knocked-out cars showed the way."

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Radio Mechs

NORTH ENGLAND

Congratulations are in order for Bob Sizeland, Winnipeg, who has acquired his two tapes. Needless to say, the event was one for general rejoicing, and the tapes were initiated in the traditional manner.

At the same time, Ron Starr, RAF, received his, and the celebration developed into a double-header.

Among those who have returned to the scene of their crimes is Sgt. Gill Miller, who used to be here some months back, and lately has been in the south. Sgt. Johnnie Walker also has decided to visit here between courses, just to get used to the place.

A certain mystery shrouds the life of Wilf Challander. He has decided at last to pay no more attention to unsigned messages.

This week we welcome F/L R. J. Purdy who becomes the "Great White Chief" to all electronic orphans on this unit. Along with F/O Ted Wildgoose, we now have an all-Canadian "inner Sanctum."

Ian Dick has returned from the Gen College and we've had it from good source that it's quieter there now. Cpl. Norm Farmer and Cliff Longton are way down south on a group course, while Herb Parkes and Cpl. "Panic" Lance are up on the Border for a fortnight's detachment. We sure miss those noisy so and so's!

Competition has become so keen in these parts that Jim Steele has inaugurated a wolfing permit. We didn't mind that, but when venerable wolves like Reg. Lesarge, Palmer Westgate and Vic Swirzon wanted two permits, well that was too much.

LYNX SORTIES BAD FOR HUNS

Patrols Over Germany Kill Two, Damage One

Mosquito night intruders of the Lynx squadron destroyed two and damaged one German aircraft during patrols over West Europe Saturday night.

F/L Hugh MacKenzie, Westmount, Que., and navigator W/O Ian Muir, Winnipeg, caught up with a Ju88 over Holland. One burst of cannon-fire set it aflame and it exploded.

F/L Don MacFayden, DFC Toronto, and navigator, F/L Vern Shail, New Westminster, B.C., and Moose Jaw, Sask., attacked an airfield south of Prague, destroying an FW190 on the ground.

Another aircraft was damaged just after it landed at an airfield in the Ruhr. The attack was made by F/L Rodney Croome, London, Eng., and navigator F/O H. A. Johnston, Winnipeg.

SCHMIDT MEN UP IN GROUP HOCKEY

NHL Stars Seen in First Title Round

Pucksters coached by F/O Milt Schmidt, former star centremen of Boston Bruins, scored an upset in the first round of the RCAF Bomber Command's senior hockey title playoffs.

In a two-game, total-goals series they blasted Schmidt's former professional linemate, F/O W. C. Woody Damert's favoured club representing the station commanded by G/C W. P. Pleasance, DFC and Bar, 11-6. Augmented by the addition of Cpls. Roy Conacher and Jimmy Haggerty, formerly with Boston and Montreal respectively, the winners won the second game 7-3 on a water-covered playing surface.

In the first game of a twin-bill Alf Pike, former New York Ranger and Lloyd Gronsdal, property of Boston, sparked an 11-4 win over an entry which had picked up four of the dozen hockey stars recently arrived overseas. The four were Syd Abel, Detroit, Paul Platz, Chicago, Johnny Whitelaw, Detroit, and Ernie Trigg, Cleveland, but they were unable to avert their team's elimination.

High Flying Gives Worries Big Brush Off Pilots Say

Half-Hour Up Above Cloud Tops Proves First Class Woe Chaser

Holland.—Spend half an hour in an aircraft scudding along the tops of the clouds and your escape from worry and woe would be so complete that you would never want to come down. This is the contention of Typhoon pilots at this advanced airfield.

These fliers, it is apparent, never fail to experience a tremendous sense of exhilaration when, after a take-off and climb for altitude, the cloudy drabness of a sunless level drops below with the scudding wisps of cloud and they find themselves in a crystal wonderland. "It's like," said one stern-looking flight lieutenant looking around to see if he was not being overheard. "It's like a fairy land. Then you look around and see the other Typhoons darting out of the cloud layer with the sun scintillating on their moist wings. Everything is so new and everything gleams. Each aircraft seems as if it has a new paint-job and the roundels loom so clear."

Worries Go

Another pilot, the commanding officer of a squadron, observed: "Sometimes I feel fed up and worried when I take off, but when I fly above the clouds and see them like great valleys of cotton wool rolling along right under the fuselage, I feel as if I had just taken dark glasses off my eyes. It seems all your worries and cares stay behind in the clouds, and you feel so free."

MOSSIE NAILS COASTAL SHIP

Fliers Strafe Vessel On Homeward Journey

A rather unusual victim for a Mosquito crew, a small German coastal steamer, was recently attacked and left burning by F/L George Graham, Belleville, Ont., and F/O Dick Styles, London, Eng., pilot and navigator of the City of Edmonton squadron.

Graham and Styles were on their way back from a sortie where they had successfully bombed a cement factory from tree-top height, when they spotted the ship off the north coast of Germany.

Diving down to 50 feet off the water, Graham attacked the vessel with cannon fire, despite the flak barrage from the ship. When they looked back they saw the ship listing to one side and burning furiously.

FLIERS TIE UP BROKEN LINES

Control Connections Repaired With Wire

In a smashed uncontrollable bomber over enemy territory, F/S R. E. Budd, Hamilton, Ont., calmly tugged at broken control rods and wound wire about them to enable the pilot to regain control and safely fly the bomber back to Britain. For this exploit, which was carried out with his parachute buckled on because of the danger that the bomber might begin a death dive at any moment, Budd was awarded the immediate DFM.

Now on his way home after completing his tour of operations as a midupper gunner with the RCAF Bomber Group, Budd revealed that his Halifax was hit by flak as it was bombing a Paris railway yard last summer.

A great hole was torn in the nose and the bomb-aimer was injured. Immediately the four-engined bomber went into a steep dive to earth, and the pilot told the crew to prepare to bale out because it was uncontrollable. But by manipulating the throttles he levelled the machine out at 14,000 feet and told crew members to locate the break in the control rods.

F/S Budd and the rear-gunner found the break. Hacking notches in the ends of the rods with an emergency axe, they were aided by the wireless operator in winding aerial wire to connect the rods.

DART EXPERT ENROLS IN TREBLE TWENTIES

After obtaining 180 points with three consecutive darts during a recent competition at Inverness, LAC G. A. Pape, has been enrolled as a member of the News of the World Treble Twenty Guild.

Pape is with the MMTT section at RCAF Detachment, Inverness.

RADIO

GFP (General Forces Program) 342 m., 877 kc. AEF (Allied Exped. Forces Program) 514 m.; 1050 kc. Home News from Canada, AG, nightly from 2010-2015. Canadians also contribute regularly to the following daily programs of the AEF: Rise and Shine, 0601-0700 and 0720-0800. Combat Diary, 0901-0915. Mark Up the Map, 1745-1755.

Times are British Summer Time. Sun., Mar. 11.—1030-1100, G, Calling All Canadians. 1215-1230, AG, Ice Hockey from Canada. 1230-1300, A, Clear Lower Decks. 1715-1800, A, AEF Special.

Mon., Mar. 12.—0730-0800, A, Return Engagement. 1630-1700, A, Fiesta. 2030-2100, A, The Canadian Band of the AEF.

Tues., Mar. 13.—1001-1030, A, Morning After the Canadian Band by the AEF. Repeat of last night's. 1430-1500, A, Headquarters Band of the RCAF. 1715-1800, A, The Canada Guest Show. 2235-2300, A, Music from the Pacific.

Wed., Mar. 14.—0925-1000, A, Music from Canada. 1115-1145, G, Music from the Pacific. 1145-1200, A, Piano Parade. 1145-1200, G, The Western Five. 1230-1300, A, Serenade for Strings. 1901-1945, A, The RCAF Show. 2207-2235, A, Soliloquy.

Thurs., Mar. 15.—1715-1745, A, The Canada Swing Show. 2235-2300, A, Reminiscing.

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Fri., Mar. 16.—0925-1000, A, The AEF Ranch House. 1445-1500, A, The Old Songs. 1630-1700, A, Music Time. 1745-1800, A, Rhythm Musicale. 1815-1830, A, Going to Town. 2105-2115, A, The Canada "Sing" Show.

Sat., Mar. 17.—0930-1000, A, The Canada Show Dance Orchestra. 1815-1930, A, Interlude in Blue. 2200-2230, G, The Canadian Show. 2235-2300, A, Latin American Serenade.

Canadians also contribute regularly to the following daily programs of the AEF:—

Rise and Shine, 0601-0700 and 0720-0800. Combat Diary, 0800-0815 and 1530-1545. Mark up the Map, 1805-1810.

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Advertisement for Gregory Peck in 'The Keys of the Kingdom' at the Marble Arch Pavilion. Includes a portrait of Gregory Peck and text: 'GREGORY PECK the new star sensation as Francis Chisholm in A. J. CRONIN'S THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM'.

Advertisement for 'The Keys of the Kingdom' at the Marble Arch Pavilion. Includes text: 'THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM with Cedric Hardwicke, Rosa Stradner, Edmund Gwenn, Thomas Mitchell, Vincent Price, Roddy McDowall, etc. Directed by John M. Stahl. Produced by Joseph L. Mankiewicz. GAUMONT HAYMARKET MARBLE ARCH PAVILION'.

Leicester Square THEATRE

Advertisement for Deanna Durbin in 'Can't Help Singing' at Leicester Square Theatre. Includes text: 'Deanna DURBIN "CAN'T HELP SINGING" in Technicolor with ROBERT PAIGE "Akim Tamiroff" Music by JEROME KERN DIRECTED BY FRANK RYAN PRODUCED BY FELIX JACKSON'.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

Advertisement for Cary Grant in 'None But the Lonely Heart' at the Odeon Leicester Square. Includes text: 'Here are conflict, drama, and devotion in a picture that takes its place among the screen's finest triumphs... the novel that thrilled millions. CARY GRANT in RICHARD LLEWELLYN'S "NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART" with MISS ETHEL BARRYMORE, BARRY FITZGERALD, JUNE DUPREZ, JANE WYATT'.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Table listing theatres and cinemas with their respective shows and showtimes. Includes sections for THEATRES, CINEMAS, and specific listings for Aldwych, Hippodrome, Palladium, Prince of Wales Theatre, Strand, Whitehall, Windmill, Dominion, Empire, Gaumont, and Warner.