Then there was the AC2 that thought a manoeuvre was something you put on grass to make it grow.

The Airman

Official Organ of No. 3 "M" Depot, Edmonton.

Kissing spreads germs but it certainly lowers resistance.

Vol 1—No. 35 EDMONTON, ALBERTA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1943 5c Copy

AC2 ON DEPOT GAINS B.E.M.

* * *

Rookie Bergstrom Has Seen Plenty Of Action With Merchant Marine

By AC2 J. N. CRANDALL.

EDITOR'S NOTE—*AC2 Crandall, the author of the following article, came to the Air Force from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation where he was employed as Senior News Editor. Prior to joining the C.B.C., in 1940, Crandall was General News Manager for British United Press and worked for that organization in New York, London and Montreal. In the Spring of 1940 he went overseas with the late Hon. Norman L. Rogers, former Minister of National Defence, and he accompanied the minister on his inspection tour of Canadian and B.E.F. units in England and France. In 1939 Crandall was assigned to the Royal Tour and accompanied the King and Queen on their trip across Canada.*

* * *

Meet AC2 Eugene Bergstrom, B.E.M., formerly of Victoria and now residing in the Aggie Hut and No. 3 "M" Depot, Edmonton. He has just completed more than three years at sea with the British Merchant Marine; has been bombed and machine-gunned by Germans, Italians and Japs; has two enemy fighter planes to his credit and has spent 14 days in an open lifeboat after being torpedoed in the South Atlantic. But most important of all is the fact that he has been decorated with the British Empire Medal for gallantry.

'Gene signed on a British freighter at Victoria eight months before war broke out and he was at sea until his ship was torpedoed 650 miles from Bermuda late last summer.

Three years at sea in war time is quite often enough for a lad in his twenties. But not for Bergstrom. He has joined the R.C.A.F. now and just as soon as he completes his training here he will begin his navigation course.

AC2 Bergstrom's story of his life at sea contains enough material for several thrillers. In the limited confines of this paper it is not possible to go into minute detail but an effort will be made, in the space available, to tell you something about his spectacular career.

Several airmen, officers and NCO's at No. 3 "M" are wearing ribbons which they have won for acts of bravery in other wars. AC2 Bergstrom is the first man on the station to be able to wear a decoration for valor in this war.

He is quite an unassuming young man who was rather hesitant about discussing his experiences. He is a little shorter than average height but what he lacks in height he makes up for in stockiness. His eyes are bright and clear but his complexion is roughened by the wind from the seven seas. His hands are scarred by powder burns from the guns on board his ship.

Only 23

Gene was 23 when he went to sea looking for excitement. He didn't have to wait long. Eight months after he had signed on as shipwright war was declared. Gene was sailing from an eastern Atlantic port to England when Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain broadcast to an anxious world that England was at war against Germany.

AC2 EUGENE BERGSTROM, B.E.M.

It wasn't many hours after the "sparks" had heard the declaration of war over the wireless that the ship picked up the S.O.S. from the Athenia. But they were several hundred miles from the spot where the Athenia was sunk and were unable to be of any assistance.

—*continued on page five*

CAPTAINS OF THE CLOUDS ACTOR VISITS BLUNDELL

Sgt. Johnny Sprott walked onto the depot and said, "Where the hell can I find Blundell." That in our opinion is a helluva thing to say when we know you should sneak on the depot, come to attention and whisper to yourself, "I wonder if Blundell saw me."

We are trying to convey that WO1 Blundell had a visitor. He came of his own accord. Blundell looked up and here was Sgt. Sprott who had served six years with our depot sergeant-major on the Winnipeg police force.

Sgt. Sprott is the WO2 that played in "Captains of the Clouds." Remember the scene where he stamps across the field and gives Jimmy Cagney hell. He looks just as he did in that famous movie.

He and Blundell worked together in Winnipeg. They joined the R.C.A.F. together and went to No. 1 "M" Toronto together. They came back to No. 2 "M" Brandon and assisted in the opening of that depot.

They both took the same disciplinarian course. Then Blundell headed for Edmonton and Sprott headed for the S.F.T.S. at Uplands.

Sprott became WO2 at Uplands and also station sergeant-major. Then the urge to fly got him. He remustered and reverted. He came on the depot a sergeant wireless air gunner.

Here is where the story changes. While chewing the fat in the office where all discips fear to tread a wire arrived for Sprott. He had been commissioned as WAG Pilot Officer.

The moral to the story is: You can come on the depot in one shape and go off in another.

Good luck, P/O Sprott!

Hollywood Screen Stars To Play N.W. Canada

Cary Grant, movie star, and George Murphy, dancer and screen star will head a troupe of United Services Organization entertainers leaving next week for a tour of North West Canada and Alaska. The troupe which will include Donald Barclay, Frances McCoy and Penelope Beaumont, will play Army Camps along the Alaska route of the Air Transport Command during a period of several weeks.

Arrangements have been made to reach camps on the Alaska Highway, and in time, the Alaskan theatre.

BOUQUETS TO—

LAC Claude Blackwood for the splendid job he did as M.C. at the "Rookies' Revue." His ready wit and pleasant manner helped to make the concert the success which it was.

* * *

The Works and Construction for the several hundred new coat hooks (436 to be exact) which were put up around the Mess Hall. No need for piling coats in all odd corners now.

* * *

The Y.M.C.A. in care of Fred Youmans and Art Peacock for their untiring efforts in arranging good entertainment for all of us Joe Boys.

"Rookies' Revue" A Big Hit

Last Friday evening an extremely good concert held the interest and attention of the largest crowd of airmen and civilians that ever attended a concert in the arena. It was called the "Rookies' Revue" and was so well received by the enthusiastic audience that on March 19th, another "Rookies' Revue" will be held.

The artists on last Friday's Revue were: F/S Lange, AC2's G. G. Nelson, S. C. Gilbert, J. G. Thorne, Gpreston, J. Ramsbottom, A. Andresz, E. O. Olson, J. H. Lung, W. Peters, C. Baker. The civilian artists included Teresa Totier, Jean and Tom Macri and Miss Sonja Maritza—who antics were more revealing than her (?) name.

The highlight of the evening was the station band's interpretation of "The Shooting of Dan McGrew" assisted by J. G. Thorne's excellent monologue. Bouquets are given to the band for their splendid acting coupled with their original arrangements. As Denis Day would say, "What a performance!"

Much credit for the concert's success is due to LAC Claude Blackwood who was director, producer and M.C.; also to Sgt. Pritchard and the P.T.I. staff for the appropriate stage setting.

This evening. the dance in the arena will be an inter-service one due to the invitations sent out to the other branches of the Service. This will include many members of the C.W.A.C. Such an event should not be missed by anyone.

According to AC2 Frank Delaney his girl is so dumb she thinks that VAT 69 is the Pope's phone number. She also thinks he wrote the Encyclopedia Brittanica.

"M" Depot Rifle Team In Turvey Cup Final

The South Side V.V.R.'s, twice winners of the Turvey Cup, and the only team remaining undefeated after nine matches this season, went down to defeat at the hands of the "eagle-eyed marksmen" from No. 3 "M" Depot last Sunday. The contest was the most closely contested event of the year, with the Air Force team winning by a score of 997, against the S.S.V.V.R.'s 995.

The atmosphere during the contest was electric, and all members were tense with excitement. The R.C.A.F. strategists hit the nail right on the head when they placed their team, for the first four men came back with possibles. This took the heart out of the S.S. V.V.R.'s, and they slipped to two 98's, thus giving the Airmen their margin of victory. Possible targets were made by P/O Hogg (8 X-ring shots), Cpl. Hafner, AC2 Silk, F/L Hansen, LAC Dorward, Cpl. Acker, P/O Bird, Cpl. Hrudy and AC2 Boddy. Boddy is a recent arrival in Reception Wing, and last season shot with the R.C.M.P. Reserves, present holders of the Turvey Cup.

The final match will be held this coming Sunday at the R.C.M.P. Rifle Range, when the "M" Depot team meets the R.C.M.P. Reserves. The R.C.M.P. Reserves represent real, tough competition. Every man on the team is a crack shot, and any time a man drops to 99, they really weep. (Here's hoping they'll have plenty to weep about on Sunday.)

Although the R.C.A.F. team will be up against the toughest competition to be found in Edmonton, it is fully expected that they will give a good account of themselves.

Incidentally, F/L Hansen took along a box of aspirins to ease the pain, but found them unnecessary. Maybe they'll come in handy this week (for the other team . Good luck, boys . . . bring home the bacon . . . pardon us, we mean the "Turvey Cup."

"M" Depot Sinks Navy in Hockey Semi-Final

After tieing the first game of the total goal, home and home game series, the Navy finally went down to defeat at the hands of the "M" Depot pucksters in overtime, 5-3, in the second game of the Inter-services Hockey League semi-finals. The "M" Depot team now advances into the final against No. 2 A.O.S., who surprised all by defeating the league leading No. 4 I.T.S. in the other semi-final bracket.

The winners had a definite edge in play, but found scoring a tough proposition. Joe Hornesty, in the nets for the Navy, played a brilliant game. But for Hornesty, the score would have been much larger.

Tobin led the "M" Depot team to victory, scoring three goals. Ron Gardner gathered in one goal and two assists, while Anderson scored one goal to complete the scoring. Navy goals went to Huffman, Patry and McCready.

The first period went scoreless, but Navy took a 2-0 lead in the second session. In the third period, the "M" Depot tied up the game with two goals by Tobin, only to have the Navy go into the lead again at 18:47 on a goal by McCready. This looked like curtains for the Airmen, as there was only one minute, 13 seconds left in the game. With only 45 seconds left in the game, Cpl. Jimmy Anderson sailed around the defence, picked up a double pass from Tobin and J. Gardner, and planted the biscuit behind Hornesty to save the game for the "M" Depot.

Tobin scored the winning goal at 6:10 of the overtime on a pass from Ron Gardner, and then to cinch matters, Ron went roaring in to bang the puck home and put the Air Force two goals up.

The "M" Depot puckchasers now have two playoff series on their hands, the Inter-Service finals with No. 2 A.O.S., and the provincial Intermediate semi-finals with Red Deer Army.

The first game of the semi-final series with Red Deer will be played on the Depot ice tonight, with the face-off at 1930 hours. The game will be open to the public, and airmen may bring their friends to the game. There will be a 25c charge for civilians only. Seating accommodation will be provided all around the rink. The public may enter by either the Main or North gates. This will be the first game in a two-game total point series, with the second game being played in Red Deer on Saturday night.

Harry Allen will return to the fold, and should bring the "M" Depot team up to full strength. The winner of this series will advance into the Alberta intermediate finals against the strong Calgary Buffaloes. Be sure to see this game tonight . . . remember, Red Deer vs. No. 3 "M" Depot, Friday night at 1930 hours.

LINEUPS

NAVY—Hornesty; Paterson, MacKinnon, Chesney, Elke, McCready, Hatch, McIllhargey, Patry, Huffman, Jacobs, Martinell.

"M" DEPOT — Twaddle; Henderson, Thompson, Wagner, R. Gardner, J. Gardner, Edmonds, Fleming, Walker, Luching, Tobin, Kitts, Anderson.

AC2 O'BRIEN KNOWS THE QUESTIONS

There was a purposeful glint in the eye of Oliver O'Brien as he left camp for a week-end pass.

Oliver got to town a half-hour later and dropped into a bar. Pretty soon a civilian said, "Hiya. Nice day."

"Yup," Oliver admitted.

"What outfit you . . ." the civilian began.

"Where you from?" interrupted Oliver.

"Me? Oh, I'm from a nearby city. What outfit?"

"What are you doing down here?" snapped Oliver, briskly.

"Oh, came down on a little business," said the civilian. There was surprise in his voice.

"What was the nature of the business?" asked Oliver.

"Well, I don't mind telling you, airman. I came down to see my wife's lawyer about some property she owns."

"Ah, you're married?"

"Oh, sure, what outfit did you say you . . ."

"Is your wife pregnant? Do you like your wife?"

"Huh?" He looked a bit rattled.

"Ah, I see. Got another woman, eh, you rascal!"

"Hey, listen here, airman . . ."

"Aw, now, don't apologize to me, pal. I know how it is. I've been around. Got any children?"

"Certainly, I've got children. Four."

"Legitimate or illegitimate?"

"Say, you listen to me, you young . . ."

"Okay, brother. Don't answer if it will incriminate or degrade you. By the way, what was it you started to ask me a while back?"

"I just wanted to know what outfit you're . . ."

"Oh, pardon me just a second, may I ask what that funny looking thing on your watch chain means?"

"That's my lodge charm. I don't see anything funny about it. Well, I better mosey along."

"Where you going?"

"Home, damn it, you inquisitive . . ."

"What are you going to do when you get home? Where did you get that necktie? What does the red stripe in the hatband mean? Have you stopped beating your wife? Ever been convicted of a felony . . . ?"

"Why, I've never been so insulted in my life! Young man, what do you mean by asking a perfect stranger such impertinent questions?"

"Well, I'll tell you mister," said Oliver O'Brien, "it's like this. I've been in the R.C.A.F. now going on a year and a half and every time I go on pass it seems like every civilian I run into thinks he has a right as a taxpayer to ask me the goldarnedest questions about my personal affairs and private life.

"I get asked first what unit I belong to, although any civilian that can read a newspaper ought to know by now that we are not supposed to give out information like that. Then I get asked where I come from, what I did before I joined the R.C.A.F., what I do in it, what my unit does, where it's going after we leave here. I just thought I'd come to town today and ask a civilian a few sassy questions. Thanks, buddy, good-bye."

We Recommend:

The "Order of The Sink Stopper" to the kitchen Joe Boy who supplied a box of cup handles for our "Venus de Milo cups" accompanied by the sign: "Cup handles for those who want them."

The "Order of The High Seas" to the Acey Ducey who requested Michel Chernavsky to play "The One o'Clock Jump," in boogie woogie time.

My parents told me not to smoke.
I don't.
Nor listen to a naughty joke.
I don't.
They told me that it wasn't right
To wink at handsome men at night.
I don't.
To dance and flirt was very wrong.
I don't.
While girls chase men with wine and song.
I don't.
I kiss no man, not even one.
In fact I don't know how it's done.
You wouldn't think I had much fun.
I don't.

—H.H.

IT WASN'T TOLD TO ME, I ONLY HEARD!

By AC2 H. E. HOWARD.

We heard of a very sad case. AC2 James met a pretty and attractive girl at the "Y" the other night. As the evening wore on his palpitating heart palpitated more and more, especially when she invited him to Sunday dinner and to stay at her place over the week-end. He readily accepted. Leaving the "Y" together they boarded a street car and believe it or not that was the last he saw of her.

A rookie wanted to know what K.P. stood for. We believe the answer is obvious. *Keep peeling.*

AC2 Ernie Taylor had company in bed a few nights ago. I grant you it was only a dog, but, Ernie has already admitted leading a dog's life.

We picked up a warning to the girls. Here it is:

My lady beware of Cupid
And listen to the lines of this verse:
To let a fool kiss you is stupid,
To let a kiss fool you is worse.

A guy never minds being stuck with a girl with shapely pins.

AC2 Alec McCauley is going around lately with a darkening of the skin below the eye. We can't find out how it happened therefore is must have happened elsewhere. Was it at home, Alec?

During supper a few days ago a sign on one of the milk cans proclaimed to everyone that it contained moose milk. An Aussie gazed at the sign, then gingerly moved away muttering, "I don't think I'd care for it."

AC2's Graham Giske and Norm Hanson are so anxious to make a success of their job that they are working overtime. (Or is this compulsory overtime).

AC2 Williams is afraid of open spaces, he doesn't dare bend down in his tight uniform.

They met on the field of honor. She played the field and he had no honor.

The Moron is having domestic troubles lately. He sold his wife's girdle to the rubber salvage drive and now she is suing him for non-support.

We have found a new cure for air-sickness. A twenty-minute walk ten minutes before your plane takes off.

Some Aussies just over from Australia were marching by a group of Canadian airmen who were lounging against the wall of their hut. One of the Aussies turned to another and said triumphantly, "I told you they didn't wear feathers in their hair!"

Corporal MacDonald of the Telephone Exchange came in one day before Christmas with a broken nose—His reason was that he fell off a street car, and which reason was sympatheitcally accepted. However, last week, he appeared on the scene with a badly bruised forehead, and this time his alibi was an automobile accident. (An accident in an automobile or by an automobile, corporal?)

A recent arrival to the station is Corporal Graves of the R.A.F. We are wondering if he is wearing a moustache or is it a toupee at half-mast.

SLIPS THAT PASS IN THE TYPE

"He had been under the doctor's cars for about two years, suffering from a nervous breakdown." . . . "The bride was accompanied to the altar by tight bridesmaids." . . . "The game warden's office has given orders to pick up all dog owners if they are caught running at large without muzzles." . . . "Tanbark should be placed in an ordinary basin of water and the hands soaked in the solution. Then the hands should be removed and thoroughly dried." . . . "The automobile in which they were fleeing collided with another car two blocks away." . . . "Lost—fountain pen by a man half full of ink." . . . "Boy Wanted—Hustler—to deliver oysters that can ride a bicycle and work in a store." . . . "The game between Penn and Wisconsin tomorrow will be broadcast by KDKA today." . . . "She was accused by one dignified wife of having milked a cow clad in pink stepins."

You should never try to understand women. Women are pictures. Men are problems. If you want to know what a woman really means, which, by the way, is always a dangerous thing to do, look at her, don't listen to her.

—Wilde.

A printer at Barrhead decided to sell a hand-operated Diamond newspaper press. Among the publishers who were after it was a priest. The Barrhead man would not sell it to any one but the man of the cloth for he said, "It would drive anybody else to hell."

So you're going to get married?
Monday for health,
Tuesday for wealth,
Wednesday the best day of all,
Thursday for losses,
Friday for Crosses,
Saturday no luck at all.
Presume Sunday is the day to repent!

DANCE TONIGHT

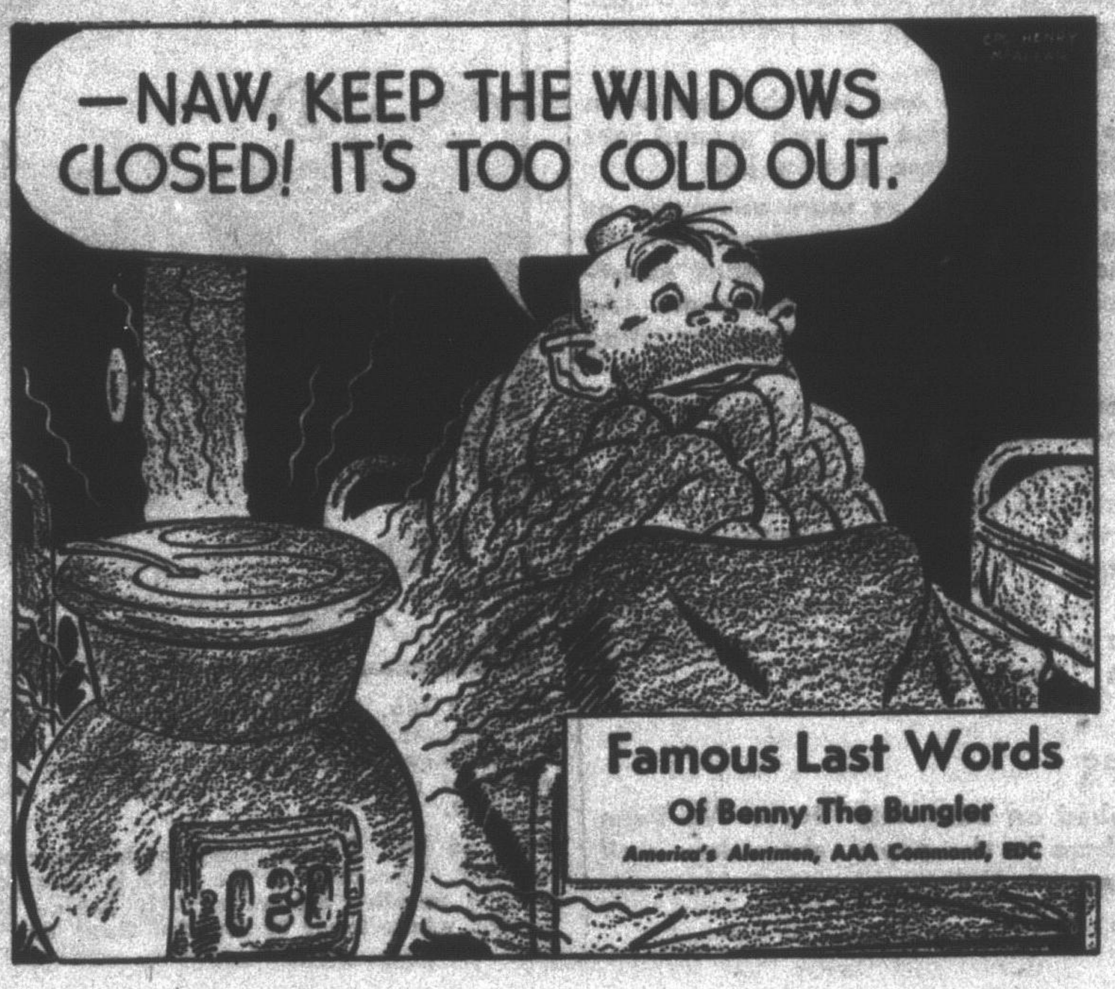
IN THE ARENA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26th

21:00 HOURS

This Will Be a Gala Affair!

U.S. Engineers and WAAC's have been invited to attend en masse.

100 EXTRA GIRLS!



POSTED

GROUP CAPT. W. G. WEBBER

C.O. POSTED TO EASTERN CANADA

Group Captain W. G. Webber the Commanding Officer of No. 3 "M" Depot, has been advised that he is posted to No. 1 Wireless School, Montreal. He leaves at the end of the week.

Full details are not yet available as to the new commanding officer but will be carried in a later edition of The Airman.

TOOTHACHES AND EXTRACTIONS

● Teeth to the left of us; teeth to the right of us; teeth all around us. That's how it's been and that's how it's going to keep on being until all those bad teeth come out.

● Visiting us last week was the C.D.O., Lieut.-Col. Drewry and Major Brown. The clinic must have passed their inspection because Major Singer had a nice smile on his face for the remainder of the day. And it seems that Cpl. Eric Hamilton cannot bear to stay away from the clinic for any length of time. . . . He paid a visit to us and to the depot over the week-end and from the looks of things, he enjoyed himself and wishes he was back again. . . . But then, maybe he did come to the city to see the girl friend. Yes . . . we hear he has one.

● And the lab. is just a bit noisier with Sammy Lees back again. And Sgt. Costigan and Pte. Palfenier better hurry up and catch themselves a wife . . . they're the only two single me at the clinic.

● How did Ginger enjoy her stay in hospital—(she got those tonsils out after all). She must have been all excited as this was her first time in a hospital bed.

● Sgt. McCloskey and Sgt. Miller seem very satisfied being able to get living-out-allowance—just that much more money their wives can take away from them.

● And Mike Miller won't give us the inside dope on anything.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

The Airman

Published weekly at No. 3 "M" Depot, Edmonton, Alberta, in the interests of airmen, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer.

Executive Editor.....F/O H. W. Eggleston
Managing Editor.....Cpl. J. Bricker
Sports Editor.....F/O H. W. Eggleston
Art Editor.....Sgt. D. L. Rodger

Trainee Staff
AC2's J. N. Crandall, T. Derbyshire, H. E. Howard, J. P. Kirk.

Volume 1 EDMONTON, ALTA., FRIDAY, FEB. 26, 1943 Number 35

THEY SERVE THAT MEN MAY FLY!

Leaving out the smaller unessentials and looking at the whole picture, the prime purpose of what we're doing these days is to win the war and get back to those dear dim days when 6:30 a.m. was a time to *get in* bed after a night out; not a time to *get out* and go on parade.

One way to hurry things up a bit and get caught up on all that lost sleep is to get as many airplanes in the sky over Germany as there are men in Canada to fly them and so much as one man doing a ground job when he could be in the air is delaying that happy day.

It was with that thought in mind that the Women's Division of the R.C.A.F. was formed and, after a few tottering infant steps, the idea is growing and expanding and today the recruiting emphasis is about evenly divided between women and men.

WOMEN'S PLACE IN THE HOME?

Here and there you may find the odd diehard who still maintains that a woman's place is in the home. We won't argue that point come peace time brother but it certainly is not true during a period of total war. A woman's place now is doing whatever she can to best help the war effort.

These days if a woman can best help win the war by driving a transport or a tractor that's where she should be and that's where she's *going to be* because plans are underway to enlarge and expand the work of the airwomen to take in every field in which they can serve as well as men.

It's at a recruiting centre that you first meet the airwomen-to-be. Just like the men, they come to the recruiting centre with varying ideas of why they are there and what they want to do. A great many have brothers or husbands already in the service and have come to realize that the quickest way to get them back is to do their utmost toward winning the war. Some come with a vague combination of ideas made up of helping to win the war and getting "in" on the biggest show this old world has ever seen. Others see a chance of helping the war effort along and also learning some useful trade or occupation that was denied them in civilian life.

ALL VOLUNTEERS

The big point is that none of them are drafted. They don't come in with the thought that they're going to *have* to get into this thing sooner or later anyway. They are sincere and just a little bewildered by it all. That's why the airwomen are off to a good start and are proving themselves in every field where they have been employed.

It's no flight of fancy to look into the future and see the day when hundreds, or even thousands, of men who are now tied up with ground jobs will be given an opportunity to get into the air in some aircrew job.

We can see the day when there will be as many or more airwomen as ground crew airmen. They are proving themselves as transport drivers, photographers, teleprinter operators, cooks, postal clerks, equipment assistants, fabric workers, telephone operators, instrument makers and so on. As more come in, more are going to be given these jobs and more men are going to be given a chance to get into the air.

The women of Britain and Russia proved themselves during the crisis and the women of Canada are doing it now. You get the proper slant on it at a recruiting centre. When Canada's women sign up for service they sign for duty anywhere in the world. They realize they may spend their time at an isolated station or be posted to Britain or Malta or North Africa or anywhere and they do it gladly and willingly.

The days for shimmery frocks and well-turned silk-clad ankles can wait. Right now this is total war and the men of the R.C.A.F. are proud to welcome their sisters-in-service who serve "That Men May Fly!"

* * *

EDIQUIPS

On January 29 THE AIRMAN published an editorial, "Have We Been Forgotten?" A news announcement elsewhere in the paper, shows how well THE AIRMAN is read. The troupe of famous Hollywood entertainers are leaving for Canada next week.

Cpl. Wagner has a beautiful "shiner"—maybe his girl friend can explain. Anyway let us open a window in the Reception Wing Orderly Room and throw a little light on the subject. . . . **Flt./Sgt. Maynard** and **Miss Mae Thompson** took in the "Rookie Revue." . . . **Cpl. Lunney** threatened a "Fight to the finish" with a street car conductor on the South Side of town last Saturday night. . . . **Sgt. McDonald, J. H.,** is trying to choose between the lesser of two evils: "An automobile" or a girl friend "A la mode." . . . The Russians' only desire now is a fight to the "Finnish." Oh well, this war will probably end with a "Bang" anyway. . . . The rumor concerning the arrival of **W.A.A.F.'s** should eliminate some inspections. At least we all know that **LAC Steadman** will endeavor to keep his "would-be" moustache in shape. . . . The "Trainees" now on duty watch claim they know the meaning of the term "mopping up" used so often in communiques. . . . A corporal salutes **Sergeant-Major Blundell** . . . well glasses are on issue and I don't mean in the wet canteen. . . . **Cpl. Alexander** arrives on the late train due to circumstances beyond his control—I'd like to hear her side of the story. . . . A Direct Entry Sergeant is a sergeant that makes a "poor approach." . . . **F/O Saunders** said, on his returning home late one night from the "Vendors": "My dear wife, you're the breath of spring." And she replied: "My dear husband, your breath."

Wings are now on sale
In the airmen's dry canteen
With pictures of our comrades
And the places they have been.
Do deprive yourself a "Coke"
And with the nickel buy
A magazine that's written
For Canada's men of the sky.

PHILOSOLINES

Idea is a child;
Thought, a nice old man.
Gossip is a toothless hag;
Genius, a bright tin can.

Imagination looks like clouds,
Gloom is more like mud,
Fear drags on feet of splintered ice.
Hate is a blemished bud,

Love is a raindrop inside out.
Caution has one short leg.
Hunger hides in garbage pails,
Greed must one day beg.

Hope has eyes of azure gray;
Pain, a saw-toothed smile,
Courage rides on fire trucks,
Laughing all the while.

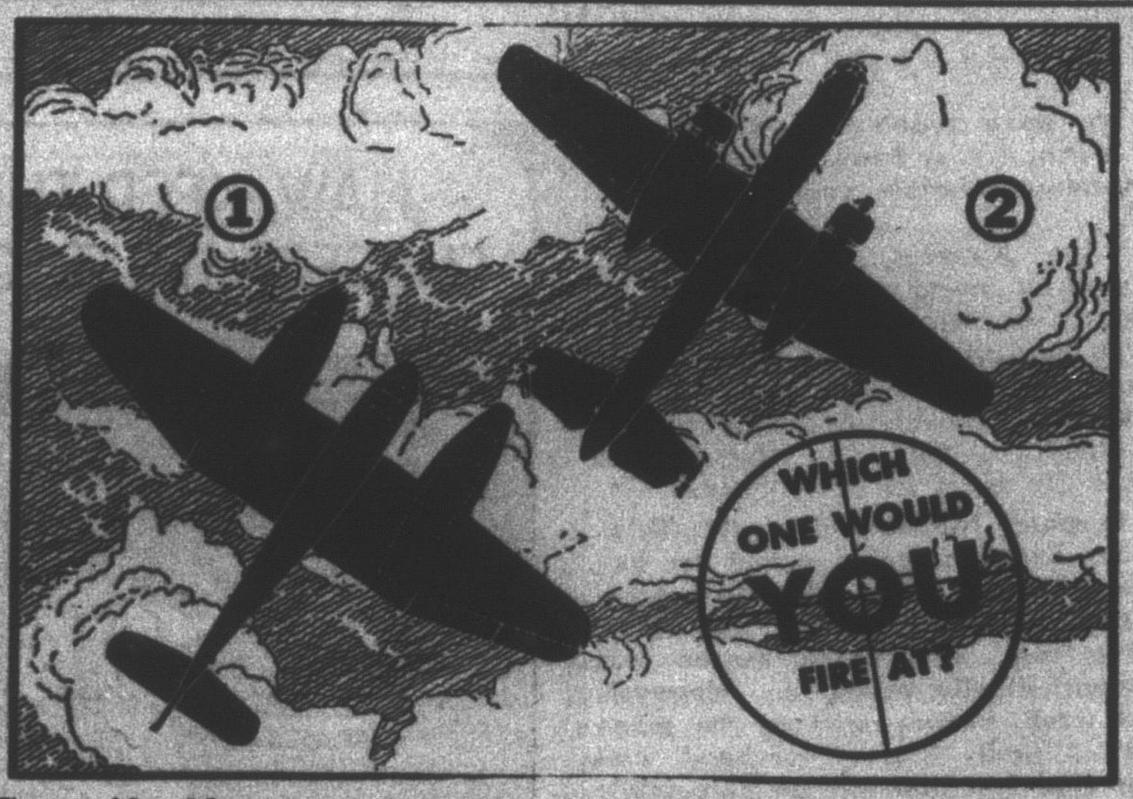
"AIRMAN" MAKES AN ERROR

Last week our feature story about WO1 Pomes, mentioned the fact that Mr. Pomes was the first man to come to No. 3 "M" Depot from Active Service in this war. It has since been learned that WO1 Shaw, the Trades Tests Officer, has been overseas and all through the "Battle of Britain."

Our apologies, WO1 Shaw.

"You look sweet enough to eat," said Cpl. Wenbourne to a little blonde cutie.

"I do eat," said the blonde. "Let's go!"



Fire at No. 1! It's the German Focke-Wulf Fw. 187, a twin-engine, low-wing, two seat fighter. The leading edges of the wings are untapered and the trailing edges are swept forward on the outer sections to rounded tips. The engine nacells extend ahead of the nose. The leading edges of the tailplane are tapered and the tips are rounded.

Not at No. 2! It's the North American B-25, a mid-wing twin engine medium bomber. The nose of the B-25 is very long and extends ahead of the engines. The engine nacelles project slightly behind the trailing edge of the wings. Both edges of the wings taper to rounded tips. The ship has double fins and rudders.

AC2 ON DEPOT GAINS B.E.M.

Continued from Page One.

Blacked Out Ship

It was Bergstrom's duty as shipwright to blackout the ship for the balance of the voyage to England. Extra watches were put on duty throughout the remainder of the zig-zag course to an English port.

During the first several months of the war Bergstrom plied back and forth across the North Atlantic carrying supplies and ammunitions from war plants in this country to the United Kingdom. Some of the crossings were made in convoy. On others they went out alone.

The ship had been equipped with armament and a Royal Marine gunner was attached to the vessel as instructor. Each member of the crew was taught how to handle the guns. Gene showed a natural flare for gunnery and he was appointed range finder. He was in the South Atlantic when the Graf Spee was at large. A sister ship to the one on which Gene sailed was caught by the raider and there were only two survivors.

Carried Supplies to Greece

Finally after completing a convoy crossing from an Eastern Canadian port to England Bergstrom's ship was transferred to the Mediterranean to carry supplies to Greece. For the next few months he shuttled back and forth between Alexandria and Pyreaus, the port of Athens.

The run between Egypt and Greece takes between two and three days depending on the weather. And during every hour of daylight convoys are under constant attack from Italian and German bombers. Freighters travelled in groups of six across these dangerous waters and were usually escorted by a small ack-ack ship. There was scarcely a trip went by that at least one of the ships was either sunk or severely damaged.

But the Axis didn't score these sinkings without loss to themselves. The Fleet Air Arm usually accounted for a few planes while the anti-aircraft guns mounted on the decks of these ships knocked down many others before Greece fell and these waters were closed to Allied traffic.

When the men were called to action stations Bergstrom left his shipwright duties and manned the guns. He was the range finder. Once in the Mediterranean his crew was credited with shooting down a Stuka dive bomber. Again in the Indian Ocean a Jap bomber-fighter was destroyed by Bergstrom's aim. But more of that later.

During the days which followed Bergstrom learned to respect the courage of Nazi pilots and the accuracy of their bombardiers. But he says the Italians were pretty punk. Rarely, if ever, did an Eyetie plane come down low enough so that bombs could be dropped with any degree of accuracy.

Conditions in Greece, according to Gene, were pitiful even before Greece fell. Greece is not self-supporting as regards to food and with every available ship being used to transport munitions of war the Greeks were going hungry even before Germany came into the war to help pull Mussolini's chestnuts out of the fire. Now that no ships are running to Greece the entire country is starving. Stories of Greek women and children dropping dead in the streets from hunger are, Bergstrom says, not the least bit exaggerated.

Italian Fleet

Gene's ship was in the convoy which the Italian fleet went out to find in the summer of 1941. Instead of finding the convoy they ran smack-bang into the British Mediterranean fleet. The battle which followed is now known as the Battle of Cape Matapan. The Italian losses were so heavy that the Italian fleet has never since taken part in any major action.

Bergstrom's freighter, and the other ships in the convoy were less than 20 miles away from the battle area—that's almost within firing range for some of the heavy guns on the capital ships. The convoy, which by this time was steaming at full speed towards its destination could hear the roar and rumble of guns throughout the day.

Bombed Several Times

During these months in the Mediterranean Bergstrom's ship had been bombed hundreds of times. Time and time again she was slightly damaged by near misses and shrapnel but she was always able to carry on. Not once was any man injured aboard the ship although at times they all suffered slightly from the concussion of bursting bombs.

They were half way across the Mediterranean when the received word that British troops were to be evacuated from Greece. The ship was ordered back to Alexandria to dump her cargo and was then to go to Pireaus to assist in the evacuation. But by the time AC2 Bergstrom's ship had reached Grecian waters again the Nazis and Italians were in full control of Greece and the evacuation had been stopped.

Bergstrom went back to Alexandria and down through the Red Sea to England.

Direct Hit

The outbreak of war in the Pacific found Gene and his shipmates off the coast of India and it was in these waters that his ship received its first direct hit. It was here too that Gene won the B.E.M.

They were sailing northwards from Ceylon to Calcutta in the Bay of Bengal when Japanese carrier based dive bombers sighted them. They came in waves of fives and sixes and the attack lasted nearly two hours. Time and again aerial torpedoes were headed straight for their ship but the captain was able to bring her around so that they slid past. All the time the ships guns were blazing away. Gene again was at the gun sights and again an enemy plane disintegrated in mid-air and plunged into the sea.

This was the worst attack he had been through.

According to Gene a strange transformation comes over the men when they are in action. For some reason, which he is unable to explain, they remain calm and confident regardless of the odds against them. Perhaps it is because they are too excited or too busy. But they know that if they don't keep the guns roaring they do not stand a chance. And so the guns keep roaring.

When an ack-ack shell bursts near an enemy plane the gun crew usually bursts out cheering. When a direct hit is scored they dance and scream and wave their arms wildly. But when the enemy has been driven off men, who had nerves of iron during the battle, become jittery. Rum is always issued to the men after a battle but it is not often they are able to take it. Every nerve in their bodies is on the jump and their stomachs are often upset. They usually sit in little groups saying little for the first half hour, sometimes longer depending on how tough the battle has been.

Bomb Strikes

It was just before the Jap planes turned tail and headed back to their carrier that a 200-pound bomb crashed into their after deck, not more than 12 feet from the guns. Had the bomb exploded on deck it would have killed them all. But it crashed through the steel plating of the upper deck and down on through two of the lower decks and came to rest in a cargo of oakum near the powder magazine.

A fire broke out immediately and every available hand was needed in the hold to bring the blaze under control. It was fortunate for the crew of the ship that the attack had ended because it would have been impossible to have kept the guns going and to have fought the fire at the same time.

For three hours the fire blazed and with every passing second increased the threat of an explosion which would blow the vessel to kingdom come. The sea cocks were opened and the room was flooded. Finally the fire was put out and the ship sailed into the port of Vizagapatam.

After the vessel has been tied up Gene and the first mate went down into the hold to inspect the damage. Ammunition boxes were taken up on deck to dry and the water in the hold was forced out through the bilge pumps. Then they went to see what was left of their cargo of oakum.

Prying into the soggy bales Gene's hand struck a sharp metallic object. He dug deeper. It was the 200-pound Jap bomb which had crashed through their decks. It was still alive. At any second it might explode, sink the ship and destroy part of the harbor installations. Something had to be done and done quickly.

The ship's captain was consulted and it was decided to call for volunteers. Two men were needed.

There was no need, however, to call the ship's company together because Gene and the first mate volunteered immediately to handle the delicate job.

The aft' deck was roped off and the crew moved a safe distance away. Bergstrom and the mate descended the steep stairways into the bowels of the ship to begin their dangerous work.

Moved Bomb

They lifted the bomb out from the mess of oakum and stood it gently on the floor. They were careful to keep it upright because they feared that if was laid horizontally it might set the mechanism in motion and it would explode. The tail assembly was removed and then the bomb was placed in a sack so that it could be carried more easily. Gingerly they picked it up and started the long arduous climb to the top deck.

They were both stripped to the waist but even in the cool dampness of the hold, sweat streamed from every pore in their bodies. Down the alleyway they went until they came to the first flight of stairs. Easy does it! The two men tightened their grip to make doubly sure that the bomb couldn't bang against the narrow passageway. Even the slightest touch might mean disaster.

Nerves

Soon they reached the top of the first stairway. Two more to go. There wasn't a sound throughout the length and breadth of the ship. It was almost as though time had stood still waiting to see what would happen.

They were breathing heavily now and the quick beat of their hearts seemed as loud and distinct as the sharp staccato blows of a trip-hammer.

The mate and Gene craned their necks to look up through the next companionway. Scarcely a word was spoken.

Now they were on the second deck. Only one more to go.

They wondered how long their luck would hold and had to fight back an impulse to rush the bomb up the last flight of stairs. Just 18 more steps and the worst of the job was over. At least they would be in the open. The last mile is always the longest and it seemed an eternity before they were out on deck.

Their first impulse was to heave it overboard, anything to get rid of this infernal machine which might at any moment spatter their bodies over the Indian countryside. Instead they lashed it to the railing and a naval officer came aboard to inspect it.

There was no one in Vizagapatam who knew how to dismantle a bomb to make it harmless. The only thing that could be done was to take the bomb a safe distance outside the town and let it explode where it couldn't do any harm. To have thrown it into the sea might have destroyed their own ship or at least damaged it severely.

An army truck was driven alongside the vessel and the bomb was lowered into it. It was then taken a few miles outside the town and dumped into a swamp. Less than an hour later it blew up.

"We thought the Japs were back again when we heard that bomb go," Gene said.

Good Old Rum

After the bomb had been disposed of the rum was passed around but AC2 Bergstrom was much too nervous to enjoy it. Every nerve in his body had been tensed for more than five hours; for the hours during the Jap attack, then during the three hour battle against the fire in the ammunition

—continued on page six

AC2 ON DEPOT GAINS B.E.M.

Continued from Page Five.

locker and finally during that 15 or 20 minutes, which seemed like twenty years, while the bomb was pryed loose from the oakum and carried on deck.

Now that the strain was over every nerve relaxed.

"I was so jittery," he said, "that I couldn't even light a cigarette let alone hold a mug of rum."

But at sunset the nerves quietened down and the rum went down.

Next morning at daybreak the Jap planes were back again. The raid was much shorter than the one on the previous day and two other ships in the harbor helped the crew of the damaged freighter to drive them off. When the attack ended there wasn't twelve rounds of ammunition between the three vessels. The attack on Vizagapatam marked the first time that Jap planes had bombed the Indian mainland and there were more than 100 civilian casualties including 20 killed.

The next day they set out again heading for the South African coast. It was Easter Monday when they approached Ceylon and sighted a Chinese fishing schooner. The freighter hove-to to investigate and they found 18 senior ranking British naval and army officers aboard. All the naval officers were survivors of the Prince of Wales and the Repulse which were sunk by Japanese planes off the coast of Singapore. They had managed to get back to the mainland where they found the Chinese boat, loaded it with supplies, and set out for India. They had been at sea for thirty days when picked up but they were none the worse for wear.

These men, who had been through the seige and fall of Singapore had incredible tales to tell. Censorship regulations, however, make it impossible to repeat them in this paper and their story, along with thousands of others, must wait until after the war before it can be made public.

The 18 officers were taken to Bombay and then the freighter turned about and headed for Dar Es Salaam in Tanbanyika for repairs. When they left Dar Es Salaam British troops had landed in Madagascar. They met several British ships carrying French prisoners back to England.

Feed for U.S.A.

At Durban they received instructions from the Admiralty to sail for the United States and it was on this run that they were torpedoed and sunk.

This was the 9th of June, 1942. The ship was about 650 miles south of Bermuda. Twice during the afternoon the watch had reported that they thought two torpedoes had skimmed by the bows of the vessel. But they weren't sure. The events of the same night left no room for doubt.

Torpedo Hits

It was three o'clock in the morning when the first torpedo struck us," Gene said. "There were fifty men aboard. Five were on watch and the other 45 were in their bunks. The torpedo ripped a hole in the bow of the ship.

"We weren't shipping much water," he went on, "and I think we might have been able to stay afloat. But ten minutes after the first torpedo had hit us we received a second hit. This time it was in the stern and the old lady went down in 60 seconds.

"None of us had time to put our clothes on. It was a hot night and even the watch wasn't wearing much more than a pair or shorts or linen slacks. Two boats were lowered but I didn't have time to get in. I went overboard and most of the rest of us did too."

Gene and the others were picked up about 15 minutes later. Only one man, the wireless operator, lost his life.

He said that the submarine surfaced after the ship had gone down and that the U-boat commander crawled through the conning tower to speak to them. He gave them two jugs of water, told them their bearings and wished them luck.

Speak English

"He spoke perfect English," Gene said, "in fact it was a lot better than most of the Englishmen on board could speak. He told us he was sorry that he had to sink us but said it was his job."

The two over-crowded life boats, one with 25 survivors and the other with 24 were roped together and the captain set his course for Anguilla, one of the tiny islands in the British West Indies group.

The life boats had been baked under the scorching sun in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean and they leaked badly for the first two days. All hands had to bail continuously for the first 48 hours to keep them afloat.

Three times a day the men were issued with one tablespoon full of water and two concentrated food pills.

On the fourth day a strong wind came up and huge waves poured over the gunwales of the lifeboats. The six blankets in each boat were soaked and the bottom of the boats were filled with water. The men's feet began to swell. But it is an ill wind which blows nobody good and this one was no exception for it was blowing in the direction the survivors wanted to go and it helped them on their way.

On the ninth day they sighted a ship on the horizon and tried frantically to attract its attention. They failed and the vessel steamed by.

"No we didn't give up hope, AC2 Bergstrom said, "but it gave us sort of a numb feeling and didn't do our spirits any good. We were terribly cramped in the boats. It was impossible to lie down at any time. The nights were chilly and some of the men were becoming quite weak and sick.

"The night after that ship sailed by we tried singing to boost our spirits. But it made us terribly thirsty and the captain orderd us to stop. Our water supply was getting pretty low by this time.

"Each night after that the ship's navigator held classes in stellar navigation so that we wouldn't think too much about ourselves.

"It was a great help and I learned quite a bit," he said.

For five days more they sailed and each day brought them closer to their goal. On the next day they sighted Anguilla and they landed the same evening.

The natives on Anguilla treated them like kings. They gave them clothing and killed a sheep with which to make mutton broth. A white doctor on the island doled it out to the men in tiny portions. A few days later they were taken to St. Kits and were placed in a hospital. Some of the men, including Gene, who had lost 20 pounds, were up and around in two days. Others were so weakened and exhausted by the 14 days in the lifeboat that they were not able to get out of bed for several weeks. But they all recovered.

It was late in August when AC2 Bergstrom reached New York. He arrived in Victoria in September.

Eugene Bergstrom has two younger brothers in the R.C.A.F. One is a P/O at Trenton and the other brother, Brandt, is a trainee at No. 3 "M".

B.E.M.

Last Christmas Eve a special delivery letter arrived at the Bergstrom home in Victoria advising Gene that he had been awarded the British Empire Medal.

There was more rum that night.

"Er—I brought my friend along!"

Snoopy Sez....

Flt./Sgt. Mercer has been posted to the coast . . . **the weather should blend well with him.** . . . According to Sgt. Mackay "The Kentucky Derby is a famous horse race. But sometimes it rains in Louisville. Therefore a man's best friend is his mudder." . . . **Or as Flt./Sgt. Blottner the dynamo of the kitchen would say, "Dames are pushovers for gay caballeros. Caballeros are athletes in Spain. Athletes in Spain throw the bull for diversion. Therefore dames are pushovers for bull-throwers."** . . . Wonder if Hank, the barber, will have to tear coupons off ration cards when fellows like Randall and Blundell want an OIL SHAMPOO. . . . **When Sgt. Seaman asked his clumsiest recruit "Where is the balance of your rifle?" the recruit replied, "Honest sarge I dunno, this is all they giv' me.** . . . And when the old chap asked the AC2 if he had done much shooting lately, he replied, "Won 80 bucks last Saturday." . . . **Observe F/O Eggleston in a dual personality on the paper. He's Executive Editor and Sports Editor . . . has to fight with himself for space and then fights with Bricker.** . . . FIGHT is a good word . . . there should be more of it around the depot.

?

"Oh my . . . shattered nerves," sometimes varied to read, "Oh my shattered . . . nerves."

The above is the NCO's hymn of hate and a source of bewilderment to the trainee.

The dictionary defines nerves as follows:

"One of the fibres that establish communication between the various parts of the animal body and the brain."

A mountaineer found a small mirror lying in the road. He had never seen one before. He looked into it and exclaimed, "Gosh, a picture of Paw." He took it home to show to his wife. "Mary," he said, "I've found a picture of Paw."

The wife looked into the mirror. "Picture of Paw nothing," she cried. "That's that old hag you've been running around with."

SPORTS

Depot Wins First Game of Basketball Final

Defeat U.S. Engineers In Opener, 43-21 Tally

By AC2 Tom Derbyshire

Tuesday night at the West Glen High School, the No. 3 "M" Depot senior basketball team took a stranglehold on the Edmonton men's championship, when they defeated the 331st U.S. Engineers 32-21. This victory leaves the "M" Depot "Spitfires" still unbeaten in league and playoff competition.

Best Game of Year

Playing their smartest game of the year, the "M" Depot hoopsters were full value for their win. The Engineers, champs of the city league, were checked to a standstill, and their play disorganized by the Airmen, who kept up a constant pressure.

With Harley Miller and John Gulickson stopped by Jimmy Bardsley and John Kaminsky, the boys from the U.S. found the going a little too tough.

Bardsley of No. 3 "M", and Gulickson of the Engineers, led their teams with 14 points each. Gulickson, who towers up into the high altitudes (6'5") garnered 10 points in the first half, but was checked very closely in the final two quarters, getting only four points. Bardsley played an outstanding game for the Airmen, holding the high scoring Miller to five points, and setting up play after play for the "Spitfires."

Play during the first half of the game was very close. The Engineers opened the scoring, and this two-point lead was the largest they enjoyed during the encounter. With play see-sawing back and forth, players checking closely, the score board read 9-8 at the end of the first quarter .Shortly after the second period started, the Engineers went into the lead for the last time, when again they scored the first basket, giving them a 10-9 edge. The Spitfires came right back, with Gill, Buna and Bardsley sinking field goals, to run the Air Force total to 15 points at the half-way mark. The Engineers picked up one more basket in the second to end the period with 12.

Go to Town

After the breather, the "M" Depot hoopsters started in to "go to town." Keeping up the pressure, and passing the ball around until a man wos open, the "Spitfires" outscored the U.S. lads 16-3 in the third canto. Fisher (4), Bardsley (6) and Kaminsky (4) led the attack. "Windy" Smith with a field goal, and Miller with a free shot sniped the three U.S. points. Going into the final canto with a 31-15 lead, the "M" Depot hoopsters were never headed, and again outscored their rivals by a large margin, 12-6. In the final session Gill (2), Gray (3), Buna (5) and Bardsley (2), split the scoring; while Gulickson garnered his four last-half points and Miller picked up a lone basket. When the final whistle tooted, the "M" Depot still had the U.S. Engineers bottled up in their own end of the court, and the score board read: "No. 3 "M" Depot, 43; U.S. Engineers 21."

Play on the whole was very clean, with both teams drawing 10 fouls. The "M" Depot team also held the edge in free shooting, sinking five out of 10, while the U.S. Engineers rang up only one out of 10.

The game was officially opened with players from both teams lining up across the court, as the No. 3 "M" Depot Band played the National Anthems of the United States and Canada.

Group Captain W. G. Webber, Commanding Officer of No. 3 "M" Depot, tossed up the first ball to get the game under way. Col. Mosely of the U.S. Army, along with many other officers, were also present. A large following of American officers and men turned out to support the Engineers, while the "M" Depot was well represented by both officers and airmen.

LINEUPS

U.S. ENGINEERS—Hora Wrigglesworth, Kreiser, Coyle, Murphy, Smith (2), Miller (5), Phillips, White, Cuellor, Gulickson (14), Goodlander, Huserman. Total—21.

R.C.A.F. "SPITFIRES"—Gill (6), Hargreaves, Jenion, Main, Gray (5), Forrest, Fisher (7), Buna (7), Bardsley (14), Kaminsky (4). Total—43.

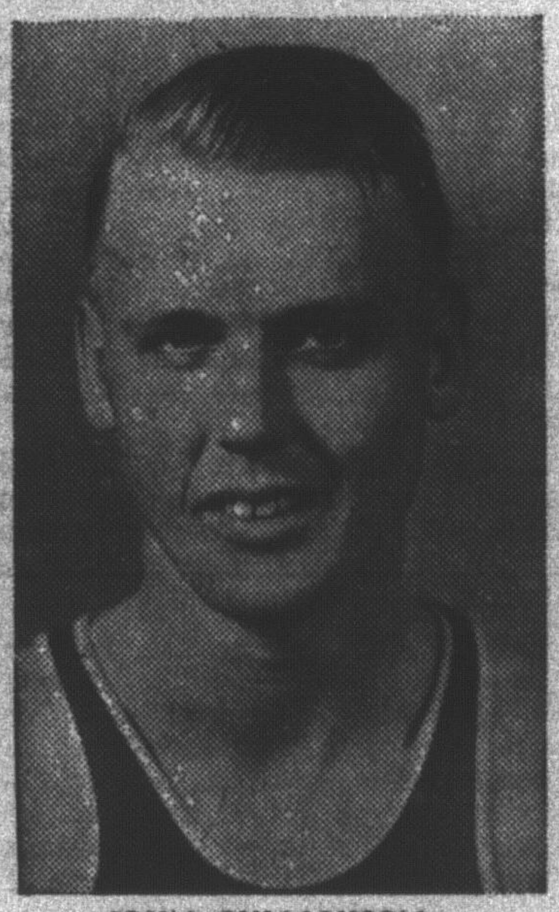
Referees: Ed Tomick and Tommy McClocklin.

Scorer: Margaret Gray.

Timekeepers: J. P. Page and R. Haliburton.

THESE MEN CLASHED LAST NIGHT

JIM BARDSLEY



JOHN GULLICKSON

Officers Bowling Team Vindicate Themselves

After the "mild" panning dished out last week, **The Airman** reports that the officers "got back in the groove" on Monday night, and came home with three out of the four points.

This is right in keeping the rest of the teams on "M" Depot, who have been winning consistently. Maybe next week, with another three or four points, we'll be able to report that No. 3 "M" Depot's officers are back in first place in the Officers' Bowling League.

Entertainment parcels were flown out to the R.C.A.F. camps along the North West staging route. These parcels were a gift from No. 3 "M" Depot, and contained a large variety of games such as checkers, chess, cribbage boards, darts, etc., and an amount of reading material to help pass some of the long evenings for the boys at these isolated spots. The boys intend to make good use of these parcels, and thoroughly appreciate this gesture by No. 3 "M".

TALL TALES

Vancouver, Feb. 3.

Dear Comrade:

Regarding membership for your "LIARS CLUB." I regret being unable to become a member. It has been so long since I have told a lie, that I have forgotten how.

Yours truthfully,

One of those 100% Subscribers.

ON THE SPORT SPOT!

By F/O H. W. EGGLESTON

This week see "M" Depot teams involved in various play-offs and finals that will likely bring further honors to the station. - - - **The finest bouquet of the week goes to the rifle team for its fine performance in reaching the finals of the Turvey Cup competition.** - - - In eliminating the team that has won the trophy for the last two years in the shoot-off last Sunday the "M" Depot sharpshooters turned in a remarkable performance by dropping only three targets out of 1,000. - - - **This Sunday they go into action against the R.C.M.P. Reserves.** - - - Unless success goes to their heads there is every chance that they will bring home the bacon. - - - **Good luck, lads!** - - - By the time this reaches the readers the men's city basketball championship will have been decided. Look at the supplement for further news on the outcome of the series. - - - **After this the "M" Depot cagers will start prepping for the provincial playdowns.** - - - Expecting to meet No. 4 I.T.S. in the finals of the Inter-Services Hockey League our hockeyists received a shock Tuesday by learning that No. 2 A.O.S. had upset the dope in a sudden-death game by edging out I.T.S. 8-7 to decide the team to meet "M" Depot for the championship. - - - **The inter-services team is looking further afield in the intermediate playdowns.** - - - It is billed to meet Red Deer in the northern eliminations. - - - **Congratulations to Canadians of the Edmonton Junior Hockey League in winning the city championship.** - - - In making it three straight over E.A.C. they proved they had more on the ball than the opposition. - - - **They are worthy representatives in the Memorial Cup playdowns.** - - - Here's wishing them the best of luck in their quest for further honors.

THE DUTY TRUMPETER

Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn,
It's 6:30 a.m. of a winter's morn.
But where is the Trumpeter, asleep in bed?
He was out last night, and boy, what a "head."

CONGRATS

That long awaited promotion arrived. First it was a girl. Now it is a Flying Officer. The former P/O Jamieson is now F/O Jamieson and we observe with back datings too.

She was pretty as a picture and had a nice frame as well.

The Airman

Official Organ of No. 3 "M" Depot, Edmonton.

AC2: "Since I met you I can not eat, I can't sleep, I can't drink . . ."
Blonde: "Why dear?"
AC2: "I'm broke."

Circulation Last Week, 2,000 EDMONTON, ALBERTA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1943 This Week, 2,000

CURRENT CINEMA

AVENUE

Saturday, Feb. 27th, for 3 days: "Joan of Paris" and "All That Money Can Buy". Wednesday, March 3rd, for 3 days: "Remember the Day" with Claudette Colbert and John Payne; also "Model Wife" starring Joan Blondell.

CAPITOL

"Yankee Doodle Dandy" now showing.

DREAMLAND

Saturday, Feb. 27th, for 3 days, "Sabotage Squad" with Bruce Bennett and Qay arris; also "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" with Fred MacMurray and Henry Fonda. Wednesday, March 3, for 3 days. "This Above All" featuring Tyrone Power and Joan Fontaine; also "Cadet Girl."

EMPRESS

Friday, Feb. 26th, for 3 days, "The Great Gildersleeve" and "Little Tokio, U.S.A." Tuesday, March 2nd, for 3 days, "In Old California" with John Wayne and Binnie Barnes; also "Mountain Moonlight" with the Weaver Brothers.

RIALTO

Friday, Feb. 26th, for 3 days, "The Silver Queen" starring George Brent and Priscilla Lane; also "McGuerins From Brooklyn" with William Bendix and Grace Bradley. Tuesday, March 2nd, for 3 days, "The Seige of Leningrad" and "Moonlight in Havana" with Allan Jones and Jane Farzee.

STRAND

Friday, Feb. 26th, for 3 days, "My Sister Eileen" with Rosalind Russell. Also "Prairie Gun Smoke" with Tex Ritter. Tuesday, March 2nd, for 3 days, Ida Lupino in "Ladies in Retirement"; also "Follow the Fleet."

AUSTRALIAN AIRMAN DIES

LAC L. N. Pagan, an Australian airman stationed at this depot died suddenly on February 21 at the University Hospital.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, February 24, with full military honors and was attended by R.A.A.F. and R.C.A.F. personnel.

BONJOUR

We can't say just where they are going but a few more postings hit the depot this week.

LAC Ken Buckley of the photo section and the following corporals from the Service Police are now en route. They are Corporals Milne, Arnott, Cook, Lipke and Wolstenholme. Cpl. Wolstenholme has been on the depot for a long time and this makes the eighth war he has fought in.

The world is full of willing people. Some are willing to work and the rest are willing to let them.

Butter and Sugar Ration Cut 25%

Gentlemen of the air force, that means exactly what it says. Up to a while ago you were asked to go easy on the butter and sugar as a patriotic gesture. Now the R.C.A.F., the Army and Navy have cut 25% off their rations. It now becomes necessary to emphasize the warning that unless each of you restrain the impulse to have bread on butter instead of butter on bread you will force WO1 Harland to do something very drastic to make sure that our rations last out.

We can expect a butter and milk mixture occasionally, and how often we have it on the table will depend entirely upon the spirit of fairness that exists among you.

WO1 Harland, by the way, is much more concerned with satisfying the individual appetite than many of you realize. He regrets the reduction in our rations, but his hands are tied by orders, so a little co-operation with him on this problem and we will get the best that goes around. There is also a shortage in the whys and wherefores that go to make up a cake but you can rest assured that the Messing Office will make sure that if there is any cake being made we will get our share.

A bright spot on the horizon appears with the announcement that there will be more eggs on the menu in the future. This will be the closest we will ever get to chicken unless Christmas comes early.

In all and all we don't expect many visible changes in our diet if we watch our passes at the butter, but as they say in the gangster movies, be careful, or else——.

¶ We heard about a PANCAKE PARTY last Saturday night, to which Sgt. Wade and a few other senior NCO's were invited. Being a little doubtful of the requirements of a pancake party, they decided to take along their own liquid refreshments. But said party turned out to be a sanctimonious one and their "refreshments" wer not permitted. Eventually, at the close of the party, when they had finished singing "Lead Kindly Light" the boys returned—MINUS the booty with which they went! The question now arises: "Where did they manage to get rid of the 'stuff'?"

¶ Among the occasional DRR's which drift about, is one concerning the arrival of a couple of hundred WD's TO TAKE OVER AROUND THE various offices. The DRR also has it that the girls will be paraded into room where there will be a MACHINE GUN, A TYPEWRITER, WASHING MACHINE, and A CRADLE. Those who pick out the typewriter will be hired!

¶ They're a playful bunch over in Hut 12—anything for a lark. While AC2 Hopkin was having a peaceful snooze on his bunk the other evening after supper—one of the boys, with the aid of a tin of shoe polish, did a little "make-up" job on Hopkins' face while said victim slept peacefully on. Later, after discovering his cannibal features in the mirror, he was heard to mutter: "I guess I'l never live this down!"

¶ At the lunch-hour the other day, one of our new guests from over at Reception Wing, while balancing the regular luncheon dishes in both hands, followed Cpl. Penson halfway 'round the Mess Hall and finally managed to attract his attention: "Corporal, do I sit in the same place as I sat for breakfast?"

¶ Cpl. Lawson continues to find the occasional amusing incident among his various recruit parades. The other day up at the Padre's office the recruit gave his name as Abraham Isaac. He didn't know what his religion was, however, so the Padre asked what his father's religion was, to which the recruit replied: "I don't know my papa's religion." And HIS hobby was given as WHITTLING.

¶ Have you heard about the treasure hunt being held around the Dry Canteen? It appears that occasionally when somebody purchases a slice of cake there, they sometimes find a slip of paper with a name and HER address there-on. Two such addresses have reached THE AIRMAN office so far. The Dry Canteen should expect a rush of business when this gets around.

"Y" ROUNDUP

The snooker tournament February 18 was won by H. C. Topley of Calgary, this being his second win in as many weeks. The runner-up was R. D. Joinson, of Tisdale, Saskatchewan.

In the table tennis tournament, Thursday, February 18, LAC J. E. L. Gilmore, of Australia, was the winner, and the runner-up was G. Cliff of Victoria. In the Monday tournament the winner was F. R. Morris, of Courtney, B.C., and LAC E. P. Burke, of Australia, was runner-up.

AC2 Bill Brown, of Vancouver, won all of the five games played at the cribbage tournament this week, and LAC Clark, of Australia, was runner-up.

Reception Wing had an enjoyable bingo night in their recreation room last Staurday night. The pastry prizes proved very popular and apparently hit the spot.

The Library now has two copies of the "Sir William Beveridge Report" for those interested, as well as a few other significant books including: "Signed With Their Honor," "The Story of San Michele," "The Raft," "The Last Train From Berlin." Altogether 137 new books have been added to the library shelves this month. The figures show that during the past 22 days a total of one tohusand and eleven books have been taken out on loan.

Coming Arena Movies

Sunday, February 28: "Too Many Girls," with Ann Miller, Frances Langford and Richard Carlson; short, "Plumb Crazy" comedy.

Tuesday, March 2: "Sweater Girl"; shorts, "Hands of Victory", "Blunder Below" Popeye cartoon.

SILVERWARE LOSSES HIGH—WILL CUT DOWN EXTRA MESSING

If you are a married man and someone walked into your home and sneaked off with $220.38 worth of silverware, you'd be pretty sore. It would be darn hard to replace when you had to dig into your pocket for a little hard earned cash. It would be a darn lot harder too when it is impossible to buy silverware replacements.

That is what happened in the Airmen's Mess last month. Some of you absconded with $220.38 which is a lot of dough. True you did not take cash but you took or destroyed that amount of silverware.

As mentioned in THE AIRMAN previously, the finance committee has paid this amount out of canteen profits. This is going to stop.

If you keep up this mass pilfering the money is going to come out of the extra messing grant. If it does you can be assured that your messing will be a lot slimmer. There will be just as much to eat but the little delicacies will be gone. There won't be any spice for flavoring, there won't be any catsup, pickles, ice cream, fresh vegetables, pies, cakes, and cereals that you are now used to.

Messing on this depot is considerable better than average. It is up to you to keep it that way.

Put the silverware back in the boxes and go easy on the crockery.

LAC MOWAT

THE AIRMAN offers its apology to LAC Mowat. Last week in a news article re. TURTLES he was incorrectly referred to as AC2 Sir Roderick "Mattress Back" Mowat while all the time he should have been called LAC Sir Roderick "Mattress Back" Mowat.

P.S.—Incidentally the two turtles have been since donated to the chap that lives on the South Side.

HUT 10
ZERO FLIPS
No 3 "M" DEPOT
EDMONTON
POST
NO BILLS
CPL KOSICK
MARSH
GRRR
IN LIKE A LION
AND OUT LIKE A LAMB
AIR FORCE IKE SAYS
ON BOY SCOUT WEEK
UP TO 16 A
LAD IS A BOY
SCOUT —
AFTER
16 HE
BECOMES
A GIRL
SCOUT
REX
AREN'T THOSE
FLOWERS
PRETTY
BILL ?
QUESTION OF THE
WEEK — WHERE ?
RODGER
PAINTING
EXHIBITION
YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS
YOU
CHANGE YOUR OVERALLS
FOR
FLYING KIT
?
AC2
PLONK
Ritchie

"M" DEPOT HOCKEY SQUAD SWAMPS NO. 2 A.O.S. IN FIRST GAME OF FINALS------18 - 3-----

Breaking into an unprecedented scoring spree in the final two periods, No. 3 "M" Depot smothered No. 2 A.O.S. 18-3 in the first game of the Service League Playoffs.

Kitts, a newcomer to the "M" Depot squad, finally hit his stride, and led the lads with 4 goals, but Doug Thompson, Eddie Thompson, Eddie Tobin and Ron and Jack Gardner blinked the red light for three goals apiece. "Brick" Edmunds and Harry Allen bagged the other two counters. Tobin, however, led the scoring parade, for added to his 3 goals, were 6 assists, giving him 9 scoring points. "Brick" Edmunds took the second slot in scoring with 5 assists added to his lone counter, to give him 6 points. Jimmy Anderson and Jack Gardner bot collected 2 assists, while Ron Gardner picked up one. Ball collected two goals for the Air Observers, while McKenzie scored their other marker.

Play was exceptionally clean, with only two penalties being dished out, one to each team.

A.O.S. took the lead right at the start of the first period, and looked like continuing where they had left off with No. 4 I.T.S. Their lead was short lived though, for Thompson bulged the twine 2 minutes later to tie up proceedings. The "M" Depot team then went on to score 2 more to end the first period with a 3-1 advantage.

In the second period, "M" Depot scored 6 straight goals before A.O.S. replied with one counter, and at the end of the session, the score read 9-2 in favor of "M" Depot.

Continuing their scoring spree in the final canto, the "M" Depot airmen ran in 9 consecutive goals in 13 minutes, to lead 18-2. At the 16 minute mark, A.O.S. rang the bell with their final counter. There the score remained until the final whistle.

The "M" Depot team now meet the Red Deer Intermediates in a two game, total goal series. The first game will be played on the Depot ice-sheet tonight, Friday, at 19:30 hours. Special seating accommodation has been arranged. The second game of the series is scheduled for Red Deer tomorrow, Saturday night.

U.S. ENGINEERS TAKE SECOND GAME OF HOOP PLAYOFFS 38-36 TO TIE UP SERIES.

Big, "Long John" Gullickson, 6'5" Centre of the U.S. Engineers, led his team to a very narrow win over the No. 3 "M" Depot Spitfires in the second game of the city basketball playoffs Thursday night. Collecting a grand total of 26 points, Gullickson was practically a one man team. His advantage in height was the deciding factor in what turned out to be the closest basketball game of the season.

The U.S. Engineers were full value for their win, for they played an exceptionally aggressive game. Their passing was much better than on Tuesday night, when the "M" Depot more than doubled the score. Their shooting accuracy was also improved, and with Gullickson "on the beam", they led practically the entire route.

The "Spitfires" went down to defeat, (their first loss of the entire season in league and playoff games) fighting. Down 7 points with 6 minutes to play, the Airmen started to roll, and ran in 7 counters to tie up the game. Then two breaks came. Fouls were called on two of the Engineers, and Buna and Kaminsky sank them both to set the "M" Depot up 2 points, 36-34. Big "Long John" came sailing right back to again tie up the game. Then Harley Miller was fouled by Kaminsky, and it looked bad....but the Engineers called time out (their 6th of the game) and broke one of the rules, so a technical foul was called on them. Both foul shots were missed. With only 35 seconds to play, Gullickson fired what proved to be the winning basket. During the last 15 seconds, Buna and Kaminsky both missed opportunities, while Don Gray's long shot, just as the whistle blew, hit the rim. Had his shot gone in, it would have counted, as it was in the air when the whistle blew.

Jimmy Bardsley led the "M" Depot hoopers, running in 12 points. "Busher" Jackson, a new comer to No. 3 "M" Depot, and former Victoria Domino, played a very fine game and collected 7 points for his night's work. John Kaminsky with 7, Buna with 6, and Don Gray 4, completed the scoring for the Spitfires.

THE THIRD AND FINAL GAME OF THE CITY CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES WILL BE PLAYED TOMORROW (SATURDAY) NIGHT IN THE WEST GLEN HIGH SCHOOL GYM. THE GAME WILL GET UNDER WAY AT 20:30 HRS.