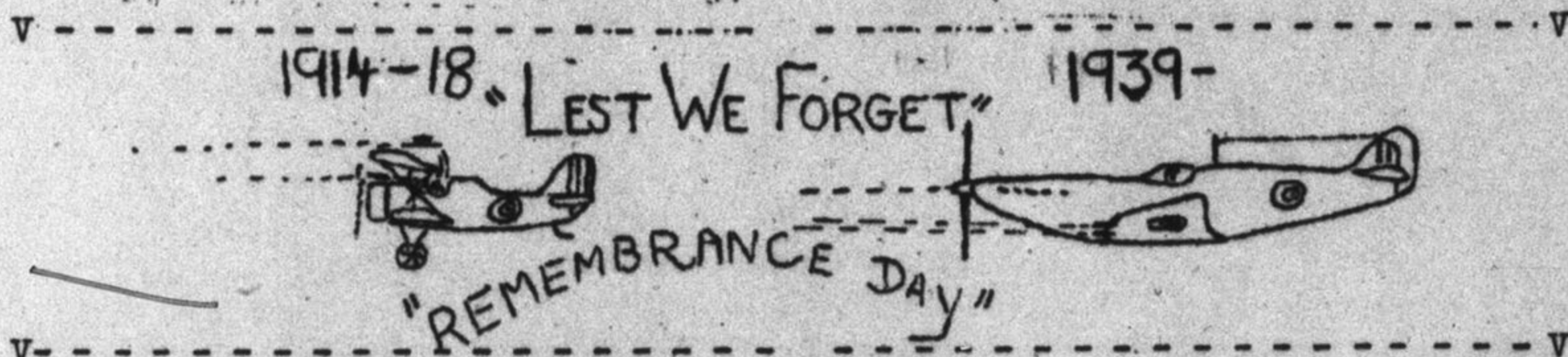


F/S Frank Martineau, Editor

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# "THE BREEZE"



President Austin C. Taylor of the Vancouver Air Training Company, Ltd., has announced the appointment of Stewart McKercher, K.C., of Saskatoon, Sask., as manager of this school and the company's other EFTS at Caron, Sask.

Organizer and then manager of No.6 EFTS at Prince Albert, Sask., the new manager has a wealth of experience behind him in the management of elementary flying training schools. He fills the post left vacant by the recent death of Leslie J. Martin, general manager of the company's schools since the formation of the Sea Island unit at the start of the war.

Mr. McKercher flew with the first squadron of the Royal Flying Corps in the last war and has maintained an active interest in aviation since that time. His memories of those palmy days when the Lafayette Escadrille, the French Stork and Spad squadron, Richtofen and Vosse and the Flying Circus were the talk of airmen the world over, would make interesting listening.

Since his arrival here a week ago, the new manager has inspected all departments of No. 24 and has become familiar with local problems. With his hand on the helm, this school can look forward to continual progress...

IN THE LIMELIGHT of official scrutiny this week, this station was visited by Air Vice Marshal Lee S. Stephenson, AOC of Western Air command, together with Air Chief Commandant Forbes, head of the RAF'S WAAF, and Wing Officer Walker, who commands the women's division of the RCAF. Also in the party were Group Captain Hurley, Squadron Leader Duthie and their staffs.

President Austin C. Taylor of the training company operating this and the Caron school was a weekend visitor, as well as the Hon. Chief Justice W.B. Farris of the British Columbia Supreme Court, and Mr. and Mrs. W.G. MacKenzie, directors of the company.

Scheduled to arrive here tomorrow for an inspection tour which will last until Tuesday is Mr. Apedaile, financial advisor for all RCAF civilian-operated flying schools, who is now on his way from Ottawa.

BIGGEST AND BEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is the theme around which S/L Morley Gain, chief flying instructor, this week launched a campaign aimed at lifting this brand-new station by its bootstraps to the very top of the training pile.

A long-range program to make this school the one place in Canada where elementary instructors and students will want to be posted because of its superlative reputation has been conceived and is now in effect. Greeted with some reserve when it was announced to assembled flight commanders Wednesday, it is expected to take hold slowly but grow rapidly as enthusiasm builds up among all station personnel.

The best esprit de corps on any EFTS is the aim here, built around personal satisfaction of each member of the clan and pride in the accomplishments of the whole unit. Already the school has established itself in the public mind as the BIGGEST

flying center of its type, as a result of announcements through the press to that effect, but it remains for those who make up this growing community to create the BEST part of the slogan.

Assurance has been given each new staff member that everything will be done to make his stay here pleasant. The benefits of the split-shift flying system are already apparent, as well as special leave privileges not granted on other elementary stations. Freedom of action during non-flying time is somewhat of an innovation to many staff members just arrived from other units. The generally benevolent attitude of the administration has been noticed by all and appreciated thoroughly.

NO.24 EFTS has a great future; let's give it a great present too...

THE BREEZE is the new name for this weekly publication of No. 24 EFTS, effective with this issue. Chosen because it gives a snappier title to this newspaper than the old Breezy Stuff, the designation will find a readier acceptance because of its single syllable than the term it replaces, which had three,

No change in policy or style will be made. The same inside information and choice bits will find their way into these columns as before, though now under consideration is a change of format which will also be a step ahead of the present makeup. All our correspondents will remain on the job, keeping us up on the doings of all, and independent contributions will be acceptable, as always. Incidentally, our reporter in the junior course is LAC Pat Tryon, an English journalist who before his RAF enlistment worked with a London newspaper.

As Breezy Stuff, this weekly was well received. Our policy was expressed in our first week's issue, "We aim to continue in the light and airy manner with all the news that is fit to print. Expect us every Friday..."

**BEST SOCIAL EVENT YET** on the station was the big Hallowe'en dance in the officers' and sergeants' dining rooms in the mess building on Tuesday night, with the station orchestra furnishing the music and the entertainment committee furnishing the laughs.

Fully 200 attended the gala affair and enjoyed the whole program. Paper hats were worn by all and streamers of varied colors were draped everywhere. Decorations, supervised by Miss Mary Smith of the committee, were of orange and black, with black cats and witches everywhere. Jack-o-lanterns hollowed out of pumpkins (we had pumpkin pie the next day) were grinning their yellow faces at the dancers from all windowsills.

F/L Ben Knowles, OC of the link trainer section, was master of ceremonies for the affair and, together with F/S Frank Mould of the committee, kept things rolling in grand manner. Ben's paper hat, by the way, shed its juicy black color onto his forehead, so he converted it into a headpiece that looked like something out of a synagogue.

Novelty dances put everybody into the spirit of things and kept changing the stag line. Unfortunately, the Lynden girls were unable to come because of an epidemic of paralysis south of the border, but the Abbotsford young ladies and our local lassies made up for the deficit of dancing partners to the best of their combined abilities.

Prizes for the winners of the novelty spot and statue dances were allotted after an entertaining scene on the orchestra platform, when all six boys and girls to make the finals had to play tunes on toy trumpets, with Pete Rutherford helping out on the piano. The finalists were (if we can read Ben's scrawl aright) Miss Phill, P/O Rust, Helen McGee, LAC McGooley, Miss Cook and LAC Mathews.

Adding that touch of feminine attractiveness which we thought was a war casualty, was the attendance of many of the belles in evening gowns. One of our station employees even attended first in a dress, slipped out and then returned formal. Too bad the fellows couldn't have completed the formal scene by wearing tux and stuff, but then maybe it's just as well for the temperature was terrific. (continued)



Refreshments, thanks to the hard work of the kitchen staff which started long before the dance, were served after a grand march (of sorts) and consisted of coffee, cake and sandwiches. Cokes and stuff were available all through the affair, of course. Dancing continued until 11:30, when the party broke up. A few more dances were enjoyed after that time, however, when the bus did not arrive immediately.

Let's have lots more of some, Ralph ...

F/O Dick McBride of G flight swears it's true but it's hard to believe that any mother would want to put her son in such a hazardous position.

It seems one of our trainees received a letter from home advising him to take care of himself and not to do anything foolish that would result in his untimely demise. "Fly low," she cautioned, "and tend to your own business. Don't look around!"

Moral: Don't ever do what your mother tells you...

GRADUATING as the second class to leave this school, the station's senior students will be honored today at 1300 hours on the tarmac at a graduation parade which all station RCAF personnel will attend. S/L Morley Gain, CFI, will take over the wing after it has been formed.

Commander of No. 1 squadron will be P/O Floyd Glass, with F/L Bill Benn commanding the other squadron, to be made up of all flights other than the graduating group. An invitation to attend the graduation exercises was extended relatives of all air force personnel and it is expected that many will be on hand for the special ceremonies.

The class held its social event Monday night on the station, because the Canadian Legion quarters in town were not available. Although LAC Boyd, who acted as master of ceremonies, declared the entertainment would have to be somewhat impromptu because of the switch, the smoker was a bang-up affair all the way.

S/L Gain, speaking to the class, declared that the pilot trainees are now facing 16 weeks of concentrated work. "You are on the last lap," he said, "and a heavy responsibility rests on your shoulders. The most intense application to training will be necessary. You can be one of the first courses to graduate completely commissioned. Make the most of the opportunity."

Hugh Barclay, chief ground instructor, remarked that it is the fate of the ground school staff to begin to know the students of a class only when they are on their way out. "You were a good average course," he noted, "in spite of your monkey business." Mr. Barclay introduced the new general manager of the station, Mr. Stewart McKercher.

The general manager's remarks recalled that the first class he ever addressed at a graduation party was course 3, at Prince Albert, Sask., of which he was previously manager. He impressed on the graduates the fact three things are necessary to make a good fighter pilot - discipline, shooting ability and pilot ability. "This isn't child's play," he warned. "Don't let anything interfere with your training."

Also introduced were Fred Graham, secretary-treasurer of the company, F/L Ben Knowles, link CG, and Harvey Orr, YMCA supervisor. All offered their best wishes to the departing students. Invited guests included all flying instructors, ground instructors, flight commanders and link trainer men connected with the course in its eight weeks here.

An informal sing-song held sway during most of the evening, with students taking turns at the piano. Refreshments were available in large quantities and a good time was had by all...

NOW UNDER WAY is another aircraft recognition contest, but this time under a new system. Questions in the brain-stumper were duplicated separately from this newspaper and have been or will be distributed to all students and flying instructors through ground school, according to Sgt. Mel Barwick, who is conducting the contest with CGI Hugh Barclay.

This week's entries are due in the hands of the armament staff by noon Tuesday, Nov. 16, together with a dime, the tenth part of a dollar, to build up a pot for the winner. Judges of the contest will be the staff of the armament section, supervised by the CGI, and the winner's name will be announced in these pages next week.

The new method of conducting the quiz became necessary when a trial of the system of printing the questions here revealed that students were not able to secure enough copies of the paper to peruse.

Questions in this week's contest will cause a real battle of wits; let's have every air crew member on the station in the scrap... (continued)

BITS... Two minutes of silence yesterday at 11 a.m. in commemoration of the Armistice in the last war... A and E flights held a combined instructors' meeting in Sumas Wednesday afternoon to celebrate the soloing of students in the new course days ahead of schedule... they were assisted by the link section... Movies now on Tuesdays and Sundays because of the transportation schedule; Sunday's movie will be "I MARRIED A WITCH" with Frederic March and Veronica Lake; 'twill give us something to do on those dull Sunday nights... LAC Peterson of D flight gave Harry Chipperfield of the parachute section the old story of, "It caught on something," when he came in with a ripped chute the other day... Only arrival this week was Sgt. F.A. Clifton, a link trainer instructor, from the instrument flying school at Deseronto, Ont.,... Some bright soul placed a big red apple on F/O Herb Lotimer's desk in nav. flight with the note, "An apple for our dear, dear boss!" He's still wondering too... F/O Lloyd Godfrey due back from leave Monday; he's in Calgary now... P/O Keith Young can't get over his commission; he still signs his documents LAC Young... P/O Don McIlveen came out ok on the dance this time; he invited the gal and didn't have to night fly... Those telephone men have a system; they like the station so well that they're making a real job out of putting in our phone service... One Abbotsford girl remarked to WOII Vic McCormack, "I'm glad they dress all you airmen in blue; you certainly all have the same ideas..." Orderly Room now moved back to Administration building...

A HOBBLE SKIRT is what F/O Mac Macnab now has as a result of a little fire in his topcoat. Seems Mac was in F/O Lloyd Godfrey's office talking with the OC Nav. flight and leaned against Lloyd's home-made electric heater.

"Something's burning in here," Mac casually remarked, and went on with his discussion.

"Boy, something's really burning!" he said, sniffing hard. "And I'm it," he howled, turning around to find that the heater had burned a hole eight inches in diameter out of the back of his coat.

Looked like a total loss, but the tailor was able to chop a piece out of it so Mac can wear it - but it's mighty confining around the knees.

And Mac swears that he's going to install a heater just like Godfrey's in his own office, then lure Lloyd over into it in retaliation...

THIS AND THAT... GIS correspondent Ed Barrie reports that the sleepy look on the faces of the ground school staff this week is due to the new time table calling for lectures at the horrible hour of 7:30 a.m. Some of the lads were seen standing forlornly on certain street corners in Vancouver at 5:30 a.m. waiting for their lift out to No. 24 last Monday morning... Pleased to see our EFTS gals, including GIS' Betty Martin, in their new Jackson suits; quite smart... Welcome back to Sgt. Barwick; he's looking so well that everybody now wants 14 days off... F/L Bill Benn and P/O Tex McGill were held down by the authorities at Sea Island the other day because of "weather;" said Tex, "Why, that's good enough to send Tom solo in!"... WOII George Sturgiss battling 100% on the daily infractions of aerodrome regulations...

DON'T BE SURPRISED if a bunch of the staff members here start blossoming out with strange badges on their tunics, for a new organization is currently in the process of formation.

It's the Wolf Cub Pack, not a branch of the Boy Scouts, created with F/L Ben Knowles as the Eagle Wolf. Many instructors are rapidly qualifying for their badges and membership pins through their activities of the nocturnal variety, among them F/L Ron Nash, MO, P/O Keith Young, P/O Barry Palmer, F/O Herb Lotimer and others. News emanating from a source close to the eagle wolf indicates that Young was especially suited for the honor because he has taken a commando course.

It is expected that the old master of them all, F/O Lloyd Godfrey, will take over the reins again when he returns from leave.

