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BREEZE

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F/S Frank Martineau, Editor Friday, Nov. 26, 1943
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W/C CHRISTIE GRADUATION SPEAKER

GUEST OF HONOR and principal speaker at graduation ceremonies this afternoon at 1300 hours will be Wing Commander R.M. Christie, DSO, who is air staff officer no. 1 of Western Air Command. The colorful parade and exercises will be held on the tarmac and dignitaries of surrounding communities as well as relatives and friends of the graduating trainees will attend.

W/C Christie, who is a Toronto native but now makes his home in Vancouver, will address the course which has just concluded its flying training here after the parade has been formed and turned over to S/L M. Gain, CFI. Veteran of a year's service overseas, the wing commander has logged many hours of flying time in four-engined Sunderland flying boats as well as other service types. He enlisted in October, 1939, leaving his civilian position with the Clarkin Air Transport company to become a flying instructor. His overseas duty began early last year and terminated in January.

Officers in charge of the parade will include F/L L. Milne, assistant CFI, as second in command; F/L L.H.F. Bryans, wing adjutant, and F/S G.W. Gauley, wing warrant officer.

F/L W.W. Benn will act as squadron commander for No. 1 Squadron, with Sgt. J. Weaver as NCO in charge of the graduating course, of which the unit will be composed. No. 2 Squadron will be made up of A, E and H flights, with P/O F. Glass as squadron commander., P/O B. Price as squadron adjutant, WO I E. Lussier as senior squadron warrant officer and WO II V. McCormack as second senior warrant officer. Flight commanders will be F/O D.J. McIntyre, F/O R.J. MacDonald, AFC, and F/O F. Scott, AFC. Their flight sergeants will be F/S F. E. Martineau, F/S F. E. Mould and F/S Trevelyan.

The third squadron of the Abbotsford wing will be headed by F/O R.A.J. Burton as squadron commander, with P/O J. Murphy as squadron adjutant, WO I A. Bell as senior squadron warrant officer and WO II R.W. Twiss as second senior warrant officer. Flight commanders will be F/O F. Grant, F/O F. Denbigh and F/O L. Godfrey, with Sgt. Ling, Sgt. Barwick and Sgt. Welsh as their flight sergeants.

GRADUATING COURSE INCLUDES MANY STUDENT PERSONALITIES
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NUMBERED BY THEIR FELLOWS at Monday night's smoker (see story elsewhere in these pages) as outstanding examples of the cross-section of the world that constitutes an EPTS class were several students who have had flying time previous to their instruction here, men with experience in colorful occupations and men from all walks of life.

LAC Alec Laurie, born in Argentina but now possibly (he doesn't really know) a citizen of Peru, had 500 hours of flying time in Argentina winging commercial transports over the rugged Andes mountain range. He was copilot for a small airline company before he left Peru in '41 to take an operational preparatory course at Parks Air College in St. Louis, Mo.

Finishing his course there, he tried to enlist in the USAAF but his confused citizenship status made it impossible for him to join that organization so he came to Canada and the RCAF. He held a British passport, having been born

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of Scottish parents and received his education in Scotland. Just before he went to Edmonton ITS he married an American girl, Miss Betty Carpenter of Illinois.

And there's LAC Doug Holland, of Vancouver, who was with the Vancouver Air Training company as a line crew man since the early days at Sea Island. Doug saw a lot of pilots trained by such men Len Milne, Peg Witt and Bert Price, who are here now in various capacities, and vowed that he too would become a pilot. He spent two years chasing wing-tips, starting in 1940, after leaving his job as a garage mechanic; now he's on the last lap of his flying course.

LAC Harold Goulet, originally from Vancouver but whose home is now Winnipeg, was overseas for 22 months with the Canadian army field ambulance corps before he succeeded in transferring to the RCAF for pilot training.

Five times LAC Johnny Simpson was accepted by the air force before the army would release him for aircrew, but he finally cut his way through the red tape and changed his khaki for blue. John was over on Vancouver Island "guarding aircraft for the air force," he says, as a member of the Canadian Scottish Infantry and he developed the hankering to fly one of those things.

A staff sergeant instructor in the army's machine shop school at Hamilton, Ont., LAC Cliff Taylor transferred to aircrew after long years of soldier life. LAC Dallamore was an army man, too, before the air force bug hit him; he was with the Southern Alberta Rifles.

LAC Keith Border, of Glendale, Cal., is one of those few Americans now undergoing training in the RCAF. Keith declares, "I wanted to join the USAAF, but the USAAF didn't care, so here I am." His urge to fly was strong, built up by his 41 hours of civilian time back in the days when it cost real money to get dual. No, he's not planning to go back to his old job of dry cleaning...

The flight senior, LAC Herb. Thurston, was for seven years a Toronto patrolman, attached to the traffic division where they hand out all those tickets to motorists. Married, has one child, a girl two and a half years old.

Those three holdovers from Abbotsford's first class of students, LAC Ted Rawson, LAC Dennis Snow and LAC Gordon Latta, also graduate today, taking with them the last visible reminders of the rip-roaring bunch that first course was. Rawson, a fireman on the CPR running out of Kamloops back in civilian days, spent quite some time in the hospital at Patricia Bay, while Snow and Latta were also there, though not in hospital. Snow was an RAF clerk-accountant before he remustered; his home is Birmingham, England. Gord Latta is a New Westminster boy who was attending the University of British Columbia before enlistment. But now they and all their classmates go off over the mountains to the cold, cold prairies...

SERGEANTS' MESS organization was built Monday evening at a meeting in GIS when, for the first time, all NCO's of this Abbotsford station gathered to knit themselves together in a formal group. Called by WO1 Art Bell, the session moved swiftly in its decisions and quickly elected officers who will carry on in their positions for the next three months.

Elected president of the mess was WOII Al Puttonen, with F/S Frank Martineau the choice for secretary-treasurer.

A rules committee, formed to secure from other organized messes copies of their rules to aid in the drawing up of a set of regulations for the local unit, was also picked.



Members are WOII Charles Durand, F/S Frank Mould and F/S George Proctor.

A messing committee, to take up all problems connected with meals, was elected to include WOII Bob Twiss, Sgt. Karr McKenzie and Sgt. Jack Weaver.

Reporting on official plans for the location of the Sergeants' Mess, F/S Gord Gauley, station sergeant major, declared that he had been able to learn only that the ser-

goants have been allotted for a lounge that room now being used as the officers' dining room. The present sergeants' dining room will continue to be used by NCO's under that arrangement, he said.

Open discussion of current topics and a decision to hold meetings at noontime each second Monday of the month closed the highly-successful session...

A GOOD TIME was had by all at the graduating course's stag smoker Monday night in the mess building, thanks to a committee of students headed by LAC Harry Swiggum and including LAC Bill Thompson, LAC Gord Blumenauer, LAC John Simpson, LAC Herb Thurston, LAC Bill Gillis and LAC Keith Border.

Swiggum was master of ceremonies for the party, which got off to a patriotic start with the singing of "Oh Canada." The MC introduced S/L Gain, CFI, who told the departing students, "You are now going on to the biggest thrills of this flying game, for you will be flying advanced equipment."

Pointing out the importance of close attention to studies at SFTS, the chief flying instructor declared, "Although there is always a letdown in formal discipline on flying stations, you must carry on with you the feeling that your department is being watched. A soldierly-like bearing is of great advantage to any pilot on the road to wings."

Regret that Manager Stewart McKecher could not be present was expressed by Secretary-Treasurer Fred Graham of the Vancouver Air Training company, Ltd., who was next introduced. "We're only sorry you boys weren't able to enjoy all the advantages we're soon going to have on this station, but the school is still not finished," he noted. "We're proud of the showing you have made," he said in closing.

CGI Hugh Brcelay brought the information that examination papers, just marked, indicated the class had a good scholastic average. He remarked on the curriculum at service flying schools and advised his listeners, "Really put the pressure on there and you will come out on top."

Feature of the evening, except for the refreshments, was the presentation of a movie program which proved unintentionally humorous in spots. Group singing also proved entertaining. Flight commanders P/O Austin Macnab and P/O Tex McGill were thanked for their hard work in making pilots of "raw material," as the trainees termed themselves. Guests at the affair were flight commanders, ground school instructors and link personnel.

FOG CREPT IN on its little cat feet (apologies to Gertrude Stein) the other night when flying was in progress and caught several of our solid citizens under its milky white cloak. Although they could see it was approaching, the heavy bank of thick haze was wanted more quickly than they expected over the runway and field by a southwest to west wind.

Oldtimers in this neighborhood have remarked that, whenever there is fog in Vancouver (and when isn't there?) and a westerly wind shows up, you can expect the stuff to float in here and smother operations very suddenly. Such was the case the other night.



Humorous was hardly the word for the situations that presented themselves as a result of the poor visibility. P/O Jim Murphy found himself off the runway but unable to find it again. Seeing two lights ahead, he figured they must be the flare path so headed straight between them, only to find they were the power rollers working by night on the field. The operators peeled off in consternation as they saw the aircraft taxiing serenely between them.

The control truck was circling the fourth flare, trying to find its way in to the hangar through the soup.

We'll just have to keep our eyes open...

IN CABARET STYLE will be the station entertainment committee's Christmas offering, a dance in the airmen's mess, according to an informant closely in touch with inside affairs here. Just what the program will be is not yet known, but committee members secretively state it will be the biggest night yet to be held on this station.

Reservation lists for this event, to be held Dec. 20 so all station personnel can enjoy it before holiday leave, have been posted in the canteen with a space for interested parties to indicate whether it will be necessary to secure partners for them. A nominal

charge will be made for the affair, to cut down what might have been costs so excessive as to make it impossible to hold the big dance.

Also cooking - on the front burner - is a dance in Mission Dec. 8th, sponsored by the servicemen's organization of that community. About 30 airmen from here will be able to make the trip in the furnished transportation; they'll find the gals awaiting them there. A reservation list for this dance is also available in the canteen.

And on Dec. 16 a turkey dinner is being generated for which arrangements are currently being made to make transportation available, to the Lynden (Wash.) hall and back. There's to be a charge of half a rock or so for the succulent meal, which nobody will mind, considering it's home-cooked food. Because accommodations will be limited, reservations will also be necessary for this event; the list is in the canteen.

The regular monthly station dance Tuesday night was a great success, despite the informality of the program, for the hall was well-populated with "females of the opposite sex" (as we once heard a radio announcer inanely say) who cut down the stag line to a mere shadow of its former self.

Besides our station girls and about 25 from Abbotsford itself, there were some 29 lassies from Lynden, Washington, who had such a good time they want to come in force, bringing all their friends. From Mission, just over the river, another 25 of les filles came to ease the belle shortage and make the boys happy.

Chief fault the students have to find with the dances now is that their officer instructors swipe their dancing partners at any time, be it a tag dance or not. Original intention of the entertainment committee, expressed soon after its formation, was that the group sponsor affairs chiefly for the benefit of trainees, who must undergo intensive training which allows them little time to seek entertainment off the station.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES this week and cited for the undistinguished Order of the Prominent Finger (OPF) is WINDY WILLIE, that keen type who is so interested in flying that he stretches his circuits to include such points of interest as Vancouver, Bellingham and Mount Baker. His offense wouldn't be so bad, really, if it weren't for the examples other pilots have against cutting off planes in the circuit.

Even on the ground, Willie gums up the works by taxiing so slowly (he has observed they can read numbers from the tower) that a snail could wave hello in passing. Climbing at 85 instead of 80, taking his time about levelling off at 1000 feet and forgetting his downwind check are all points in the secret of Willie's success which has now brought him the OPF.

NEWS FLASH - Since his citation for the OPF, Willie has learned that a gliding approach does not include a survey of half the state of Washington...

FIRST AND CHARTER MEMBER OF THE OPF - Into the solemn sanctity of the CFI's office, the first initiate to qualify for "Mentioned in Despatches" trod with a dejected mien - We wonder who...!!

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL was the first meeting of the station's model aircraft club, held in the south room of the canteen Monday night with 17 interested model-builders present to discuss plans for the operation of the new group, formed under the guiding hand of P/O Bob Waltham, currently in navigation flight.

Another session was held last night in the club's permanent quarters in GIS, where its equipment and workshop will be located. Making up the representative body are six airmen, four civilians and seven officers at present, but women workers here are also to be admitted and about six have expressed their intentions of joining. Policy of the hobbyists will be absolute informality, with officers, airmen and civilians sharing alike in the work and fun.

Support for the club has been found in the management and materials are now on their way for the construction of all types of models. LAC Brand and LAC French, members of the group themselves, have produced posters advertising the work of the club and publicizing last night's meeting.

Election of officers of the club was not attempted Monday, since it was felt many more enthusiasts wished to join but were prevented by duty from attending the meeting. In the school council session Monday morning, CGI Hugh Barclay reported on the progress of the club and it was suggested that officers of the organization be members of the permanent air force or civilian staff here, since trainees are subject to a difficult schedule.

Also suggested at the council meeting, at which all heads of departments were present, was the formation of a rifle club. Small rifles could be obtained and ammunition for them as well, it was said. The question of building an inside shooting range in the new recreation hall was also discussed, when information became known that other schools have similar installations.

A HUGLE BAND is now in the process of formation, to provide fun for buglers and drummers here and to give our infrequent parades additional snap. F/O Pete Denbigh is the organizer for the new undertaking and would appreciate any interested musicians contacting him...Plans for a fishing club under F/S George Proctor also in the wind...Instructors of courses just finished will in future be treated to a tour of British Columbia in a Ventura bomber, according to present plans of the CFI; fog effectively eliminated plans for same this time...F/O Austin Macnab, recipient of several shirts and a scarf the other day, no longer has them; some misguided individual stole the shirts right behind

his back... Officials of the YMCA War Services, Executive Secretary M.G. Chisholm and Area Secretary Allan Hurst, will visit here with Supervisor Harvey Orr Tuesday... Library installed in Y office, with girl attendant soon to be started in job as librarian nights... Hospital for Dr. Vanderburgh about to be completed with moving of old building onto new one across from admin building to make larger quarters... First church service was held on station in canteen last Sunday morning by Hon. F/L C.W. Bryce, of the Anglican church in town; services each Sunday at 0800 hours;... LAC Bert Stephens, postal clerk, on leave in Seattle with Mrs. S... Special bus planned for visitors to station for parade today... "No battle dress off station" edict now a sore spot with instructors who live off station and must arrive earlier and leave later in order to change to working clothes here but AFHQ cracked the whip... Lectures on drill by F/S Gord Gauley for instructors currently occupying the weekly drill sessions most interestingly... Chief Engineer Joe Bertalino and Stores Officer Bill Harrington in Calgary arranging spare parts for aircraft... First feminine climb to the control tower was made this week by the wife of an instructor... Scarcity of alarm clocks in the girls' barracks caused creation of substitutes in the form of home-made bells - just a tin can full of pennies or stones; they're supposed to be shaken every morning by some early riser but at times the prospect of five more minutes slumber is too tempting even for the delegated waker-upper and everybody's late... Instrument section moved recently from hangar to temporary quarters in the wing shop...

CARTOONS just seem to find their way into our hands by sheer magical processes. The two appearing in this week's issue of THE BREEZE are the work of some unknown student who sees the lighter side of life in such a refreshing manner that his humor is contagious. Our regular staff of artists includes Cpl. Ray Cornock, Ernie Poignant and Harry Hare, whose work you have seen in past weeks.

Credit for the front page headlines this week goes to WOII Al Puttonen, whose block printing ideas should find ready approval among our readers.

About that "First Solo" cartoon: F/O Pete Denbigh did a solo check this week, sent the boy off for the first time alone and then sat down to wait the result with that fatalism common to all instructors. From this episode at Sumas one of the students (we wish we could meet him) sketched the cartoon and had it in the flight commander's hands less than 10 minutes later. Nice work...

IMPENDING MARRIAGES in the maintenance branch of the business include the wedding of Gordon L. Peters, in charge of the aircraft repair shop, to Miss Naomi Keitha Wannamaker, a registered nurse, in Vancouver early in December. Gord is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Peters of 1148 West 7th, Vancouver.

Other prospective middle-aislers are Len Hawkeridge and Pete Rutherford, both of the engineering department. Pete is the maestro of the band now playing for station dances, occupying the piano stool.

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STATION BASKETBALL TEAM again defeated the Pro-Roc outfit in town Tuesday night, by a score of 46 to 35 in a hard-fought game. Keith Young, Ken Bocott and Ralph Burton piled up the baskets for the airport boys, while T. Conway and Vesterback scored most for Pro-Roc. Burton chalked up 15 points by himself in the first half of the tilt. Herb Lotimer, Joe Mosdell, Lloyd Godfrey and Bob Hamilton completed the local team, while B. Conway, Jackson, Fadden and Calvert played for the losers.

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USE OF FIRE ESCAPES for recreation purposes has now been prohibited, much to the dismay of certain students who recall many happy hours sliding down in cardboard boxes. Some even used the chutes as transportation to ground school, but that is now "verboten." It is reliably reported that LAC Joe "Dimples" Spidle, LAC Bill Short and LAC Steve Slinn are greatly saddened by the new order. Spidle remembers the day he shot down in a box, only to find the bottom of the container covered with paint when he alighted his magic carpet.

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GROUND SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS entered classrooms this week with more than the usual vague expression on their faces, inquiring of the students what course they were now teaching, what the subject was et cetera. Reason: new GIS timetables... It is no longer necessary for Nav Instructor Russell to continue his commando training, especially obstacle climbing, for he has now been officially presented with a key to the publications office... Signals department is upset these days; seems Instructor Higgins, affectionately known as "Dit-Happy", has been handing in mid-term, entrance and pre-final marks indiscriminately... Exams over for another two weeks, for which Airmanship Instructors Barrie and Calhoun are muchly thankful; they spend five days every two weeks marking the papers.

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GIRLS' MESS MEETING was held the other night, with Sec-Treas. Fred Graham as principal speaker, revealing interesting news of their new lounge. They voted to take up S/L Gain on his offer to have dissips give the girls some elementary drill, but decided to wait until new recreation hall is completed so sessions can be held there. They're shy... Those RCAF identification pictures; One stenog is charging a nickel a look at hers...

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS' DINNERS will be really something, according to inside information. Turkeys are being ordered and with them will go all the fixings. Both big holiday meals will be served before the lads go on leave, so everybody will be able to enjoy the treats. Christmas cards are being made up now and orders are being taken in the canteen for them.. It's a company custom, done for the convenience of personnel who want to send cards with the station name and an air force scene on them. Miles John "Bud" Nugent, works and buildings chief here, took the photograph of Cornells against Mount Baker which is being used in the cards...

ABBOTSFORD'S SOCIAL CENTRE is now running full blast, thanks to the devotion of the townspeople to entertainment and recreation of servicemen visiting here. Located near the bus stop in town, the hut has done a big job since it opened recently to provide the best of fun for the boys in uniform.

Open from 6:30 to 11 every night in the week, it also has afternoon hours Saturday from 3 until midnight. On Sunday, the hours are 3 to 10:30 p.m.

Featuring a cozy reading and writing room, the servicemen's centre also has a hot shower, an ironing board, games, a piano and a music box available to keep up the spirit of fun and to provide facilities not otherwise available in town. Junior hostesses are always on hand and the only charge ever made for admission is on Saturday nights, when the dance costs a quarter to pay for the band.

See you there Saturday night (tomorrow) when the Chilliwack Boys will furnish the music...

VERY SORRY TO LEAVE this youthful station were those RAF instructors who this week departed for the elementary schools maintained by their own outfit on the prairies. Their own feeling in the matter that this idea of mixing RAF and RCAF personnel was one of the best yet conceived in the service, since it gives each group a higher respect for the other. But that's not the way it's seen from above, evidently, for the lads have left for other climes not so fine.

Posted away were P/O D.J. Jemmett, P/O John Chapman, P/O E.H. Palmer, P/O B.R. Rust, P/O Ken V. Latham, Sgt. K.T. Williams, Sgt. Les Nicol, and Sgt. L.S. "Curly" Norman.

Replacing them were new instructors straight from Arnprior instructor school, including P/O W.E. Gale, Sgt. W.D. Ellis, P/O W.E. Campbell, P/O B.R. Hill, P/O H.A. Ferguson, P/O C.A.B. Price, Sgt. E.W. Walker, P/O M.R. Pace and P/O R.R. Hayes.

F/L Ron Nash, medical officer, returned to Calgary and No. 4 training command yesterday on the termination of his temporary duty here. He attended his last WOLF PACK meeting here yesterday afternoon, when his membership was transferred to another worthy officer.

Cpl. Cecil Stewart and LAC Jerry McCready will leave shortly on posting to a Vancouver unit. They're also members of the hospital staff.

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