

THE BREEZE

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For Personnel of No. 24 Z.P.T.S.,

Abbotsford, B.C.

F/S Frank Martineau - Editor
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AIR GUNNER WITH 17 TRIPS

NOW ON DRONE CONTROL HERE

WITH OVERSEAS SERVICE as a tail gunner in Stirlings and Manchesters for 14 months, Bill Wadman, whose home is in Kenora, Ont., is second in command of the aerodrome control here, working under irreplaceable Jiggs Harrison.

Bill was a flight sergeant before a chain of events brought him honorable discharge from the RCAF when he arrived back in Canada in the late spring of this year. During his tour of active duty he made 17 trips over France and Germany, not counting six mine-laying flights from English bases to points in the North Sea.

Of the mine-laying jaunts, he says some squadron count them as trips and some don't, though the line of distinction is usually drawn when there is a threat of enemy interference with the operation. Thus, when the expedition is merely to a channel point it is not counted as much of anything but a practice flight, while - if it means laying minefields in dangerous territory near Denmark or France or in Norwegian fjords - it can then be termed a trip.

The mine-laying operations were carried on in Beaufighters and, Bill declared, some opposition was encountered from Junkers 88 divebombers used as night fighters. The dark, curly-haired gunner never brought one down, he said, though a pal of his did, from another ship.

Known currently as the station's premier zoot-suiter, the former flight sergeant was mustered out because of his night vision. He wanted to be transferred to daylight operations but, since these were then being carried on solely by American forces in England, his desires were not granted and he was sent home. He has been out of service since July.

Tales of bombing flights over Cologne and other large German manufacturing centers are plentiful in his memory, but he won't tell you unless you ask him. One of the flying officer air gunners now on course here was in his squadron, he recalls.

What would he like to be doing now? "I'd like to be a waist gunner in a Fortress on daylight raids," was Bill's fervent answer.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES from the control tower this week and now highly honored with a citation for the Order of the Prominent Finger (OPF) is Joseph Aloysius Schmaltz, leading aircraftman and student pilot here.

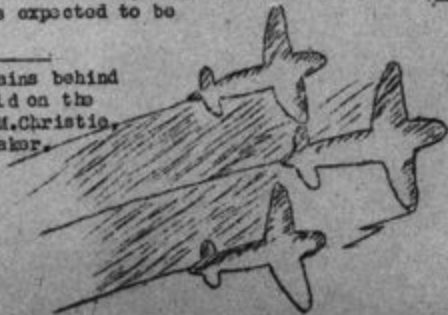
Joe has also been given a further distinction - he has been promoted to the soap and water squad, materials to be applied to the exterior surfaces of Cornell aircraft daily.

His accomplishment leading to the citation was more grim than humorous, for it was one which causes ground crew to walk around with suspicion for anyone in a flying suit. Junior engineers now take no chances; they climb up to inspect the switches before they work on any ship. And when they find switches ON, they see red.

In addition to the OPF, little Joe is expected to be awarded a size 11 boot, well placed...

SUN GLIMED on the snow-capped mountains behind as the station's third graduation parade was held on the tarmac Friday afternoon, with Wing Commander R.M. Christie, DSO, as the reviewing officer and principal speaker.

Under a bright sky, the ceremonies were held honoring the members of the third class to complete flying training here. A hollow square was formed by No. 2 Squadron after the graduating class, making up the first squadron, had marched under the command of F/L W.W. Bonn to its place before the assembled friends, relatives and dignitaries of



surrounding communities, who were invited guests at the affair. The third squadron formed up in the rear, flanked by parked aircraft.

As the parade was formed, TCA planes soared in to land, a fitting reminder of the future the graduating students have ahead of them.

W/O Christie, in his brief directive to the trainees, congratulated them on their achievements here and wished them continued success in service flying training and careers. "Bear in mind that you have had and will continue to receive the best pilot training to be found anywhere in the world," he declared, reminding the graduates that an investment of \$50,000 has been made in each of them. "Make that investment pay off," he asked.

The wing commander was introduced by S/L M. Gain, CFI, who said that in such an atmosphere of peace and sunlight it was difficult to envision war. "Such a thing seems very remote with this background," he remarked, noting that it was each pilot's burning ambition, however, to get into action.



WHAT DOES THE NEW FLAG MEAN, PETE?
IT MEANS THAT ALL PLANES LAND AT SUMAS OR BAIL OUT
- SEABOURNE IS USING THE CIRCUIT.

Following W/O Christie's remarks, S/L Gain called him in congratulating students individually as their names were called. He mentioned that this was the first course here to graduate with an accident-free record, since the class had not so much as scratched a wingtip during its training. He expressed his regret that graduation pins were not yet ready, but said that each graduating course here was a valuable contribution to the conclusion of the war. "May Lady Luck go with you," he said in closing.

Honor student of the class was LAC Alec Laurie, of Lima, Peru, who topped his fellows in all phases of training at this unit. He received the honor trophy and the personal commendation of W/O Christie and the CFI. Laurie, born in Argentina but now legally a citizen of Peru, was with a South American airline company before enlisting in the RCAF.

Following the parade, students of the graduating class departed on leave prior to 3733 posting on the prairies.

A GREAT DEMAND for reservations for the dance at the new Mission servicemen's club was evidenced this week, judging by the rapid filling of the list in the canteen. The affair will be held Dec. 8, next Wednesday night, and transportation will be furnished from the canteen at 7:30.

All those who got in under the wire on the chance for the big shindig will soon receive their passes which will entitle them to go; they're now being made up in the canteen room. P/O Don McIlveen has been named officer in charge of the party.

The turkey dinner in Lynden, Washington, on the night of Dec. 10 (sounds like the play) also drew a big response when it was announced last week, for reservations aplenty were made for the feed, for which transportation will also be furnished from here across the line and back. About 60 lads from the school will be in attendance when the

succulent morsels are brought on that night; F/S Frank Martineau will lead the group (he's a pretty fair tronchorman himself).

That cabaret dance planned for Dec. 20 promises to be the biggest affair yet held on this station. A reservation list is currently on tap in the canteen for all those interested - and who isn't? As a Christmas celebration, it will be a little premature, but because some of the personnel will be off on holiday leave a few days later it was decided to hold it at such a time that all could attend.

See you there...

STATION DANCE MONDAY NIGHT, the entertainment committee decided at its meeting in the canteen this week. It will be the last dance on station until the big affair Dec. 20.

Arrangements are being made, in line with the decisions made at the meeting, to invite girls from Abbotsford and surrounding districts to attend the Monday party, for which the new station orchestra will play. (See story elsewhere in this issue).

With regard to the Christmas dance, it was decided that it would not be strictly in cabaret style, but that unescorted persons would be admitted, since it was felt that as a station effort all personnel should be welcome, whether accompanied or not. Reservations and tickets must be secured from Supervisor Carr at the Y office in the canteen before Dec. 13th, it was agreed.

AN OPEN INVITATION to all airmen to avail themselves of their facilities in Vancouver has been extended by the hospitality committee of the United Services Hospital-Bureau, organization operating the servicemen's center on Burrard street in the nearby city.

The volunteer group arranges for short leaves in homes, dinner invitation, dancing parties, skiing, bike riding, badminton, tennis, swimming, hiking and various other attractions for men and officers of all services and has specifically asked that RCAF personnel of No. 24 EPIS make themselves at home there.

A long list of junior hostesses, all interviewed and registered according to age, personality and the like, is on tap; arrangements can be made with Mrs. Don Brown, chairman of the committee. An information bureau can furnish servicemen with gen about almost any subject.

And there's even a shopping service for you...

NEW ARRIVALS this week include F/O Carl Agar, a flying instructor from 'way back, who was one of the original staff of the Edmonton EPIS when it opened early in 1940. Later, when that school closed, he went to High River for another instructing stint. He was at Calgary SPIS instructing temporarily before he received his Abbotsford posting; owner of an Alberta farm, he has a 17-year-old air cadet son. Well-liked, he tried for an overseas posting, even going so far as to take the long SPIS course to be prepared for it, but Ottawa said no dice. Greetings, Carl...

From Araprior and instructor school there came two more pilot officers this week as additions to our instructional staff; they were P/O J.O. Labelle and P/O W. Colquhoun. WOII C.R. Davies was due to arrive from the Ontario FIB today.

First pilot officer to be added to the link trainer staff here arrived Wednesday from the instrument flying school at Deseronto, Ont.; he is P/O C.A. Howse.

FIBS... Manager Stewart McKeercher back early this week from Ottawa... Attention area signs and no smoking signs now being made in works and buildings section... New blackboard for daily parade state installed in office of F/S Gord Gauloy, station sergeant major... Sgt. Jack Weaver, disciplinarian, leaves for Trenton and a refresher course in PT and drill this weekend; he'll be back sometime in January... P/O Floyd Glass, OC of No. 1 squadron, no longer a gentleman farmer; he's now living in town... F/O Wally Wicks, now back on duty after a tour in the hospital, has been named OC tarmac, supervising work of a new course on wingtip duty... New boys marking time until a week Monday when their instruction will start... New aircraft parking system now used on tarmac to simplify situation; all ships to be faced toward center line... F/L Ben Knowles busy as bar officer for officers' mess; F/S Charlie Rice, also of link section, holds similar position in sergeants' mess organization, aided by WOII Tom McMurky... New box installed in canteen for distribution of *The Breeze*; combination mail-news-suggestion box soon to be installed there too, built by works and buildings section... Daily routine orders now carrying front page of notices, the work of Cpl. Ray Corneak in the orderly room; watch DRO's Monday, Wednesday and Friday for latest gen on social events on station... Officers' mess building opens about Monday but only for dining room facilities; interior decorators now planning installations there and in sergeants' lounge but completion of their work is not expected before January...

SEE "NEW WORLD" - the March 15 issue for this year - for a most interesting article on "How to Recognize a Wolf" - recommended reading for all and sundry. Complete with the artist's conception of the way a wolf is supposed to look (there's a pilot included, of course), the story lists various types as those who use approach oblique, lure financial, plea heroic, jump royal (or brutal), carass paternal, chat fraternal, shrug bohemian or cry passionate as their plans of battle.

"Never tell a naval man," the author warns, "that he is a wolf in sheep's clothing; this is not considered a good pun, nor will an RCAF man like to be told he is a plane wolf." The Abbotsford WOLF PACK, incidentally, is prospering, but the membership list has not been released to the press, for reasons of security.

That the wolfish theme is being recognized here is evident in the cartoon, where a poster has just gone up advising that all cups and bottles be returned to the counter. The illustration is that a wolf in pilot's garb doing that little chore; or-chids to the unknown artist...

A FEW ITEMS of interest came to mind this week from the link trainer section, where Sgt. Pete Scholofield has just been named correspondent for The Breeze. Pete's first offering was a humorous discourse suggesting a state of affairs which we consider highly improbable but which has actually been the case on occasion, we're told. Says Pete:

For the information of all pupils who think they might consider a course of instruction in the link building, we pass on those choice tidbits - heretofore, pupils arriving here have, among other things both weird and fantastic, been soundly advised by their predecessors as to the kit necessary for the successful completion of their series of engagements. However, many changes have come to pass since yesterday, especially in the interests of efficiency to bring to the attention of prospective clients a few points to bear in mind when packing kit bags for the voyage to the link building.

First, be it understood that parachutes and flying boots are considered obsolescent paraphernalia in the modern trainer and will not be required for normal dual instruction. Furthermore, manually operated gyroscopes, pocket compasses and barometers may be left in the crew rooms. An ample number of these fascinating instruments attractively arranged and delicately mounted now make up standard equipment supplied for the average pupil.

Finally, for those still interested in the special free course for punctual pupils, it is suggested that these unusual students find room near the tops of their kit bags for their small maps of Canada and abridged editions of this year's calendar - they can't afford to be late...

FROM GROUND SCHOOL comes the wail over the epidemic of lates at 7:30 classes which threatened to reach endemic proportions this week but ceased abruptly when extra duty watch started appearing... A multiplicity of time tables, both large and small, is quite evident these days, because two of the courses are running on borrowed time... Borrowing is an air force art practiced in the best circles and now even GIB has succumbed; the boys are wondering if the contractors will miss those burlap bags...

Even the offer of a five shilling reward didn't bring back Cpl Jones' \$15 purse, lost somewhere around; no word to date... Sgt. Lowe somehow manages to get his coffee free... One armament instructor looked down the barrel of the rifle to see if it had been fired; he's still living, strange to say... Contractors report that the new GIB building will be ready for occupancy in a couple of weeks; it's right across from the sergeants' quarters... Then there were those instructors (GIB) who inspected their offices-to-be in the new lay out - Jim Higgins is worrying how he's going to see out, for there's no sign of a window in the nook assigned him... A minor battle is being waged between armament and navigation sections of the staff over which group should have the larger office - the larger/larger one has windows and room for at least one chair.

According to the instructors, the new DRO dress is quite the thing; they say it makes 'em eager to see the official orders now... The two-week course extension has washed out the threat of Saturday lectures this month... Now class even loathes leaving GIB - reasons: they have to do tarmac duty then...

NEW FLIGHT COMMANDERS of A and E flights, respectively, are F/O Jim Shaw and P/O Edmie Brock, both just returned from a testing officers' course at Arnprior instructor school. Both worked up through the ranks of sergeant-pilots to their current status; best of luck at the job, boys... Orderly room staff now becoming good wireless ops because of new buzzer system installed from the CFI's office; each man has his own personal code letter... S/L Howard, of No. 4 training command, and S/L Clinton, of Western Air command, both Catholic chaplains, on station Wednesday to arrange for RC services, first of which is tentatively scheduled on station a week Sunday at 7 in the dark, dark morning... Mrs. Kay Bean, wife of F/L Bill Bean, due to arrive in Abbotsford this weekend... Sergeants' mess committee laying groundwork of organization after interview this week with CFI... Two YMCA officials visited Supervisor Harvey Orr this week; it's now official that the Y man is here to stay, along with all his equipment... Victorious again was our station basketball team in its Friday night game in Abbotsford over the high school, by a score of 40 to 18. Another game scheduled against the high school's senior team Tuesday night... Team is currently trying to arrange a tussle with the Lynden five for next Thursday night in the Washington town...

NEW STATION ORCHESTRA, composed of both RCAF and civilian personnel, got off to a good start Wednesday night when it held its first practice session in the station theatre. Besides Harry Chipperfield, Cpl. Roy Cornock, and LAC Zip Lucas on saxes, the group has Scotty Thompson on guitar, Bob Tipple doubling on trumpet and guitar and LAC Snider providing professional skill at the piano. The new musical outfit is still minus a set of drums but, according to the grapevine, that is on its way. If there is a Krupa on the station, he's to get in touch with Cpl. Cornock in the orderly room, but quick...

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