

THE

BREEZE



Published Weekly for Personnel of No. 24 EFTS., Abbotsford, B.C.,
F/S Frank Martineau, Editor No. 15 Friday, Dec. 10, 1943



FLU!

STRIKES STATION!

MEDICAL OFFICER ORDERS GATHERING PLACES
"OUT OF BOUNDS" - APPEALS TO PERSONNEL
TO ASSIST IN HALTING SPREAD OF SICKNESS

An epidemic of influenza, following in the wake of a similar nationwide illness, threatened this week to develop to major proportions here at No. 24 EFTS but was checked by prompt action on the part of F/L A.W. Vanderburgh, medical officer, who at once took steps to curb its spread by placing public gathering places out of bounds and asking that personnel refrain from congregating in crowds.

Dr. Vanderburgh, in an appeal today to all living here, asked that people avoid accumulating in crowds because the illness is a respiratory infection transmitted by coughing. "There is less danger that RCAF personnel will contract the malady," the popular medical officer declared, "since service health is generally better than that found in civilian ranks, but we want to stamp out its spread so it won't interfere with the training program."

"There's another side to the situation," he added, "for if we can't stop the spread of the flu in a few days - nip the epidemic in the bud - it will mean that Christmas and New Year's leave might possibly be lost to the whole station, and we don't want that!"

In a special DRO after-order Tuesday, the station theatre, dances (including the special event at Mission to have been held Wednesday), beverage rooms, the theatre and the Hut in town were all barred to station personnel as a result of the emergency.

The medical officer, extremely busy combatting the spread of the sickness, asked today that all who feel the flu coming on see him at once and not let it develop. Nose and throat gargles are beneficial, he said, adding "If you have the flu you are a definite menace to your neighbor."

Because the station hospital was unable to accommodate all those cases which needed confinement, Dr. Vanderburgh was forced to commandeer the unused officers' quarters as a branch hospital. On Wednesday, 17 patients were being treated there and five in the main hospital.

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24 EFTS READY FOR INSPECTOR GENERAL VISIT - CFI ASKS NORMAL EFFICIENCY

Expected momentarily as this edition of THE BREEZE went to press today was the visit here of Air Vice Marshal Godfrey, of the Inspector General's department, RCAF, Ottawa, who was scheduled to look over this bustling station from top to bottom.

A practice parade was to be held this noon on the tarmac, to be addressed by S/L M. Cain, CFI, who planned to tell the assembled service personnel, "We are now on an attention basis; let us all do what we are normally expected to do and there will be no need of special preparations."

"On any other station," the chief flying instructor feels, "such an occasion would mean extra work far from three weeks to a month, but we don't need to do that here because everything is already and always best."

"We are proud of this unit and, even though we have disorganized facilities with which to work, we can still show the IG that this is the best RCAF station he ever saw."

The parade was called to practice ceremonial drill, which is slated for the occasion. Flight commanders and flight sergeants were versed in their duties on parades of this type by F/S Gord Gaulley, SSM, at drill lectures in GIB Tuesday and Wednesday.

Expected to be visitors to the station today or tomorrow are Air Vice Marshal G.R. Howson, AOC of No. 4 training command, and President Austin C. Taylor of the Vancouver Air Training Company, Ltd. Their inspection is not expected to coincide with that of the Inspector General.



How long the "out of bounds" edict will remain in force the MO could not say, though he predicted a very unhappy Christmas and a very unerry New Year might be celebrated if cooperation could not be obtained from all personnel. "Restrictions will be lifted," he promised, "as soon as the threat of spread is gone."

Four hospital staff members, working extra shifts to combat the emergency, both in the main and in the branch hospitals, are fit patients themselves, according to the MO, but they are carrying on their duties with little relief.

Assisting in the work for the time being are four trainees, recruited from the course now awaiting the start of its instruction at this school.

Even the new blonde nurse attached to the hospital staff, Miss Marjorie Tudge, of Wapella, Sask., succumbed to the malady but is now back on the job. Miss Tudge took her training in Winnipeg; she began her connection with the local hospital the first of this month.

Members of the staff here are Cpl. Cec. Stewart, Cpl. W.T. Strelow, LAC E.J.W. Tasker, AGL Jerry McCready, LAC W.A. Faulbut and AGL R.F. Hardy.

**F/O MacDONALD, CPL. CORNOCK
 NOW POSTED TO OTHER STATIONS**

F/O Ralph MacDonald, AFG, E flight commander, chairman of the station entertainment committee and advisor to the Sergeants' Mess here, left Monday on posting to No. 2 Flying Instructors' school at Pearce, Alta., where he will be attached to the staff. Well-liked here, he was one of the first to arrive for duty on this new station.

Cpl. Ray Cornock, orderly room clerk and the whole mechanical department for The Weekly Breeze, leaves today for Sea Island and a possible posting north. Ray was also a member of an orchestra here and active in other school movements. His loss will be felt.

**BIG NAME BAND AND FLOOR SHOW
 FOR GALA CHRISTMAS DANCE HERE**

Shaping up into a bang-up affair under the direction of the station's reorganized entertainment committee, the big Christmas social event on Dec. 20 promises to be one of the best such events ever conducted on an EFTS anywhere.

Secured for the music at the dance is the orchestra of Vancouver's Dal Richards, and a complete floor show as well. P/O Tex McGill is responsible for arrangements which will bring the big band here.

Discussion of the Dec. 20 affair took up the bulk of the last meeting of the station entertainment group, in the YMCA office on Monday night, when F/L Ben Knowles, OC of the link section, was installed as the new chairman of the committee.

Present at the gate ring were Sec-Treas. Fred Graham and H.J. Nugent, representing the managing company, and S/L H. Gain, CFI, on behalf of the RCAF, and the group was reconstituted with F/L Knowles at the helm.

Sub-committees were named to supervise various arrangements for the gala affair, which it was decided will not be in the cabaret style originally planned but will feature a buffet supper available constantly. Dancing will be from 9 to 1.

Special decorations will soon be in evidence in the airman's mess, where the dance will be held, for electrical installations were scheduled for completion this week. A band stand will also be built and spot lighting is to be arranged for the floor show.

Other members of the committee are the Misses Mary and Margaret Smith, John McLean, Norman Taylor, LAC Robert Tipple, LAC Lou Snider, F/S Frank Mould and F/S Martinou.

 A fatal accident occurred just off the aerodrome at 1030 hours yesterday morning. The name of the pilot of the aircraft involved has been withheld pending the notification of his next of kin.



MISSION BINGO MOVIE BEERPARLOR VACANCIES

CANCELLED-FLU!

DANCE 60¢ HUT WE GO FAST! STATION HOSPITAL



**OFF AWARDED TO TWO STUDENTS
AFTER TAXIING ACCIDENTS HERE**

The Order of the Prominent Finger, that highly respected award for aspiring airman, has been given this week to two pupil pilots at this Abbotsford school for acts which came vividly to the notice of authorities and for which it was believed they should be rewarded.

Failure to keep 'em flying by neglecting to exercise sufficient care in taxiing was the prime reason for the undistinguished award. And it is well known that there is no excuse for at least 99 % of all taxiing accidents.

The most important factor in taxiing is safety, avoiding damage to one's own and the other aircraft. Obviously the plane wreckers of this week were unaware of this.

If a pilot is so determined to park in a small spot that he does not use caution, he is certainly not putting safety first. When a pilot runs his wing onto some obstruction on the taxi strip, he is guilty of not looking where he is going. He has no excuse.

With the OFF goes an endorsement in the log-books of both, in the way of further payment for their great deeds.

It pays to be careful...

**X FLIGHT NOW ON TARMAC DUTY -
SO NOT TO START WITH NEW CLASS**

A word of consolation was given today by Wally Wicks, OC of X flight, to those men among his ranks who will not continue with the group when it starts its course of instruction here next week. The class has been for the past two weeks on tarmac duty marking time until starting date.

F/O Wicks promised those 20 who were held over a good time, however, including a trip to Sea Island and a tour of the station there. Some time off will also be given them he said, to make up for their disappointment.

Even S/L Ed Peters and F/O Russ Martin, remustered admin men who are with the class,

have had the unenviable job of making up station standing orders for the unit.

In the style he made famous as an Airman's Post staffer in Brandon, F/O Martin expounded this bit:

"Ru, the Scribe, regardeth with a great deal of displeasure the lack of proper discretion used by Those in High Places, regarding the allocation of duties unto the weak and lowly in the Forces of the Air.

"For know that some years past Ru and Zap having been scribes, the stigma thereof hath followed them even unto here - with the result that upon their arrival the following conversation did ensue: 'O Scribes, it hath come to the notice of Those Higher Up, in the great city of Cal Gary, that this station hath no Orders for Standing. This booth definitely up thy respective alloys, thou art hereby volunteering for duty to assist in the making of same.

"Then did Ru and Zap look doleful, but forcing cheerful smiles unto their countenances, they did reply in doleful tones, 'Be it so.'

"And it was even so."

**LYNDEN TURKEY FEED
TO BE BANG-UP TIME**

Another few (very few) openings have been found for the lads here who wanted to get in on the turkey dinner to be held in Lynden Dec. 16 but who couldn't get their names down in the rush which occurred when the reservation list was originally put up in the canteen, it was announced today.

It's first come, first served on those last few chances; line forms on the right at the orderly room.

The affair will be bigger than originally planned, it was learned, and a real program has been arranged for those 60 students who are already on the "going" list. Transportation will be furnished both to the Washington town and back.

**HOLIDAY LEAVE DATES ANNOUNCED -
ONLY SKELETON STAFF CHRISTMAS DAY.**

Arrangements for holiday leave were announced this week; half the personnel will be off at Christmas and half at New Years, the division to be arranged by department heads.

Dates for the leave will be: from after duty Dec. 23 and back to work Dec. 29 for the Christmas men and from after duty Dec. 30 and back to work Jan. 5 for those off at New Years.

Only a skeleton staff will be kept on the station Christmas Day and flying will not start until 1000 hours on New Years Day for those on station then.

Special holiday meals are being planned to include turkey and all the fixings.



**GIRL WRITES LETTER TO SANTA -
WANTS A MAN FOR CHRISTMAS**

Signing herself "Ghy Vi," one of our station girl workers pleaded in a letter to Santa for a "Man" for Christmas. She sent it to the Editor of THE BREEZE because, she said, she thought it might get to Old Nick sooner that way.

"I can assure you I have been a very good Girl and all I ask for Xmas is ONE MAN. He must have a good wholesome out-of-door appearance, soulful cocker spaniel eyes; eyelashes a la Milne, better than ordinary nose, no mustach please, and a determined chin. I'm not fussy about the color of his hair, as long as it is neat and tidy, but it could have a few waves here and there, if it isn't too much trouble.

"As for his personality, it must be dynamic. He must not indulge in inebriants, partake in parlor rugby or rockless one-arm driving (but please can he have a car?). I do not like to be so ill-bred as to mention money, but I do not relish the thought of walking to Abbotsford every time we go out. He must specialize in smooth dancing, ice skating and ping pong. He must be willing and able to smile when I trump his ace in bridge and also he must carry a goodly supply of cigarets - I smoke quite heavily."

And of course there was a P.S.: "Please duplicate this order - I have a girl friend."

From the sound of this, we would say that such a man does not exist, but the line will please form up after us...

BITS OF THE BREEZE

Sergeants' mess meeting - the second - in the mess lounge-to-be Monday noon at 12... Help in decorating the airmen's mess for the Dec. 20 dance would be greatly appreciated; see Harvey Orr in the YMCA office... LAC Lou Snider, pianist deluxe, now acting as librarian from 7 to 8 nights in Y office... No picture tomorrow night because of the ban on crowds... One student in navigation hops thinks he has a new method of figuring his course; he keeps the sun in the same position all the way... Orderly room clerks now becoming wireless ops because of the Morse buzzer system installed from the CFI's office... Instructors on Ventura hop for familiarization flight last week... F/O Ralph MacDonald hopes somebody finds his gold signet ring because of its sentimental value; return it to the orderly room... Our station basketball team lost its Tuesday night game to the high school A team, 37 to 29, but all our players weren't there (sour grapes)... Still trying to arrange games with Chilliwack and Lynden teams, but no replies from them yet... The team wants more players; see F/O Tex McGill about it... Ground school not to move before first of year to new quarters... Officers' dining room in new mess across from the ir quarters opened this week; lounge still not ready for occupancy. Board of Trade in town working on housing problem in attempt to find living space for station personnel... Many instructors on leave... Cpl. Ray Cornock, leaving orderly room here on posting, to be replaced by Cpl. Meikle... Model aircraft club rolling merrily along... Mission dance cancelled in town; well populated by army and navy men but no air force personnel in sight... Atan-gard had but one lone beer drinker in air force blue last night - he wasn't from here...

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Abbotsford, B.C. - Friday, Dec. 10, 1943

EDITOR

F/S Frank Martineau

Contributors this issue: Mrs. Sue Jackson, F/O Russ Martin, Cpl. Ray Cornock, LAC Peter Seabourne, P/O Bob Waltham, F/O Lloyd Godfrey, F/L Bill Bonn, Mr. Harvey Orr, F/L Ben Knowles, F/O Bert Price, P/O Tex McGill, LAC Pat Tryon, and LAC R.H. Rouda.

**THE BREEZE BRANCHES OUT
WITH NEW COLUMN FORMAT**

A change from the bulletin to the weekly newspaper style has been made with this week's issue of THE WEEKLY BREEZE, as any fool can plainly see. ("Ah can see," I'll Abnor would say.) It is designed for easier reading and for the better presentation of the wealth of news to be found here on this enthusiastic station.

Since the first issue of THE BREEZE, the policy of constant improvement has been followed and was evident through each succeeding week. We have by no means reached the apex in RCAF station publications; there can always be progress.

At the top of this column is another innovation - credit lines for all our contributors. Their aid may have been much or little, but the point is that they assisted in the collection of the news. Thanks a lot, boys and gals.

Because trainees are here today and gone tomorrow, it has been difficult to employ their talents extensively, but again we voice the promise that their assistance will be always appreciated.

This column itself is destined in future weeks for another assignment - an Editorial page. But this week we want to thank for ourselves (and we know for all of you readers, too) Cpl. Ray Cornock, who tomorrow will be with us no more. Ever since that first daily issue of this rag, Ray has been our backbone in the duplicating end. Without his constant help it would have been impossible for us to publish at all - or for you to read THE BREEZE.

Sorry to see you go, Ray...

**CONSTRACTION PROGRESSING
ON ALL STATION PROJECTS**

Evident to the observant passerby this week were any number of improvements about the station, but the chief cause for thanks was to the road gang which has been making passable (and good) gravel roads out of our previously back-country cartpaths. Grading and rolling the surfaces of all thoroughfares here, the group has created solid surfaces where before there were nothing but mud.

The recreation hall has received its first baptism of paint Wednesday and flooring is about to be laid. Hangar doors were also painted in the steel plane shed. Board walks have been installed around all barrack blocks and principal buildings. New station hospital coming along, though F/L Venderburgh is still uncertain of opening date. Drainage ditches in evidence.

EXTRA!

CHURCH SERVICES SUNDAY CANCELLED, because of flu epidemic.

ALL AIRMEN WHO RESERVED places at the Lynden turkey feed are to report to Cpl. George Perret in OR Monday at 6 for passes.