



The Breeze



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Number 17

600 AT CHRISTMAS DANCE, HEAR DAL RICHARDS' BAND

With more than 600 couples attending the gala affair, the station's first Christmas dance was held in the airman's mess on Monday night with Dal Richards' big Vancouver Hotel band furnishing the music. The evening was a howling success.

From 8:30 to 1, the dancing went on under a gaily decorated roof. F/L Ben Knowles, the chairman of the station entertainment committee, was master of ceremonies and to him was due the thanks of the big crowd for the grand success of the event. His small group of workers, with the aid of a number of volunteers, made all arrangements for the party, including the invitation of young ladies from Lynden, Mission and Abbotsford and the station. It was their work which brought into being the amazing change in appearance of the mess hall, with the addition of a band-stand, a fireplace and sundry other Christmas decorations.

The crowd didn't want to let Dal Richards and his musicians return to Vancouver; they pleaded long and loud for "more, more," but Dal apologetically explained that his boys all held shipyard jobs in addition to their nightly chores, "so they have to get up the morning."

His appearance here was highly appreciated by the whole station, judging from the clamorous applause which greeted him throughout the evening and especially at the end of the dance.

Decorations in the hall were a marvel of accomplishment; they would have done credit to any of Vancouver's supper clubs. Thanks are due particularly to LAC Bruce Mills, LAC Paul Read, LAC Johnny Ross and LAC George Posivy, whose long hours devoted to trimmings and lights brought about the amazing change. For the electrical effects — the spotlighting, extra connections, those attractive candles outside — the laurels go to Mel Calhoun, station electrician, whose co-operation was most heartening to the committee.

Ladies and gentlemen were about evenly divided, although the inevitable stag line was matched for a short time by its feminine equivalent. That situation did not exist for long.

Refreshments, in the form of a buffet supper available from 10 to 1, featured a variety of delicacies — chief among which were turkey sandwiches. Cooks under the direction of Bill Shortland were responsible for the excellent preparation and serving.

AIRMEN VOICE APPRECIATION FOR WORK OF HUT IN TOWN

Since its inception in October, the servicemen's recreation center in Abbotsford has been a gathering place much appreciated by both staff and students of No. 24 EPTS. Individually all airmen enjoying the facilities of the Hut have thanked its sponsors for their efforts; today their warm feelings toward the residents of Abbotsford were crystallized in a holiday greeting.

Say the airmen, "For nearly three months now (except during the 'flu epidemic) we have been visiting the Abbotsford service center and finding there an atmosphere we enjoy. In few towns of this size have the citizens spontaneously banded together to meet the need of men in service for a place to go and place to play."

President H. S. Andrews of the Citizens' Committee which, at considerable expense, provided the Hut's facilities, Mrs. H. E. Cannon, chairman of the canteen committee, and all the workers and junior hostesses came in for their share of the praise. A hearty holiday greeting was given them and all "friends of the boys" in Abbotsford and vicinity.

MANAGER McKERCHER, S/L GAIN SEND BEST WISHES FOR XMAS AND '44 TO STAFF AND FRIENDS

Special Christmas messages were sent today to all personnel of No. 24 EPTS and the friends of the station by Manager Stewart McKercher of the Vancouver Air Training Company Ltd., and S/L Morley Gain, chief flying instructor, as the holiday season got underway.

Manager McKercher said in his message, "On behalf of the operating company, I wish to convey to all our friends and co-workers our most sincere Yuletide greetings. Our Christmas spirit is undimmed by our heavy tasks and our hopes for the New Year are high. May we all enter 1944 with the resolve that our goal will be victory and our work a success."

S/L Gain addressed his greetings, "To the RCAF staff who have worked as a grand team during 1943 to bring this station to its present efficiency in such a short time; to the student body on course and those who have moved on whose diligence and application have been commendable; to the civilian staff, whose co-operation has been the keystone of this unit's success; and to our host of friends in Canada and the United States who have made this location so much like home in their untiring efforts to provide recreation.

"Thanks to you all, and a very Merry Christmas. May this team continue in 1944 its efforts to shorten the war."

W/C MORROW, DFC, SPEAKER AT GRAD PARADE ON MONDAY

Wing Commander R. E. E. Morrow, DFC, young commanding officer of the RCAF station at Boundary Bay, was the principal speaker and reviewing officer at the graduation parade on the tarmac Monday afternoon, when students of the senior course were honored and presented small pins in token of their completion of the EPTS course.

A bright, brisk December day greeted the spectacle, at which the band of Western Air Command added further color to an already colorful ceremony. Only the slightest hint of haze filmed Mt. Baker's grandeur as a large number of spectators watched the exercise.

Visitors included dignitaries from Lynden, Wn., Mission, New Westminster and Langley Prairie, as well as from the town of Abbotsford. Many were friends and relatives of the graduates and applauded when they were congratulated for their achievements by the wing commander.

Following the march-on of No. 2 squadron, under the direction of F/L W. W. Benn, the honor group took up its place before the reviewing stand under the direction of F/O F. Glass, F/L Mills, AFPI, took over the parade and reported its formation to S/L M. Gain, CFL. Introducing the guest speaker, S/L Gain asked that the graduating class remain on an attention basis throughout its service career. He mentioned W/C Morrow as one of those pilots whose efforts in the air over Britain saved the day in the early years of the war.

The wing commander declared, "Good discipline is most essential to a pilot. Discipline as bred on the ground stands you in good stead in the air; you will find attention to your department, behaviour and dress well worth while, in the end.

"When you have completed your training," he continued, "you will realize that you are in the best air force in the world."

He said in closing, "The enemy is tough, but we are winning this war. I wish you all the best of luck."

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EVERYBODY STUFFED TODAY WITH TURKEY AND FIXINGS

Officers and NCO instructors were waiters for the airmen today, in keeping with a grand old service tradition, as the station indulged its taste for Christmas dinner, replete with all the season's delicacies.

The menu included old fashioned turkey soup, celery, roast turkey, cranberry sauce, apple and raisin dressing, baked ham, roast potatoes, brussel sprouts, plum pudding, oranges, grapes, apples, hard and bready sauce, tea, coffee and milk!

On Christmas day, the skeleton staff will include 67 persons, about 40 of them service personnel - mostly duty watch. Canteen hours will be 1000-1100, 1500-1630 and 1900-2200. Only two bus runs will be made, at 0815 and 1815 from here. Officers, NCOs and girls remaining on station will eat together in the mess building. The day will be a complete holiday for a majority of staff and student personnel.

Pay checks arrived today for students and were distributed tonight. The station post-office has been mobbed for the past week with airmen seeking their Christmas parcels and letters. Postmaster G.W. Malton, Cpl. Walter Jenson, and LAC Gord Hughes, a temporary helper, reported a flow of over 1,000 parcels and about 12,000 letters and cards during the week.

POSTINGS TO ASSINIBOIA, WINDSOR FOR INSTRUCTORS

Four flying instructors here were notified today of their postings to Assiniboia, Sask., an EPTS. They were F/O Don McIntyre, P/O Ken Campbell, WO1 Ed Lussier and Sgt. Pilot Bill Ellis. P/O Herb White, formerly on staff at Arnprior, left Monday on posting to Windsor, Ont., EPTS.

Taken on strength as a link instructor is Sgt. C.S. Johnson, formerly at Deseronto, Ont. P/O W. Peters, from Arnprior, has been added to the flying instructional staff as of the 13th.

BITS AND PARAGRAPHS OF THE XMAS HEEZE

Visitors to the station this week included such gold braid - Air Vice Marshal Shearer, member of the air council, and his personal aide; General Genong, Brigadier Roy, Lt. Col. Francis and S/L Preston... Manager McKercher swung aboard TCA at the last moment and was off to Caron and a Yale fire at his farm near Saskatoon... Adjutant was voted a bicycle for his rumors at school council session Monday... Possibility of a course in Public speaking also announced... Cpl. Tom Hunt, winner of \$7,000, in Calgary on temporary duty to collect; 4 TC sent for him... W/C Christie, of WAC, recent graduation speaker, posted to Toronto... Orderly room staff nearly crazy from seeds of work making out warrants, special DROs and lists... Boys still talking about that swell Lynden turkey feed last week... Bunch of lads at Langley Prairie tonight as guests at a dancie and party... Sports stagnant until the new year and the opening of the new recreation hall... F/O Lloyd Godfrey appointed educational officer; he has a program drawn up for those interested in extra night study... Harvey Orr, Y supervisor, reports a good response to station library; boys remarking on the good books they can borrow... Girls mess held meeting last week - elected Lila Acorn the Breeze correspondent; got cracking, Lila... F/L Max Earle filling in here for F/L A.W. Vanderburgh, medical officer, on leave.



GRADUATING CLASS HAS FINAL FLING

Taking advantage of the opportunity to hold a rip-roaring party to climax its stay here, the latest graduating class put on a bang-up smoker in the sergeants' lounge last Friday night, with all flying instructors of the group as guests.

Sgt. Spence Goddard, class senior, was toastmaster for the affair. He called upon S/L Morley Gain, CFI, who advised the completed students, "Your last 16 weeks of training are coming; the time will go quickly but in those few weeks you will make the mark which will decide how you will graduate.

"Thank you for your response to our recent order to keep this station on an attention basis; as you enter SPTS, go on an attention basis yourselves, for demeanor and deportment make an impression on instructors. Make your whole class tops and you will also emerge on top."

Manager McKercher endorsed the advice of the CFI, calling it "apt and appropriate." He told the graduates, "Just go ahead and do what you have to do - and do it well."

F/O Ralph Burton and E/O Frank Scott, AFM, remarked on their experiences as flight commanders of the course, both asking that the lads keep up the good work.

F/O Batch Merrick, DFM, DFC, who started his pilot training with the class, entertained with a few quips, as did also LAC McLorg. The committee for the affair included Sgt. Goddard, Cpl. Bill Jones, LAC Stan Tower, LAC Paul Sultan, working in conjunction with F/O Tex McGill.

Feature of the evening was the distribution of souvenir booklets authored by LAC Sultan and containing tributes to officers and instructors and paragraph stories on each student.

CLEANING OUT THE NOTEBOOK - One airman's instructor recently left his quarters for an early lecture untrousered... Three flight apts, Proctor, Trevelyan and Ling, due of hospital tomorrow... One student here lands by watching the aircraft's shadow on ground; what does he do in cloudy weather?... Two nav hood men recently rode back from Vancouver frozen to the tailboard of a truck... F/O Carl Agar still doing CFI instructor checks... LAC K.E. Doane of Edmonton honor student in last class; one lad in bunch was from Peru... Proctor has fishing club arrangements made... Girls tittering tonight on sight of Agnes Green chewing on turkey carcass... Model club rolling along...

SERGEANTS' MESS OPENS, BUT WITHOUT A CHAIR

Undeterred by a lack of furniture, sergeants gathered last night in their lounge-to-be in the mess building to dedicate their new quarters with the sale of the first item over the counter.

With WOII Chuck Durand as the barkeep, the first purchase was made by the secretary-treasurer of the mess, F/S Frank Martineau. Durand himself was the second customer, with WOII Bob Twiss as the third.

Officers' mess officials were able to say today just when their own canteen-lounge would open; this noon was that glad time.

Through the efforts of Sgt. Jock Ness and his telephone crew, a phone set waiting for the official opening of the sergeants' lounge.

WIFE OF CFI INTRODUCED AT TEA AND RECEPTION

With Mrs. Helen Glass, wife of F/O Floyd Glass, as hostess, Mrs. Ruth Gain, wife of 3/L Morley Gain, CFI, was tendered a tea and reception in Mrs. Glass's home on Yale road yesterday afternoon.

Present were about 20 wives of flying instructors here. Discussion centered on means of raising funds for operation of the servicemen's canteen in Abbotsford; it was decided to make some contribution each month to the expenses of the hut. Further plans will be made at another tea at Sleepy Hollow early next year. Mrs. Gain and Mrs. Kay Bann, wife of F/L Bill Bann, will be hostesses.

INSTRUCTORS' TWITCH HIT IN LATEST OFF CITATION

The Order of the Prominent Finger, an award which will go down in history as one of the most undistinguished ever worn on an airman's chest, is this week awarded to one or more individuals for a pernicious habit which comes little better than a common nuisance; evidence points to flying instructors!

Perhaps it is due to pilot fatigue, that sinister ailment, the horror of all flying instructors, symptoms of which are so common, such as biting of the nails, twitching of the muscles, fighting with the wife or continual action on the wolf front.

Tiger Moths were the first victims; now it can be seen here, for sponge rubber weatherstrip and instrument panels are taking a sorry beating. Save your claws for the students, boys...



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MERRY CHRISTMAS EDITION

EDITOR

F/S Frank Martineau

Contributors this issue: LAC Peter Seabourne, F/L Ben Knowles, Mrs. Sue Jackson, Ed Barrie, F/O Bert Price, Lang Sands, LAC Paul Siltan, Harvey Orr, Mrs. Ruth Gain, Cpl. Tom Hunt.

A NEWSPAPER'S CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Newspapermen are supposed by tradition to be cynics, but we have always found them the warmest-hearted people we ever knew. For no reason at all except their own desire to help their fellows they are constantly taking on tasks they do not have to perform, doing things no one expects them to do.

This Christmas issue of THE WEEKLY BREEZE is an indication of that fact.

The other day, when we were planning this issue, we approached THE A-S-M NEWS, Abbotsford's weekly newspaper, on carrying holiday greetings from this station to the townspeople who have been so kind to us since our arrival here. This two-color edition of THE BREEZE was the result - their Christmas gift to the boys of No. 24 EFTS.

Orchids, hearty thanks and the best of holiday wishes to Publisher Lang Sands and his whole staff; may their New Year be as successful as we know this station's will be...

A WORD OR TWO ON THE BREEZE

This Christmas issue of THE BREEZE will no doubt find its way, in the pockets of many an airman on holiday leave, into homes throughout western Canada; we'd like to tell you what you can expect of your station newspaper in 1944.

It is an institution here, for it arrived in September, the month when the station was opened. Our veins run with printers' ink and, like an old war horse scenting battle, we made a bee-line for the CFI when we arrived here, with the suggestion that some such publication as this be started on this lusty, new-born station to chronicle its events and history. That worthy went for the idea; we started the same week as a daily paper.

But the burden of daily editions was too much for a one-man staff; we switched after a week to Friday-morning issues and so the paper appears today. We aim to continue in '44; nor will your newspaper fold with the parting of your present editor.

In prospect for the coming year is a development which may overshadow THE BREEZE. It is SKY MONTHLY, a magazine which - though now in the formative stage - will draw from the wealth of material on this bustling, sprawling campus the choicest of articles, stories, features and cartoons, spiced with really inside gen on what we can expect in the near and far future written by some of the nation's biggest men.

Sounds good? Of course it does, but we'll need help - lots of it - for we "fly-instruct this place" too. All you lads and lassies with any type of talent in this line form up in three ranks on the right...

CAPS, CAPS, WHO'S LOST CAPS?

Resting neatly in a pile in the office of THE BREEZE are three airman's caps; whose?