

APPENDIX "A"

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F/S Frank Martineau, Editor

No.10

Friday, November 5, 1943.

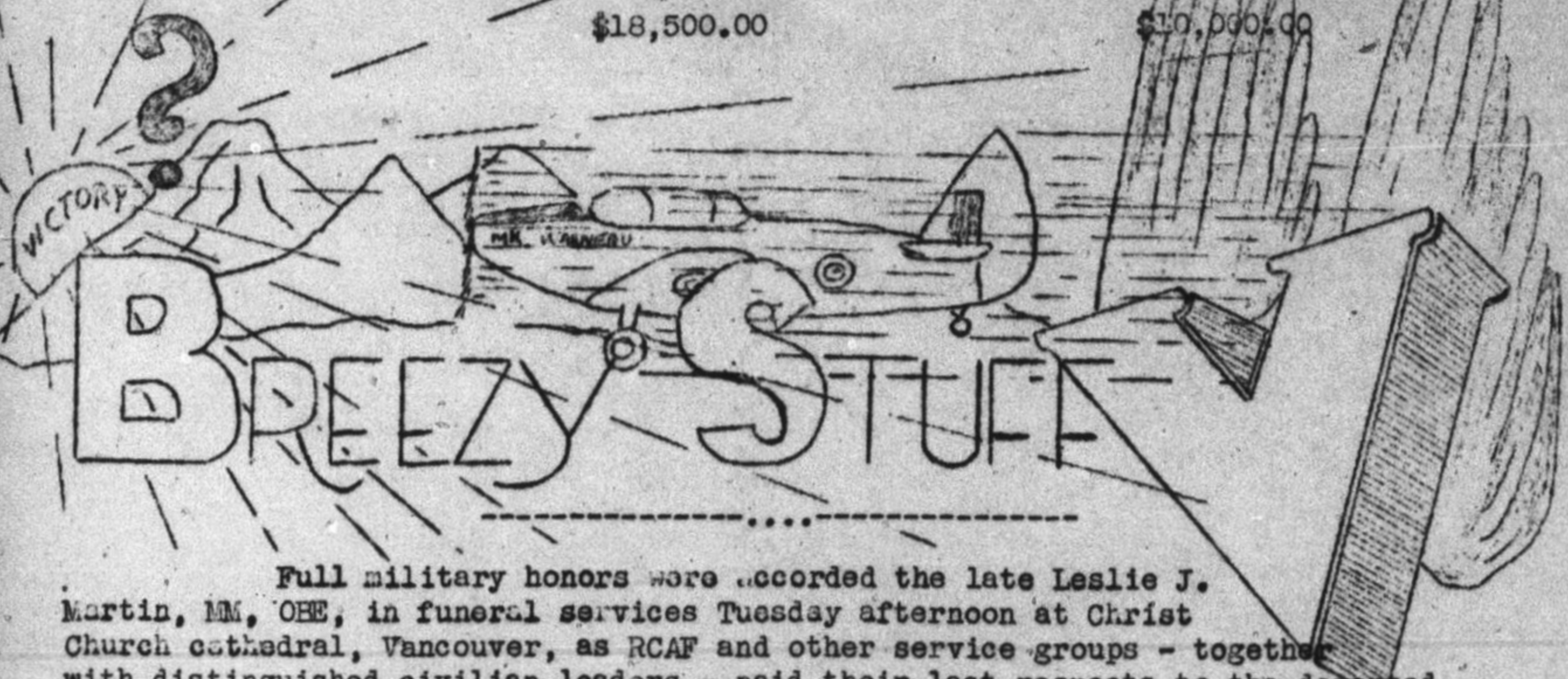
FINAL TOTAL

PRESENT TOTAL

STATION QUOTA

\$18,500.00

\$10,000.00



BREEZY STUFF

Full military honors were accorded the late Leslie J. Martin, MM, OBE, in funeral services Tuesday afternoon at Christ Church cathedral, Vancouver, as RCAF and other service groups - together with distinguished civilian leaders - paid their last respects to the departed manager of the Vancouver Air Training Company, Ltd.

Rites for the honorary wing commander were attended by his personal friends, Air Vice Marshal George R. Howsam, AOC of No.4 Training Command, and Air Vice Marshal Lee S. Stevenson, AOC of Western Air Command, as well as other service and civil leaders. Bearers were all of wing commander rank, befitting the station of the deceased.

Services were conducted in the cathedral and in Mountain View cemetery, where burial took place, by the Rt. Rev. Sir Francis Heathcote, the Rev. N.B.D. Larnmouth and the Very Rev. Cecil Swanson, dean of the cathedral.

Representing the Abbotsford school at the funeral were Fred J. Graham, manager, and S/L Morley Gain, chief flying instructor, as well as other personnel. The official attending party included 39 airmen and three officers of the Abbotsford staff.

In impressive parade, the airmen and their leaders marched into the cathedral followed by uniformed civilian men and women of the Abbotsford staff who, though in a military procession for the first time, acquitted themselves well.

Mr. Martin died suddenly last weekend, following a heart attack. He had been active in affairs of the local station and the company's other EFTS in Caron, Sask., right up to his demise and his death came as a heavy blow to both units. He was 44 and a native of Montreal.

Survivors in his immediate family included his wife, Mrs. D. Martin, a Vancouver resident, a daughter, Beverly, who is employed here, and a son, Leslie Charles, now a pilot officer in the RCAF taking a general reconnaissance course at Charlottetown, P.E.I. His mother lives in North Vancouver and two brothers and a sister as well.

Tall, light-haired, L.J. Martin will be long remembered as a man of energy and influence across Canada. His loss is irreplaceable, for the air training company from the beginning was sparked by this man who, a pilot himself, put the fledgling training plan on its feet in the Canadian West.

Briefly, his life was one of courage; he was a self-made man. Leaving school at 11 when his father died, he messengered for the CPR and, when the first war broke and he was 15, he lied his way into the trenches as a private with Montreal's 24th. By 1919 and his discharge, he was a lieutenant with the Mons Star and the Military Medal for action with his battalion at Canal Du Norde, had served with the Canadian General Hospital and the 7th Canadian Garrison Artillery. He has been gassed and wounded and was a seasoned veteran at 20. He tried, but the Royal Air Force turned him down for a "heart flutter."

Night study, two years at sea, four years with the Powell River company and then a position with the Home Oil Distributors, with which he was director and vice-president, brought him to the current war. By 1928 he had realized his early ambition to fly, when he and five other enthusiasts formed the BC Aero club, of which he was president.

In the hectic early days of the war, this connection with aviation brought him the task of organizing elementary flying training schools from scratch. He first started No.8, Sea Island, and - when Pearl Harbor created a further threat to the nation - opened No.18 at Boundary Bay as the first double school in Canada. Then, at Caron, Sask., he formed the first RAF civilian-operated school with sergeant instructors, an organization he was still operating at the time of his death.

This Abbotsford school was also under his management and he had planned to spend alternate months here and in Caron, but he never had the chance.

He made these records: only civilian manager to operate two schools simultaneously; first to use girl employees; chosen because of his fine record to run this largest of elementary schools.

FLAG-WINNER among RCAF stations in No.4 Training Command in the current Victory Loan campaign is the reward F/L Len Milne sees for this unit as a result of its amazing showing in bond subscriptions. The total to date is some \$19,000 and, when the final returns are made this weekend, it is expected the absolutely completed total will be 200 per cent of the assigned quota, or a sum of \$20,000 in pledges.

F/L Milne, chairman of the RCAF section of the local drive, called upon all procrastinators today to see him immediately about their purchases of the securities to have them included in the grand total, to be announced next week in these columns. He intends to make a final report this weekend to command headquarters in Calgary.

According to the chairman, the station is entitled to fly an extra victory pennant for every 10 per cent oversubscription to the Victory Loan, but no requests for these extra flags have been made because there is no place here to fly them. He believes this school will be among the first two in the command in bond sales and for that reason will receive the No.4 TC Air Officer Commanding's flag to be flown here for the year in recognition of its achievement.

We submit that an extremely tall flag pole will be needed to air all these honor pennants to the breeze and hereby open a campaign to collect from well-wishers of the station a fund to purchase same. (Of course, we will administrate the fund to our own satisfaction !)

VISITORS to our bustling domicile this past week included the visiting flight of the training command's armament section, headed by F/L J.A.R. Pogue and F/L V.T.Malach, the latter in charge of the aircraft recognition branch. (A note from our GIS correspondent, Ed Barrie, informs us that the armament section there was noticeably shaken by the visit. So upset were the lads that both Sgt. Horne and Sgt. Lowes almost failed to arrive on time for their first lectures the morning after.)

Squadron Leader J.G.Sparling, training command chaplain chief, also looked in on us in the interests of the station's soon-to-be-established chaplain service for all denominations.

RADIO SHOWS of interest to the air force and particularly to civilian personnel of this station who were formerly at the Caron, Sask., school include one tonight on CBC at 8:30(our time) of skits and stuff staged by the Caron ground crew workers. More information on the nature of the program was not available at press time, but you lads and lassies might be able to hear your old friends broadcasting to you this evening, so twist your dials diligently.

Another nation-wide RCAF air production had its first hearing last Sunday night. Called "L for Lanky," it's a dramatic presentation planned to continue for 13-weeks on the CBC network just after the Jack Benny show and just preceding Charlie McCarthy. It's air force sponsored in the interests of air crew recruiting; might be good for a little unexpected comedy in the commercials. Plan to listen, anyhow...

SEETHING UNREST has been evident about the station these past two weeks, and all as a result of this scribe's unwillingness to divulge the facts of his personal life while making public the embarrassing things about others of his brethren and sistren (that doesn't sound quite right, but we'll let it stay).

The thing started with a weekend in Vancouver and came to the attention of me and sundry over the grapevine shortly afterward, because of some mysterious items which began to arrive for one "Frank Martineau."

First telegram said (Quote) Twins born. Mother doing well. Signed. Dr. Walker (Unquote).

Second wire, two days later, exclaimed, "Catastrophe; third born. Signed. Dr. Walker."

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Those were from Vancouver. But then, this week, there arrived from Toronto this cryptic message, "Everything now under control. Sorry I sabotaged the war effort."
Our only comment: what some gals won't put into a telegram!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES this week included an influx of new instructors (brand new) from Arnprior to fill some of the few remaining vacancies in the instructional staff. All pilot officers, they were M.J.Sparrow, J.F.Briba, R.M.Wal-
than, A.C.Mullen, W.J.MacKenzie and R.B.Baker. Some have arrived, some are due today and one will report tomorrow: best of luck in this instructing game, fellows - we know you'll need it.

LAC W.A.Talbut reported here Nov. 3 as another hospital assistant for our thriving medical department. Talbut was last at Coal Harbor. Sgt. J.C.D.Scholefield is due to arrive here today to take his place as a link trainer instructor under F/L Ben Knowles; Scholefield will be pulling in from Moosejaw, Sask., where he has been instructing lately.

Cpl.Ken J.Eaton, who prizes the memory of being the senior LAC in Canada, has been posted to No.3 Repair Depot in Vancouver, effective today, for reposting elsewhere. His transfer was a tricky maneuver which found him posted here for the purpose of keeping the records straight, then immediate change to Vancouver. Ken was acting as MT driver on the Sumas bus run during his Abbotsford sojourn.

LAC Dennis Snow and LAC Gordon Latta, "temporary duty" airmen at Boundary Bay for the past 28 days, will be back here to finish their EFTS course starting Saturday.

MENTIONED IN DESPACHES, that monthly magazine of grim humor published by Ottawa's official gag writers, should have this one:

This week, one of our P/O flying instructors entered the time shack full of efficiency or something and demanded the L-14 for 10771; he said the battery was dead and he was placing said aircraft unserviceable because it wouldn't start.

He made an entry to that effect in the appropriate columns of that dog-eared document and happily trundled off in search of another kite.

But the junior engineer started it first crack and our P/O gets the Distinguished Order of the Boot for his unusual devotion to the belief that flipping the master switch to the "on" position is not necessary in starting the Cornell aircraft...

SINKING 'EM ALL, from all corners of the floor, the station basketball team on Tuesday night in the Abbotsford gym defeated the town's Pro-Rec team by a score on which no two opinions seem to agree, though it is admitted our boys plugged the basket at least twice as much as their opponents.

P/O Tex McGill, sports officer of the station under whose guidance the team has been organized, declared the final score was 47 to 21, though F/O Ralph Burton, player-captain, contends it was something like 42 to 22. Be the dispute what it may, it still remains fact that we won, after dropping the first tilt last week.

A "violent" request for more players has been issued by the sports authorities, who have asked that all basketball artists congregate at the canteen at 7:30 Tuesday night for the practice session in town. The team is attempting to book a game with a Lynden, Washington, five and is looking forward to a big first season.

With the completion of the recreation hall (some of us are distastefully calling it the "drill" hall), basketball games and practice sessions will be held on the campus and sports equipment will be issued for use under the supervision of Harvey Orr, YMCA officer here.

STUFF... Our adjutant, F/L Larry Bryans, says his was a routine week... Three members of the GIS staff with the aid of a hard-working accountant have formed a Fan-Tan club and can be seen at business sessions almost every night...CGI Hugh Barclay now has a nice soft red-leather chair and can usually be found in the publications office...Parachute packing manmas have parodied that current popular music favorite with a verse which includes the lines: Put your chutes away, boys - Once around the track, with a P-chute on your back, If you don't put your chutes away...A mysterious correspondent gave us a shorthand news item containing the name of Evelyn Gould, but we can't read shorthand...Cpl. Ray Cor-



...at Niagara Monday morning, he was so anxious to get back here...

(continued)

Several company girls forced to walk back here from Mission last weekend when their chauffeur ran off the road... Laura Christianson, gas truck driver, recuperating in quarters from fall from moving car; she spent two days in hospital... Opening of new hangar due soon. Four flights will move into quarters there... Green paint now traffic hazard in main hangar...

A GRADUATION SMOKER for the current student senior class, second to complete pilot training at this school, will hold the spotlight Monday night at 8 o'clock in the Canadian Legion hall in Abbotsford, according to the planning committee. Fun and games are in prospect for all who attend, they say.

The entertainment program will include a sing-song, skits and informal revelry with LAC Boyd as master of ceremonies. Invited guests include S/L Morley Gain, CFI, Manager Fred J. Graham, all flight commanders, the Hon. Mr. Cruickshank, M.P. for this district, all flying instructors of the course and ground school instructors.

Members of the committee include Sgt. Bill Watts, Sgt. Jack Relf, LAC Larry Laidlaw and LAC Bob Mair. Since mid-week they've had their heads together arranging the affair as a suitable climax to their eight weeks of study and toil at this new unit and they think they've fixed up a hilarious session.

The Legion officials have again closed their doors for the evening to all but the students and their guests. Refreshments (and more of 'em, tis said) will be on hand. The trainees have been given the helping hand of the station entertainment committee in organizing the do and expect to conduct an event long to be remembered...

ON TUESDAY NIGHT, the station Hallowe'en dance will get under way in the mess building at 8 p.m. for all personnel and their guests. Postponed a week out of respect for the memory of Mr. Leslie J. Martin, manager of the Vancouver Air Training Company, the affair will be held with the same program as originally planned.

The station orchestra, augmented by a string artist recruited from the ranks of the newly-arrived student class, will play for the novelty and straight numbers in the bang-up program, which will continue until 11:30.

More than a score of southern belles from the other side of the border will grace the shindig, F/O Ralph MacDonald, chairman of the entertainment committee, has again promised, and the stag line will be further reduced by the Abbotsford town girls who are also being invited to attend. Both the Officers' and Sergeants' sides of the mess will be opened for the function.

Refreshments to quench thirst and appetite will be available and prizes are being planned for winners of various dance-floor games.

Plan to be there, kids.....

WINNER of the jackpot of \$2.20 in the aircraft recognition contest announced in this paper last week was LAC Kostoff, a student in one of the senior courses here. His answers for the eight tricky questions on the test brought him the mazuma contributed by all entrants at a dime a throw.

With the next contest, to be started next week, a new method of conducting the game will be inaugurated by CGI Hugh Barclay and the armament staff of ground school. Questions in the quiz will be duplicated for distribution to all air crew personnel on the station and only the news of the brain tussle will be published here. Chief criticism of entrants in the previous jousts of wits has been that not enough copies of this sheet were available for them to find out what the questions were.

We can't help it if this rag is popular.....

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RAINED INSIDE by unkind torrents, the graduation parade of the station's first student class was held instead in the canteen a week ago today. Named as honor trainee in the course was Sgt. Cyril Craig, RAF remustered armorer who served during the Battle of Britain with bomb disposal crews.

Presentations of individual RCAF bracelets to the graduates were made by the late Mr. Leslie J. Martin, manager of the operating company; the wrist bands were of sterling silver, with the exception of that given Sgt. Craig, which was gold. Congratulations and best wishes were proffered the pupil pilots, who immediately following the brief ceremony, went on special leave before reporting for service flying training on the prairies; S/L Morley Gain, CFI, commanded the parade.

Viewing the proceedings were the reeves of surrounding communities and other civilian guests, together with invited guests of RCAF personnel.

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"SPEED THE VICTORY"