

# The Freeze



January 14, 1944

No. 24 EFTS, Abbotsford, B.C.

Number 20

## Graduation Parade Rained Inside Manager McKercher Speaks

### FULL ROAF FUNERAL HELD FOR VICTIM OF CRASH HERE

Killed in Flying Accident  
Friday Near Aldergrove

Impressive military funeral ceremonies were held in New Westminster on Monday afternoon for Warrant Officer Second Class Joseph Edward Gibson, 21, flying instructor at No. 24 EFTS, who was killed in an accident near Aldergrove Friday afternoon.

With a Royal Canadian Air Force band, firing party and attending party assisting in the rites, the funeral parade was marched from the Paterson funeral home to the family plot in Fraser cemetery, following services conducted in the funeral parlor by Rev. F. C. McCrea. The band played a dirge as the sober procession slow-marched along its route.

Last respects were paid the pilot at the cemetery as the firing party fired three volleys at the conclusion of the committal service. An airman bugler sounded "The Last Post," as the parade stood solemnly at attention, then one by one the bearers stepped forward to salute.

### Married Six Months

Attending as representatives of No. 24 EFTS were Manager Stewart McKercher, K.C., and S/L M. Gain, chief flying instructor, Bersers were WO2 Robert Twiss, WO C. F. Basner, WO2 A. O. Puttonen, WO2 F. E. Martineau, Flight Sgt. G. W. Gauley and Flight Sgt. N. Trevelyan, all of the EFTS staff. Floral tributes were profuse.

Warrant Officer Gibson was a native of New Westminster, as is his widow, who resided with him in Abbotsford. He leaves, besides his wife, his father, Joseph Gibson; one brother, George Lincoln, and his grandmother, Mrs. C. Lincoln, all of New Westminster.

Formerly a flying instructor at Regina, Sask., he was attached to the school here for four months in the same capacity. He had been married about six months. He was a member of the Sergeants' Mess at No. 24, which honored his memory at its meeting Tuesday.

### SERGEANTS ADOPT RULES TUESDAY EFTS SESSION

Adoption of a set of rules by which the Sergeants' Mess at No. 24 EFTS will be governed featured the gathering of that group on the station Tuesday. The regulations had been prepared by a committee including WO2 Charles Durand, F/S George Fractor and F/S Frank Mond and were accepted with few changes.

WO1 Arthur Bell presided as chairman during the lengthy session, at which reports were also heard from the bar officer, furnishings committee, secretary-treasurer, messing committee and barrack officer of the group.

### Ten B. C. Airmen Graduate Wednesday In Latest Course

Leading, lowering skies over No. 24 EFTS on Wednesday forced the holding of its scheduled graduation parade within a spacious hangar instead of on the parade ground; another large group of student pilots were commended on the conclusion of their studies and sent along the road which leads to victory.

Manager Stewart McKercher, K.C., was the principal speaker at the impressive ceremonies, congratulating each student and pinning upon him a miniature set of wings in token of his accomplishments.

LAC V. C. Simmonds of Edmonton was the honor student of the course and was highly praised for his exceptional work.

### B.C. Men in Class

Distinguished passes went to LAC S. D. Douglas of Cranberry Lake, B.C.; LAC R. O'Grady of Vancouver; LAC P. W. Tolhurst, London, England; Cpl. A. Tolley, Kidderminster, Worc. England, and to Flight Sergeant R. G. Vosburgh of Rusklin.

Other B.C. men graduating included LAC D. R. Brown, New Westminster; Cpl. G. Hirst, also of New Westminster; LAC G. B. McMorran of Cordova Bay, Victoria; LAC D. C. Mendes, LAC R. E. Pharis, LAC R. A. Tipple, and LAC M. Zuback, Vancouver.

Cpl. Tommy Hunt, RAF, who recently won a \$6000 home in a Calgary Greek War Relief draw, was also a member of the graduating class.

The entire station turned out on parade for the occasion, honoring the graduates. Heading the squadrons as they marched onto the parade ground were F/L W. W. Benn and F/O F. Glass. F/L L. Milne, assistant chief flying instructor, acted as wing commander and took over the parade from F/L L. H. F. Bryana, wing adjutant, after its formation.

### Ceremonial March Past

Many friends, relatives and local dignitaries were in attendance as the graduation ceremonies were held. The students of the finished course held a smoker Wednesday night prior to departure on leave.

At the graduation, a hallow square was formed of all other aircrew on the station, after which F/L Milne introduced the manager, who said, "Let us all hope you will be as successful in your operational experience as you have been here. This has been a good class; on behalf of the school I wish you the best of luck."

The parade was concluded within the hangar with a ceremonial march past to the military airs of a public address system, installed especially for the occasion. F/L Milne and Manager McKercher took the salute as the squadrons marched past in review.

### F/L BENN POSTED TO REGINA EFTS

Flight Lieut. William W. Benn, officer commanding No. 2 Squadron No. 24 EFTS, has been posted to No. 15 EFTS, Regina, Sask., it was learned today.

F/L Benn, who was formerly stationed at the Regina school, will be returning to his former duties after spending three months at Abbotsford. During his stay here, he and Mrs. Benn have been making their home at Sleepy Hollow, Abbotsford.

The transfer becomes effective next Tuesday, it is announced. His original position at the school was that of flight commander, but he was later named to head the squadron.

Both he and Mrs. Benn are Ontario natives; they have one daughter.

### EFTS MOVES TO RAISE FUND FOR CRASH WIDOW

An organized movement is underway at No. 24 EFTS to raise a fund for the widow of the late WO2 J. E. Gibson, killed Friday in a plane crash near Aldergrove.

### BRYCE NAMED PADRE; FIRST COMMUNION IS GIVEN AT AIR SCHOOL

Will Visit Airmen  
Twice Weekly

For the first time since the opening of No. 24 EFTS, Holy Communion services were conducted on the station Sunday by Rev. Charles W. Bryce, officiating clergyman at the school and rector of St. Matthew's Anglican church in Abbotsford and St. Margaret's in Brander.

In a portion of the airman's canteen on the station set aside for church and other gatherings, the initial communion services were held with a large number of airman partaking prior to the

regular Sunday church parade. The padre, recently appointed to minister to the spiritual needs of the airman, states that the communion services will be held every second Sunday in 1944.

Church parade is held at 2 a.m. each Sunday, with

the personnel on station all attending. Sunday's message by Rev. Bryce was entitled "Walk Worthy of God." Average attendance at the services is 70.

The padre is at the school each Tuesday and Thursday to talk to those airman who wish to consult him on personal troubles. All afternoon and evening Tuesdays and every Thursday night he is available in the canteen or YMCA office to any person at the school who desires spiritual advice.



Rev. Bryce

#### NEW PERSONNEL ADDED TO CO. AND RCAF STAFFS

Resigning because he says, "I've seen all wars of my day and I want to see this one," Cook Bill Shortland of the airmen's mess leaves tomorrow. The jovial chef would say no more on his future intentions, but it is believed he will seek a troopship position.

Replacing him will be Tom Davies, who was at one time with the CN Steamship line as a cook and was loaned for a period to the Duke of Windsor in the Bahamas. He comes here with a high reputation for good cooking.

Added to the GIB staff of instructors are Norm Fleming, a navigation teacher, and Ken Abbott, a signals instructor who was formerly at Caron.

Other Caron ex-employees who are now here include Ray Marsden, Fred Rickling, a junior engineer, and Jack Briegel, engineer. W.E. Lambrook, chief engineer at Caron, will also be coming to this school.

Nancy Harvey, a waitress in the officers' mess, also left this week; she received the wishes of the girls' employes mess on her departure.

On the service side of the staff, an addition this week was the tallest officer now on strength, P/O Ken McKenzie, who was formerly constructing at Goderich, Ont. WOII Tex McHarry was the only departing staffer; he went to Assiniboia, Sask.

#### MODEL CLUB SEEKS PLANS FOR CORNELL II AIRCRAFT

Swinging almost immediately into production of models of the P-40 Kittyhawk, the No. 24 SPTS Model Club is still searching for suitable plans from which Cornell models can be built, says P/O Bob Waltham, president.

Although the club has sought continually for plans of the Cornell, none have been found and attempts have been made to draw them locally without much success. The club president has asked that any person here who owns a copy of such plans or knows where they may be obtained get in touch with any club member. Offers to draw them here will be snapped up, too.

When plans are secured, the club will proceed to build models for use in airmanship, theory of flight and flight demonstrations, in flights and ground school.



#### "AIRCRAFT OF THE DAY" POSTERS SOON TO APPEAR

In a move intended to increase general knowledge of the aircraft of enemy and allied nations, CGI Hugh Barclay is currently making arrangements for the posting in prominent places around the station of aircraft recognition cards showing the planes of the day.

If censorship did not forbid the disclosure of the number of United Nations planes shot down by United Nations planes in the Sicily and other invasions, the need for such a program would be readily apparent to all, but, says the chief ground instructor, "Just take my word for it; it is extremely important that our aircraft spotting be improved."

Present plans call for posters in the canteen, the officers' mess and the sergeants' mess, to be changed daily.

All personnel, when approached by the appointed A/C Rec. man anywhere on the station, after 1500 hours, would be liable to a fine of five cents if they could not identify the plane. The collector will carry a small box into which nickels or IOU's must be dropped.

#### GRADUATES HOLD FINAL PARTY

As its final social gathering at No. 24 SPTS, the latest graduation class Wednesday night in the mess building held its smoker with the station's leaders and their instructors attending to wish them well in their next assignment.

LAG Bob O'Grady acted as master of ceremonies for the affair, calling upon F/L Len Milne, ACPI, for a few words on behalf of the flying wing. Manager S. McArcher spoke for the operating company.

F/L Milne wished the lads "Godspeed in your new venture. We all wish you happy landings and ask you to carry on the good name you have made here."

Mr. McArcher pointed to the good record of the class and declared, "We are sure you will do as well at SPTS and OTU."

Other speakers were CGI Hugh Barclay, F/L A.U. Vanderburgh, medical officer, F/O Carl Agar, F/L L.H.F. Bryans and F/L W.W. Benn.

The committee for the smoker included Bob O'Grady, F/S Gord Vosburgh and Cpl. Rog Topp. Sgt. Norm Haight and Sgt. Ray Baptis of junior classes assisted with the serving.

#### BITS OF THE BREEZE

A Persian cat has temporary quarters in ye gals' barracks; picked up in town, the feline was the object of quite a search by its elderly owner.

The Red Cross is sponsoring a dance at Matsqui next Friday night. Farmer Fiddlers will supply the music.

Available to all airmen who request them at the Teddy Bear restaurant in town are 1944 wall-size calendars.

Mrs. Walker's room in the girls' barracks has been the center of interest lately - seems they're doing a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle there. Nine slips were blank and the other marked "Joe" in the draw this week which decided which of the senior NCO's and F/L Fletcher would start with the new course. One had to be left out. Sgt. Hubenig was the "Joe" boy.

**URGENT REQUEST ISSUED  
FOR DATA ON HOUSING**

An appeal to all those seeking accommodations in Abbotsford for themselves and their families to inform the chief flying instructor their needs was made this week, in an effort to organize the housing situation to the point where it can adequately be met.

S/L M. Cain, CFI, in discussing the situation today, declared that few reports have been made to him by personnel and that no action can be taken until an accurate analysis of requirements can be presented to the Abbotsford Board of Trade's special housing group.

He asked that all staff members who wish living quarters in town see him and discuss their needs.

Until such time as all requirements are known, the committee cannot proceed with its work, aimed at relieving the shortage.

**SWITCHBOARD NOW  
ON 24-HOUR BASIS**

Marking another milestone in the all-out operation of No. 24 EFTS this week was the inception of 24-hour, round the clock operation of telephone service through the switchboard here.

Board operators Emily MacDonald, Bernice Newman, Alice Thompson, Margaret Glock and Mary Parks will work in shifts to give the station phone service every minute of the day and night.

With the expansion of service, it will become necessary for orderly sergeants to sleep in the orderly sergeants room in the NCO's quarters; in the past this was not necessary since no connections there were possible with the switchboard closed.

Continuing their phone maintenance work are LAC Ray Saunders and LAC Dick Morgan.

**RUMBLE CLUB  
IN SESSION**



*"Now, if you can catch water for when his plane goes down, we'll call all go to Vancouver tonight!"*

**Tramp, Tramp, Tramp**

**GROUND SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS  
PUT MARCHING LADS TO SHAME**

**Or: How to Hitch a Ride  
In One Not-So-Easy Lesson**

This week our friends Barrie and Radcliffe are recovering from the effects of their recent route march from Vancouver to No. 24.

It seems that our merry lads were kicking their heels among the comforts of home in a famed western metropolis when they were suddenly struck with a bolt of something or other highly charged with a dose of conscientitis. It was sufficient to start our two outdoor enthusiasts thinking about the pleasures (?) of thumbing, so they started on their merry way, keen as two commandos.

**"AH, THERE'S A TRUCK"**

All went well until they reached Paytello. It seems the wind changed, or something, but our two friends accepted a lift to Fry's Corner, instead of to Langley. Out they got at Fry's, first leg of the journey covered and still keen as mustard.

But, as time went on, it became increasingly and painfully apparent that travelling were so good that night.

Two's getting late, too.

"Ah, there's a truck!" cried Barrie. At that moment, Radcliffe - recalling "It Happened One Night" - started displaying his graceful calves; but the driver wasn't even slightly

perturbed and rolled on into the night.

**FORD MOVES IN SIGHT**

When Langley schoolhouse came into view, our two disconsolates came upon a farmer putting the morning milk on his roadside stand and prevailed upon him to take them to town. (We have yet to learn the strength of the bribe.)

It is said they ended up in town peering out at traffic that should have been, from the doorway of a building they called a hotel. After many probings and rehashings of the story, however, we are inclined to the view that it was one of those places made famous by one Chic Sale.

Upon seeing the dim lights of a Model T, they again rushed to the highway and literally bludgeoned the poor laddie at the wheel into taking them aboard.

**BEAUTIFUL BUT TOOTHLESS**

But apparently our friends made a faux pas, at some stage of the ride, for they again found themselves pavement pounding at Otters Corners.

We could go on to tell about the beautiful though toothless blonde who was going west but stopped all four wheels to ask the boys to accept a lift; we could also mention the time of day that the halls of Radfield Manor were rarely shaken by the coarse language of her favorite though wayward son.

Suffice it to say, however, that the GIB schedule has since read, "For navigation read signals; for airmanship read armament."

## EXTRA I

LYNDEN DANCE TUESDAY;  
MISSION DANCE WEDNESDAY,  
SO MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW!

Mixup This Week Sode 30  
Lads on Wild Goose Chase

More fun than a barrel of monkeys is in prospect for about 60 of our EPTS stalwarts next Tuesday and Wednesday - 30 on each night - for dances are being held for them in Lynden, Washington, and over the river in Mission, it was learned just before press time today.

The orderly room is accepting reservations of 30 (no more) fellows to attend the Lynden affair, sponsored by the American Legion post there. 'Tis rumored that a number of our boys are spending their leaves in Lynden and they too will be seen at the dance, but Chief Chas. Moore of the US Border Patrol says there will be more than enough feminine American pulchritude present.

Transportation will be furnished to both affairs and all arrangements will be made for the border crossing on Tuesday night.

Wednesday evening's do in Mission was the for which a busload of our lads were looking this past Wednesday. It seems a mixup in was made and the servicemen's organization over there was expecting them a week from the time they actually appeared. But there's nothing like being early....

The first 60 to apply will go; no more can be squeezed in. It's first come, first served....

## EXTRA I

GIRLS TO HOLD  
OWN 'STAG' PARTIES

Meeting Last Night Decides  
For Sunday Night Fun Events

Deciding that the boys are not to be the only station personnel to have stag smokers or gatherings of the sort, the Girls' Mess at a meeting last night voted to hold Sunday evening entertainments for themselves in the mess building.

Lea Dessautels and Jean MacKenzie were appointed to the committee in charge.

Mrs. Mary Nugent, president, was in the chair for the session, at which it was also agreed to secure a station hairdresser. Rose Ontko is secretary-treasurer of the group.

Much interest was evidenced in sports and the bowling alleys which are planned as a part of the recreation hall.

Records will be purchased and a player secured by a committee including Jeannette Rorison and Jean Nixon. Agnes Green, Mary Smith and Mrs. Isobel Edridge are looking after lounge furnishings. Meetings are held each month.

## BITS OF THE BREEZE

CGI Hugh Barclay has returned after an extended trip through 47C schools, examining methods used in their ground schools. Biggest satisfaction of the tour, he said, was to find that the school here is holding its own the young.

Cpl. Ray Cornock, formerly an orderly room staffer here, was a visitor this week. He is currently attached to a west coast station.

F/O Butch Merrick, EPM, EFC, is scheduled to give a lecture in GIS today, to be illustrated by his own collection of photographs. He has declined to go on a speaking tour.

## THE WEEKLY BREEZE

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## EDITOR

WOII Frank Martineau

Contributors this issue: LAC Peter Seabourne, Mary Parks, P/O Bob Waltham, Lang Sands, F/L W.W. Benn, WOII Bob Twiss, Mrs. Sue Jackson, Lila Acorn, Ed Barrie, F/S Gord Vowburgh, F/S Gord Geuley, Rosa Ontko, F/O W.H. Merrick.

## THE BREEZE AD INFINITUM...

Finally, after such outgelling of the aching, weakling brain which we must call our own, we have come forth with the great idea which will perpetuate The Weekly Breeze and such other local publications as might in future appear.

It's a PRESS CLUB, a journalistic group which learn newspapering while doing it.

Taking a long range view of the postwar conditions likely to exist, we have come to the conclusion that many of us, officers and airmen alike, will find ourselves out in the cold so far as occupational training is concerned.

Here, in the No. 24 EPTS PRESS CLUB, is a definite chance to learn a profession which is tops - one in which you are in on all the activities of mankind and yet are apart - one in which you live a most interesting life.

And so we present it to you, without a high-pressure sales talk. It's a definite opportunity for those with the gall, grit and gumption that reporters need.

See the Editor...

## BITS OF THE BREEZE

A recent graduation parade saw a strange sight: a young woman industriously knitting away on the tarmac while she watched the proceedings. Lea Dessautels, secretary to Chief Engineer Joe Bertalino, was the gal in question, while Mary Parks held the ball of wool and repressed the desire to throw it skyward.

S/L Eric Bradley, AFC, RAF commanding officer at Caron, Sask., EPTS, before it closed, was a visitor here Sunday and Monday. He is to be posted back to England.

The School Council meeting Monday morning discussed personnel and equipment transfers from the Caron school to No. 24 EPTS.

## GROUND STAFF GETS OFF FOR HUNING DRGE TURP

The Order of the Prominent Finger, an award heretofore reserved for aircrew at No. 24 EPTS, is this week reluctantly pinned on ground crew personnel. No names are mentioned, but the matter is serious.

All of us on this station should take pride in the appearance of the grounds, in the upkeep of the runways, of the condition of the field; we should all appreciate the magnitude of labor which developed this airport from a stump patch.

Now, to give the sod a chance to grow in the infield between runways and taxi strips, aircraft have on wet days been forbidden to move on the grass.

But just look at the auto wheel ruts...