

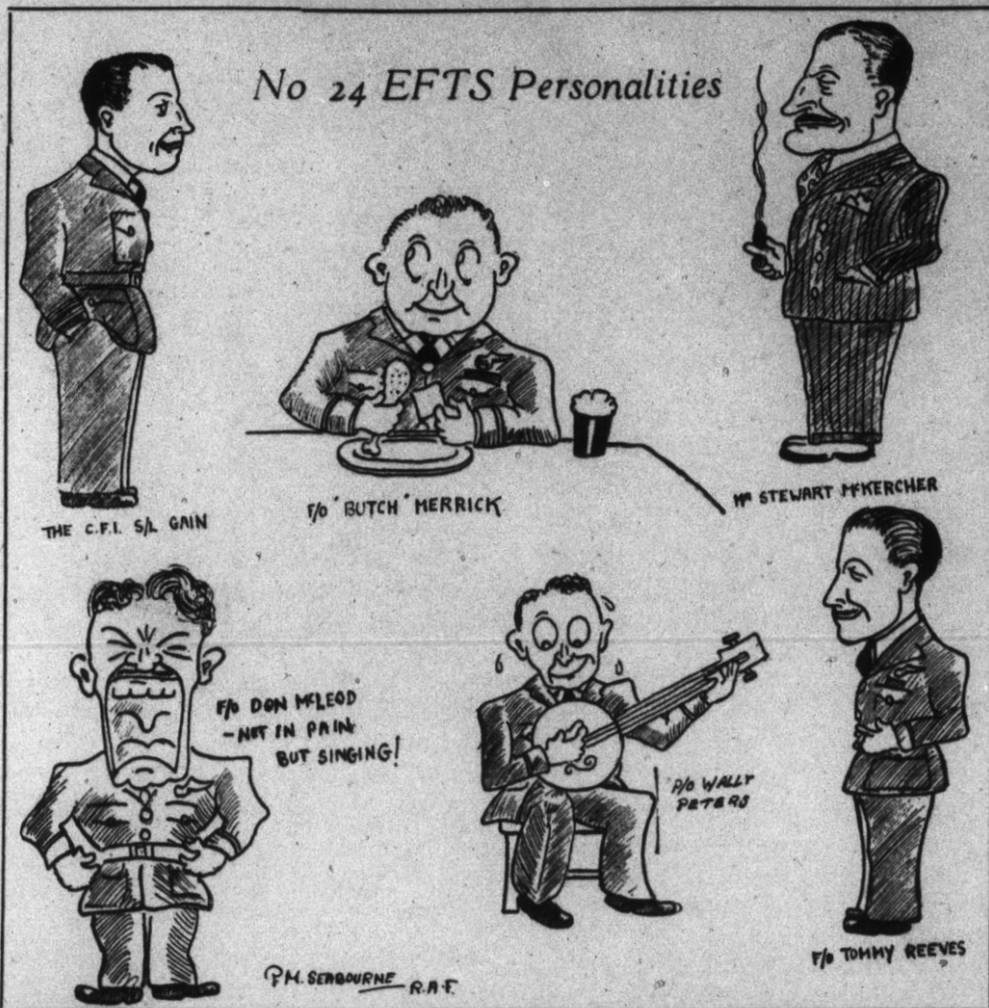
The Breeze



January 28, 1944

No. 24 EFTS, Abbotsford, B.C.

Number 22



BACK TO SCHOOL GO EFTS PILOTS

A unique educational program of lectures for flying instructors at No. 24 EFTS saw its inception this week as F/O Carl Agar, officer commanding testing flight and an old-time pilot, presented the first in a series of hour-long periods.

F/O Agar's subject, on which he will give lectures from time to time, was Airmanship. The schedule as announced today by S/L M. Gain, CFI, calls for the same talks on Thursday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m. in the ground school, so that flying instructors from both shifts may attend one day or the other.

The lecture slated for Monday and Tuesday afternoons is on the "Progress of the War," with Sgt. Jack Inglis, a student pilot re-mustered from educational duties, as the speaker. A discussion will follow, during which pilots may present their own views on war strategies and successes.

F/O Otto Klein, who was formerly an administrative lecturer at the RCAF's schools for that subject in Trenton, Ont., but has re-mustered to pilot and is now instructing here, will give the end-of-the-week talks, on next Thursday and Friday afternoons, on Administration. His two years of experience in air force administration and teaching the subject should assist greatly in broadening knowledge of flying instructors on that score.

16 B.C. Fliers Graduate At Local School

RAF STUDENT PILOT TAKES HONORS AT LATEST GRADUATION

Graduating Wednesday at No. 24 EFTS under crisp, bright skies, the latest class of student pilots were honored in ceremonies attended by the entire elementary flying school personnel and invited guests.

Wing Commander R. E. Horsfield, assistant director of manning for the Royal Canadian Air Force, Ottawa headquarters, was the speaker at the final ceremonies for the trainees. "This is my first opportunity to address an EFTS group," he declared, "but I am impressed by your fine appearance."

The wing commander told the graduates, "In the manning end the RCAF, we have brought you chaps into the service. We are pleased that the lowering of requirements since the start of the war has not made any difference in the results. It shows you have what it takes. You're a grand lot of fellows."

Manager Stewart McKercher also spoke briefly, wishing the course good luck at SFTS. F/ L. Continued Next Page.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED OF "BUTCH" MERRICK

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hay of Abbotsford announce the engagement of their eldest daughter, Violet Roberta, to Flying Officer W. T. Merrick, DFC, DFM, of Somerville, Indiana, USA. The



Violet Hay

wedding will take place following F/O Merrick's graduation from a service flying training school. He is a noted member of the class graduating this afternoon from No. 24 EFTS, Abbotsford, having re-mustered for pilot training after extensive operational experience in bomber crews overseas. Miss Hay is a member of the staff of the Abbotsford branch of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Prior to entering SFTS, F/O Merrick will make a speaking tour of No. 4 Training Command in order to give students the benefit of his operational experience over Germany, France and other enemy territory.

PILOTS' MEETING

Another quiz an airmanship questions with two flights of instructors participating will feature the regular meeting in the officers' mess Wednesday noon of Instructors' Discussion Club.

NEW GROUND SCHOOL OPENED THIS WEEK; 'ULTRA ULTRA' DESIGN

No. 24 EFTS Can Match
Any School in Canada

Helping to maintain the reputation of No. 24 EFTS on its high plane, Chief Ground Instructor Hugh Barclay and staff moved into their new headquarters at the recently completed ground school building last Sunday. The building, located between the mess hall and the sergeants' quarters, has been termed the "ultra ultra" in ground schools of Canada.

Commenting on the opening of the new school building, Mr. Barclay remarked that it is hoped to make it "as efficient as it is good-looking." All classrooms are constructed with a view toward accommodating 60 students, and this number can be increased for special lectures on occasion.

Screens are now being built to enable two groups of students to study aircraft with separate projectors on opposite sides of the recognition room, and the center row of lighting fixtures will soon be supplying diffused light during tests in the semi-darkened room.

The U-shaped table arrangement in the armament room is expected to facilitate demonstrations in the assembling and disassembling of the Browning machine guns as all students will be facing the instructor's table at the same time. Many new guns have been received to add to present equipment, thereby reducing the size of the groups working on each.

Navigational 'dry swims' have been planned for some time and will soon be a reality, the CGI hopes. Photographs of pinpoints on a cross-country trip will be flashed on a screen and the students will plot their logs for the trip in the classroom. Due to the work already ahead of the station carpenters and electricians, some time may elapse before this project can be completed, it was stated.

The intricate wiring system in the signals room will soon be completed and when finished 72 students can be handled at one time. The control board can be arranged so that practice messages may be sent back and forth between any or all of 36 pairs of students simultaneously. The circuits will also allow any number of students to take part in one or more practice sessions. Eight instruction booths are provided for aldis lamp practice at night across from the school.

Probably the outstanding point to be noticed by the students is the combined lounge and study room at the rear of the center section of the building. Studying, letter-writing, 'bull' sessions and smoking will be permitted here. Writing tables and comfortable chairs will be a part of the equipment of this room, which is thought to be unique in the ground schools throughout the country.

Winding up all the details concerned with the occupation of the new school building may take another month, it is reported, but the decorative effects yet to be applied are not considered major problems.



F/L LES H. EYRES, M.L.A.

commanding officer of the RCAF Recruiting Depot at Saskatoon, who is member of the legislative assembly for the district in which No. 24 EFTS is located. F/L Eyres was a member of the Royal Flying Corps in the last war.

GRADUATION

Continued from Front Page

Milne, assistant chief flying instructor, headed the parade.

LAC R. G. K. Green of Derby, England, an RAF trainee, headed the class and was named honor student, receiving the gold bracelet which goes with the distinction of coming first in flying and ground school.

Other leading students given distinguished passes were LAC C. R. Birks of Birmingham, England; LAC A. L. Eamer of Calgary; LAC G. M. Hocking, Bristol, England; LAC J. Porter of Norwich, England, and LAC O. A. Sundquist, Vancouver.

Three wireless operators - air gunners with many operational trips under their belts, were graduates in the course. All pictured in the accompanying cartoon they are, F/O W. T. Merrick, DFC, DFM, Somerville Indiana; F/O T. H. Reeves, DFC, New Westminster, and F/ D. A. MacLeod of Edmonton.

Other British Columbia graduates included LAC L. Barnes and LAC S. Callin of Victoria; LAC A. Christensen of Vancouver; LAC W. C. Flynn of Cranbrook; LAC J. Heatherington of Vancouver; LAC C. L. Henderson of Whonnock; LAC T. Jones of Victoria; LAC E. Lacy, Fulford Harbor; LAC D. Lovell of Ruskin; LAC J. McPherson, LAC D. G. Penny and LAC S. Pym of Vancouver, and LAC E. Wanless of Kelowna.

PLANE STILL MISSING BUT SEARCH CONTINUES

Although the search is being continued, no trace of the RCAF transport aircraft which vanished Jan. 16 as it neared Vancouver has yet been found, Western Air Command officials have stated.

No. 24 EFTS participated in the hunt and dropped handbills in the Stave Lake area last week. Replies to them have been the basis for the search in that vicinity.

SECOND FIRE IN WEEK RAZES SMALL HOME OF AIRMAN IN ABBOTSFORD

ARP Pump and Hose
Used by Volunteers

Fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the home and contents of Sgt. and Mrs. Wm. McLeod, just east of Abbotsford on No. 1 Highway at 7:30 p.m. Friday night, resulting in a loss close to \$2000 which was partially covered by insurance.

The house was the property of Mrs. T. Mathers and was one of a series of connected cabins built for tourist trade. The fire was first seen by men working in the Bakerview service station and is known to have originated from inside the cabin, possibly from a backflash from a sawdust burner said to have been left burning. Sgt. McLeod, stationed at No. 24 EFTS, was on duty and Mrs. McLeod had left for Vancouver in the morning.

The flames had consumed a large part of the interior of the house before it was noticed and fire fighters were unable to save any of the contents. At the peak of the fire, flames rose more than a hundred feet.

Main efforts of Abbotsford Volunteer Fire Brigade were centred on saving the adjoining home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harvey and the home of Mrs. Mathers behind the burning cabin. Equipment of the fire brigade was unable to cope with the blaze and the ARP pump and hose were used in its place.

Damage Slight

"Crash" truck from No. 24 EFTS was called when it appeared the fire was seriously threatening other buildings but the flames were brought under control before it arrived.

This fire was the second within the week, a lounge in the ladies' parlor of the Atangard Hotel having caught fire from a smoldering cigarette stub about the same hour the Friday evening before. Loss there was slight, the only damage being to the burned lounge and to plaster wall behind.

EFTS COUNCIL MEETS; VARIETY OF BUSINESS

Meeting Monday in the administration building with all department heads attending, the No. 24 EFTS School Council created a new committee to investigate the best utilization of space in the new recreation hall, discussed group health insurance, created a salvage department and heard that street names have been suggested.

The recreation hall group was named to include S/L M. Gain, CFI, Chief Ground Instructor Hugh Barclay, Miss Mary Smith, Messing Officer Eric Adames and Miss Evelyn Gould. It was also reported that buildings on the station have been numbered.

Named as salvage officer to oversee the activities of that new department was Stores Officer William Harrington. The committee which reported on the street names included F/L L. H. F. Bryans, adjutant; Mr. Barclay and Miss Smith. The question of furniture for the Sergeants' Mess also received attention.

'The Breeze' every Friday

**COMPANY INCREASES STAFF
WITH 32 CARON WORKERS**

**New Civilian Personnel Added
To All School Departments**

Numerous additions to the civilian operating company's staff were made this week as men and women formerly employed at Caron, the RAF EFTS which has been closed, arrived for duty.

The names of 32 recent arrivals were listed today, with more to come.

W.E.Sambrooke, who was chief engineer at the prairie school, heads the group of engineers who are now employed here. Others are David Thom, Alfred Stringer, Thomas Telfer, Ray Marsden, Jack Brigel, James Small, Pat Moran, John Hill, Ken Gillingham, Lorne Mireau, Bernard Gieens, Robert Lennox, Allan Myers, George Purves, Philip Temple, John Rollins, Fred Hickling and Charles Woolard.

Two girls, who were hangar helpers at Caron are also here; they are Lois Kristjansen and June Olson. Myra Sambrooke is here as an instrument clerk.

New Cook Arrives

George E. Cox has replaced Bill Shortland as chief cook in the airmen's mess, with Mary E. Olson added to the messing staff.

In the control tower, William Spring and Harold McNabb have been added. Timekeepers reporting for duty included Margaret Coombes, Isabel Long and Margaret McGee. Vivian Machan is now working in the flight office.

Norman Fleming, a navigation instructor, is now on the ground school staff, while Charles H. Wright is working with works and buildings dept.

GIRLS' STAG LABELLED

BY SELVES AS 'HEN PARTY'

**Exclusive Party Held Last Week;
Definite Date for Next Not Set**

That gals can have as good a time by themselves as the lads can at their stag smokers was proved last week when the Girls' Mess held its first such get-together, which they called their "hen party," evidently thinking "stag" too masculine a term for their shindigs.

Lots of games, singing, dancing and liquid refreshments (cokes) were the bill of fare which gave the lassies a pleasant evening. Another such party is planned, but a date has not been set, yet.

It lasted until 10:30, The Breeze learned from its keyhole reporter, with about 20 girls present for the festivities. Pillow fights, blindfold games and such like livened the proceedings, which were arranged by Lea Desautels and Jeanne McKenzie.

BITS OF THE BREEZE

F/O Ralph J. MacDonald, AFC, formerly a flight commander and entertainment committee head here and now on staff at No. 2 FIS, Pearce, Alta., was a visitor here this week; meetings of the Sumas Instructors' Club were resumed.

Hugh McAllister, control operator recently added to staff, has been heard to say he used to sing over a Vancouver radio station.

Even having 18 teeth removed didn't squelch the good humor of LAC Bert Stevens, orderly room clerk. He's back on the job.

**FULL DETAILS OF RUTHERFORD-SUMMERS WEDDING IN
NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE OF THE WEEKLY BREEZE**

CARD OF THANKS

To the Personnel of No. 24 EFTS:

Dear Friends: Will you accept my heartfelt thanks for your kind thoughts and letters of sympathy to me in my sad and sudden bereavement at the death of my husband, WOII Joseph Edward Gibson.

Thank you also for your cheque, which I received today. I cannot, I feel, thank you too much for what you have done, believe me.

(Mrs.) Veronica Gibson

New Westminster, B.C.

January 24, 1944.

**R.C. PADRE SAYS
FIRST EFTS MASS**

With the station canteen as his chapel, Rev. Father Joseph P. Kane, new Roman Catholic padre for No. 24 EFTS, celebrated his first Mass here Sunday at 7 a.m. The service was attended by a sizable congregation; serving on the altar was a member of the station's junior class.

Fr Kane, who is pastor of the Abbotsford and Bradner Catholic churches, will say Mass here each Sunday at 7 and will be on the station each Saturday afternoon for confessions, consultations and instructions.



**PHOTOGRAPHER OFF TO ALASKA;
BREEZE TO DISTRIBUTE PIX**

Herbert "Bert" Bridgman, diminutive photographer who has been with the operating company since its start at Sea Island and Boundary Bay in the early days of the war, has severed his connections here to embark upon a new adventure among American troops in Alaska and in Canadian northwest points.

Familiar to all who have ever been stationed at Sea Island, Boundary Bay, Caron and Abbotsford elementary flying schools, the Vancouver native closed off his business here Monday, leaving the remainder with The Breeze, which will dispose of current stock (class group pictures) as a public service.

Group photographs of all classes are available at the regular rate, but the number of print of any one picture is small; personnel interested are advised to make their purchases now, in the news room of The Breeze, administration building.

**VIOLET HAY, BUTCH'S FIANCEE,
MADE HONORARY GRAD AT DANCE**

In a surprise ceremony at the graduation dance in the airmen's mess Wednesday night, Miss Violet Hay, whose engagement to F/O W.T. "Butch" Merrick, DFC, DFM, has just been announced, was named an honorary member of the graduating class when Manager Stewart McKercher presented her with the small wings of a 24 EFTS alumnus.

A mock parade preceded the presentation, with LAC Archy Hocking, master of ceremonies, falling in the graduates from his spot before the mike. Butch spoke briefly at the insistence of the crowd of 400, which included young ladies from Lynden, Mission, Abbotsford and the campus.

The dance was a hearty success, in keeping with the reputation of the class. Novelty dances were sprinkled throughout the evening, as the station orchestra played.

Refreshments - coffee and sandwiches prepared by Agnes Green, Laura Smith, Olive and Mary Fitzsimmons, Phyllis Gentry and Ann Luke - were enjoyed by all.

The dance was the first of such fortnightly affairs planned to honor succeeding classes. The sum of \$2.24 and a button collected in non-dancing taxes at the party is to be turned over to a special welfare fund now being raised.

BITS OF THE BREEZE

While the station danced at the grad party Wednesday night, 30 airmen from here attended a party in Langley Prairie. Now the gals from there want to come to our dances.

WOII George Proctor finally had that ton-sillectomy in a West Coast hospital; he's due back today, riding in style (Mould's Cornell).

The Adanac Rea Club, 2890 Point Gray Road, Killarney Hall, Vancouver, has extended an invitation to all personnel of No. 24 EFTS to attend its Wednesday night dances.

THE WEEKLY BREEZE

Published Fridays for Personnel of No. 24 EFTS
Abbotsford, B.C. No. 22 January 28, 1944

EDITOR

WOII Frank Martineau

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

WOII George Sturgiss

Contributors this week: Ernie Poignant, Louis Piper, Cpl. George Perrett, Lila Acorn, Evelyn Gould, Mrs. Sue Jackson, F/L Bon Knowles, F/O Butch Merrick, Jiggs Harrison, Harvey Orr, Bert Bridgman, Rose Outko, Hugh Barclay.

BITS OF THE BREEZE

Lads on the grad parade weren't so dull; their hands were cold so they applauded all the finished students. First time it's been done.

P/O D.F. Turnbull, formerly at No. 17 SFTS, Souris, Man., a flying instructor, arrived here recently as a staff addition. P/O A.C. Klein's arrival date was Jan. 20, from Arrnprior, Ont.

From the gals: One said: "Gee, I'd like to have a man take me out tonight." Another piped up, "Any night, we're not particular." (Also, use hair oil on squeaking doors; it works.)

SOCIAL CALENDAR

TONIGHT - Movie here: "The Falcon's Brother," with Geo. Sanders, Conway, Randolph.

SATURDAY - Dance in Abbotsford Hut.

TUESDAY - Movie here: "Cabin in the Sky," with Lena Horne, Eddie Anderson (Rochester) and Ethel Waters.

WEDNESDAY - Dance for 45 airmen at the Elks in Langley Prairie; list in wanteen. Transportation both ways arranged.

FRIDAY - Movie here: "Pride of the Vankees," with Gary Cooper and Theresa Wright.

(This Calendar is a regular feature of The Breeze)

WANTED (BUT QUICK!)

NAMES FOR OUR STREETS !

A NAME FOR OUR REC HALL !

STREETS

An opportunity for all station personnel to have a hand in the naming of our streets on the station has been made available by Manager Stewart McKercher.

DRAW YOUR OWN MAPS OF THE STREETS AND GIVE THEM THE NAMES YOU THINK MOST SUITABLE.

THEN DROP YOUR SUGGESTIONS INTO THE BLUE BREEZE BOX IN THE AIRMEN'S CANTEEN,

BY MONDAY MORNING

There are no prizes offered, but you will have the satisfaction of having aided in the selection of the best names for our streets and our fun center...

GIVE IT A TRY, KIDS...

REC HALL

A good snappy name for our recreation hall, which is rapidly nearing completion, is being sought. You're being asked to help tag it with a name which will stick.

THINK OF SOME TITLE FOR OUR COMING SPORTS PALACE, THE PLACE WHERE YOU'LL HAVE THE SPACE AND THE FACILITIES TO ENJOY YOURSELVES TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT. THEN, INTO THE BREEZE BOX...

ANYTIME SOON

NOW!