

# School will Close July 14

Official announcement of the closing of No. 24 EFTS on July 14 was made Thursday through Western Air Command in Vancouver. In operation since September last year, the school has turned out hundreds of pilots in its short span. The Royal Canadian Air Force will continue to operate the aerodrome and station, the announcement continued, but for security reasons the nature of its work was not revealed.

The Vancouver Air Training Co. Ltd., which manages the school, is now in the process of disbanding and, with the completion of training on July 14, will dissolve. The company had also operated the Sea Island EFTS, closed shortly after the United States entry into the war.

Personnel of the civilian company are being placed as quickly as possible in other positions, school officials said, and attempts are being made to have the incoming unit employ all ground employees now working at the airport.

Closely allied with the local operating firm was the Boundary Bay Flying Training School Ltd., which ran the EFTS at Boundary Bay and then moved to Caron, Sask. Both these schools are now closed.

President of the board of directors of the Vancouver Air Training Co. is Austin C. Taylor. Stewart McKercher, KC, is manager, filling the position left vacant by the death of Leslie J. Martin, OBE.

The move came as a surprise to both officials and personnel of the local school, since No. 24 EFTS was not included in the list of schools declared by Minister for Air C. G. Power as closing this year.

Official announcement of the impending cessation of operations by the flying school came a week after school leaders were informed. The change had been rumored persistently locally for several weeks, however, but without any confirmation.

## Radar Officer Honor Student In 'Best Class'

A radar officer, returned from service overseas and remustered for pilot training, topped the latest class at No. 24 EFTS and received the honor student bracelet.

In graduation ceremonies on the school's broad tarmac Thursday, Flight Lieutenant C. C. Baldwin of Winnipeg was presented his token wings denoting successful completion of EFTS studies as well as the honor award.

Manager Stewart McKercher, KC, commended the students for their excellent showing here and advised them to exert their best efforts on the "last mile of the road" at service flying training school.

Reports reveal that this latest course holds the top place in the history of the flying school. It worked through to high aggregate marks in ground school, flying and physical training.

FL L. S. Milne, assistant chief flying instructor, commanded the parade in the absence of Squadron Leader G. E. Kerley, who is in Calgary.

Hugh Barclay, chief ground instructor, presented the token wings to the trainees as they individually advanced to receive the congratulations of school officers and the warm glances of relatives and friends attending the special parade.

Including FL Baldwin, 10 officers—remustered from other air force trades—were members of the class.

(Continued on page 8)

### SOUVENIR BOOKLET READY FOR PRESS

Copies of a souvenir booklet now in production will be presented to each member of the staff of No. 24 EFTS, it was announced today. The magazine, including 20 pages, will be crammed with pictures.

Distribution of the books is expected to start about June 26. Photographs of all station departments and activities are now complete and editorial work will conclude next week.

### OFFICERS' MESS DINNER FOR NEXT WEDNESDAY

A mess dinner will be held on Wednesday night in the Officers' Mess at No. 24 EFTS, it was decided by the mess committee, headed by FL L. S. Milne, president. At the regular meeting of the organization Monday night, it was proposed to hold a mess dance in the near future, with details left in the hands of the committee.

THE NEWS IS OUT...

Although it was a public secret even when last week's edition of The Breeze appeared, we couldn't put it into print until the official announcement came.

It came yesterday. (See Page 1) The full force and import of an impending move like this doesn't strike you until you sit down and figure out just what it will do to you personally.

To nearly all of us it means a change — a change to another station, another job and/or another climate. Taken in that light, it makes us realize how much we have enjoyed No. 24 EFTS.

We've heard only one voice clamoring for moving day...

THE BREEZE

Published Fridays for Personnel of No. 24 EFTS, Abbotsford, B.C.

EDITOR

PO Frank Martineau

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

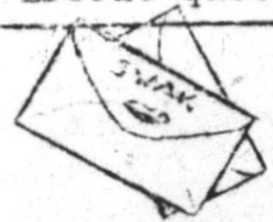
PO George Stargiss

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UNTIL YESTERDAY we had planned to make this issue a four-pager, but because of the M-Day (moving day) disclosure you readers are getting your usual Breeze quota.



Letters to the Editor



Sir:

Many thanks for the copies of The Breeze you sent us; I passed them out to all the boys and they were more than glad to get them.

I might say for myself and the rest of the boys here we would like to remain on your mailing list, for it brings us the news and memories of the best EFTS there is (and that's no lie). In comparison to this station old 24 was really God's country.

We were all put on a grading course here. Of course I am hoping and praying I will make the grade because I sure would like to get back to Abbotsford.

The Joeboys of 24 want me to

say hello to you for them all and remember them to all the regular guys and gals out west.

IAC DON CAMPBELL  
25 EFTS, RCAF,  
Assiniboia, Sask.

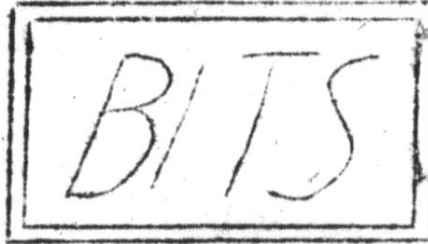
(Campbell was on The Breeze as a joeboy before his recent posting. The Breeze is mailed regularly to other elementary schools.—Ed.)

Sir:

For some time I've wondered at the way your newspaper does not capitalize titles and organization names. Why is this? IAC

(Newspaper style aims at simplicity; any way of making a paper easier to read is ok. — Ed.)

Road paving began here last Friday and already the place is less dusty. Our hard packed gravel roads are to get a treatment of asphalt sand, a little more asphalt and then a good rolling before work is done. Because of the exceptional base, packed solidly by the heavy trucking, it is believed the roads will be among the best on RCAF stations.



Sgt. Lon Horne, armor er, has been posted to Edmonton AOS... Latest grads hold smoker last night in Town Hall... A discussion of disbanding problems followed Wednesday's School Council meeting, at which leave policies were discussed.

LAG. Voge Nordin, of Vancouver, is the student pilot chosen as the typical trainee to be featured in the souvenir magazine.

WOI George Latimer is still in this neck of the woods. Discharge is not forthcoming as expected.

Other promotions announced last week include FO's to PO Bruce Price, PO HA. Ferguson and PO Bill Gale; temporary FO's to PO G.W. Gow and PO L.E. Poole, flying control and temporary FL to A/FL B.J. Forester, also flying control.

## Coming Events

MOVIES, Town Hall, 8 pm.

Tonight:

ADVENTURES OF MARTIN EDEN  
Glenn Ford, Claire Trevor,  
Evelyn Keyes, Stuart Erwin

Tuesday:

SAHARA  
Humphrey Bogart, J. Carroll  
Naish and Bruce M. Bennet

Next Friday:

TOP MAN  
Donald O'Connor, Peggy Ryan,  
Lillian Gish, Richard Dix

HOSTESS CLUB

Every nite — 7 to 10:30.

ABRO ISFORD HUT

Open every nite — Dance Sat.



"Now if we were back in civilian life, I'd tell the Colonel what a no good, blind robber he was!!"

**500 SERVICEMEN  
UTILIZE "HUT"  
IN ABBOTSFORD**

At the monthly executive meeting Thursday of M-S-A Citizens' Committee, it was reported that 496 servicemen had visited the "Hut", social centre operated by the committee, during May. It was decided that the centre would remain open even though only a small staff might be required for a time.

**HONOR ROLL UNVEILING  
SUNDAY AT MATTHEW'S  
ABBOTSFORD CHURCH**

On Sunday an Honor Roll, inscribed with the names of 54 parishoners who have volunteered for active service, will be unveiled at St. Matthew's Anglican church, Abbotsford. The ceremony will take place during the evening service which is special for the occasion.

A small detachment of RCAF personnel from No. 24 EFTS will parade to the service. Special preacher will be Hon. Capt. the Rev. B. J. Thorpe, BA, LTh, anglican chaplain at the Royal Canadian Engineers' Camp at Sardis.

**The Wolf**

by Sansone



"I think I've got what you want!"

**"That's all there was to it"**

**Crewman, Now Student Pilot  
Here, "Patched Up" Skipper,  
Brought Big Bomber Home**

FO Lou Cavanaugh's DFC finally caught up with him.

In an English hospital with a broken leg, the result of an airplane crash, Lou managed to recuperate in time for his investiture with the award at Buckingham Palace by His Majesty King George.

But just before the ceremony, he fell down stairs and broke the leg again, in three places. It was a painful postponement.

**Gone Again**

Before the officials could catch up with him again, on his release from hospital, Lou was back in this country—repatriated to take a pilot's course—and it wasn't until recently that the formal presentation of the award occurred.

And now the investiture is over. The Governor-General did the honors in Calgary and Lou is back here to finish his flying

at No. 24 EFTS.

Why did he get it? Like most overseas aircrew, Lou tries to squirm out of giving the answer but this is the story brought forth by diligent scratching:

**Skipper Hit**

The Wimpy was over an enemy target and the flak was bursting all around, making for a rough ride, when one puff caught the air nearby and a piece of the missile cut up the pilot so he could not maintain control.

"I just patched him up with the first aid kit and helped him with the ship and that's all there was to it," Lou says.

That's all!

BORN to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Harrington in the hospital at Abbotsford, on June 13, a son. Mr. Harrington is stores officer at the station here.

**In King's Honors List**



**FLT.-SGT. HARRY SMITH**

Recognition of the work of two Abbotsford men, now RCAF casualties, is included in the King's birthday honors list announced last week.

PO James Lamont, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lamont, now of Vancouver, won mention in dispatches. He has been missing since October 1943 when an RCAF Liberator bomber was forced down somewhere, it is



**PO LAMONT**

believed, in Quebec. Prior to this flight, Jim Lamont, then Warrant Officer as a wireless operator was with the Liberator crew and attached to the renowned "North Atlantic" Squadron and took part in a running fight with an enemy submarine.

Also mentioned in dispatches is Flt.-Sgt. Harry Smith, who was reported killed in action in Italy last March. He was well known as accountant in the Abbotsford branch of the Royal Bank of Canada prior to his enlistment in the RCAF as a navigator. His parents, Prof. A. Smith and Mrs. Smith reside at Saanichton, Vancouver Island.

**Male Call**

by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"



**Tool-Happy Terminology**

# SPORTS

## LATEST GRADS ESTABLISH RECORD IN HARVARD STEP TEST AVERAGE

A class average of 86.3 per cent for the physical assessment rating of the latest graduating group was hit this week, Sgt. Al Weaver, PTI, reported today. It was the highest mark ever made by a trainee class on this station.

Perfect scores in the Harvard step test — 100 per cent — were run up by FO Vic Allard, formerly a gymnast, FS Herb Donaldson, Cpl. Jack Pomfret and Cpl. P.G. Guman.

Scores of each class are kept and compared by the physical training department. A survey shows course averages are getting higher.

## HUT COMMITTEE OFFERS TENNIS

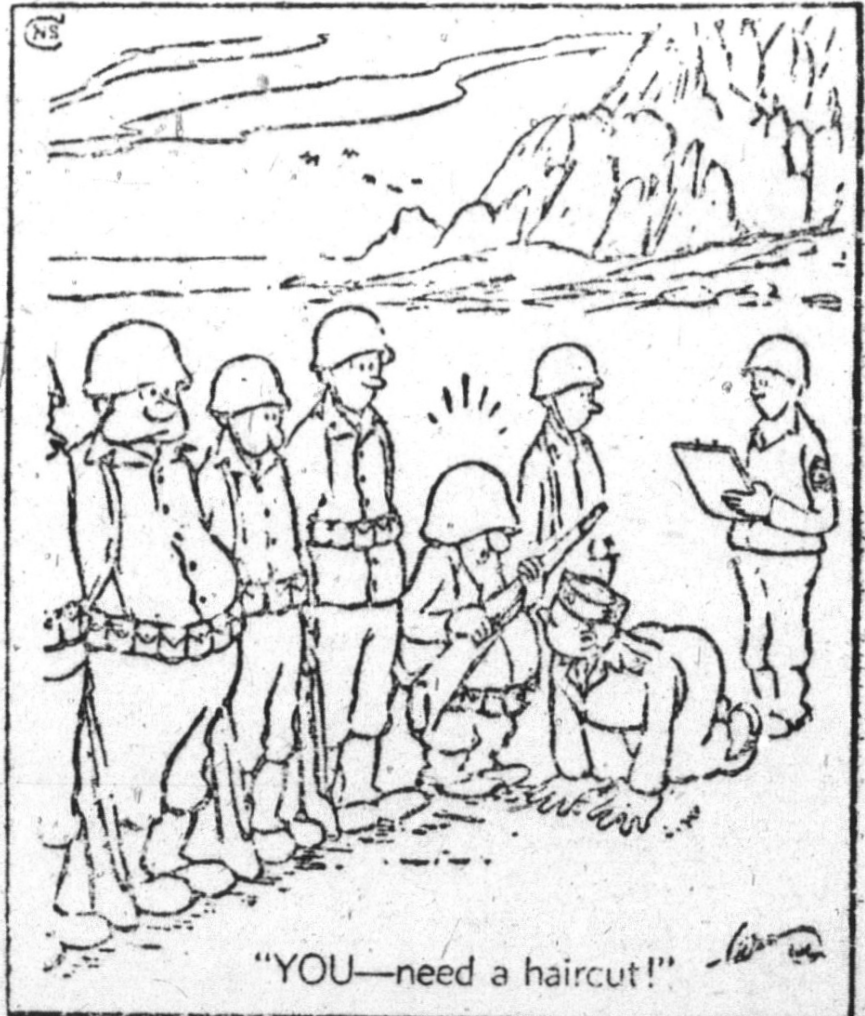
The Abbotsford, Sumas, Matsqui Citizens' Committee, operating the Hut in town, have issued an invitation to all airmen here to make use of local tennis facilities during the summer months.

Those interested should contact Mrs. G. Grant, Gladys avenue, in Abbotsford.

## NEXT WEEK'S FASTBALL SCHEDULE

Although rain washed out two of this week's fastball games in the new house league, FO Keith Young is still hopeful that ol' Jupiter Pluvius will cooperate.

Mon: Officers v C flight; Tue: NCO's v G; Wed: Officers v 3 RD; Thurs: NCO's v C flight.



"YOU—need a haircut!"

### FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. ON BREEZE BACK NUMBERS

Back numbers of The Breeze from almost the very beginning are available at this newspaper's miniature office in Town Hall.

Only four weeks remain in which to complete your collection of copies; several station people have collections right from the first issue last September. You may have the same idea, but if it is to be a reality you'll have to work fast, for some editions are nearly out of print.

They're available in a wide range of styles and colors, low-priced for quick clearance. Come and get 'em. (Sounds like a fire sale advertisement.)

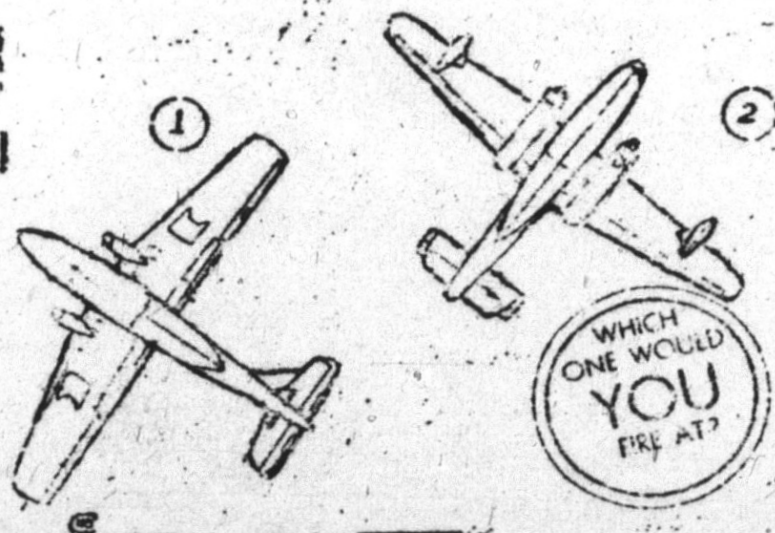
Incidentally, The Breeze will continue to publish until the final day of the editor's existence here or until the place is locked up, whichever occurs first.

It will have rounded out nearly 11 months of continuous weekly publication dedicated to the information and entertainment of station personnel.

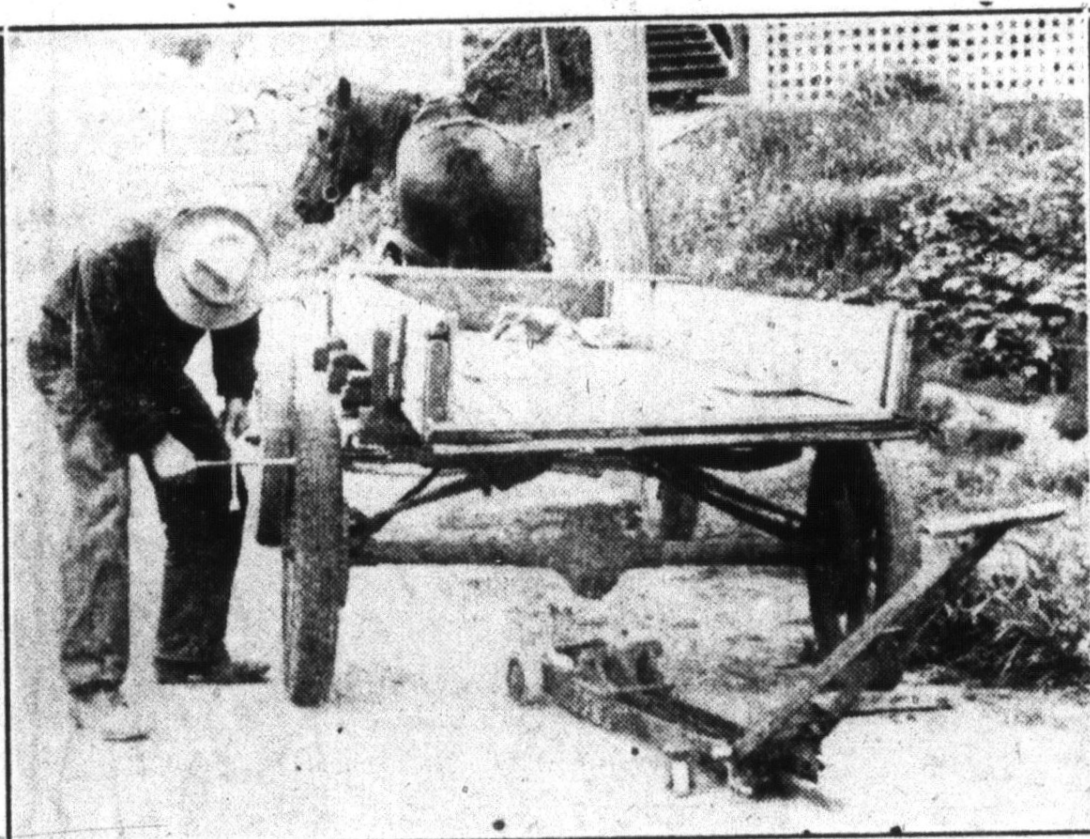


### CAVANAUGH TO DO HONORS

FO Lou Cavanaugh, DFC, is scheduled to unveil the St. Matthew's church honor roll in Abtotsford Sunday night. A party of 20 airmen from here will attend the ceremonies honoring 50 local men.



**FIRE AT NO. 1 :** It's the German Do. 26, a high wing flying boat used as a patrol bomber. Four in line engines mounted atop wings in tandem pairs with propellers fore and aft. Two step boat hull.  
**NOT AT NO. 2 :** It's the US Navy's PB Mariner, high wings patrol bomber and transport flying boat powered with twin radials. A two step hull tapers back to tail.



"Truly, the problems of the farmer in these days of shortages are many and varied," declared PO George Sturgiss of Cleveland Ohio, flying instructor at No. 24 EFTS, when he snapped the above photo in Abbotsford recently. Just what the horse has in mind, while keeping one eye on Paul Brozer, RR 1, Abbotsford, tightening up the rim nuts, is in doubt. The quick-lifting jack, which aided earlier in repairs to the modernized farm wagon represents co-operation from the farm service department of Abbotsford Motors. Engraving Courtesy The News, Abbotsford

## GRAD PARADE

(Continued from front page)

Distinguished passes, indicative of standing within the first six students in the class, were won by FO E. Allard of Abbotsford; FL S. Radcliff of Calgary; Flt.-Sgts. A. Coates of Toronto and H. Donaldson of Vancouver and LAC W. Snelgrove of Vancouver.

British Columbia men in the class, other than those mentioned included LAC J. Canham, LAC G. Daidson, LAC P. Guman, LAC S. Nicol, LAC O. O'Neill, LAC A. Penberton, LAC J. Pomfret, LAC H. Stickney, and LAC D. Willard, all of Vancouver; LAC P. Dawes, Penticton; LAC J. D. Hannay of Haney; LAC P. Inglis of West Vancouver; LAC R. Kendall, Kelwona; LAC H. Smith of Rutland and LAC A. Stoltz of Steveston.

## MOVIES IN ABBOTSFORD

Saturday, Guadalcanal Diary; Monday and Tuesday, Song of Russia and Falso Colors; Wednesday and Thursday, Under Two Flags and The Rains Came; Friday and Saturday, What a Woman.

## ENGAGEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hay of Abbotsford announce the engagement of their elder daughter, Violet Roberta, to Flying Officer Wayne T. Merrick, DFC, DFM, of Somerville, Indiana. The wedding will take place at the RCAF Chapel, Macleod, Alberta, July 1.

FO Merrick is the "Butch" Merrick renowned in 24 EFTS history. A student pilot here, he remained attached to this unit longer, perhaps, than any other trainee. Miss Hay is a teller in the Royal Bank of Canada branch at Abbotsford.

# Show and Dance Thrills 800 Here

Staff, students and guests of No. 24 EFTS enjoyed themselves to the full Wednesday night in Town Hall during what was probably the last large-scale social event to be held at the local flying school.

Announcement was made yesterday of the unit's closing on July 14.

Fully 800 attended the variety show and dance, featuring the Boundary Bay stage production "Korn-Za-Poppin" for the concert and the Western Air Command band under Flight Sergeant Joe Miceli for the dance.

A fast-moving, fast-talking show patterned after the Olsen and Johnson success, the Boundary Bay presentation included songs, dancing, orchestra numbers, comedy, monologue and zany humor. Sgt. Pete Simpson, physical training instructor at the nearby RCAF station, directed the performance and acted as informal master of ceremonies.

From the start, when a cigarette girl "planted" in the audience was called to the stage and her wares confiscated and thrown to the audience, the troupe had the onlookers in its lap. A wryly bashful cowboy drawled dryly and kept the chortles coming.

PO Wallie Peters, entertainment officer at the school, introduced the show and, following the performance, called on Manager Stewart McKercher for a few words.

Mr. McKercher voiced, on behalf of all the school personnel and their invited guests, the general appreciation for the efforts of the Boundary Bay group.

WAC's orchestra filled in for Ole Olsen's Vancouver dance band, which could not appear because of changes in the shipyard shifts of its musicians.

Refreshments were served to all under the direction of Messing Officer Eric Adames and the kitchen staff. Both the Officers' Mess and the Sergeants' Mess were open to guests of members.