

# Heavy Planes to Replace Flying School August 28

Special to the A. S. & M. News

**No. 24 EFTS, Abbotsford will close as an Elementary Flying Training School on August 15 and reopen again August 28 as an Operational Training Unit with a very large number of heavy planes, it is revealed by George A. Cruickshank, MP, Fraser Valley, now at Ottawa. Authorized by Hon. C. G. Power, Minister for Air, it clarifies a statement published last week in Vancouver newspapers which said merely that the school will be discontinued but the station will continue to operate under the RCAF.**

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.

While construction went on, the EFTS company and RCAF officials moved into the school in August a year ago and proceeded to set up the machinery to create pilots.

**First students arrived for training early in September, and with them arrived flying instructors from nearly all the other elementary schools in Canada, as well as other RCAF personnel.**

A constant influx of civilian employees added too to the constantly expanding school. Closing of the Caron school late last year brought a new wave of company workers here and the organization was complete.

Few major changes were made in personnel, other than the retention of Mr. McKercher as manager on the death of Mr. Martin, and in the April posting here of Squadron Leader G.

E. Kerley to take as RCAF commanding officer from Squadron Leader Morley Gain.

Success of the local school in its homefront "battle of training" was evident, for admittedly satisfactory pilots were being turned out at a steady rate with phenomenally few accidents.

Appearance of the station improved constantly over the ten months of operation, as construction finished and contractors removed their impedimenta. Landscaping progressed and comments at the time of the Governor-General's recent visit rated No. 24 EFTS as "the neatest RCAF station" ever visited by a prominent member of the vice-regal party.

Known throughout the nation as one of the finest of flying schools, the local establishment was envied for its remarkable plant, its scenic location (one instructor poetically said "nestled at the foot of Mount Baker") and its British Columbia weather.

**A progressive atmosphere surrounded all activities on the station and a reputation for this attitude attached itself to the school.**

## COMMISSIONS WON BY EFTS INSTRUCTORS

Commissions were awarded this week to two veteran flying instructors at No. 24 EFTS—Warrant Officers E. N. Gilcher and A. O. Puttonen.

PO Nick Gilcher came to the flying school here as a WO2, but shortly thereafter learned of his advance to WO1. An American, he is a State of Washington native and a fisherman in civilian life.

PO Alan Puttonen, formerly of High River, Alberta, EFTS, had been a WO2 for his entire tenure here. A physical training instructor before the war, he enlisted and became an RCAF disciplinarian before remustering to aircrew and pilot training. He and Mrs. Puttonen make their home at the Bennett residence in Abbotsford.

Promotions to the rank of flight sergeant were won this week by two sergeant pilots who are flying instructors at No. 24 EFTS—Sergeants R. N. Welsh and E. W. Walker.

## SHOWER FOR MISS HAY

Members of the Abbotsford girls softball team surprised Miss Violet Hay on Thursday evening with a miscellaneous shower.

Miss Hay is to be married on Saturday, July 1 to FO Wayne T. Merrick, DFC, DFM, at Macleod, Alberta.

About 20 guests were present and they spent a social evening. Many lovely gifts were presented to the bride-elect in a model airplane

STATION SPORTS NEWSSTAFF OFFICERS? NCO'S  
IN BASEBALL VICTORIES

Surprising everyone, including even themselves, the staff officers overwhelmed FO Don McIlveen's students in a 10-1 pasting Monday after coming back strong to tie C flight, 10-10, in Monday's double bill. The tie contest was a house league clash while the finale was in the Abbotsford and service loop,--their first win of the season!

Wednesday's diamond 'do' concluded with the NCO's on the long end of a 19-15 scoring spree. G flight was the loser.

UL BOYS SEEKING WIN  
IN SEASON BASEBALL LOOP

In spite of the threatened closing of the school and their over-windling numbers, the UL boys promise to provide their share of the excitement as they tangle with the staff officers in a house league game this next week.

Games scheduled for the coming week are as follows:

Monday - Officers vs. UL

Tuesday - G flt. vs. 3 RD

Wednesday - G flt. vs. C flt.

Thursday - NCO's vs. 3 RD

ABBREVIATED BREEZE

RESULT OF A SQUEEZE.

EXCUSE IT, PLEASE!

Because of the Rush-Rush job on the souvenir book now being produced by the Vancouver Air Training Company for distribution to all personnel, The Breeze dies to a mere rustle in the trees for this issue.

As we go to press, we notice too that we have page three where page two should be and vice versa that too deserves an apology but then we worked late last and other nights.

Present plans call for free distribution of one copy of the souvenir book to each person on station strength, with the opportunity open to buy additional copies.

MOVIES, Town Hall, 8 p. m.Tonight:TOP MAN

Donald O'Connor, Peggy Ryan with Lillian Gish and Richard Dix

Tuesday

HIS BUTLER'S SISTER, starring Deanna Durbin has been cancelled but will be played at a later date.

HOSTESS CLUB

Every nite -- 7 to 10:30.

ABBOTSFORD HUT

Open every nite of the week. The dance is now held on Wednesday.

THE BREEZE

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LIFE SAVERS

When on night patrol always move upwind if it's possible. In addition to other advantages it's good protection in case the enemy has watch-dogs.



Always check the position of the moon before leaving on a night patrol and try to keep it behind you. It's as important to avoid skylines at night as it is in the daytime.

OFFICERS HOLD MESS DINNER:  
FINAL DANCE SET FOR NEXT WEEK

Preparing to wind up the social calendar of the mess at No. 24 EPTS, staff officers, civilian members and trainee officers revelled at their final mess dinner Wednesday evening and looked forward to the concluding event—a dance—to be held next Wednesday.

Following an excellent chicken dinner, brief comments were voiced by SL G. E. Kerley, Manager Stewart McKeher and FL Fredrickson.

PO Mallie Peters and committee provide singing and dancing entertainers from Vancouver as a highlight of the evening.

GIRLS STAGE PARTY  
IN BARRACKS LOUNGE;  
REFRESHMENTS ENJOYED

Winding up their own social schedule at No. 24 EPTS our gals indulged in a gigantic merriment session at the quarters last Tuesday evening.

During the earlier part of the evening the mixed group of some 70 or more persons got the party underway with a number of simple but enjoyable contests, employing pencils and paper.

After eliminating the male members of the party, including Messrs. McKeher, Graham, Adams and Lucent, the uncapped a great many assorted social surprises dear to the hearts of most airmen who were not privileged to be present for the festivities.

Get your souvenir copy of life at #2

# Offensive Action Can Be Launched Against Our Enemy To The West

Air Vice Marshal F. V. Heakes, CB, has been appointed Air Officer Commanding Western Air Command, succeeding Air Vice Marshal L. F. Stevenson, CB, it is announced from RCAF headquarters at Ottawa. AVM Stevenson has been called to air force headquarters for special duties.

Air Vice Marshal Heakes has been in command of the RCAF in Newfoundland since December, 1942, a period which included the series of intense anti-submarine operations in the North Atlantic — operations which, he says, have "happily been satisfactory resolved."

**AVM Heakes visited No. 24 EFTS for a short time on Sunday, during the course of a tour to become acquainted with the various stations in his command. He was accompanied by several staff officers and directors of the Vancouver Air Training Co. Ltd., operators of the school.**

The new air officer commanding was born in Toronto 50 years ago, and studied medicine at Victoria College, University of Toronto, but left to enlist with the Canadian Expeditionary Force before he completed his course. He went overseas with the CEF and transferred in 1917 to the RFC. After demobilization he joined the permanent air force in Canada in 1923, and has served continuously ever since.

Questioned as to the relative quietness of the West Coast, he stated: "This is as it should be, and is a true index of the success of Allied arms in the Central and South West Pacific and a tribute to West Coast planning and development. Now it can never be said, as it was said so often in early phases of the war in the Pacific, 'too late and too few.' Now we have splendid facilities for defence.

"But the important thing to remember is that in accordance with accepted strategy, the position on the west has been held

while the position of liquidating the Italians and Germans is proceeding apace.

**The significance of our present situation is that we not only have the means of defence, but a series of chains of bases from and through which major offensive action can be launched against our enemy to the west, should the dictates of strategy so require.**

"Even as our attention is now

Showing at Abbotsford Theatre  
June 23 & 24, "What a Woman".  
June 26 & 27, "In Our Time".  
June 28 & 29, "Naughty Marietta"  
June 30 & July 1, "Higher and Higher."

directed towards France and Italy and to the developing offensive of the Russians, so do our eyes watch the clock which these events hasten towards the development and culmination of war against the Japanese.

"In the meantime to accomplish this purpose and to fulfil the important role of defence, the Air Force will range far afield over the Western ocean as outer guardians of our West Coast and in preparation for the day their activities may take them over the Eastern waters of Japan."

## The Wolf

by Sansone

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