

Assistant Manager



C. J. CLARK

was assistant manager of No. 24 EFTS. An Okanagan orchardman, he is currently supervising his farm on a leave of absence from the Vancouver Air Training Co. Ltd., with which he has been associated since the company first started operating elementary flying training schools in the spring of 1940 at Sea Island.

BREEZE FEATURED CAMP NEWS CUTS

Since March, The Breeze has received Camp Newspaper Service through the courtesy of the United States War Department. Aimed at boosting GI Joe's morale, it has also served to lift the spirits of the Joes and Janes of No. 24 EFTS.

Most popular CNS feature here was Male Call, a comic strip featuring Miss Lace, curvaceous cutie who stems from the pen of Milton Caniff, creator of Terry and the Pirates. Another laugh provoker was Cpl. Leonard Sansone's The Wolf.

CNS material is only released for use in military publications which carry no advertising.

Twenty-seven Draw Y Depot Postings

Virtually the entire flying instructor staff of No. 24 EFTS was disbanded this week with 27 postings to No. 2 Training Command in Winnipeg and No. 3 Training Command in Montreal, 27 postings to Y depot, probably for overseas, and nine postings to High River, Alberta, EFTS.

Official announcement as to the effective dates of the postings has not been made, but the school is scheduled to close here July 14.

SOUVENIR OF 24 EFTS PREPARED IN BOOKLET WITH MANY PICTURES

Out this week is the No 24 EFTS souvenir book, Sky, containing some 80 pictures in its 24 pages of station scenes and stories.

Distribution of complimentary copies to all the unit's staff, both civilian and RCAF, and to students now on strength is underway, with a copy ear-marked for each of the near-500 persons.

An early and strong demand for extra copies of the book brought a decision to place a limited number on sale in the station canteen and at the Teddy Bear confectionery in Abbotsford.

With a full photograph of an airdrome scene on the cover, showing Mount Baker and a formation of Cornell aircraft in the background, the book is in two colors throughout.

All work in the copyrighted publication was done by M. J. (Bud) Nugent, works officer and official photographer of the unit, and PO Frank Martineau, public relations officer.

Original CFI



SL MORLEY GAIN

was the first RCAF commanding officer and chief flying instructor at No. 24 EFTS, leaving May 1 on the posting here of SL Gilbert E. Kerley. SL Gain, whose home is in St. Catharines, Ont., is now stationed at the Macleod, Alberta, SFTS, while Mrs. Gain and their two sons live in Calgary.

AWARDED DFC

Pilot Officer John D. Routledge, 21, son of P. H. Routledge of Mission, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for services with the RCAF overseas. A brother, Jim, is also overseas with the RCAF. Mr. Routledge and his two sons are noted for their "Mission City Train" which they built as a model of a real train and operate now in aid of the Red Cross.

Guest Editorial . . . Lang Sands

It hardly seems possible that No. 24 EFTS has been with us in this community less than a year and that already it is leaving us, its personnel to spread to the four points of the compass.

A condition of war brings about many things and brings together many peoples who never, under any other circumstances would be likely to meet. Despite the fact that no matter how strongly we may participate, once embroiled, none of us like war. Nevertheless there is some good in the bad, nearly always a silver lining to the dark cloud.

Establishment of No. 24 Elementary Flying Training School at Abbotsford Airport has been good for the Matsqui-Sumas-Abbotsford Area and we do not particularly refer to economic value. The real benefit has come from the more intimate touch with the involved and detailed problems of waging modern war. It has also come from the bringing into our midst, even though transitorily, many hundreds of young men from all parts of the Dominion, the United States, Great Britain and even from overseas Dominions.

In the first place we have come to realize accepting No. 24 EFTS as just one small factor, the immensity of the task of our government in successfully waging modern war on our be-

half. We have, day by day, observed the patient, even tedious, hours of training that must be provided our keen, impatient young men to enable them to be one better individually, as well as in equipment, than the enemies' fighters. We have watched their progress in the skies and thrilled with them on the days of graduation.

Incidental to all this but not really secondary in importance, has been the opportunity afforded us to meet so many fine young men from so many interesting places and for them to come across the continent and from over the seas to see the West, the Fraser Valley and the M-S-A Area. We can take pride in their many times repeated statements of appreciation of the reception accorded them here and rest assured that, when peace is won for the world, we will hear from them again.

In this parting salute to No. 24 EFTS we desire also to pay tribute to the great effort on the part of the RCAF and of the civilian company, Vancouver Air Training Co. Ltd., despite the exigencies of war, to maintain, even improve, the morale and spirit of the young men entrusted to their care and training. It should be recognized that they have been met half-way by the boys and greatly helped, but nevertheless it has been a revelation to all ob-

servant persons, what has to be done and what is done, in too many ways to mention here, to create and maintain ideals and enthusiasm under most difficult conditions. We have had here, in this respect also, the opportunity to meet and work with men of high calibre and integrity. They have a marked appreciation of their responsibilities and have inspired others to help through their own willingness to co-operate.

Probably the best tribute we can pay student pilots, instructors and the executive personnel of both RCAF and Company is to close on the thought of how, in so few months, No. 24 EFTS has been accepted as part of this community, how the M-S-A Area has grown to like and welcome them all and will genuinely regret the closing of the school. Farewell and good flying!



LANG. SANDS
Editor A. S. & M. News

The Breeze

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

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Canada's Best EFTS Completes It's Task

By Frank Martineau

Abbotsford has had a remarkable experience these past ten months, for it has seen the start, the phenomenal growth and the untimely end of what has been termed "the best EFTS in Canada."

The end isn't quite here, but by this time next week the demise of No. 24 Elementary Flying Training School will be virtually a fact, for its last class of students will have been completed.

The Vancouver Air Training Co. Ltd., which operated the school, has been handed its walking papers, effective August 15, and plans now call for the taking over of the aerodrome by an operational training unit on August 28.

Thus closes the last EFTS in British Columbia, and with it ends a shining chapter in this province's aviation history.

That chapter opened in June 1940 with the establishment of No. 8 EFTS at Sea Island.

It ran through the days of No. 18 EFTS at Boundary Bay. Now it is climaxed with the productivity of the Abbotsford school.

Pilots by the thousands were made at these three flying centres—pilots who today are spearheading the aerial invasion, carrying the war to the Japs in the Far East and grinding back the wavering German line in Italy. The air training they received in B.C. skies started them out on the highroad to victory and adventure.

Back in the early days of the war, the RCAF was crying for pilots, but there was only the small nucleus of the great trained force necessary to hold the dogs of war at bay. Fliers were needed, but quick!

The aero clubs were the solution, RCAF officials felt, and so was organized the vast elementary flying training program that up to the first of this year had produced 38,775 aerial argonauts to fly the mighty military aircraft of today.

The British Columbia Aero Club was called upon to set up a school at Sea Island in the spring of 1940 and, with the late Leslie J. Martin, OBE, at the helm, soon started turning out the airmen who are now among the RCAF's best fighters. A company was organized as the Vancouver Air Training Co. Ltd., to supervise and direct the weighty business of winning this local war of training.

Then there was another call—to open the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan's first double EFTS—and it was answered at Boundary Bay. The two schools operated simultaneously for a while, under closely

allied firms, until the Sea Island centre closed and all activities were moved to the newer airport.

Then Pearl Harbor made of the west coast an armed camp and the EFTS left Boundary Bay for Caron, Sask., where it trained RAF personnel as No. 33 EFTS.

Finally in September last year, the Abbotsford school opened even as the Caron establishment was putting out its last classes. Such, briefly, is the history of B.C.'s aerial universities.

And now, with the passing of the Abbotsford aerodrome as an elementary centre, local residents

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The Wolf

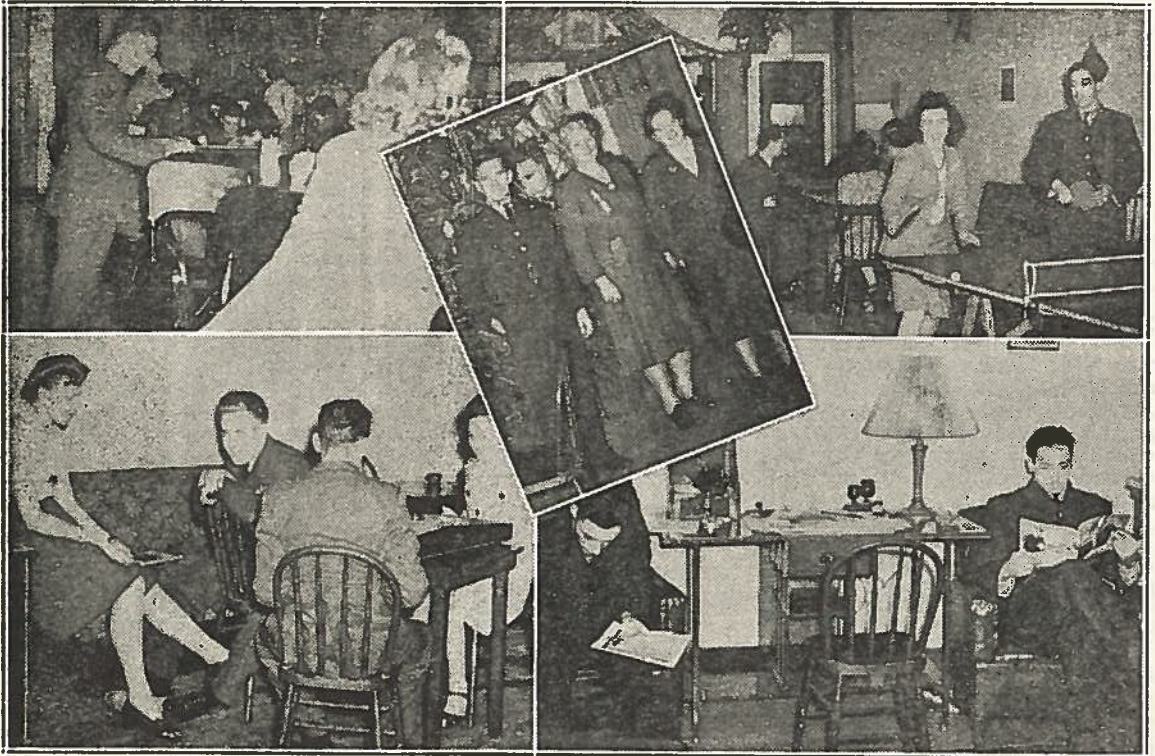
Copyright 1944 by Leonard Sansone, distributed by Camp Newspa.

by Sansone



"This is positively ridiculous!—I won't go any further until you get rid of your friends!!"

“The Hut” Appreciated



Thousands and thousands of airmen stationed at No. 24 EFTS have entered the door of the Abbotsford Hut and have found therein the recreation and entertainment they sought.

With the disbanding of No. 24 EFTS, official recognition and appreciation of the fine work of the M-S-A Citizens' Committee, which operated the servicemen's centre, came today from Squadron Leader G. E. Kerley, RCAF commanding officer, on behalf of all service personnel here.

"Seldom have I ever had a more pleasant duty to perform than this," the commanding officer said in opening his congratulatory remarks, "for I know that any words of praise I have

for the Matsqui-Sumas-Abbotsford Citizens' Committee and the work they have done is echoed and re-echoed in the minds and hearts of the boys who have enjoyed the recreation the Hut has provided.

"In no other community the size of Abbotsford have I ever known the citizens to band together so spontaneously and whole-heartedly to meet this need for entertainment that exists in young men torn up by the roots from their homes and social lives.

"During my short stay here, the Hut's devotion to the hospitality principle established at its inception has been gratifyingly evident. I know the staff and students of this school feel as I do that, wherever they go from here

they can meet few organizations so friendly as this Abbotsford committee."

In closing, SL Kerley wished all possible success to the local group in its future activities and declared that the good work of the town's citizens will always give servicemen pleasant recollections of their days here.

A tribute to The Hut in which he called it an "island of hospitality" was the final statement made by SL Morley Gain, first RCAF commanding officer here, and SL Kerley's predecessor. Numerous graduating classes at the school, as well as individual airmen, have also given indication of their appreciation since the social centre opened in October.

BITS OF THE BREEZE

Signals Instructor Jim Higgins has won his second-class wireless operator's ticket and is now undecided whether it will be the merchant marine or civil service.

One of the best practical jokes ever pulled here at No. 24 EPTS has one flying instructor running around in circles this week. Told he was posted, he believed it implicitly when he was given a clearance sheet to take around to all sections. He was very happy when this "posting" was changed! His name? TO HENRI SAUVE!

Sgt. Mel Barwick, head of the armament section here, has been sent on temporary duty to No. 2 ITS at Regina. He expects to return about July 16, but the school closes here July 14.

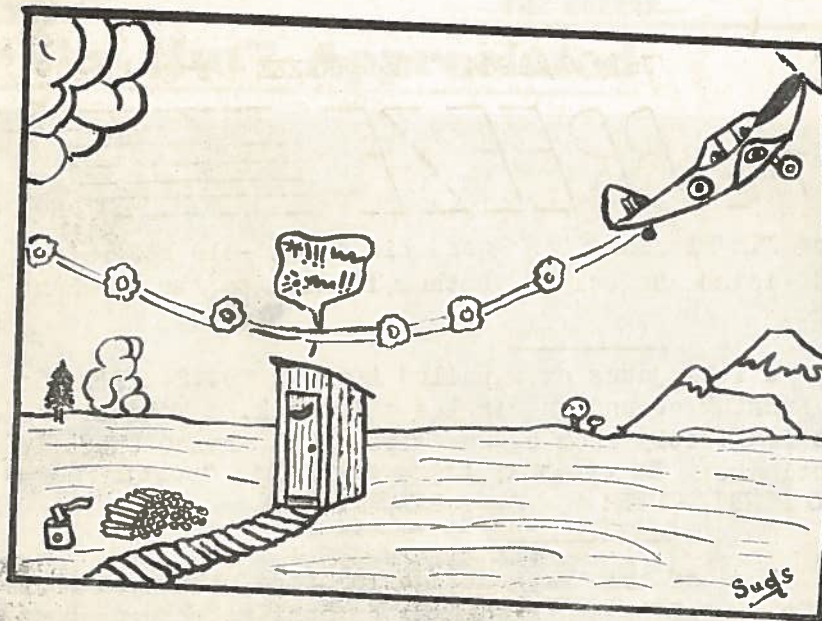
The Sergeants' Mess wound up its social program on this station with an informal gathering Wednesday night. A good time was had by all.

Postings of further groups of officer and airman trainees, who have just returned from leave which followed their graduation, depleted still more the population of this school this week.

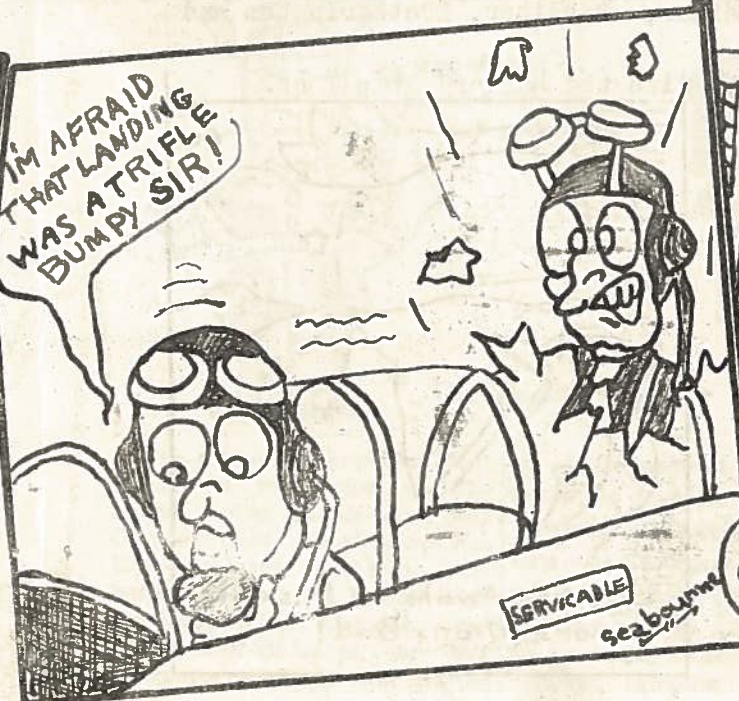


SKY, the souvenir book is the size as this newspaper. It has been suggested that you keep your copy of this issue with the book.

Regular Tuesday and Friday night movies will continue until the station is closed, it is expected. YMCA supervisor will be on station shortly to wind up activities here for Harvey Orr, whose condition is reported at Shaughnessy Military Hospital as unchanged.



BEST BREEZE CARTOONS



SPORTS

CHALMERS' TEAM WALKS AWAY WITH LAST LEAGUE TITLE

PO Lou Chalmers led his Course 106 athletes to victory in the final class sports league to be held here. Ahead from the very start, the winners stacked their volleyball, basketball and bordenball skill against five other teams and came out on top with an aggregate point score of 48.

The sports schedule, played in regular PT periods under the direction of Sgt. Al Weaver, began at the start of the students' course here and ran through the game timetable twice.

Other team captains were PO Don Morrison, PO Gibbs, PO Watts, Lt. Arch Russell and PO Gord Craddock. Craddock's team was second, with 36 points, and Morrison's third, with 27 points.

All members of the winning team have been presented dollar canteen tickets by the Vancouver Air Training Company, Ltd. On Chalmers' team were PO Croston, LAC's Fairbourn, Gainer, Gardiner, Heatherington and Huston.

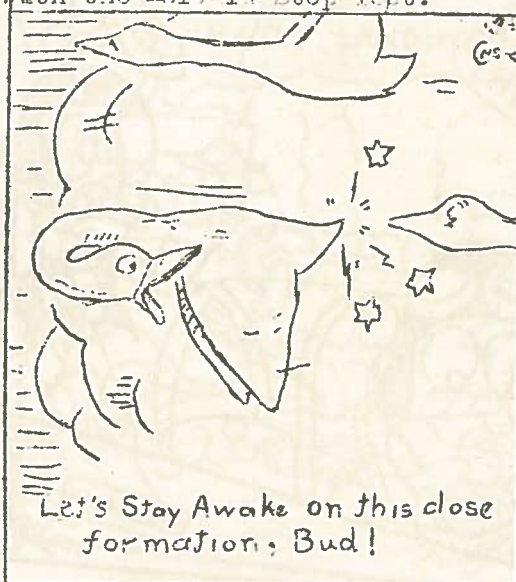
Tuesday, the class finished its PT with the Harvard Step Test.

WATCH BULLETIN BOARD FOR SPORTS SCHEDULES

Because the availability next week of a sufficient number of fastball players is uncertain, no schedule for games has yet been drawn up, but PO Keith Young will do so if by this weekend it seems that the situation warrants.

Notices of games will be posted on the various bulletin boards and team captains will be informed of the times and opponents for their games.

To date, much interest has been evident in the fastball tilts on the sports field.



No. 24 EFTS Personalities



THE C.F.I. S/L GAIN



F/O 'BUTCH' MERRICK



MR STEWART MCKERCHER



F/O DON MCLEOD
- NOT IN PAIN
BUT SINGING!

P.M. SEABOURNE R.A.F.



F/O WALLY PETERS



F/O TOMMY REEVES

Five cartoonists have left their marks on the pages of The Breeze during its life—Cpl. Ray Cornock, LAC Pete Seabourne, Ernie Poignant, LAC Doug Sudbury and LAC Joe Tyrell. With the exception of Cornock, who was jack-of-all-trades for this newspaper when it first started

all are represented in the choice humor on the next page.

Perhaps the wities of the quintette was Seabourne. He was certainly the most prolific. During his stay here as a student pilot, he produced scores of knockout cartoons, including the sketches

of station personalities reproduced above.

Cornock believed in the slapstick, Seabourne in drollery, Poignant in the grimmer side, Sudbury in the ridiculous and Tyrell in the pun. But all succeeded in making No. 24 EFTS laugh its troubles away.

'CANADA'S BEST EFTS' COMPLETES ITS TASK—Continued from Page Three

can remember with pride that the school they had here and helped to staff was great, really great.

Its beautiful setting was such that it became enviously known as the "country club" to dusty prairie stations.

Added to its natural favor was

a plant the like of which no other EFTS was privileged to use. A huge flying field offered paved runways scarcely excelled in the world. The best of buildings and equipment are there.

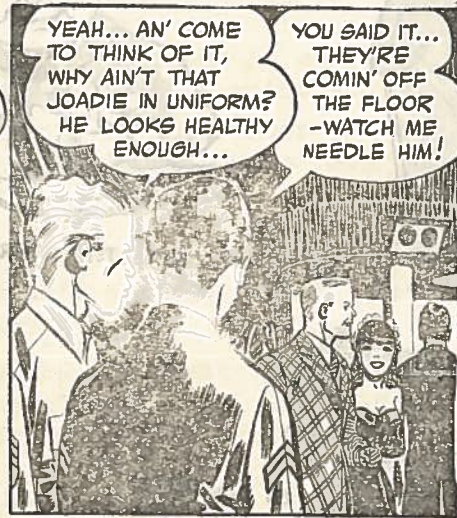
Its policy was progressive. It had a school council, a governing body composed of all depart-

ment heads; it had its weekly newspaper; it had a huge recreation centre, "Town Hall."

Furnishing the impetus as the board of directors of the operating company was a group headed by Major Austin C. Taylor as president, with W. G. Macken-

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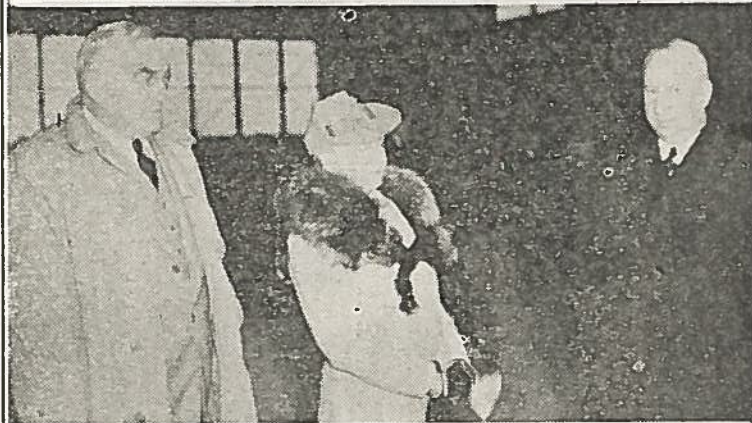
Male Call



Charge Without Reconnaissance



General Salute !!



The Governor-General and Party Visiting No. 24 EFTS Recently

FINAL GRADUATION DAY BEFORE FLYING CEASES AT 24 EFTS

A graduation banquet will be the occasion Thursday night, July 13, for the presentation of token EFTS wings and honor awards to the final graduating class at the local flying school. It is announced by SL G. E. Kerley, RCAF commanding officer.

Replacing the customary graduation parade on the tarmac, the event will be attended by invitation of the graduates only.

Includes 10 Officers

A class smoker will be held following the banquet, according to present student plans now being made by a special committee.

The class, 16th to graduate from No. 24 EFTS, includes 10 officers remustered from other trades for pilot training. Among them is Lieut. Arch. Russell, army ordnance corps officer.

NEWS EXCHANGE PLAN FOR 'NEWS', 'BREEZE' FINISHED THIS WEEK

An exchange agreement in force since the first of the year between the A. S. & M. News, Abbotsford, and The Breeze, No. 24 EFTS station weekly newspaper, terminates today with the cessation of publication of the latter periodical.

On behalf of The Breeze and the personnel of the flying establishment, Editor Frank Martineau pays tribute to The News for its whole-hearted co-operation in making possible a more attractive station paper and making available the news of Abbotsford events of interest to staff and students at the airport.

Under the agreement, The Breeze furnished station news of general interest to The News, in return for which The News printed portions of the unit weekly editions. In the past few months, with the addition of Camp Newspaper Service material to The Breeze, The News also assisted by preparing this restricted matter for use in the station paper.

'EFTS' COMPLETES ITS TASK—Continued from Page Ten

ent and Honor-
e Wendell B.
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ors. S. Brooks
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school, follow-
Leslie J. Mar-
organizer and
s Stewart Mc-
ast war pilot
he Prince Al-

Working with
including C. J.
anager and a
n orchardman,
retary-treasur-

er, and Hugh Barclay, chief
ground instructor. Many others,
too, had been with the firm since
its hectic 1940 days.

On the service side of the ros-
ter were Squadron Leader Gil-
bert E. Kerley, chief flying in-
structor and RCAF commanding
officer, who replaced SL Morley
Gain, the first CFI at the local
flying centre; FL Leonard S.
Milne, his assistant and one of
the original Sea Island flying in-
structors; FL S. A. Newcombe
who was an orderly room corpor-
al at Sea Island and worked up
through the ranks to become Ab-

botsford's adjutant, and a host
of others.

Civilians employed by the
operating company and RCAF
personnel of the flying wing
worked harmoniously and effi-
ciently together to produce re-
sults acclaimed across the na-
tion.

And now they all go on to
other things, for Ottawa has de-
creed a change. It means that
our "Battle of Training" has been
won and this community has
helped mightily in the victory.



V. Heakes, CB, left, chats with Air Vice Marshal L. F. Stevenson, CB, whose post
commanding Western Air Command, he assumed recently. AVM Stevenson is in Ottawa.