

Reel C12,325

Number 2 Flying Instructor School, Vulcan and Pearce, Alberta

May 3, 1942 - January 20, 1945

June 3, 1942

Organization Order # 204

Formation of No 2 Flying Instructor School

1. Information

The output of flying instructors from the Central Flying School, Trenton, is considered inadequate to meet the increased demands of providing instructors for RAF Schools in Canada and allowing for replacement in Joint Air Training Plan Schools after 12 months instructional duty, in order that they may have the opportunity of overseas service. Therefore, it has been decided to form additional Flying Instructor Schools.

2. It is intended to form No2 FIS at Vulcan, Alberta, effective August 3, 1942

10. Relief Landing Ground

The R1 Aerodrome at Ensign is allocated to No 2 Flying Instructor School as a relief landing ground.

August 3, 1942

No 2 FIS opened under the temporary command of S/L J B Harvey with a strength of:

RCAF officers (staff)	28
RCAF officers (staff) attached	1
RCAF airmen (staff)	301
RCAF airmen (staff) attached	32
Trainees	50
Personnel other than RCAF	8
Civilians	11

F/L F L Connon, together with Capt Evans, Canadian Legion War Services representative on this Station attended a meeting in Vulcan at 2000 hours at which were present representatives of the various local associations who expressed a desire to cooperate with Capt Evans in providing recreational and other facilities for the airmen at the Legion hut on the Station.

August 4, 1942

W/C F R West arrived and took over command.

August 5, 1942

Messrs J Cross, Dover and Lucy of the Calgary Brewing and Malting Company and Mr G A Frisby of the Lethbridge Breweries visited the Station and discussed the requirements for the various wet canteens. The concession for operating the barber shop on the Station was granted to Mr P F W. Rea of Calgary, who has commenced business with a two chair shop and who is giving satisfactory service.

August 7, 1942

Mr D A Boyle of Macleod called with reference to the installing of a moving picture show on the Station. Mr T A Metcalfe of Universal Films Ltd Calgary called in the same regard. The suggestions of both these parties were referred to our entertainment committee for future action.

August 8, 1942

Mr M E Jenkins of Claresholm, Alberta called regarding motion picture rights on the Station. This was referred to our entertainment committee together with other applications.

August 11, 1942

Mr H Walk of from the staff of the Dominion Experimental Farm in Lethbridge, spent the afternoon on the Station and discussed with the CO the possibilities for landscaping the grounds of the station.

August 13, 1942

A committee consisting of four ladies and one gentleman representing the Vulcan Coordinating Council visited the Station and were shown over the Legion Hut by F/L F L Connon SAO and Capt Evans, Legion representative. The committee decided what they would endeavour to do in the way of supplying additional furniture for the hut.

August 15, 1942

The Canadian Legion War Services gave a free picture show entitled "You'll Never Get Rich."

August 19, 1942

Further progress was made in establishing friendly relationships with the citizens of the town of Vulcan when the Station was visited by fourteen Ladies and gentlemen headed by Mayor W D Allan, representing the Vulcan Co-Ordinating Council, who are interested in assisting in the furnishing of the Legion hut and nursing sisters' quarters on the Station. The party was entertained to afternoon tea in the officers' mess by W/C F R West. Mr R Germaine of the Nanton Airport Bus Line and Mr Dahl of the Vulcan Bus Line called and discussed the

possibility of our assisting them to get improved road conditions between the airport and the respective towns of Vulcan and Nanton.

August 23, 1942

i) Accident to Cessna Crane FJ122 (ii) Primary: low flying, struck aerial. Secondary: unable to maintain height on one engine, crashed (iii) three miles west and one mile south of the town of Stavely, Alberta (iv) Serious (v) No injuries to personnel.

Canadian Legion War Services gave free picture show entitled "The Man Who Lost Himself."

August 26, 1942

Station sports committee have had a backstop erected on the recently constructed softball diamond and the opening game in the competition for the commanding officers trophy commenced at 1830 hours between headquarters and security guard. Unfortunately after three innings, the game was rained out.

August 27, 1942

The question of landscaping and care of Station grounds has been the subject of a number of meetings of the officers on the Station and a program has finally been set up with S/L J Kergan in charge of the plan. The Station has been subdivided into 18 areas with an officer in charge of each area and while the season is late with regard to gardening it is hoped to get much preparation done to be ready for next spring. Difficulty was experienced in getting lawn mowers but equipment section of today secured five of these and they are being put to good use.

August 31, 1942

Number and type of aircraft on charge: Tiger Moths 18, Cornell 15, Crane I 10, Crane IA 20. The total number of hours flown from August 3, date Station officially opened, to August 31: 2,927.10 hours. During the month of August a serious situation has developed with respect to personnel being late for duty owing to their inability to reach the Station from the towns of Vulcan and Nanton after rains which render the dirt roads practically impassable. During the past two days eight officers and 44 other ranks have been from one to ten hours late in reporting for duty due to the condition of the above mentioned roads. In addition to this a number of our personnel who reside in these two towns were unable to reach their homes and had to remain on the Station over the weekend.

September 2, 1942

Rain, fog washed out flying. Slithering roads gave m/t a problem in transport. A chesterfield and two chairs to match were installed in the Legion hut and emphasized the emptiness. Consolidated Coordinated Council of Services Committee of the Vulture's Gulch is working on the furnishings problem.

September 3, 1942

Flying time day-4.5 hours, night-nil; total flown 122.00 hours. Taken on strength in Legion hut one grizzly bear (dead-stuffed) and one moose head, to provide a habitation for retired Moths (aeroplanes).

September 4, 1942

Another chesterfield and three chairs, leather, covered arrived in the Legion hut to crowd the vacancy.

September 14, 1942

S/L F R Sharp, F/L D R Jacox, F/O R C Brown and F/L E B Ossler, our flying segment at 15 SFTS Claresholm have moved into the field which brings this Station all under one roof. No 2 Visiting Flight arrived in a stylish Lockheed. S/L Shelfoon in charge.

September 21, 1942

Station record low for accidents of .09 per 1000 hours flown with nil injured was marred by the crash of Crane FJ283 at 1135 hours carrying to their deaths F/O A M Vandre C3883 and P/O J R Lippi J12498 both US citizens. P/O W K Wells who was along as safety observer successfully bailed. Cause of the disaster was a tearing off of large strips of fabric on upper surface of port wing while plane was in flight at fair altitude some 20 miles north-east of Station. Reason for fabric failure is job for a Court of Inquiry. The deceased pilots were to receive diplomas at the graduation exercises of class 1 next Friday and were high on the list of competence. Hours flown 13:45, total day - 340:15, night - 43:50. F/L Scotty Cannon arrived back from Calgary after pursuing a buying quest for his canteens. Reports markets glutted with buyers and deliveries promised after the war.

September 24, 1942

Graduation parade for class number one of 50 assorted gentlemen to receive their flying instructors diplomas. They came from all over the British Empire, Canada and USA and fraternization was complete.

September 26, 1942

P/O B S Scharfe (PT and D) arrived from Trenton and plans to athleticize the personnel and make them like it. F/O W J Burgess (PNNS) arrived from Brandon to invigorate the personnel in disciplinary lines and make them enjoy it.

September 28, 1942

Class number one cleared Station for SFTS establishments across Canada. Class number two is commencing to invest the Station.

October 1, 1942

DCM number one for this Station reconvened here after false start at Claresholm to hear and determine assorted charges against a sergeant pilot based on low flying episode. He had demonstrated his skills to friends in the country by shooting up their hacienda. Not knowing the terrain in daylight, he wrapped the radio aerial around one prop. Result-- a forced landing under difficulties immediate and prospective.

October 5, 1942

New Lifebouy Follies trod the boards at grand opening of Station theatre. F/Ls W E Gower, Admin, J A Head EQ, and H W Padwick CTO translated to sub-stratosphere on becoming S/Ls. Cigars were distributed. S/L G A P Brickenden down here from command to supervise follies. S/L J G D Armour RAF, jovial staff examining officer, and F/L R Rindle RAF push off for 31 RAF PD Moncton in search of a ferry.

October 6, 1942

A/C 664 got tangled in barb wire fence and came to earth 8 miles west of Station. Plane dismantled and towed in but not before aged lady at nearby farm house had forced repairs to fence using a shot gun for emphasis.

October 8, 1942

S/O J O P Parry arrived in vanguard of WDs. Emily Post's Military Manual in demand.

October 9, 1942

Anson 6802 force landing here at midnight with spoonful of gas to spare. There were no flares out so the pilot landed smartly in the dark. Damage nil. As supply of our fine mineral water wanes, personnel must bathe only now and again.

October 10, 1942

Justice descends on the sergeant pilot who was the chief actor in the DCM of first instant. Verdict-- stripped, 30 days detention.

October 12, 1942

Accident in maintenance when a Ranger engine fired as two airmen worked on prop. Their heads were equal to the occasion and a few days in the hospital for minor repairs is all that is necessary. Cause of firing-- loose ground wire. 40 WD arrive and many strained necks among the airmen.

October 13, 1942

M/t panel careened off the high road to Vulcan and had hull stove in considerably. The new WD driver had not learned to navigate on a sea of shifting ruts and chuck holes which pass for roads here about. No casualties.

October 23, 1942

Graduation parade for course 61 in hangar three, hollow square. Mr Brown of Vulcan loaned his public address system over which the CO spoke with a plan. Ex-sergeant pilot who has languished in digger by decree of DCM number one was enlarged by reason of "good conduct."

October 30, 1942

All ranks reviewed by S/L J Kergan in mammoth forenoon parade - all absentees in hospital. Victory Loan drive yields \$14,000 in about 60 minutes. At about 1300 hours the vast open spaces began to close in on Station for opening day ceremonies. Tillers of the soil from up and down the Gulch rubbed shoulders with citizens of nearby Metropolis, lining tarmac adjacent to hangars many layers deep. Band of No 2 Wireless School (Shepherd) struck up "Air Force March" and parade moved out from wings to runway in front of control tower. Formation, 3 squadrons in close columns. Position of "review" attained under C.I's direction. Interval, and a Douglas aircraft shining silver in the sun swooped gracefully to field - taxied to the starboard end of parade and therefrom emerged AOC (A/C G R Howsam, M.C.) and aides. Another interval and a Crane circled, landed and safely deposited His Honour J C Bowen, Lieutenant Governor, representing the Crown in right of the province of Alberta. After an exchange of felicitations between His Honour, the AOC and the CO, the band played the "Royal Salute". Official party then proceeded to saluting stand by the tower. Appropriate speeches were delivered, punctuated by His Honour's gesture of touching a Cornell's prop at which instant No.2 Flying Instructor School became officially open for business. Parade came to close order - CO took over - the band took a deep breath and strains of "Colonel Bogey" heralded the march past in columns. The band's sergeant major twirled a mace that was a tonic to contemplate. Thus was concluded the formal ceremonies. Thereafter, spectators got twisted necks following the synchronized aerobatics of our crack fliers. During the supper hour and evening the spirit of Mardi Gras prevailed in the messes. The Grand Ball in the drill hall was the climax of a memorable day. Flying time day- 4:10, night reserved for ground acrobatics.

November 2, 1942

Poor weather enabled maintenance section to catch up with work but meetings of all descriptions kept the CTO on the run. Our pukka motion picture theatre opened to a packed house. "House Full" notices will have to be indented from Works and Buildings if audiences continue like this.
November 3, 1942

Mr R E Dutton, Canadian Service Representative, and Mr D Flower, sales manager of Cessna Aircraft Co visited Station to find out how the "Crane" likes the altitude in this district.

November 7, 1942

Game season opens??? "Crane" gets duck!!! Cessna Crane number 7971 struck a wild duck in daylight today; the windshield was broken, and the duck just missed KO'ing the co-pilot. Seven "Tigers" were transferred farther into the bush country when they went up De Winton way.

November 10, 1942

LAC A I Larsen at 1900 hours carrying out periodic inspection put out his hand to see if the prop was turning. It was. Injuries were not serious.

November 12, 1942

Maintenance has a "beef." Increasing numbers of aircraft for major inspections at the same time placing strain on ground crews available and difficulty experienced in obtaining sufficient replacement parts doesn't help the situation.

November 13, 1942

No flying this a. m. aided maintenance on majors. Pay day-- the adjutant's lucky day. He gets a posting to Edmonton, his home town. On Friday the 13th, too.

November 18, 1942

Grand news for the Station-- W/C West promoted to Group Captain. More cigars. As promised, a Station celebration for the morrow.

November 19, 1942

The Station dance in honour of the commanding officer's promotion to "Groupie" was a big success. The entire personnel turned up in force.

November 25, 1942

No 10 RD requested maintenance HQ to send trucks with fuel for five Tigers which took to the bush in forced landings at various points east of Vulcan. The Tigers were not of our circus.

November 28, 1942

W/C Westead and party here by air ex Brandon. "Feast"ivities in the mess. A grand time was had by all at our first formal dance in the officers mess. The new officer i/c eats, F/O C D Mathewson excelled in provisioning.

November 29, 1942

A snow storm and the results of last night's dance kept the Station very quiet today. Macleod sent up their padre who held the Station services and returned same day. Chief of the Gestapo, Sgt I Silverman, sent to No 3 Calgary to act as return escort for prisoner there.

December 1, 1942

G/C West on one of his frequent tours of inspection stressed importance of adequate action for accident prevention. Cornell FH662 and Crane 7979 collided while taxiing, Cornell received injuries to rudder.

December 9, 1942

Low flying causes fatal accident to GB1218320 Sgt Clark R A and R128563 Sgt Harris E J near the town of Pincher Creek. Cornell aircraft number 748 was totally destroyed.

December 11, 1942

Thirteen (unlucky) men from maintenance detailed to guard aircraft from 37 SFTS which strayed to Milo. Number one chinook penetrates winter's icy blast and makes flying conditions ideal. M/t vehicle number 808 burns laying flare path.

December 17, 1942

Our second concert party (strictly Station talent) present delightful entertainment to capacity house. The WD chorus girls potential post war Broadway talent. Sgt/P Weir (kangaroo land) gave outstanding display of magic. At conclusion of performance, airmen and airwomen made presentation to Capt Evans (Legion) ignotum KR air who is leaving for civilization (happy day). He was the second man to arrive at this unit, the first was a batman who told Evans he was glad of help as the officers quarters were too much of a job for one man to handle. Capt Evans gave a few words of appreciation after which the power line transformer decided to burn up and the whole Station was in darkness for one and a half hours.

December 18, 1942

Nothing to comment upon but the weather and that is unprintable.

December 22, 1942

The first edition of the Station paper "Vulture Kulture" is hot off the press today, thanks to the untiring editorial capabilities of Hon F/L Brown, our popular padre, and F/O J D Bruce one of our MO's. The cost is met from Station funds in spite of pressure from creditors.

January 1, 1943

One half Station personnel on five day leave with work reduced to minimum. New Year's eve dance continued into new year with appropriate cheer. Officers served turkey dinner in airmen's and WD's mess, also entertained senior NCOs in officers mess in traditional style. Empty pocketbooks relieved by free picture show. Day marred by announcement of a serious accident to F/Sgt E Walker at Champion, Alberta.

January 2, 1943

Interesting humorous speech on early experiences given at officers mess by Air Chief Marshall Sir A Longmore RAF (arrived by Lockheed piloted by F/L Tyler accompanied by G/C C H Flinn, 4 TC). P/O H E Whidden given AFM for meritorious services (a flying record of nearly 2,000 hours without an accident and never having a student fail on his course).

January 3, 1943

National day of prayer. Starboard engine Crane 7979 breaks connecting rod while on ground.

January 5, 1943

Wartime Prices and Trade Board rental administrator Mr Leah putting damper on soaring rentals in Vulcan. Station talent present musical evening at 2000 hours, well attended and highly appreciated.

January 6, 1943

F/S E Walker, senior NCO - MT section, dies in Galt Hospital, Lethbridge, as a result of injuries received on New Year's Eve when he fell from a CPR passenger train near Champion, Alberta, necessitating amputation of right leg.

January 8, 1943

CPR decides to include a couple of coaches on their freight train each Sunday evening leaving Calgary 2230 hours for use by 48r's.

January 15, 1943

Cold with 50 mile per hour blizzard completely isolates Station. Tractor stands by to help fire engine if it gets into difficulties. A few snow drifts seven feet high. Steps taken to conserve water.

January 16, 1943

Extra work in engine changes keep maintenance on the run. 37 below "polar chinook" penetrates and how. Sergeants send SOS to officers for help to entertain number of fair sex from Champion at sergeants dance. Cold weather may have caused this.

January 17, 1943

G/C F R West benefits from his well earned leave to the extent of enjoying a joke on himself as he relates being taken for a doorman in Marshall-Fields store, Chicago.

January 21, 1943

50 below (enough, please) obliterates boxing match and interferes with station routine.

January 29, 1943

Crane 7982 misses field in fog at 2350 hours, class A wreck. P/O S T Padden B\GB1265214 seriously injured. P/O L T W Smale slightly injured. Crane 7984 crashes, class B wreck. F/O W D Hallisuy GB112725 and P/O E S Bannerman J20999 slightly injured. Hospital lacks surgical equipment to cope with major accidents.

From "Vulture Kulture" newspaper

Dedicated to Orderly Officers:

Sir, we like your nightly visit
About an hour of ten.
It really is exquisite
To see you handsome men.
But one thing we do beg of you
It really isn't much
Do check the door you enter through

Or you'll have us all in Dutch.
When you enter by the east wing
You cause a great commotion
"A man, watch out," we loudly sing
In accents of emotion.
We know we look disarming
In our brevities of lace
But it really is alarming
To meet the OO face to face.
We think you error unintentional
(You get the benefit of the doubt)
But its far from being conventional
To catch a lady, well, without.
So for your information, sir
Our canteen's on the west
And your cooperation
Will make you a welcome guest.

The Vulture's Song

Oh if I had the wings of a vulture
Way from this Vulcatraz I would hop
And not until I got to my darling
Would I be willing to stop.
Oh if you lived as I do so stranded
Miles from any nice girl I can date
You wouldn't think this place was so funny
For I don't want to be celebrate.
Oh a bachelor's life ain't what it should be
Though it's free from marital storm
But I'd gladly swop my independence
For someone to keep the bed warm.

The Bard of Vulture Gulch

Flutter flutter, little Crane
Up into the air again.
One blessed day I pray that I
Again may fly an aeroplane.

February 13, 1943

Crane FJ282 totally destroyed after catching fire in the air eight miles east of Champion. Pilot F/O B E Ehnisz J6806 fatally injured when improperly fastened parachute allows him to fall. Pupil P/O R J White J12325 makes safe journey to earth by parachute. Burial of P/O B E Ehnisz

at Leader, Saskatchewan. Macleod RCAF band provides excellent music for St Valentine's masquerade dance at 2000 hours. Colorful affair enjoyed by all.

February 18, 1943

Calgary radio announces No 2 FIS is getting change of atmosphere at Pearce in the near future causing some flurry of excitement but vision of Old Man River at back door and an occasional tree eases situation.

March 4, 1943

Movement Order No 5
Relocation of No 2 Flying Instructors School

The site at Vulcan, at present used by No 2 FIS is now required for a Service Flying Training School for which purpose the site was originally developed (Ed: No 19 SFTS). It is intended to relocate No 2 Flying Instructor School at Pearce, Alberta. The move of No 2 FIS to Pearce, Alberta is to be completed by May 3, 1943.

March 7, 1943

Epidemic of cracked spars in Cranes keep maintenance very busy. Legion free movie received its usual support, 100 percent.

March 8, 1943

Raymond "Union Jacks" basketball team give local representatives a severe trouncing.

March 10, 1943

Local men hoopsters find victim in 3 AOS Pearce basketball team and score 47 to 25 victory at Pearce

March 11, 1943

Our unbeaten WD basketball team continued winning streak with 44 to 19 score over Champion ladies. Informal dance in WD lounge after game.

March 14, 1943

A day of memories. Crane 7973 lands at No 3 SFTS undercarriage refusing to come down resulting in a C1 crash. At 1735 hours fire (unknown origin) broke out in east wing of NCO's quarters. Fire department arrived at scene of fire one and one half minutes after alarm turned in and with the help of volunteers who risked their lives on icy roofs finally bring fire under control

with one wing of building number five gutted. For the first time in months, this unit was blessed by plenty of water due to the arrival of two extra water trucks on March 11 resulting in raising the water in the reservoir from the three foot level to the nine foot level. This water has to be hauled six and a quarter miles over poor roads. Now we can cope with fire and indulge in the luxury of showers, to the relief of the padre, who believes cleanliness is next to godliness. Alice Murdoch Review from Calgary provided the only bright spot of the day at 2000 hours in the recreation hall.

March 20, 1943

Airmen hold dance at recreation hall and senior NCOs, not to be outdone, hold dance in their mess. The officers mess shrouded in silence except for the odd "clink," a noise probably caused by one billiard ball contacting another.

March 24, 1943

Maintenance section demonstrate expert proficiency, swap engines in Crane 8027 in seven hours.

March 25, 1943

Routine normal. Chief Mike Mountain Horse, Lethbridge true Canadian, entertains in full regalia and gives interesting lecture on Indian legends. No scalps taken (probably due to the scarcity of foliage on certain NCOs, wampum value nil).

April 1, 1943

April makes debut with all the warmth and sunshine necessary for ideal spring weather. Traditional "fools day" and active imaginations cause victims many worries with local manufactured postings to Anchorage and some WDs spending fruitless hours searching for elusive "box of superlatives" and "buckets of prop pitch." Graduation parade for course 72 at 1800 hours on the parade square which with the help of the sunshine for the first time in months shows off its shining hard surface proving the rumour that the hard surface had been removed had its usual unfounded origin.

April 7, 1943

Boxing ring dismantled and shipped to Pearce and may be considered the advance agent of No 2 FIS.

April 9, 1943

Rifle club organized under capable hands of F/L Darling. Procurement of rifles presents difficult problem to the delight of the multitudes of gophers on non-effective strength of this unit.

April 12, 1943

Arrangements are being made for the farewell carnival in the drill hall. Barnyard golf (horse shoe pitching) has taken over some of the evening entertainment. Softball practice is underway.

April 15, 1943

Perfect weather conditions makes farewell carnival a huge success. Residents from surrounding country in large throngs invade hotdog stand and mustard bespattered WDs report that the wiener loving crowd consumed over 3,000 of these dormant canines. No 37 SFTS orchestra and a Vulcan orchestra supplied the music for a very popular dance.

April 18, 1943

This Station in the past had been selfishly obtaining their entertainment from the outside world but now we have a concert party of our own which made its debut at 2000 hours in the recreation hall proving that local entertainment has that "something" that is impossible to obtain from strangers. All participants gave a good account of themselves. A new Station orchestra was in attendance, F/O R V Morton conducting.

April 26, 1943

The commanding officer W/C J B Harvey spoke to Station personnel at 1730 hours in the 720 mess and proved conclusively that Victory Bonds should receive priority. The advance party with E147 equipment, blankets, one pillow, one pillow slip, and two sheets tucked neatly under one arm leave barrack block at 0800 hours and after a slight delay due to snow and slush about four inches deep proceed by bus to Pearce. After a slight delay on route, one bus breaking down, 73 personnel arrive at Pearce, Alberta.

April 27, 1943

No 2 FIS concert party put on farewell performance at Vulcan for the citizens of Vulture's Gulch. A picture show and dance also provided gratis satisfied some 1,500 attendants.

April 30, 1943

The first movement of personnel carried out according to schedule. Second large personnel movement order out for tomorrow, seven by air, 121 by bus. No 19 SFTS lurks in the shadows of Vulture's Gulch ready to pounce when the Station gets whittled down to the right size. As this month draws to a close a new era for the Western University of the Air appears on the horizon, Pearce, Alberta as its destination. This unit in its experimental stages had many difficulties to overcome and it was just reaching the point where a review could be made and errors corrected. Now a new difficulty to face, that of changing its location, with the promise of an average 30 mile wind velocity and turbulent air currents to compete against and all the

difficulties of arranging itself to suit conditions of a new country. One squadron of the flying personnel are being left at Vulcan until May 28 so that flying training will not suffer to any great extent and it is promised that No 2 FIS Pearce will still turn out Number One products.

May 2, 1943

Personnel Movement Order calls for 44 personnel to move to Pearce (Alberta) tomorrow. This will leave No 1 Squadron-flying wing, repair squadron and a few cleanup men at Vulcan. Station mascot dog (Sergeant) stows away and arrives at new location. Personnel remaining at Vulcan can hope to bid farewell to Vulture Gulch on May 28. Maintenance section at Pearce set up their various departments with mechanical rapidity and aircraft were made available to No 2 squadron without the loss of a single flying hour. Personnel received irritating welcome at new location by bed bugs strategically entrenched in three barrack blocks.

May 5, 1943

Contrary to international law, gas was used today in order to oust the little unwelcome brown enemy in barrack blocks. Airmen were obliged to take part in nude parades between barrack blocks as fumigation proceeded so that a medical sanitary field could be maintained. Billiard tables were erected in the officers and sergeants lounges.

May 6, 1943

No time was lost in transferring the 35 mm cinema equipment from Vulcan to Pearce. This equipment was purchased recently from non-public funds and is the best and most modern of installations. The first picture show was "For Me and My Girl" starring Judy Garland and was well attended in spite of duty watch.

May 8, 1943

The three wings held muster parade to ascertain if any personnel had been blown away between Vulcan and Pearce. No 7 SFTS orchestra played for a well attended dance in the recreation hall at 2000 hours.

May 13, 1943

The commanding officer inspected the layout of our nine hole golf course which it is hoped will be well patronized this summer. Work was also started on the construction of our softball field. The regular Thursday night show "Tish" was a feature attraction in the evening. Two special busses were made available to transport personnel at No 7 SFTS Macleod.

May 14, 1943

No 2 FIS gets "pat on the back" from AOC for total of 8,099 flying hours completed without an

accident for the month of April.

May 18, 1943

A court of enquiry composed of S/L J W Hanson C1727, No 3 SFTS and F/L H H Kochan C7844 No 7 SFTS, assembled at 1000 hours to investigate and report on a fire in a boxcar at Pearce siding involving damage to RCAF engines and packing cases.

May 26, 1943

The Governor General of Canada and Princess Alice were visitors at Vulcan where our No. One Squadron is still operating. Their Excellencies presented diplomas to our graduating class, course number 76. Aircraft Cornell FH659 involved in category A crash near Barons, Alberta. Pilot AUS421392 Sgt Ridgway R A and passenger R155628 LAC Koehler W G killed instantly.

June 1, 1943

RCAF professional entertainers present "Blackouts of 1943" at 2000 hours. The 650 Station personnel who attended the concert considered it worthy of highest praise.

June 2, 1943

Alberta's dust bowl receives slight precipitation today which may eventually make the grass change its brown color. The long arm of Capt K Epstein is reaching out these days and gathering all and sundry into his dental clinic. No 2 FIS personnel will soon possess the major component of a pleasant smile.

June 10, 1943

No 2 FIS "went on the air" at 2100 hours in the "Command Performance" program and all participants gave a good account of themselves. No 15 SFTS orchestra were in attendance and after the broadcast they played for an impromptu dance.

June 12, 1943

Thirty one airmen on staff of No One Squadron detachment at Vulcan returned to Pearce today. All aircraft except three (unserviceable) find their way to Pearce to their new home in number 3 hangar (just completed). Airmen and WD dance held at 2100 hours in the recreation hall.

June 13, 1943

Remainder of our No One Squadron arrive from Vulcan and seem to be quite happy about their new home. No 2 FIS has now completely vacated Vulcan.

June 14, 1943

New flying schedule started today with the training wing going to work at 0500 hours and flying completed at 1300 hours in order to eliminate some of the difficulties of turbulent air conditions. Special busses were chartered to take 250 of our personnel to Macleod at 1900 hours to hear Mart Kenny's Orchestra and dance, space permitting. Pay parade had its usual high attendance.

June 20, 1943

Sunday routine with church parades. The weather man decided that there will be no golf tournament today by blowing unusually hard even for Pearce. Aircraft obliged to stay in the hangar.

June 24, 1943

Course 78 graduated today. G/C W E Kennedy CO No 15 SFTS presented certificates to graduates. The occasion commemorated inception of 2 FIS one year ago at Claresholm.

June 26, 1943

This Station is building a "float" to take part in the parade at Macleod on June 30 on the occasion of their stampede.

June 29, 1943

Airmen get notice that there will be more time allotted to drinking beer now, instead of having three nights a week to participate in this sport, they now have six nights to drink (the same quantity, perhaps).

June 30, 1943

This Station's representation in the float competition at Macleod won first money. One flight of airwomen and two flights of airmen and trainees (officers and airmen) took part in the parade which was a great success even if the weather man picked this day to dampen things. A great many of our personnel from the east saw our original landlords complete with regalia and without a postcard for a background.

July 4, 1943

Sunday routine with church parades. RCAF fisherman pulls a couple of goldeyes out of Old Man River which runs by "our door." No doubt this incident will gain momentum at fireside chats sometime in the future.

July 6, 1943

F/L W A Jamison CEO and S/L J A Head SEO departed on temporary duty to Mossband, Swift Current and Moose Jaw to inspect maintenance facilities for the servicing of Oxford aircraft of which this unit has a small family of six.

July 11, 1943

The commanding officer departed today for Trenton accompanied by W/C Stephenson and W/C Lipton. W/C F R Sharp CI assumes temporary command in his absence. Golf tournament underway with 35 entries competing in five flights.

July 12, 1943

The first hole-in-one scored on local golf course today by LAC English who is nominated to our hall of fame. Our Victory Garden gave forth spinach and radishes today.

July 14, 1943

F/O N Bersudsky C1145C arrived from Labrador to swell the number of our nursing sisters.

July 18, 1943

Sunday routine with Church Parades. W/C F R Sharp officially opens our golf course at 1400 hours today and to say the least, this sport is proving very popular these days. Old Man River is providing a welcome haven in this extreme heat.

July 20, 1943

Extreme heat curtails all sports events. A large owl finds sanctuary on top of radio in one of the rooms in officers quarters. However, rumour has it that the owl was very interested in the turn of events in Europe and was awaiting the news broadcast.

July 27, 1943

The long awaited wiener roast held for all personnel tonight on the river bank. The natural open air amphitheatre chosen was adequate for the huge bonfire and the weather and hotdogs behaved perfectly. A piano was transported to the site and an enjoyable evening with the usual singsong under the direction of our auxiliary supervisor Mr R R Simmons was appreciated by all who could attend. The new Station orchestra under the direction of F/O R V Morton also took part.

July 31, 1943

The month of July having produced excellent weather for flying also extreme heat waves comes to a close and this unit is looking forward to August when the most of our buildings will be

completed and this Station will know what it is to operate from correct accommodation. Strength as of July 31, 1943: staff officers 81; staff airmen 506; staff airwomen 156; officers trainees RCAF 113; airmen trainees RCAF 14. Personnel other than RCAF: number of officer trainees RAF 30, RAAF four, RNZAF five. Number of airmen trainees RAF 45, RAAF two, RNZAF two. RAF officers staff 17. Total population 1034. Aircraft strength 40 Crane, 39 Cornell, six Oxford. Flying time for the month of July 7,051.20 hours.

August 2, 1943

Weather good and clear. Today is the day to roll out the riding habits with the arrival of six horses (apologies to Whirlaway) to inaugurate the Circle FIS Ranch and Riding Academy. This sport should prove very popular with all the prairie to ride around in. Tentative plans going forward for standup lunches to ease the pain of our would-be equestrians. The WD ward in the Station hospital opened today. (This and the horses seem like fate).

August 8, 1943

Weather good. Calgary Chinook girls softball team arrived to play our WDs for Central Alberta softball championship. Both games were won by the visitors but off the record, tough luck lost the games to us and next year the answer will be much different. Finished the day off with a victory dance for the visitors in the rec hall. The Chinooks departed with fond memories of the hospitality of Pearce, especially the food which they claimed was the best they not only have eaten but seen for a long time. Ah, pity the poor civilians and their ration books.

August 12, 1943

Our SMO reports that the rumours re bugs in the student officers quarters has now been confirmed. Some students offered early confirmation a la epidermis but the MO was desirous of seeing the intruders, as mosquito bites are somewhat similar. One of our very popular instructors, F/L Bryson E M J5116 received the instructor's reward with a posting overseas today.

August 14, 1943

All student officers living in the barrack block overrun by our six legged friends have been given a 48 to allow the exterminator a free hand in his battle.

August 23, 1943

Airmen's kit inspection 1430 hours. Cinema begins operating in afternoons for the benefit of personnel on night duties and early flying schedule. Our fire department detachment at Granum, our relief field, saved the hotel at that town from destruction this afternoon by prompt action when fire broke out.

August 26, 1943

The Station was visited by the Inspector General A/V/M Croil G M C65 CBE AFC, and air officer commanding No 4 TC A/V/M Housam G R MC (C33) all day.

August 27, 1943

“Pearce Patter” our new Station magazine makes its first appearance since our arrival from Vulcan. Editor in Chief F/L F R Harback.

September 6, 1943

Remustering to aircrew is the major topic of importance at maintenance these days and that section is being sadly depleted. Working with planes all day isn't enough for our riggers and fitters, they want to fly 'em too and the faster the education officer can send in remuster applications the better they like it.

September 9, 1943

The flying field at Granum was the scene of an accident today when a Cessna crashed injuring F/O Godfrey and F/L Glassco who was the captain of the aircraft at the time of the accident. The visiting flight, its work completed, left tonight. Prospective boxers really went at it tonight in the drill hall and they put all they had into the workouts which continued throughout the evening. “The Man Who Came to Dinner” played as the feature attraction at the rec hall.

September 12, 1943

Golfers took advantage of the sunny weather this morning and many were seen out early. All the hard work which was put into the golf course at the beginning of the season has certainly been worthwhile as a great many officers, airmen and airwomen have enjoyed the privilege of having a Station golf course.

September 23, 1943

The commanding officer W/C J B Harvey held a Station parade this morning at 0800 hours. The parade lasted for two hours and an inspection took place after which the whole parade went on route march along the tarmac. Whether it was the chilly weather or not but the WDs were a little too peppy on parade this morning and were assembled in an empty barrack room at 2020 hours and a thorough inspection of hair and uniforms took place. Airwomen were once again reminded that hair must be up at all times and that uniforms should be clean and pressed.

September 25, 1943

The water once again has been turned on for a full 24 hour a day period but a strict list of

regulations restricting the use of water must be followed by all personnel. Personnel of 2 FIS have all the comforts of country life.

October 1, 1943

The weather broke forth on the first of the month clear and warm. The new beer quota for October arrives. All are happy. There seems to be a slight increase this month but the sergeants still wonder when they will be able to have another smoker. Huge posters advertising the big barn dance which will be held in the drill hall on October 6 cover the countryside and neighbouring towns. Early reports anticipate a capacity crowd to attend. Crane aircraft 8805 now serviceable is ready to fly from the field near Picture Butte, Alberta.

October 6, 1943

The weather has once again cleared. All hands are ready for the barn dance in the drill hall tonight. This dance is being supervised by the officers wives guild. The dance started quite early in the evening and the desired "barny" atmosphere had certainly been acquired, not so much in the decoration of the drill hall as in the inspiration of dress that some of the personnel turned out in. Several squadron leaders and at least one or two wing commanders looked as though they had been born and reared on the range and one flight sergeant, I think he was from the equipment section, resembled an under-nourished English boy scout. In spite of the colorful background, some 1,500 participants were unanimous in voting it a first class affair, especially an airman from maintenance, but two days on the Station, who won the draw for \$100 cash. We always manage in affairs of a similar nature to keep the prize money on the Station. The Station orchestra, suitably attired, supplied the music.

October 7, 1943

Another list appeared in DROs of lucky individuals occupying annotated positions who are exempt from the Dominion Income Tax Act. The Lord has His chosen few.

October 9, 1943

Fire prevention week concluded, the fire officer and fire chief have been giving excellent lectures to all personnel on the use of modern fire fighting equipment. Fire equipment display set up in classroom number one of the GIS building. Fire alarms were sounded and the response by all was very gratifying. Numerous slogans have appeared in DROs in connection with fire prevention week. One reads as follows: "A match has head but no brains. When you use its head, use your brains."

October 18, 1943

The officers wives guild were pleased to hear that their efforts in sponsoring the barn dance on the sixth instant will give them sufficient cash to supply drapes for the numerous windows in the

new Station chapel and the airmen's mess. A meeting of the officers mess was held at 1300 hours and advantage was taken of the absence on duty for the day of S/L Mostyn-Brown. He was elected mess president.

October 26, 1943

Something new has been added to the WD trades on this Station with two former GD girls working in number four hangar and studying to remuster to the trade of AEM. These two have a flair for mechanics and NCOs report that by the time they must appear before the board there will be little doubt that they will be successful. They show a decided keenness and aptitude for arm work and it is hoped that other WDs will be interested as well.

October 30, 1943

The formal opening of the new officers mess was held this evening. A formal dance was held in conjunction and the many guests spoke very highly in praise of the splendid atmosphere which had been built in the mess. This marks the first real mess for the officers of this school and was worth waiting for. A very well attended airmen's dance was held in the rec hall.

Lethbridge Herald
Airmen Do Own Publicity

Personnel of No 2 Flying Instructor School, Pearce developed their own publicity to inspire instructors and students to buy bonds in the Fifth Victory Loan Campaign. One of the best examples of this is shown above. The school is proud of the fact that RAF personnel subscribed 100 percent to the loan. RAF personnel make up one third of the instructional staff and nearly 50 percent of the students. Starting with a quota of \$55,000 the school had chalked up \$79,600 Friday morning. (Picture shown says "Pierce him, Pearce. Who says Cranes and Cornells can't fight. Dollars to lend means dollars to spend. After we win, you win." Picture of a Crane sending a big bomb over to a swastika in Germany).

November 1, 1943

November dawned bright and clear in the true western Indian summer style. All airwomen are busy rehearsing for a parade to be held tomorrow in honour of Air Chief Commandant Trefusis Forbes. Shades of Shakespear, the question of the day, "To be or not to be a guard of honour of airwomen or a squadron: to wear or not to wear greatcoats. The equipment section descended upon en masse to complete clothing shortages. Typical feminine confusion prevailed. At long last the equipment section is taking time off for a little fun to celebrate their new building. They're even entertaining their deadly enemies the account section and had a dinner and dance at the Barons Hotel, Barons, Alberta. LAW N Cookson, chef, is posted overseas. Great excitement prevailed throughout the WD barracks. Numerous airwomen stormed the WD administrative office requesting overseas postings.

November 2, 1943

A/C/C Trefusis Forbes today paid the unit an official visit. Immediately upon her arrival she inspected the entire WD squadron which was drawn up on the parade square. The senior WD officer Ft/O F A Raitblat did a splendid job as squadron commander. S/O Gilroy and S/O Twiss of No 7 SFTS Macleod assisted as flight commanders to complete an all WD squadron. The band also loaned for the occasion by the kind courtesy of G/C Hampton provided the march tunes. The visiting official informally addressed the airwomen in the recreation hall and was then conducted on a tour of the Station by the commanding officer W/C J B Harvey. The visitors were enthusiastic in their praises for the high standard of airwomen's general appearance and morale, the recreational program and facilities provided by the Station for the airmen and airwomen especially our new community centre which will be ready later this month.

November 6, 1943

Final results on the Victory Loan are as follows: 866 applications received for a total of \$100,900. Poppies are appearing in all service caps after the Station had been thoroughly canvassed by six attractive WDs.

November 10, 1943

A violent 70 mile an hour dust storm kept all planes grounded and personnel sweeping up the dust that blew continually in open barrack room windows.

November 12, 1943

Personnel are becoming Christmas season conscious and a resume is being taken of those desiring Christmas or New Year's leave. It doesn't do some of us a bit of good to desire Christmas leave when we know darn well we will be getting New Year's leave or vice versa.

November 15, 1943

An Oxford aircraft number 1501 was taken on strength. It is said to be the oldest oxford aircraft in Canada. W/C F R Sharp's logbook shows that he flew this aircraft in 1939.

November 17, 1943

High gusty winds in the afternoon made it bad for flying. A gala fancy dress ball was held in the drill hall this evening, over 500 personnel and officers wives attended in fancy dress. F/L S Carter, aerodrome control officer, won first prize for his very original, funniest costume. I think he came dressed as a sweater girl. His wife won first prize for the best dressed lady. All in all it was a marvellous evening's entertainment and the Station orchestra did a fine job of providing the music. You know, our Station orchestra is getting to the stage where we can actually do a

little bragging about it.

November 21, 1943

This morning marked the official dedication of the Station chapel in the new community centre. The ceremony was conducted by F/L F R Marback, Station padre, and S/L J G Sparling, command chaplain, and the commanding officer W/C J B Harvey. The chapel was beautiful with everything so newly painted and varnished. The pews were donated by First United Church, Lethbridge, Alberta and certainly add the finishing touch to the chapel. The alter was decorated with large vases of flowers and the whole service and surroundings were enjoyed by a capacity crowd. Australian student officer P/O B Sproule played the organ and AC1 B Webb led the WD choir.

November 23, 1943

The first mess dinner held at No 2 FIS Pearce took place in the new mess. About 125 officers including the senior course sat down to a delightful venison dinner with all the trimmings. The venison was provided by the kind courtesy of F/L Barsby, F/L S Carter, F/L MacPherson and F/O's Moss and Ross. The commanding officer W/C J B Harvey gave an historical review of No 2 FIS from the time of its inception at No 15 SFTS Claresholm and paid tribute to the "old timers" who still remain on the staff. Everyone adjourned to the ante and games rooms and the evening continued in the usual traditional FIS spirit of hilarity. The equipment section suffered the only major casualties when the senior and junior equipment officers were seen to be limping about for several days following the festivities.

November 24, 1943

An airmen's dance was held in the rec hall during the evening. F/L Ronnie Morton and his "Blue Bombers" provided the music. The Station community centre was officially opened at 1730 hours by the commanding officer and the airmen and airwomen were treated to complimentary hotdogs, ice cream and soft drinks in the new coffee bar, all donated by local merchants. The lounge rooms, games rooms, reading and writing room and trading post were soon filled with a happy, eager throng of airmen and airwomen all keenly appreciative of their new welfare, educational and recreational centre. The new building also houses the Station chapel, padre's offices, library, educational officers office and lecture rooms. Barber and laundry facilities and very shortly a tailor and shoe repair shop are also included in the community centre.

November 28, 1943

Regular church service for Protestants and roman Catholics. The chaplain from No 7 SFTS Macleod, F/L M S Blackburn, conducted the service. Somehow no one could locate the key to the cupboard containing the hymn books so consequently the singing was not all it could have been. In the evening the T Eaton Co presented a splendid concert in the recreation hall and were

later entertained in the officers mess.

November 30, 1943

Month end summary: Health: sick parades consist of the usual treatments for colds and aching feet with a few admitted to the hospital. However, during the month of November quite a few number of personnel were sent on temporary duty to No 2 Wireless School, Calgary for eye examinations. No doubt in the near future, several more pairs of "air force" glasses will be in evidence. The shock of a posting to No 2 FIS Pearce must be too much for the WDs. Recently it seems that a majority of the girls arriving at this unit are admitted to the hospital immediately upon arrival. In time their strength returns and they are able to tackle life at this air force unit.

December 9, 1943

A serious accident occurred this morning when P Ternan, a civilian employed at this unit as a gas fire attendant, was accidentally killed on the highway one and one half miles from the Station when struck by a m/t vehicle. Mr Ternan was knocked unconscious and died at 1000 hours in No 7 SFTS Station hospital. During the afternoon, a fire broke out in a freight car at Pearce siding. A frantic call was put through to the Station and No 2 FIS fire department made a three point landing, everything under control.

December 10, 1943

F/L J E Wright, the popular maintenance adjutant and manager of the No 2 FIS "Professors" hockey team was posted to No 15 SFTS Claresholm.

December 18, 1943

The Christmas spirit is definitely in the air and all canteens are in a hustle of decoration. A party was held in the WD canteen this afternoon for over 60 children of Station personnel. The party commenced with a screening of several popular Walt Disney shorts. Santa Claus arrived in a modern style in a Cornell aircraft which taxied up to the door. Later Santa presented each child with a gift off the splendiferous Christmas tree. Refreshments completed a fine afternoon of fun for all.

December 20, 1943

The Station chapel was the scene of the first wedding to be held on this Station. LAW Somers P I W306553 was married to Able Seaman Guphill. The commanding officer, W/C J B Harvey gave the bride in marriage and F/L F R Harback, Protestant padre tied the knot. A reception was held following the ceremony in the WD canteen.

December 23, 1943

Not one particle of snow has appeared in this part of the province and clear moderate weather still prevails. "Christmas leave" swept in today and literally blew more than half of the Station personnel away on leave.

December 24, 1943

Christmas eve dawned cooler and very windy. Work throughout the Station progressed in the usual thorough although languid manner and personnel lived in anticipation of Saturday -- Christmas Day-- a holiday. The airmen's mess was a hive of activity and genius was born again as F/O G N Borchers initiated his willing assistants into the mysterious art of decorating. However, the results were more than gratifying and clumps of corrugated "Paddy green" palm trees with gigantic brown corrugated trunks bent gracefully down on all sides of the mess. Lights were camouflaged and the "indirect" system was encouraged by means of colored cardboard and quite a bit of wire. A fair stage for the orchestra sprung up in one corner of the mess and all in all a very beautiful setting for the Christmas festivities was the result of the hard labour on the part of F/O Borchers and his staff. Course 91 graduated today officially.

(Editor: lots of good coverage from the Lethbridge Herald)

January 6, 1944

At last, everyone is back from Christmas and New Year's leave which is already becoming a thing of the past as new amusements and activities arouse the interest of Station personnel. The motion picture "Old Acquaintance" was featured in the recreation hall. The drill hall is once more the active place it was before the holiday season and badminton and basketball seem to be the favourite sports indulged in.

January 17, 1944

Extremely high wind which reached almost hurricane proportions raged all day and night. Minimum speed 32 miles per hour, maximum speed 65 miles per hour. One of the favourite delicacies enjoyed by all personnel during the day was several wholesome mouthfuls of the famous Pearce dust. Several braved the storm in the evening to go to the show "True to Life" in the recreation hall.

January 22, 1944

An airmen's dance was held in the recreation hall and due to a breakage in the juke box, all personnel attending painfully listened to a collection of antique records played on the radio from the WD canteen.

January 29, 1944

The usual working day continued with nothing out of the ordinary until 1630 hours when a great flurry of excitement travelled quickly around the Station. It was reported from training wing that an American basketball team consisting of 16 players had just arrived from the American army post at Edmonton in a DC-3. Lt Knapka was in charge of the party. The team was entertained by senior NCOs during the early part of the evening and then a dance was held for them in the recreation hall.

January 30, 1944

The usual RC and Protestant services were held in the chapel. Several of the American team attended these services. The "Yanks" seemed to do alright for themselves for on Sunday afternoon they could be seen out walking or in the drill hall with some of our fair WDs, much to the chagrin of some of our airmen. However, the basketball game which was held in the drill hall at 1600 hours was enjoyed by all in spite of the fact that the American team beat Pearce 38 to 15. The Americans showed exceptional ability and the Station team due to short notice had to rely on the help of players from the surrounding district. The American team departed by air late this afternoon. The film "The Gang's All Here" was shown in the recreation hall in the evening.

January 31, 1944

Month end summary: discipline: the service police report that the discipline for the month of January was fair. The comfortable little cell in the guard house has been occupied for a good period of the month. There were a few more cases of AWL and the usual CB and forfeiture of one or two days pay, most of the cases being personnel returning back late off the New Year's leave.

February 17, 1944

Mr Johnson of the Lethbridge Herald and Sgt Rocket arrived to collect materials and photos for a story of No 2 FIS for the "Herald." The sergeants lovely new mess was officially opened by the CO and Mrs J B Harvie at a dance tonight. Music was provided by the Station band and an excellent buffet supper was served.

February 21, 1944

Cloudy, cool weather with a slight wind greeted No 2 FIS on Monday but did not seem to interfere with the enthusiastic manner in which all personnel settled down to work after 48's. Four Harvards arrived from No 8 SFTS Moncton, New Brunswick and were taken on the unit's strength.

February 24, 1944

A kit inspection of all airmen and airwomen was held at 0800 hours followed by the CO's weekly inspection of barracks and messes. W/C S Irwin, CO No 3 SFTS, presented diplomas to graduates and the band from No 7 SFTS provided the march tunes. The Station rated an impressive space in today's Lethbridge Herald where a writeup on the Station life of No 2 FIS was illustrated by numerous pictures taken on or near the Station. "Pearce Professors" defeated the "Lethbridge Bombers" from No 8 B&GS by a score of nine to zero in the first game of the southern air force hockey playoffs.

February 27, 1944

The day dawned clear and bright with no annoying wind. The lovely day induced a large number of Station personnel to indulge in outdoor sports such as horseback riding or walking expeditions. "Phantom Lady," the film which was scheduled for today, did not arrive. Weather reports were broadcast at regular intervals during the evening warning residents of southern Alberta of a fierce blizzard that is expected to hit Pearce before morning.

February 28, 1944

The threatened storm has struck today with full force and the temperature has gone down approximately 40 degrees. The wind which is very strong has already blown the snow into small drifts with promise of much larger ones if the storm persists. A meeting of headquarters wing was called for 1300 hours in the recreation hall at which time S/L Beck spoke on behalf of the Red Cross drive and requested personnel to donate one day's pay to this worthy society to help make up the \$3,000 quota which has been set for No 2 FIS. The Pearce Professors defeated Lethbridge six to four tonight in one of the best games of the season.

February 29, 1944

The trade tests are now in full swing and should be in progress for most of this week. Despite the cold weather and anxiety over trade tests, a very lovely time was had by all at the leap year dance sponsored by the dramatic club tonight. It was held in the drill hall where a certain portion of the floor was roped off for dancing, the remaining portion being composed of the dance stand colourfully decorated with red, white and blue bunting and a variety of booths in which such games as bingo, crown and anchor and roulette were enjoyed by all personnel desiring to risk losing their hard earned pay received at pay parade today.

March 1, 1944

The recent heavy snow fall provided a new scene for tropical southern Alberta. Trade testing continues with many hopes being alternately raised and dashed. The Macleod Board of Trade made a tour of the Station and inspected various sections. Refreshments were served to about 25 members in the WD canteen. During their visit to the control tower, a crash alarm was sounded

to give a display of our efficient fire and hospital departments.

March 9, 1944

The weather remains clear and bright with high winds during the day which created much anxiety as to whether ones hat was going to stay put on CO's parade which was held on the parade square at 1330 hours. This parade heralded the departure of course 96 and despite the wind it was a very good one with No 7 SFTS band in attendance. "Pearce Professors" advanced to the finals of No 4 TC hockey championship when they defeated Regina (No 2 ITS) at Lethbridge Arena by a score of 7 to 2. A near capacity crowd, the largest of the season, attended.

March 10, 1944

The dramatic club under the direction of the SWO WO2 Hamon are to put on an Easter Review. The officers wives guild met today to carry out their program of sewing, repairing hospital clothing etc.

March 11, 1944

Excitement runs high in anticipation of the final hockey game tonight which the Pearce Professors won easily over No 11 Equipment Depot by a score of 9 to 4.

March 12, 1944

Our hopes of an early spring were rudely dashed today when Pearce endured high winds and snow which fell all day necessitating the washing out of flying. F/L R MacDonald AFC made a precautionary landing in Crane 8202 at Minot, North Dakota. This aircraft was lost on a cross country flight but only minor injuries were sustained by F/L MacDonald.

March 15, 1944

Five more Harvards arrived today to the joy of all flying personnel and the increased din of their engines can already be noticed by ground personnel in offices all over the Station.

March 19, 1944

Clear, bright weather prevails at No 2 FIS this morning. The usual weekend lull prevails today and those personnel not on duty have taken advantage of the beautiful weather to go for walks outside the Station or down by the river. "In Our Time" was featured at the recreation hall in the evening. P/O Dickinson, trainee, preached the usual Protestant church service held in the chapel. The padre on a visit to Lethbridge spoke to an audience of 600 at the South Minster United Church.

March 20, 1944

Foggy, dull weather prevailed in the morning but the remainder of the day was clear and bright. A very suitable day for taking the photographs of courses 97 and 98. Crane FJ283 got stuck in the mud with right wheel in up to engine cowlings. A crane was borrowed from No 7 SFTS to extract the aircraft from the mud. There was no damage to the aircraft. Two more Harvards arrived today.

March 24, 1944

The choir which is reorganized on a new basis met for practice with the padre and P/O J Blick as directors and Cpl Graham and AW1 Hyatt as organists. A fairly old but ever-popular film "Naughty Marrietta" was featured in the recreation hall this evening.

March 28, 1944

Squadron Officer Laidlaw, No 4 TC, paid a routine visit to the Station lecturing NCO improvement class and addressed the airwomen generally. A forced landing occurred today at the end of number one runway across the river. A most unusual incident took place today with the alleged shooting up of the Station by P/O C M Almas C29813. The commanding officer has ordered a summary of evidence to be taken.

March 30, 1944

Weather remains sunny with no wind, a perfect day for the commanding officers parade when the AOC's trophy was presented to the captain of the Pearce Professors hockey team P/O Craig. The presentation was made by W/C Cook No 4 TC who represented the AOC. He was accompanied by F/O P Thompson, sports officer, No 4 TC. Individual trophies were presented to each member of the hockey team. The commendation certificate was presented by the commanding officer to F/O L J Hill J26029 for being mentioned in dispatches in connection with valuable services in the air. Also on the 30th an airmen's mess staff party was held in the WD canteen attended by the commanding officer and Mrs J B Harvey and other section heads.

March 31, 1944

A/V/M Gobbel, Australian liaison officer and S/L Hilditch AFHQ paid a visit to the Station and interviewed Australian personnel. Personnel strength as of March 31, 1944: staff RCAF officers 95; airmen or other ranks 562; WD 183; civilians 23; WD officers 4. Trainees RCAF 132; RAF 45; RAAF 8; RNZAF nil. Aircraft strength: Crane 51, Cornells 24, Oxford 6, Harvard 37. Flying time for the month of March, 1944 day 8310.30, night 476.55.

Month end review-- training progress: the total flying time for the month was 8327.40 hours which is the largest month we have had yet at No 2 FIS. On 27th day of the month, course 102 arrived and began on the new syllabus of training which includes Harvard flying time and a

greatly revised GIS program. Staff instructors in each squadron began a program of evening flying on Harvard aircraft two nights a week to improve the standard of instruction at this unit.

April 1, 1944

April Fool's day dawned clear and bright bringing with it a most beautiful spring day. Break periods, lunch hour and after work finds the lots packed with ball players etc. Greatcoats are a thing of the past and tunics begin to strain at the buttons. The CI's hair is turning grey when another Harvard number 3049 ground looped. Only minor damages resulted.

April 4, 1944

Weather fair and mild with strong winds during the early evening. There were several aircraft ground looped on the aerodrome. Only one Crane damaged.

April 5, 1944

Weather mild with storm clouds blowing up. This however did not interfere with flying schedule. Another Harvard ground looped on the aerodrome. A staff instructors meeting was called this afternoon to discuss a more suitable technique of carrying out landings and cross wind landings in Harvards.

April 9, 1944

Easter Sunday was overcast most of the day but the afternoon flying program was carried out according to schedule. The regular church service was held in the Station chapel which was filled to capacity. Scores of personnel were out golfing on the Station golf course and others were riding or participating in voluntary games in the drill hall. The feature picture "Phantom Lady" became "the invisible lady" when she failed to appear here in time for the regular Sunday night movie. The film exchange is doing some tall explaining as this is the second time this feature has failed to arrive.

April 11, 1944

Another Harvard overturned landing on the runway. J42886 P/O McKenzie C W received a fractured vertebrae. The Lorraine crane which was recently taken on the strength of Works and Building section was used for the first time. There was an explosion and a fire in the sewage disposal plant at 2130 hours. Fortunately no one was in the building otherwise serious injuries would have resulted. This explosion was caused by gasoline vapours from gasoline poured into the sewers being ignited by a gas heater. Damage was nil and precautionary and disciplinary measures have been taken to ensure that this will not occur again.

April 16, 1944

Spring-like weather today continues to draw large crowds to the golf course and the river bank which is again becoming a very popular spot for long walks, picnic parties etc. RC and Protestant church parades were held in the Station chapel and feature "Phantom Lady" at last made her appearance in the Station theatre.

April 20, 1944

Great consternation prevailed when the subsistence drawing members of this unit were taken off subsistence as a result of course 101 being cancelled and accommodation being available. Graduation parade of course 99 held at 1330 hours at which time diplomas were presented to one of the largest graduating classes for many months by G/C Fraser M P C374, commanding officer of No 19 SFTS Vulcan. The Macleod band provided lively march tunes.

April 26, 1944

Weather clear and mild. Three members of the South African Air Force, Maj A R James P172V, P6163 WO2 Schnither P J and P4744 WO2 Schraader S J W paid a visit to this unit to study our maintenance and equipment setup and were very much impressed with the organization of these sections. The senior NCOs held their first mess dinner in their newly opened mess. The commanding officer and section heads were guests.

April 27, 1944

Pearce WDs won the Southern Air Force Basketball Championship by defeating Vulcan in the finals of two game total points series. Pearce won the first game at Vulcan by 7 to 21 and lost the second game at home 24 to 19 but won the series by one point, the total score being 46 to 45. An informal dance with refreshments was held in the WD canteen honoring the two basketball teams.

May 1, 1944

LAW Pickard L J W308615 placed under close arrest pending summary of evidence. This is the first (and we hope the last) occasion that we have to place a WD under arrest.

May 3, 1944

The airmen's and airwomen's slumbers have been enhanced by the issue of new feather pillows replacing the old "insomnia bags." V30169 Flt/O Raitblat F A left today on leave at the completion of which she will take up her new job at No 4 TC. Flt/O Raitblat was the first WD officer to be attached to this unit and will be greatly missed by the airwomen and the Station as a whole.

May 4, 1944

R211411 AC1 Watson J T was sentenced to three months in a civilian prison by Lethbridge civilian authorities. This airman, after attending the Hard Time Dance on the Station last night proceeded to help himself to one of the staff officer's cars and hence was picked up in Lethbridge.

May 5, 1944

Smoke from Alberta bush fires descended on this area today causing a complete washout of flying and a very hazy visibility even for pedestrians. The commanding officer attended a graduation parade at No 3 SFTS Calgary at which time he spoke to the graduates and pinned on wings. In the evening he attended the No 4 TC boxing program. R264453 AC1 Baillargon of this unit participated in the command boxing meet and although losing the decision he put on a very good exhibition.

May 9, 1944

Very windy, bright day. Great excitement was caused by the overseas postings of five airwomen: one corporal clerk steno and one airwoman, one corporal clerk general and two airwomen. This Station has entered a team in the Southern Air Force Lacrosse League which will get underway the first week of June. Five RAF staff instructors received postings today which gave them promise of going home.

May 21, 1944

Works and building staff engaged in landscaping-- flower beds and young trees being planted, lattice constructed and fences erected. Padre Harback preached his last sermons today and leaves shortly for No 10 RD Calgary. We will miss him very much and are sorry to see him go. A double feature was shown in the Station recreation hall, "Memphis Belle," Technicolor story of the Flying Fortress, and "Timber Queen."

May 30, 1944

The first inter-station golf tournament took place on the Station course with the following Stations participating: Claresholm, Macleod, Lethbridge, Vulcan and Pearce. Eight players competed from each Station, Macleod winning first place and Pearce running third. The discussion group held a very enjoyable wiener roast on the river bank.

May 31, 1944

Month End Review-- Sports Review: plans made for constructing a swimming hole at the river with bath house and refreshment facilities. Southern Air Force League Inter Station Golf Tourney arrangements completed to be held on the Station golf course on May 30. Recreational

Activities: On the third of May, 1944 No 2 FIS celebrated its first anniversary at Pearce, Alberta with a Station dance in the drill hall. Using as a background the ever-popular "hard times" theme, the entire Station went all out for a bang-up time in Harvey's Barn with the orchestra from No 7 SFTS playing a variety of modern and standard melodies with a sub-canteen for refreshments, with the bandstand and canteen gaily decorated a la spring, and with everyone in daffy hard time rags who could help but have a good time. The party lasted from 2130 until 0130 hours. The honours in the grand march during which the winning costumes were chosen were carried off by WO2 McLaughlin and his partner for the march Mrs Harvey. Hard times really seem to have hit the major for he was forced to resort to a costume of potato sacks. A close second to the winning couple were F/Sgt and Mrs Reed in completely wacky costumes. Two of the male PT and I instructors gave an excellent exhibition of tumbling and acrobatics during a lull in the dancing. From all reports received, everyone had a really enjoyable time and thus another year moved gaily into the annals of the past and from that past comes back the echo "long live No 2 FIS."

June 1, 1944

J10354 F/L Hewson B G had his overseas posting cancelled as he was on his way to Y Depot. Word was received today that the reduced aircraft establishment of this unit would be as follows: Cornells 12, Harvards 27, Cranes 23. The first practice of the Station voluntary bugle band was held at 1800 hours. This band is still in its formation stages.

June 4, 1944

No 2 FIS awoke on Sunday to find huge snow flakes falling creating slush underfoot and a thoroughly cold and miserable day. The heavy snowfall continues most of the morning changing to sleet in the afternoon. Flying was completely washed out. Three representatives from a paint company in Calgary slushed around the Station making assessments on all paint jobs to be done. GB39398 S/L R A Thompson of No 36 SFTS arrived to replace 70256 S/L E L Gosling. This officer flew Spitfires on operations from England during and after the Battle of Britain. He came to Canada in December, 1943. Six loads of cinders were hauled for use on the race track.

June 6, 1944

Beautiful sunny day. The coming of the long awaited D-Day caused an atmosphere of tense excitement throughout the whole camp. A minute's silence was observed by all personnel at 1135 hours. J15361 F/L Minall S W posted to this unit as a staff instructor has just returned from operations where he flew Spitfires, Hurricane dive bombers and Typhoon bombers. Five more Harvard aircraft were ferried to No 13 SFTS North Battleford.

June 8, 1944

The training wing was in a state of upheaval today caused by the posting of 16 staff instructors to various SFTS's and EFTS's in the command. This is in accordance with the new reduced

establishment. A power shovel and dump truck arrived today to be used for the construction of a dam across the Old Man River. The dam is necessary in order that a supply of water will be available for Station purposes.

June 12, 1944

Complete washout of flying due to rain. Construction of the bathhouse is being carried out and work is being done in connection with the swimming pool. A maintenance smoker was held in the airmen's canteen in honour of C10836 F/L L W Bladon who leaves shortly for a civilian position in Montreal. Approximately 300 personnel were present including the commanding officer and section heads.

June 16, 1944

C10836 F/L L W Bladon OC repair squadron and an extremely popular officer left the Station today. F/L Bladon is being transferred to the reserve on his appointment to Dean of Mining Engineering at McGill University. He has been with this unit for nearly two years and during this time has endeared himself to all personnel. The rise in the Old Man River caused by rain is delaying completion of the dam.

June 20, 1944

Word has been received that the aircraft establishment at this unit is to be changed so that ten Ansons will replace 10 Cranes. A Station dance called the June Jump was held in the drill hall with a large crowd attending. The Royal Albertans dance band from Lethbridge supplied music for dancing.

June 21, 1944

J4557 S/L C V Mark and F/L S B Carter C6432 flew to Edmonton in connection with liaison work with the Department of Transport re flying control. While there, these officers were permitted to take a trip to White Horse.

July 2, 1944

C13578 S/O Davey, medical advisor to the Women's Division at AFHQ arrived accompanied by S/O Laidlaw J L V30068 No 4 TC. While here, S/O Davey will address WDs re medical problems. Nine Cornell aircraft were transferred to De Winton by No 170 Ferry Squadron. The installation of a pump at number three well completed by NO 4 CMU Calgary.

July 6, 1944

Warm cloudy day. At 12 noon a storm broke over Pearce bringing with it a shower of huge hail stones approximately one inch in diameter. Nearly all Station aircraft were damaged, most of

them being in the air or on the tarmac at the time. Only nine a/c were left serviceable, those being the ones in the hangars. At 1430 hours flying recommenced with these nine a/c. Fabric workers were kept busy day and night patching as many as 100 holes in one aircraft.

July 24, 1944

Mr R E Dutton, Cessna Crane representative, paid a visit to the unit. The bleachers for the sports day have been completed and W and B is now working on the making of hurtles. The Pearce hardball team defeated Stirling with a score of 8 to 2 at Stirling. Free educational films were shown in the evening-- "The Gen" and "Coastal Command."

July 31, 1944

New flying schedule was started to eliminate the necessity of flying in the extreme heat of the afternoon. The schedule is as follows: all flying personnel are on duty from 0700 to 1200 hours. From 1900 to 2100 hours in the evening, a further flying period is carried out in which half of the flying personnel are on duty. This is done in such a manner that personnel work alternate evenings. Construction of booths and stands on the sports field and in the drill hall for the sports day continues. The sports day prizes displayed in the padre's waiting rooms receive much attention from all personnel.

Month End Review: Health of Unit-- W/C D R Easton, PMO of No 4 TC and S/L Kirwin visited the hospital to see a sick pneumonia case and advised the use of penicillin. This was sent by air express from No 10 RD Calgary. Spiritual welfare-- on July 30th, the RAF staff chaplain W/C J Rossie-Brown visited this unit primarily to meet with RAF personnel. While here, W/C Rossie-Brown who is able and well equipped to lecture on current events and other topics spoke to a gathering of all staff officers. His subject was "progress of the war." The RAF staff chaplain is welcome to return again to lecture personnel of this unit who look forward to his coming with great enthusiasm. Sport review-- the Station's sports field was completed in July. It includes a 440 yard cinder track, two fastball diamonds, one baseball diamond, two jumping pits, two horseshoe pitches, a lacrosse box, two volleyball courts, a soccer field and bleachers. Besides the above, two tennis courts were completed, one horseshoe pitch erected at the officers quarters, one at the sergeants quarters, one at the airmen's quarters and one at the swimming hole. The swimming hole in the river was completed and equipped with a diving board and a mens and women's bath house. A volleyball court was also erected here.

August 2, 1944

Fair weather and warm with scattered clouds. An ideal day for the big annual sports day, the first in the history of No 2 FIS. Flying was washed out and all Station personnel were released from duty. A very enjoyable Station dance was held in the evening, a perfect ending to a very successful day.

August 3, 1944

Some excitement was caused by the arrival of a DC-3 aircraft to pick up the USAAF ball team from Edmonton. Notice was received that this unit would now train qualified elementary instructors to be service instructors so that they will be qualified to teach at either elementary or service schools.

August 13, 1944

Bell tents have been erected at Waterton Lakes to accommodate airmen on 48 hour passes. Waterton Lakes, approximately 80 miles from the unit, is a very popular summer resort and is frequented by many personnel of No 2.

August 22, 1944

Weather is fairly warm but overcast. No 6 CM unit commenced pumping out septic tanks for use as final settling tanks. The movement of all surplus equipment back to the depot arising from recent changes in types of a/c and reduction in a/c establishments was begun today.

August 24, 1944

The Station trembled with excitement and anticipation today on the arrival of 38 tropical overseas postings in the following trades-- AEM, AFM, carpenter, electrician, instrument mechanic. C1356 S/L D L G Jones, acting CO, presented diplomas to 14 successful graduates of course 108 at the graduation parade on the Station parade square at 1330 hours. In his address to the graduating class, S/L Jones stressed the cooperation theme using as an example the cooperation between sections on this unit which has resulted in every course graduating on schedule. He stressed the importance of the flying instructor's work, the responsibilities and duties.

August 25, 1944

A/C Carnegie, in charge of flying training, Air Ministry, accompanied by G/C Sellers SASD No 4 TC arrived from Calgary by air. In the afternoon, A/C Carnegie and G/C Sellers discussed the various phases of flying training with C1356 W/C D L G Jones CI and J4557 S/L C V Mark. Particular attention was given to the syllabus of training at FIS. It was noted that the FIS syllabus in the RCAF varied from that approved by the Air Ministry.

Editor's note: mention is made of a forced landing field 15 miles northwest of Nobleford, Alberta.

August 31, 1944

Month End Review: Sports Day-- the outstanding sporting event of the year took place on

August 2 when this unit had its first annual sports day including a track and field meet, hardball and softball tournaments, horseshoe tournament, tug-of-war contest, exhibition soccer match, display of aerobatics and formation flying and ending up with a mammoth carnival and dance in the evening. Teams representing No 2 FIS, No 5 EFTS, No 7 SFTS, No 8 B&GS, No 15 SFTS and No 19 SFTS Vulcan, who won the most points with No 15 SFTS Claresholm a close second, participated in the track and field meet. The meet was also open to civilian entries and a fair number of both men and women participated as well as some civilian teams in hardball and softball. The weather was ideal, the grounds and accommodations were highly satisfactory, the visiting crowds unusually large and from every point of view the meet was an outstanding success.

September 1, 1944

The commanding officer spoke to corporals and airmen who are on the overseas draft which is the largest draft to go from this Station. The draft numbered 46. Now that the ban has been lifted from airmen and airwomen's promotions the DROs of the 1st showed several promotions to acting rank. C4089 F/L Jenner L C SMO and C9843 F/L E W Aeberli visited what is popularly known as "Shack Town" consisting of small houses just outside the Station bounds where various officers and airmen and their wives reside. The inspection was in connection with hygiene on which a report was submitted to the commanding officer. The Department of Transport electrical party arrived to install obstruction lighting on farm buildings at the southwest corner of the aerodrome.

September 12, 1944

A hastener was forwarded to No 4 TC for a reply to a request for an increase of eight flying instructors. This increase is urgently required due to the increase in the size of courses. The CI held a meeting of all staff instructors in GIS to discuss training, the new program for standardization of sequence and improvement of general knowledge. A Cletrac tractor with a dozer blade attachment is u/s due to hardening of the arteries or piston walls. W&B section made a request to have this unit furnished with another tractor.

September 15, 1944

The COs parade was held today at 0800 hours instead of Thursday, the usual day, the reason being that commemoration was given to the historic event of the Battle of Britain, September 15, 1940. The CO spoke pointing out some of the most interesting and most critical phases of the battle. The padre offered prayers. G/C Watt from the Directorate of Air Training, W/C Terry V M, OC CFS Trenton and W/C Turner No 5 SFTS Brantford arriving by air today to discuss the prospects of future training in the BCATP. The policy of closer liaison between CFS and No 2 FIS was also discussed.

September 23, 1944

Connecting road to Pearce Station was bladed by the No 7 SFTS blader. The SMO telephoned W/C Easton at No 4 TC to report on the bedbug and infectious disease situation. A quiet wedding took place in the Station chapel at 1800 hours. R285701 AC1 John Wesley Corless and Miss Bernice Helen Snell exchanged marriage vows. The commanding officer gave the bride away. The Station padre officiated.

September 28, 1944

At 0055 hours during last night's flying operations Harvard AJ975 forced landed in a plowed field two miles southeast of the main aerodrome. The accident resulted in B category damage to the aircraft. GB153106 F/O J D Chapman, first pilot, was seriously injured and GB153399 F/O L J Prudence, second pilot, was slightly injured. Next of kin of F/O Chapman has been advised and both officers are confined to the Station hospital. Trophies emblematic of SAFL championships for the 1944 season were presented at the weekly inspection parade by the commanding officer.

October 1, 1944

Beautiful sunny day. There was a splendid turnout at the church services. The moving picture "Standing Room Only" was shown to the hospital patients in the afternoon.

October 2, 1944

C28437 F/O Gelber S M educational officer from AFHQ visited the Station re discussion groups and spoke to a meeting of discussion group leaders. He reported that an excellent program in connection with the hobby group and discussion groups had been organized at this unit. F/O Gelber was also very favorably impressed by the community centre, the airmen's mess and the recreation hall and airmen's canteen. He considered these among the finest in Canada.

October 3, 1944

Notice was received today that the overseas draft which left approximately a month ago would be returning.

October 4, 1944

The Station is being canvassed for talented personnel to be used as instructors for technical and academic subjects, sports and entertainment leaders during the demobilization period.

October 5, 1944

The Works and Building section commenced hauling topsoil for the grounds around the community centre and the equipment section prior to sowing of grass seed. Paint has been

ordered for the painting of airmen barrack blocks six and seven. Mr Ward was contacted in Calgary by the SMO re the fumigation of the student officers barrack blocks. Station representative boxers had action photographs taken for Station records and publicity for the command boxing meet.

October 7, 1944

Beautiful warm day. Cornell aircraft FH665 and FH941 were ferried to De Winton and Calgary respectively. These are the last two Cornell aircraft.

October 11, 1944

At 1500 hours the executives, wing captains and salesmen for the Seventh Victory Loan met in the GIS building. J11510 F/L J D Wilson of this Station who is now on temporary duty at No 4 TC gave a lecture with illustrated movie slides on salesmanship for the loan. It is anticipated that the Pearce campaign will begin on Monday, October 16.

October 12, 1944

The commanding officer's inspection parade was held at 1330 hours when an inspection of all squadrons was held and the commanding officer spoke on the forthcoming Seventh Victory Loan. Following this the commanding officer led the parade on a route march around the runways. At approximately 1415 hours a fire was reported in the number 13 synthetic training building. No 2 FIS garbage cans must be hot stuff as the garbage truck caught on fire.

October 28, 1944

Posting instructions were received today for another clerk general W3Q7855 LAW M E Gibson to proceed to the discharge board of No 3 SFTS Calgary. As the situation in regard to clerks at this unit has become extremely critical action was taken to have this posting cancelled. The equipment section received 165 pounds of express consisting of Harvard engine spares from No 11 Equipment Depot. Patients in the hospital, four.

October 30, 1944

The padre was kept very busy with requests for discharges and compassionate postings. A concert choir rehearsal was held during noon hour and the padre is delighted with the progress being made. A splendid stag party to celebrate the posting of the "Aussies" to course was held in the hostess house with the CO and several staff officers as guests. We are all sorry to see them leave but wish them all the best of luck with their course. The very popular movie "Going My Way" was shown in the recreation hall tonight.

October 31, 1944

Patients in hospital-four, in other hospitals-four. Since No 7 SFTS is closing, they no longer have any facilities for treating patients and consequently the Station hospital here received its first patient from Macleod. The personnel councillor spent a busy day with interviews and discussion groups etc. Notification was received that LAW Gibson's posting must stand. On the occasion of the second anniversary of the WDs at this unit, a total of 150 girls were entertained in the WD canteen where cocktails were served at 1700 hours. The commanding officer and several staff officers attended. R255490 LAC Webb B B and AUS438006 LAC P J Haley were present and rendered a very enjoyable half hour of vocal selections and piano renditions. At 1930 hours the party adjourned to the Station mess where a delicious supper was served during which the commanding officer spoke to the WDs congratulating them on their commendable service and cooperation over a period of two years on this unit. The much anticipated Halloween Ball scheduled for this day came off with a bang tonight when numerous weird characters completely unrecognisable in some very fantastic costumes wandered over to the drill hall and proceeded to attain the Halloween spirit with no loss of time. Personnel strength: staff RCAF officer 82, airmen and other ranks 497, WDs 153, WD officers 5. Trainees: 3 RCAF, 24 RAF, 46 RAAF. Aircraft strength: Crane 13, Harvard 35, Anson 22.

November 1, 1944

All outside work of necessity has come to a standstill because of the weather. C8031 F/L W E Gemmill inspected Granum R1 to No 2 FIS for condition of runways. Two Harvard wing assemblies received from No 12 ED.

November 2, 1944

The equipment section held a very successful banquet in the Java Shop in Macleod and despite the miserable weather everyone appeared to enjoy themselves. The commanding officer and several staff officers were guests. The Station made a clean sweep of the inter-services boxing show at No 13 SFTS North Battleford. It was probably the best record ever scored by any station in No 4 TC in boxing. Four boxers, F/O W S Curry J25223, AUS441525 LAC Florence V R, AUS440212 LAC Pearce N J and AUS132367 LAC Thompson J C represented No 2 FIS. C/O Curry winning the main bout of the card, LAC Florence the semi-windup and Pearce and Thompson each scoring convincing victories in their bouts.

November 4, 1944

Despite the cold weather, flying was carried on all day except for restricted flying during morning. The remainder of course 113 was cleared and the last of the Free French personnel left the Station.

November 7, 1944

During the choir rehearsal at 2000 hours the commanding officer and adjutant witnessed a preview. At the conclusion of the rehearsal, the commanding officer spoke with enthusiasm and congratulated the group for the excellent work being accomplished. He also stated that as soon as the party is ready to appear on the stage he was sure arrangements could be made for the group to travel to other units. These remarks were appreciated and without doubt the group will put forth its best efforts to make the Pearce concert party a success.

November 9, 1944

Weather clear and fine enabling flying to continue all day at top speed. The commanding officer's inspection parade was held at 1330 hours. The entire training wing was excused parade due to pressure of work. Course 114 began clearances along with course 115 and 116 who are only on t/d at this unit from elementary schools. These conversion students are to be returned to their home units which are closing and are to be later posted to this unit. The examining officers are going slightly mad trying to complete CAT tests when the weather is good. With luck they should survive though.

November 11, 1944

A letter received from No 4 Training Command today stating that personnel in certain WD trades could apply for their discharge caused a good deal of excitement and several applications to be made by the fair ladies concerned. Two flights of airmen and airwomen took part in the Armistice Day parade in Macleod today. No 4 C and M unit floor crew arrived at the unit to repair washroom floors in barrack blocks six and seven and shower room floors in student officers quarters. In anticipation of a quiet weekend, the padre commenced preparation of his Sunday sermon.

November 12, 1944

A thick white fog descended over No 2 FIS giving it the appearance of a ghost station. There was an excellent attendance at divine service and emphasis was given in the sermon to Armistice Day. The hospital seems to have acquired a duck which they have appropriately named Donald. He is now in the process of absorbing the art of elementary flying with some very disastrous results.

November 14, 1944

Posting notices received for ten airwomen from No 7 SFTS Macleod. These postings will in part relieve our critical help shortage although we are still very short of clerks. Notification also received of 17 airmen reporting from Macleod in the trades of AEM, AFM, wireless mechanic, driver transport, instrument mechanic, electrician and PT and DI. Harvard AJ975 which crashed September 28, 1944 has now been converted to instructional purposes. A large number of ground handling equipment has been taken over from No 7 SFTS Macleod.

November 17, 1944

Clear by day with considerable rise in temperature. After an afternoon loaded with tense suspense re a wire which has arrived, it was finally learned that our beloved commanding officer G/C J B Harvie C790 was posted to No 1 SFTS Camp Borden. G/C Harvie has been with No 2 FIS ever since the Claesholm and Vulcan days and has helped and watched it grow to the size and strength it is today-- "The Western University of the Air." The training wing's bustling activity has been diminished greatly due to the fact that only course 117 is working. Examining officers were quite busy finishing up courses 115 and 116. The beauty of the Station was enhanced today by the arrival of Sgt Z----- W305651 dental assistant.

November 18, 1944

Spring fever, so to speak, seems to have taken hold of the Station by the numerous weddings which have taken place lately. W307068 AW Potts G D working in the airmen's mess was married to R168902 LAC Faulkner R L who works in the MT section on this unit. The equipment section commenced taking over aviation gasoline from No 7 SFTS Macleod in the amount of 24,000 gallons. The educational officer left for Calgary to purchase new books for the Station library which consisted mostly of detective and other recent fiction which are in greatest demand in the library.

November 20, 1944

The personnel councillor spent the day at the University of Alberta enquiring about various things including qualifications for nursing, the agricultural course and chances for summer employment. He also visited Dr Cook who is convener of the committee to set up entrance tests and the whole training scheme for servicemen deficient in academic subjects for senior matriculation.

November 22, 1944

J4557 S/L C V Mark replaces C1356 W/C D L G Jones as CI and W/C Jones is now fully established as a headquarters type as G/C Harvie's successor. A lull has fallen over the Station today as a majority of officer personnel attempt to recover their equilibrium after the CO's farewell party last night.

December 1, 1944

The last month of another year was ushered in by an extremely cold day accompanied by strong winds. W304389 LAW Coles B M GD who works in the officers mess was married to R255340 LAC Laister D who works in the airmen's mess. The new command chaplain visited this unit and was impressed with the morale and spirit of the Station as well as with the facilities made available for worship and recreation. The personnel councillor experienced difficulty in coping with the large number of interviews for which he is in constant demand.

December 7, 1944

Applications for discharge have slackened considerably since the new ruling became effective that personnel must have three years service life to be exempt from an army call up upon discharge from the RCAF. The greatly anticipated RCAF Pearce Review was held in the recreation hall tonight with a record crowd attending, in fact several personnel had to be turned away from the door. The show was a great success featuring a well-trained choral group, dances and comical skits which went over very well. Highlights of the evening were our famous baritone R255490 LAC Bruce Webb, AUS438006 LAC Pete Haley who was flown down from North Battleford for the occasion, W314135 AW1 McPhillips A F D soprano soloist and W315890 LAW Maynard T and W315969 LAW Rule D M dance team. Everyone enjoyed the show immensely and we are very proud of our Pearce talent.

December 8, 1944

After several months interval, the Pearce Patter has been revived and was sold today in the Station messes for the small charge of 5 cents. It is hoped that the Pearce Patter will be edited weekly from now on.

December 11, 1944

The much dreaded auditors descended like a black cloud on the unfortunate accounts and equipment sections today and members of these sections can literally be seen shaking in their boots. The crash truck, serial 33674 which was borrowed from No 1 REMU has now been returned. A donation of 45 new books was received from the IODE for the Station library. The padre spent the greater part of the afternoon in Macleod in order that personnel there might be interviewed. Since the closing of the unit took place, it has been operating without the usual facilities of a unit at full strength. Plans are also being made for Capt Evans to provide some sort of entertainment for the personnel.

December 13, 1944

The Station was honored by a visit from the AOC No 2 AC A/V/M K M Gutherie C34 and his party which included G/C G H Sellers C647. They arrived in Beechcraft 1406 at 1525 hours and were met by C1356 W/C D L G Jones and 39993 S/L R J A Laing on the taxi strip. The party proceeded to headquarters and from there visited the recreation hall, airmen's mess and community centre.

December 14, 1944

Organization Order No 501
Disbandment of 2 FIS Pearce, Alberta

The disbandment of a number of EFTSs and SFTSs in the BCATP and the subsequent release of flying instructors makes the continued operation of 2 FIS Pearce unnecessary. 2 FIS Pearce, Alberta is to become inactive effective 29 December, 1944 and is to disband effective 20 January, 1945. AMSO/DES is to arrange the disposal of all equipment, including non-secret publications, forms and stationery on charge to the CO, No 2 FIS.

A satisfactory visit of the auditors to the W and B section caused a general outlet of baited breath and faces wreathed in happy smiles. A grand exhibition of wrestling and boxing was staged in the drill hall at 2000 hours to an enthusiastic and capacity crowd. Eleven bouts and two wrestling events made up the program.

December 15, 1944

Eight airmen went to Macleod today to sell tickets for the Sunday night performance of the Pearce Review in the Empress Theatre. A great flurry of excitement was caused in the maintenance section over the request for AE officers to volunteer for overseas. The response was a unanimous "yes" from all officers concerned.

December 20, 1944

A Christmas tree for the party room at the training wing was procured and everyone is looking forward to having a very good time. The padre reports that the Christmas spirit is becoming very prevalent among the personnel and although this unit is scheduled to close on or about the 20th of January, 1945 the spirit of the unit continues to equal its past excellent record.

December 24, 1944

"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring."
Something like the training wing today. Looks like a white Christmas with snow showers all day, temperature 15 degrees above. An early divine service was held this morning which was excellently attended. AW1 McPhillips sang a very appropriate Christmas carol. Christmas eve saw the personnel wending their way toward the recreation hall where the Legion show "Swing Out the Blues" was being featured. After the show, the personnel blended their voices harmoniously in the age old custom of singing Christmas carols with Padre E Crimpen in charge. Following the singing of carols, about 45 of the personnel attended a Christmas eve candle light service which was held in the chapel. This was a splendid showing and a sign that the true issues of Christmas are still being appreciated. Following the late candle light service the entire congregation assembled and marched in good order from one place to another singing Christmas carols and bringing Christmas cheer wherever the assembly went.

December 28, 1944

A graduation parade was held this afternoon for course 117 which graduated today. The commanding officer stated that this was to be the last official parade when all members of this

unit would appear on the parade square. Further, he wished the graduating class as well as all personnel of this unit a Happy New Year and the determination of each to do their duty to the best of their ability wherever they might be called upon to do their duty in the future. The commanding officer expressed his conviction that in this regard he was assured that the personnel of No 2 FIS would continue to show the splendid spirit and moral that they had shown in the past. Personnel strength: staff RCAF officers 68, airmen 534, WD 138, WD officers 3. Service personnel other than RCAF: CDC 2, RAF 17 officers, 2 civilian meteorologists. Trainees: 8 RCAF, 1 RAF. Aircraft on strength: Cranes 12, Harvards 36, Ansons 21.

Month End Review: Hospital-- infectious diseases-- one case of mumps was admitted toward the end of the month. Sanitation generally good. Cockroaches carry on unabated. Editor's note: a very comprehensive collection of photographs is contained at the end of this diary.

January 1, 1945

Activity on the Station is practically nil today as January 1, 1945 has been declared a holiday. An extremely delicious New Years dinner was served to the airmen and airwomen at 1200 hours by the officers and NCOs of this unit. The WD's canteen was open to the WDs and their escorts this afternoon and a dance was held in the recreation hall this evening at 2130 hours.

January 6, 1945

It looks as though the old training wing can look forward to folding up any day now. The personnel councillor submitted his request for retirement from the RCAF. All sports equipment has been listed by the accounts section and personnel desiring any sports equipment must bid on same in writing to the senior administrative officer.

January 10, 1945

An air of expectancy and tense anticipation pervades the Station today as all personnel are anxiously awaiting the arrival of postings. Sections have begun returning articles in use off inventory charge in preparation for disbandment of No 2 FIS.

January 15, 1945

Great excitement was caused today by the arrival of postings of all personnel on the Station. Headquarters orderly room proceeds to work nights in an endeavor to get things "copesetic" re postings. Effective today, the hospital is closed to patients and all those remaining in hospital were discharged. The commanding officer and his party were guests at a very successful dance held in the sergeant's mess this evening. The dance was the official closing party for the NCO's mess.

January 16, 1945

Typical winter day, cold and cloudy with strong winds. Notification has been received from command that the aircraft will be ferried to the following units: 13 Ansons No 1 REMS Macleod; 26 Harvards Medicine Hat; 5 Harvards No 13 SFTS North Battleford; 1 Anson North Battleford; 1 Anson No 10 SFTS Dauphin, Manitoba; 1 Anson No 17 SFTS Souris, Manitoba; 1 Anson No 3 SFTS Calgary; 1 Anson No 4 SFTS Saskatoon; 1 Anson No 19 SFTS Vulcan; 1 Anson No 18 SFTS Gimli, Manitoba; 12 Cranes Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Buildings 19, 34, 39 were closed down today. The closing Station dance was held in the recreation hall tonight. The wonderful 2 FIS "spirit(s)" still prevails and the dance was very much enjoyed by all who attended.

January 17, 1945

Notification has been received that the mobile party for the purpose of crating Link trainers for transfer will arrive on the Station January 23. Headquarters is still resembling a madhouse as the staff prepares posting lists, clearances and travelling warrants for the personnel who will leave for the east on a special train 19 January, 1945.

January 18, 1945

W/C W R Pearce of No 2 AC visited the Station as president of a board of officers taking over the buildings for the War Assets Board. He carefully inspected all buildings and expressed satisfaction with the condition of the Station. Aerofoils are being crated in building number 40 and it is estimated that the first carload will leave within the next few days. The Legion show "None But The Lonely Heart" was shown in the recreation hall this evening.

January 19, 1945

Cold clear day - definitely winter and quite chilly for the some 400 personnel who are endeavouring to get clearances signed today in preparation to leave the station tonight on the special train scheduled for 1900 hours. The first shipment of clothing was returned to No 11 ED today. A definite lull has descended on the Station after the bustle and excitement of saying goodbye to dear friends of almost 2 years standing.

	Possible	Actual
Day	15:00	nil
Night	9:00	nil

January 31, 1945

Month End Summary: Disbandment-- It is with mixed feelings of regret and pride that we see the disbandment of No 2 Flying Instructor School--regret at the loss of pleasant associations, marvellous fellowships and the life and spirit that was so characteristic of our unit, pride in the

esprit de corps and the splendid accomplishments of No 2 Flying Instructor School frequently in the face of adverse circumstances and a knowledge that as a result of devotion to duty and maximum effort on the part of all personnel a unit has been created second to none in Canada. The splendid achievements of our three services and the daily victories on all fronts have made our phase of the service no longer necessary. As a result, many personnel and units have now become surplus to requirements. Many, however, are still needed and it is hoped that the same steadfastness of purpose and devotion to duty which has always been characteristic of the personnel of this unit will lead to more decisive victories and a victorious year in 1945.

From the last issue of the *Pearce Patter*, souvenir issue:

Message from the commanding officer, W/C D L G Jones

It is with a strange mixture of feelings and memories that we see No 2 Flying Instructor School disbanded. We are filled with sadness at the thought of the aerodrome innocent of Cranes and Harvards, at the thought of empty buildings, canteens, lounges, coffee bars and messes that for so long have been our home. Yet we must have a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment that the work of the RCAF in which we played a considerable part has been so well and successfully conducted that this unit is able at long last to discontinue its training duties. We are left with memories of southeast winds, Chinooks, championship hockey and ball teams, unforgettable parties, familiar and friendly faces and above all the struggle of creating in a short time despite countless and adverse conditions and innumerable difficulties the finest Station in Canada. As you know, we have been informed by the highest authority that we earned a reputation throughout Canada of having the best standard of training and the highest morale in the training commands. This reputation was not earned as the result of the efforts and abilities of any one section or group of persons but gained as the result of hard work and devotion to duty on the part of each man and woman in each section of No 2 FIS. There was a reason why everyone contributed so much--perhaps it was the difficulties we had to overcome which developed a common bond, perhaps because we were friends we could not let one another down. Whatever the reason, each individual felt he must contribute his utmost to Canada's war effort. That is the "Spirit of Pearce." It is a great memory and we will always carry it with us.

These excerpts from the Daily Diary of No 2 Flying Instructor School, Vulcan and Pearce, Alberta were prepared by

Tim Johnston Aviation Research
244 Prestwick Estate Way SE
Calgary, Alberta T2H 4H2
bcatp@hotmail.com

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