

THE AIRBORNE SERVICES

Bale-Out at 55,000

The British Air Ministry has reported that the highest known emergency parachute jump was made April 9 by two members of the RAF. The two, Flight Lieutenant J. P. F. De Salis, pilot, and Flying Officer P. Lowe, navigator, were forced to eject when their Canberra disintegrated at 55,000 feet altitude. They remembered little of the 8-mile free-fall, but were deposited gently to earth some 20 minutes later, having set a new record for emergency bale-outs.

That they survived is in large measure due to the Irvin barometric release which automatically opened their parachutes at a height where they could breathe and live. By free-falling through the first 42,000 feet, they were able to survive the hazardous conditions of extreme cold, low pressure and lack of oxygen. At 13,000 feet, the aneroid capsules of their Irvin barometric releases (type A, Mk. 3) started the mechanism which opened their parachutes.

This is the first time the automatic parachute release has been called upon to function after escape from extreme altitude. The barometric release has previously been featured in several successful escapes at more moderate altitudes.

West Coast S & R Tally

The RCAF's Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Vancouver chalked up a total of 305 accumulated incidents in search & rescue operations in British Columbia during the last year. At the close of the fiscal year on March 31,

marine incidents on the west coast topped the list with a total of 137. There was a total of ten aircraft searches, while 18 aircraft radio distress calls due to engine failure or other causes were recorded. Pilots failing to close flight plans, or who gave incorrect information, alerted the rescue centre a total of 61 times.

The RCAF was asked to provide emergency air transportation for sick and injured persons in the province on 35 different occasions during the year. These mercy flights were handled by 121 Communications & Rescue Flight from its Sea Island base in specially equipped aircraft. The planes flew a total of 533 hours on rescue operations during the 12-month period.

Top Level Shuffle

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), has asked that the position of Deputy Chief of Staff Operations at that headquarters be filled by an RCAF officer. The position will be filled by Air Vice Marshal C. R. Dunlap, Vice Chief of the Air Staff, who will take over the position on June 15 and will be appointed Acting Air Marshal whilst so employed.

The position of Vice Chief of the Air Staff will be filled by Air Vice Marshal D. M. Smith, currently chairman, Canadian Joint Staff, London, England, A/V/M Smith will return to Canada and assume his appointment on June 1.

Major-General G. Kitching, now Adjutant-General of the Canadian Army, will take the place of A/V/M Smith as chairman of CJS in London,

and will assume his new duties in August. The successor to Major-General Kitching will be announced later.

RCAF Pilot Flies Arrow

Flight Lieutenant Jack Woodman became the first RCAF pilot to fly the CF-105 Arrow when he took it up on an hour's flight out of Malton Airport, April 22. Attached to the Central Experimental & Proving Establishment's detachment at Avro Aircraft Ltd., Woodman will be engaged in flight testing of the aircraft for the RCAF. The initial flight made by Woodman was simply a familiarization run.

DEW Line Film

The Foundation Co. of Canada Ltd., the main contractor for the east portion of the DEW line, has produced "Arctic Adventure", a film based on construction of the vast early warning line project. The company recently presented copies of the film to the Department of National Defence and the USAF.

Cold Wx Testing Ends

The cold weather test program which is run by the RCAF's Central Experimental & Proving Establishment at Namao, Alberta, and Churchill, Manitoba, has closed down for the summer months. This year's menagerie of aircraft undergoing cold weather trials included a CL-28 Argus, and another four-engine aircraft of the same order, an RAF Shackleton. Also undergoing the frigid treatment were an Army L-19 Bird Dog observation aircraft, and a British Whirlwind Mk. 7 helicopter. Two all-weather jet fighters were also there: the British delta-wing Javelin, and a CF-100 undergoing cold weather testing of components.

In addition to the aircraft being tested, the CEPE detachment was also running trials on such items as aircraft starter energizers, heaters, aircraft stands and jacks.

Naval Appointment

Captain G. C. Edwards will take up the appointment of Deputy Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Air and Warfare) at Naval Headquarters in Ottawa, on August 25. At the present time, Capt. Edwards is attending the National Defence College at Kingston, Ont.

Captain Edwards was Commander (Air) at HMCS Shearwater, at Dartmouth, N.S., from August 1951 until



NAVAL STAFF CHANGES: Naval Headquarters in Ottawa has announced that the above officers have recently been appointed to new posts. Captain G. C. Edwards (left), becomes Deputy Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air and Warfare); Acting Captain (E) C. G. H. Daniel becomes command technical officer on staff Pacific Coast; and Commander (E) A. G. Bridgman (right), assistant chief of Technical Services (Air).