

3 Apr Extreme melting, following several days of mild weather, resulted in semi-flood conditions on the station. The guard house and admin area were under water. Final subsiding was obtained by sandbagging the north side of the Fraserwood road.

4 Apr G/C HD Richer resumed command of the station. W/C Barden relinquished command as Acting Commanding Officer.

Notification was received of the transfer of G/C HD Richer to become Gp Cdr, Aux Gp HQ in Montreal in Aug 55, to be replaced as Commanding Officer by G/C CG Rattan, TAC, Edmonton.

21322 Pilot and NATO student killed  
21311 landed safely

Holy Week Mission was conducted in both station Chapels for a three day period during the mornings and evenings.

7 Apr Course 5402 graduated and were presented with wings by G/C HD Richer. Graduates included 25 RCAP, 13 RAF, 7 FAF pilots.

A formation of T33s from Portage la Prairie, while crossing the Gimli aerodrome, met with a mishap when two aircraft collided. One plane exploded and the other crashed on the airfield, killing the two occupants.

Salvage operations on Lake Winnipeg for the wreckage of T33 21343 were temporarily suspended due to the mild weather and the resultant unsafe condition of the ice.

8 Apr Easter weekend commenced with the majority of personnel leaving the station for the holiday.

12 Apr T33 21229, piloted by 2/Lt HO Steen Mathisen, RNORAF student pilot, crashed near Libau, Man, fatally injuring the pilot.

13 Apr F/L LJ Mann, 14 Trg Gp Messing Officer, visited the station for a 2 day inspection of station Messing facilities.

15 Apr Funeral services were held in the Stn Chapel (P) for Lt HO Steen Mathisen. Approximately 250 personnel were in attendance.

18 Apr The first Commanding Officer's Parade was held on the tarmac with the Stn Band in attendance.

Dedication of the Protestant Chapel, conducted by G/C FM MacLean DRA(P) and assisted by Command and Group Chaplains, was held with representatives of the Group Commander and the Commanding Officer in attendance.

22 Apr Due to the almost impassable road conditions, resulting from the mild weather, an emergency train service (CPR) was instigated from the Town of Gimli to the Stn for both civilian and service personnel. This shuttle service was in operation until 29 Apr.

27 Apr F/O E Zapf, Area Social Welfare Officer, arrived for his monthly 2 day visit to interview personnel.

S/L GF Stabinski, SPSO/SQSec, TGHQ, and F/L E Kurts, SQSec, 14 Trg Gp, arrived to make a security investigation.

30 Apr Volleyball and badminton tournaments were held at the unit, with competition from Stn Winnipeg. The Commanding Officer presented the trophies at an informal luncheon in the Airmen's Mess in the evening.

Flying training at #3 AFS amounted to 2445 hrs and 10 mins for the month of Apr.

.....6