

New Canteen And Recreation Hall Officially Opened

Realization of many months' effort on the part of the station officers of No. 5 Initial Training School to provide the airmen of the station with better recreational facilities so that they can spend their time to greater advantage on the grounds, and thus enjoy the comforts of "a home away from home," was seen on Thursday evening when, in the presence of a large crowd of merrymakers, the new canteen and airmen's recreational hall were officially opened. Officiating officer at the ceremony, which was made in the presence of ranking district air station

officials, was Group Captain G. N. Irwin, representing the air officer commanding No. 1 Training Command, at Toronto. Commanding officers of Belleville district air stations were in attendance.

Finely Furnished

The airmen's recreational lounge and canteen at No. 5 I.T.S. is the only one of its kind in Canada, and has been completely equipped with the money derived from the station funds. It is built as a narrow addition to the gymnasium and drill hall, running the entire length of the building. At one end of the new addition is the dry canteen while in the opposite is the wet canteen. A milk bar is also provided. The recreational hall is in the central space. Besides the bars, there are an airmen's lounge, a station library and a Y.M.C.A. auxiliary office. The furniture consists of canteen chairs, designed in honey maple with blue leather seats and backs, round tables with formica covering, large comfortable leather covered settees and chairs in appropriate colors and drapes to match. The pictures, furnished by R.C.A.F. auxiliary services, are comprised of replicas by Canada's foremost artists which were sponsored by leading Canadian industrialists. Wing Commander A. J. Snetsinger, commanding officer, since he has been stationed at No. 5 I.T.S. has made continued efforts for the provision of the canteen and recreational hall.

Formal Dance

Climaxing the official opening ceremonies was a formal dance staged by the station personnel in the drill hall when one thousand dance and music lovers thronged the dance floor. The yellow, blue and white streamers decorating the hall, formed a colorful setting for the festive scene. The army khaki and the navy blue were seen intermingling with the blue of the Air Force uniforms, while hostesses for the dance in their gay evening frocks were three hundred members of the Belleville Hospitality Club and the St. Michael's Hospitality Club. The music was provided by the 6 R.D. Orchestra and as a back drop on the stage was a six-foot replica of the school crest designed and executed by Flying Officer Mel Warren. Around the dance floor were small tables in cabaret style on which refreshments were served.

Entertainment, aside from the regular dancing numbers, was furnished by Mr. and Mrs. J. Samain who danced a couple of clog numbers and a rustic orchestra comprised of violin, flute, two spoons and piano with the players dressing the part in rather unusual motif. Playing old and well-known tunes, the orchestra was enthusiastically received. Several novelty numbers created a great deal of merriment for everyone. Several civilian guests from Belleville were among those present.