

Appendix F

Extract from *Barrie Examiner* d/ 28 July /47

WINGS TO NEW PILOTS AT BORDEN

No. 1 Service Flying Training School was host on Thursday afternoon last to a large gathering of relatives and friends of young airmen who graduated as pilots in an impressive "wings" ceremony. One of the largest classes in the five-year history of the RCAF Station as a British Commonwealth Air Training School, Course 102 comprised members of the Royal Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force. For the first time the graduates were allowed to wear sergeants' stripes on their tunics before the wings were pinned on.

The parade was commanded by S/L Hugh Reilly, senior administrative officer, and the wings party was in charge of F/O John Kelly. The ceremony was held in breezy but sunny warm weather on the big parade square where added color was given by a Harvard trainer drawn up on each side. The Station Band, directed by Sgt. R. Boyce, was in attendance.

Wing Commander A. J. Vincent, acting commanding officer, made the presentation of wings to each pilot. After extending a welcome to the visitors he addressed the class directly. "It is a day which should be forever pleasant in your memory for you are receiving the coveted RCAF wings you have strived so hard for."

To the staff of the station he added thanks for each one's personal contribution in turning out another fine class—good food, accommodation, maintenance, ground and flying instruction—all these had something to do with it.

"Remember that your wings are not a decoration," he cautioned, "but a badge of qualification as a pilot in the RCAF. As such you hold a great responsibility. The

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badge also does not signify that you know all there is to know about flying. A pilot who holds that idea is on the threshold of disaster—so don't do any silly things.

"The skies look bright now and the chances are you pilots may never see action, but if you do, you can be assured you are better equipped than the enemy. Don't forget to write home a lot after your posting—and your instructors would also appreciate hearing from you. Congratulations on your good work, all the luck in the world in your future endeavors and acquit yourselves as others have done from this school."

The honor student was LAC R. B. Ferris of Clinton, Ont. Among the graduates were two air gunners returned from overseas after completing full tours of operation, to be trained as pilots. One of these, F/O Len Hammond, of Toronto, already had won the Distinguished Flying Cross. The other was F/O Bill Moots, also of Toronto. Most of the RCAF graduates in this course were from Ontario, and particularly Toronto, accounting for the exceptionally large attendance of relatives.

Among the graduates was LAC W. A. Sheldon, who is married to the former Edith Leslie of Allandale. He received a commission as Pilot Officer.

After prayer and a few words of advice by F/L W. L. Gavard, Roman Catholic padre, there was a ceremonial march past, the salute being taken by W/C Vincent. Afterwards, the new pilots, many of whom had just received word also that they had been commissioned, entertained their guests.