

many of them operated by air force veterans, also give flying instruction. Canadians are also learning to fly with the regular and reserve Royal Canadian Air Force and with the air arm of the Royal Canadian Navy. In 1947 there were some 4,000 pilots licensed in Canada, about one-half of whom were private, the rest commercial operators. In the ten years preceding the war, 5,400 licenses of all types were issued to pilots and 1,300 to air engineers in Canada. In all more than 6,300 private pilot's and 5,600 commercial licenses have been issued to Canadians. Just before the war, there were only about 1,300 licensed Canadian pilots of all types actively engaged in flying.

During the war, the Canadian civil flying clubs and most of the commercial schools ceased their operations entirely. Almost all the clubs that were operating in 1939 were used as schools of Elementary Flying Training for thousands of young Canadian airmen from the Royal Canadian Air Force and from other nationalities in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

---

## THE LAST WAR AND ITS EFFECTS ON CANADIAN CIVIL AVIATION

At the Fall of France in 1940, Canada took over responsibility for building up the gigantic British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP), which contributed so much towards the Allied victory. The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) was entrusted with the task of converting Canada into what the late President F.D. Roosevelt once termed "the airdrome of democracy" by an agreement signed at Ottawa in December of 1939 by representatives of the governments of the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Canada was chosen as the flying training area because of the natural adaptability of its extensive flat territory far from danger of attack but close to the productive might of the United States. Canada's record in the air during the first Great War and its achievement afterwards in establishing sound civil flying were also taken into consideration in making this choice.

The BCATP graduated from its air and ground training schools a total of 131,553 aircrew, about 38 per cent of whom were pilots. Of this number, the RCAF provided 72,835 men or more than 55 per cent. These Canadian fliers served with distinction in Canadian squadrons overseas and also with the Royal Air Force in all its operations. The RCAF