

bombing on Germany. In addition to the air power which Canada threw against the enemy, out of all proportion to the country's population, Canada operated at home the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, designed to train aircrew from the Commonwealth nations. From its start in December, 1939, this was a spectacular undertaking. Altogether, including RCAF men, more than 131,000 aircrew were turned out. Of these, nearly 73,000 were Canadians, and it is believed that Canada had the highest per capita number of air crew of any nation fighting in the war. Casualties suffered by the RCAF totalled more than 18,000. Of these, 17,000 were killed.

The RCAF set a high standard during the Second World War, a hard one for the men of the post-war force to maintain. But it is being maintained, the peacetime RCAF showing itself well fitted to bear the Air Force motto "Per Ardua Ad Astra" - Through Adversity to the Stars.

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