

ADDRESS TO WOMEN'S DIVISIONBY G/C W.R. KINGSLANDC O N F I D E N T I A L

Uplands, Ontario, 30th October, 1944.

One of the greatest victories of the war has taken place right here in our midst and has gone almost unnoticed and clearly without appreciation even among ourselves as to its import. I refer to the battle and the victory of training aircrew in which we have all been so engrossed and to which all of you have given everything within you, and it has seemed to me at times, something beyond your known strength and capabilities.

I would like to review the battle very briefly. At the outbreak of war, there were some 300 officers in the R.C.A.F. and a total strength of around 3000. The present strength of service and civilian personnel in the training organization and operations is roughly a quarter of a million. This great, this colossal expansion in personnel, in equipment, in training centres and in investment running into billions represents, in my opinion, one of the great triumphs in organization and efficient operation in history. I know of no business organization which could have survived the pain and the perils of this rate of expansion. During the latter part of 1940 and in 1941 and part of 1942, new air and ground training schools were being opened up almost weekly and many of you participated in the great strain upon the organization and the individual of this rapid growth.

Gradually, the output of air and ground crew and executives began to be felt. The retreats and withdrawals in all parts of the world slowed down and imperceptibly at first changed to advances. Meanwhile, the growing bomber forces delivered increasingly powerful and effective blows to the enemies productive and fighting power and for nearly four years the airforces carried the main weight of the offensive, destroying for the first time in history great portions of Germany's largest industrial cities and gradually destroying the Luftwaffe and the German aircraft industries and oil refineries to make possible D-day and the great subsequent victories, and bringing to the horizon the vision of early and complete victory.

Nearly a year ago, the battle of air training in Germany was lost with the complete abandonment of training in that country. That was the beginning of the end for Germany who, in her days of victories, had keyed them to air power. Our casualties, as a result of superior training, of fine equipment, of our growing might and the dwindling airforce of the enemy, began to fall off progressively, particularly in fighter and coastal commands and more recently in bomber command. The rate of production of replacements, however, was still expanding, for it takes eighteen months and more to produce fully trained and qualified aircrew.

Now, in spite of reductions in training schools, reserves of aircrew have been built up beyond, in the estimation of many, any foreseeable contingency.

The key to victory of the Germans at first and of our own now has been in the air and the key to victory in the air was, in the first instance, the B.C.A.T.P., later supplemented so effectively by similar training organizations in Russia and the United States. That Battle of Training has been conclusively won. Mopping up only remains to be done.

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