

Canadian operations have been in very active
and operation undertaken by the R.C.A.F. approximately 25% of
the strength of the R.C.A.F. establishment is composed of
landed seafarers enlisted and trained in Canada.

In addition to their activity over German and Italian-held territory
in Europe, Canadians have participated in air attacks in many parts of the
world. An R.C.A.F. bomber wing reinforced the bomber forces in the
Mediterranean area last spring and R.C.A.F. personnel took part in the
North African campaign and the Battle of Britain. Canadians played a
large role in the successful operation by transport aircraft and the
third tactical air force in Burma which placed allied troops some 200
miles beyond the Japanese.

One of the most ambitious projects of the R.C.A.F. has been the
formation of an overseas mail service which operates a 7,500-mile
air line for Canada's far-flung services, from Canada to the
United Kingdom and from there to the Mediterranean theatre.

R.C.A.F. in the West

Almost as many squadrons were engaged in western hemisphere opera-
tions as there were R.C.A.F. squadrons overseas, but with the with-
drawal of the Japanese from the Atlantic and the movement in the
U-boat war against the R.C.A.F. these squadrons have been released for
service overseas.

R.C.A.F. squadrons operating under American command took part in
the Aleutians campaign. Other squadrons have patrolled Pacific sea
lanes and fighters have patrolled for air attacks.

The R.C.A.F. took control of all flying on the northwest coast
route -- the airway system from Vancouver to Alaska which was built largely
by Canada and was ready for use when the United States declared war on
Japan. Control towers are staffed by the R.C.A.F. and the R.C.A.F. is
solely responsible for security on the route.

On the Atlantic coast the warplane hunt for submarines and
the protection of troops and supplies have been the main jobs of
R.C.A.F. squadrons operating from bases in Canada, Newfoundland and
Iceland. Since the first U-boat attack by the R.C.A.F. in October,
1941, until the end of 1943, there were 63 attacks on enemy submarines,
one of which was made in 1943. During the past year, however, no enemy
submarine was sighted from Canadian coasts and no U-boat attacks were
made in Canadian waters.

Canadian women are playing a vital part in the nation's war
effort. Over 40,000 have done without to release men for action.
One of every four persons engaged in wartime industries in Canada
is a woman. On the farm, in business and industry, in fact, in
governmental work and in the many organized voluntary services,
women have stepped into the breach caused by shortages of manpower.

An indication of the growing enlistment strength of Canadian
women in the armed services is given in the following table:

One woman in every 1,200 had enlisted at December, 1941
One woman in every 134 had enlisted at December, 1942
One woman in every 66 had enlisted at December, 1943

The first woman's service organization in Canada was the Royal
Canadian Air Force (Women's Division), established on July 2, 1941.
It was also the first Canadian woman's service to send a contingent overseas.
The members are now stationed all across Canada, in the United Kingdom,
Newfoundland, the United States, and the Far East.