

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, March 29th, 1945.

8 City, District Pilots 'Winged' At Uplands Finale

In a flag-draped hangar displaying hundreds of Royal Canadian Air Force standards and Union Jacks, intermingling with the flags of the United Nations, Air Vice-Marshal W. A. Curtis, air member for air staff and former officer commanding Uplands, yesterday presented pilot's wings to the final two classes of Uplands Air Training School. As the parade, drawn up in a hollow square, swung into the march past and moved off, led by the station band, Uplands came to an end insofar as training school activities are concerned.

The scene was the prelude to an even greater ceremony this afternoon when air graduates of all five sections of air training will receive their wings from the Governor General in a combined ceremony bringing together graduates from all parts of Canada and marking the end of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Today's ceremonies will have another significance too.

Five Ottawa Grads.

Five Ottawa students and three district fliers received their pilot's wings yesterday. Ottawa men included Sgt. A. F. Darragh, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Darragh, 26 Thornton avenue, a former student of Lisgar and Glebe Collegiates who entered the RCAF as a student in August, 1943, and who trained at Lachine, Victoriaville, Oshawa, Dartmouth and Tuft's Cove; Sgt. R. F. Holtom, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Holtom, 5 Hawthorne avenue, a graduate of Ottawa Technical High School, who joined up as aircrew in June, 1943, training at Lachine, Montreal, Toronto and Oshawa; Sgt. C. B. Sproule, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Sproule, 422 Queen street, formerly employed with the Foundation Company of Canada and educated in Montreal and Arvide; Sgt. D. J. Shortt, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Shortt, 111 Clarendon avenue, a graduate of Glebe Collegiate and Ottawa Technical School who enlisted as aircrew in September, 1943, training at Lachine, Victoriaville, Oshawa and Tuft's Cove; Sgt. T. O. Gleason, son of J. T. Gleason, 59 Blackburn avenue, former student of St. Joseph's school and St. Patrick's College where he was a well known rugby player; Sgt. W. E. Kilgour, nephew of Miss Isabel Eager of The Citizen business office staff, and son of R. W. Kilgour, Beauharnois, Que., was also included among the graduating class. He trained at Lachine, Montreal, Toronto, Oshawa, Dartmouth and Yarmouth.

District graduates included Sgt. G. R. Crowe of Kingston who received his wings from his father, Capt. M. R. Crowe; Sgt. R. L. Hughes, Kingston, and Sgt. J. K. Hawkshaw of Cornwall.

An international aspect was lent to the ceremony by the presence of three United States members of the RCAF and one Peruvian graduate. The representative of Peru, Sgt. F. Perez, of Arequipa, Peru, received his wings from Col. C. A. P. Cesar Alvarez, Peruvian air attache.

Sgt. J. D. Templeton, son of Dr. and Mrs. A. Templeton, Edinburgh, Scotland, number one student of the graduation, who was born and educated in Cairo, Egypt, gave the graduation class address.

Equipment Exhibition.

Adding interest to the event was the opening of an exhibition of air training equipment in an adjoining hangar. Here were shown all types of air equipment. There were life rafts, Link trainers, exhibits of trade test work, bombs, machine guns, and planes. Of particular interest was a display of bombs running all the way from the smallest to the two-ton blockbuster. A Bristol Perseus engine cut away to show its operation method attracted especial attention. A Hurricane fighter with complete fighting equipment, including rockets, an Anson trainer, and a skeletonized Harvard trainer cut down to display its air frame, were on display. Bombsights, camera guns, gas equipment, rifles, machine guns, revolvers, wireless equipment were all available for examination. Competent instructors gave full explanations of the working of all this equipment, which incidentally is not especially prepared for an exhibit but is part of regular training equipment. The show is the most

complete ever opened to the public. Demonstrations are most complete, so complete in fact that one reporter dropped a bomb in the bomb training test and another took a whirl in a powered machine gun turret.

Following the wings' ceremony the graduates and their guests were given a reception by Wing Commander A. D. Haylett, new commander of the station who took over from Group Capt. W. I. Clements a few days ago.

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