

schools ..... 38,445  
 The total number of training aircraft on the strength of the plan as at August 25 ..... 8,605  
 (At the peak more than 11,000 aircraft were employed in training).

Training of air crew in Canada in accordance with the original conception of the training plan will be continued so long as trained air crew are required in the theatres of war. Advantageous developments have made a gradual diminution possible, and that trend will be continued in direct proportion to the number of trained air crew demanded in the operational theatres. Both the Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal New Zealand Air Force. have discontinued sending men to Canada for training, but there is a considerable number from both still under training. The Royal Air Force is continuing to send some personnel for training, but most are personnel who have had initial training, and, in addition, potential pilots have been graded for elementary flying training with from 10 to 12 hours' flying time.

In Canada there are in the reserve of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan some 4,000 Royal Canadian Air Force personnel who have gone through a certain basic military training, but have not embarked on any air crew training properly so called. On the completion of this basic training they have been employed on other duties while awaiting their turn to be given air crew training. Because of the slowing down of the plan inaugurated in February, 1944, some of these men who could reasonably have expected to be well into air crew training have been kept back. As there was little likelihood that a considerable number of these men would ever be required, it was therefore considered advisable to release them. They have all volunteered for active service in any theatre of war, and arrangements have been completed which will provide that those who transfer to the Army will receive all credits which they have earned by reason of their Royal Canadian Air Force service.

The first Royal Canadian Air Force unit sent overseas was an army co-operation squadron which reached England in February, 1940. A fighter squadron arrived the next June in time to help in the Battle of Britain. There are now at least 42 Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons in actual operations, and nearly all their air crew, commanding officers and ground crew are Canadian. Entire cost of these squadrons is borne by Canada.

Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons overseas operate under the direction of the Royal Air Force bomber command, coastal command, fighter command, allied expeditionary air force, Mediterranean command and Indian command. During 1943 these squadrons were grouped together within each command as far as their operational role permitted. As a result of this move, Canada has a bomber group, fighter wings, reconnaissance wing and several auxiliary units.

Some idea of the activities of the Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons, prior to the invasion, is given by the following figures covering the period from January, 1943, to February, 1944:

Sorties flown	38,544
Operational hours flown	129,461
Tons of bombs dropped	21,990
Enemy aircraft destroyed	208
Enemy aircraft probably destroyed and damaged	162
Locomotives destroyed	150

Besides aircraft and locomotives, Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons have destroyed enemy U-boats, merchant vessels, tugs, barges, military installation motor vehicles and transports of all kinds.

At the end of 1943, for every air crew member of an Royal Canadian Air Force squadron there were about 10 Canadians flying with the Royal Air Force. Canada is now, and has been for many months, the largest and principal producer