



Canadian Forces — Air Command CF-18 Hornet.

sive training in February, 1981. They are part of a five-year experiment begun in the Forces in 1979 to assess the performances of women in roles that traditionally have been assigned to men.

Captain Nora Bottomley, of Union Bay, B.C., and Captain Leah Mosher, of Sydney, N.S., are now flying DHC-5 Buffalo and C-130 Hercules aircraft, respectively, out of CFB Trenton, Ontario.

Captain Deanna Brasseur, of Ottawa, is a flight instructor at No. 2 Canadian Forces Flying Training School at CFB Moose Jaw, where all three received their advanced training.

The first female flight navigators in the history of the Forces, Second Lieutenants Karen Martin of Windsor, Ont., and Lynn Paddick of London, Ont., received their wings last October.

First Came the Dart

In 1908 Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the head of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, the inventor of the telephone, a proud native of Nova Scotia and an aeroplane enthusiast, formed the Aerial Experiment Association.

It was exclusive. Dr. Bell and his family put up the money. The other members were John McCurdy and Casey Baldwin, two young engineers just out of the University of Toronto; Glenn Curtiss, a motorcycle manufacturer; and Lieutenant Selfridge of the U.S. Army.

Selfridge designed the AEA's first plane, which was built by Curtiss. It had a red silk covering and was called the *Red Wing*. It took off from a frozen lake near Hammondsport, New York, on March 12, 1908, with Casey Baldwin at the controls. He was the first Canadian to fly.

Baldwin designed the second plane, *White Wing*, which flew 279 feet on May 18, 1908. On May 23 McCurdy flew it 600 feet before making a crash landing. The AEA's third plane, the *June Bug*, flew 5,090 feet in its first flight, two miles in its second.

McCurdy designed the fourth plane, the *Silver Dart*, tested it at Hammondsport and then on February 23, 1909, made the first flight in Canada, over Lac Bras d'Or, near Baddeck, Nova Scotia.

After that the AEA disbanded. Selfridge, who had been transferred earlier, was killed September 17, 1908, while acting as an observer on a flight with Orville Wright. He was the first air fatality.

McCurdy and Baldwin founded the Canadian Aerodrome Company and built two good planes, *Baddeck I* and *Baddeck II*, but went out of business for lack of customers.

Glenn Curtiss became a famous designer and manufacturer of planes.

Early Canadian Birds

In 1909 or so, W.W. Gibson, of British Columbia, began attaching badgers in willow wand baskets to elaborate kites. When the badgers came back to earth they sat for about two minutes with their eyes closed before recovering sufficiently to head for the nearest badger hole. In 1911 Gibson built the *Twin Plane* with the world's first air-cooled