

Canadians on loan to R.A.F. squadrons have been in every sortie, raid and operation undertaken by the R.A.F. Approximately 45 % of the strength of the R.A.F. mechanics establishment is composed of radio mechanics enlisted and trained in Canada.

In addition to their activity over German and Axis-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 force in the Mediterranean area last spring and R.C.A.F. personnel took part in the North African campaign and the Battle of Malta. 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 squadron which operates a 7,500-mile air line for Canada's three armed services, going from Canada to the United Kingdom and from there to the Mediterranean theatre.

R.C.A.F. In the Western Hemisphere

Almost as many squadrons were engaged in western hemisphere operations as there were R.C.A.F. squadrons overseas, but with the withdrawal of the Japanese from the Aleutians and the improvement in the U-boat war situation, several of 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 were poised for air attacks.

The R.C.A.F. took control of all flying on the northwest staging route -- the airway system from Edmonton 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 unrelenting 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 Labrador. 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-half being 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 donned uniforms to release men for action. One of every four persons employed in making munitions in Canada is a woman. On the farms, in business and industry, in increased governmental staffs 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:

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| One woman in every 1,250 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 women's service organized in this war was the Royal Canadian Air Force (Women's Division), established on July 2, 1941. It was also the first Canadian Women's service to send a contingent overseas. Its members are now stationed all across Canada, in the United Kingdom, Newfoundland, the United States, and the Bahamas.

WOMEN IN THE
ARMED FORCES