

combat enemy submarines from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

COMMONWEALTH
AIR TRAINING
PLAN

The agreement under which the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan was established was reached December 18, 1939. Partners to the agreement were Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. Canada undertook administration of the plan. Purpose of the plan was to produce the greatest possible number of air crew not only numerically but in the quality of the output. The successful establishment and operation of this plan has been one of Canada's most important contributions to the war.

Construction work was commenced on December 18, and the plan has not had a holiday since.

The first students commenced training at an initial training school in April, 1940.

In December, 1941, the last school scheduled under the original plan was opened, but the plan was greatly expanded. The original agreement called for peak air crew production at the rate of 20,864 a year. With expansion of the program the sights were raised to a planned peak of 52,503 a year. That rate of production was to have been reached in June, 1944. The actual peak was reached in February, 1944, when 3,899 air crew were graduated -- an annual rate of 50,700. The Balfour-Power agreement of February, 1944, lowered the objective to a rate of 20,965 a year. Because of time-lag and the fact that air crew are now in training to meet requirements 18 months hence, the actual production during August, 1944, was approximately 3,215, or the rate of 38,864 a year. The lower rate of production provided by the Balfour-Power agreement will be reached in the spring of 1945.

The cumulative total of trainees from all sources entered on air crew undergraduate training courses from the inception of the plan to August 25, 1944, was 152,925. (This last figure does not include 5,296 Royal Air Force and Royal Air Arm personnel graduated from Royal Air Force schools established in Canada prior to July 1, 1942, when these schools became part of the BCATP. These schools, however, were supervised and administered under the plan so that the grand total of all entrants into training in Canada was 158,221).

Of the total of 152,925 trainees, there was graduated a total of 108,587 and 20,109 were unsuccessful in completing their difficult courses. Additional of the 5,296 graduated from the Royal Air Force transferred schools brings the total to 114,253. Of these, 60,503 were Royal Canadian Air Force personnel, 34,361 Royal Air Force, 8,067 Royal Australian Air Force and 6,026 Royal New Zealand Air Force.

In October, 1944, there were 23,859 men in air crew training. Of this total 13,856 were Royal Canadian Air Force personnel. Personnel now commencing training remain in the plan for an average of 12 months, and after graduation they require a further period of post-graduate and operational training and familiarization of from six to eight months. On the average a period of 18 months elapses between the time an airman commences air crew training and the time he fires his first shot at the enemy. Statistics of present training production should therefore be considered in the light of the fact that the plan is now operating in anticipation of what may be the requirements a year and a half hence.

The total number of Royal Canadian Air Force potential air crew (untrained) either awaiting entry into initial training schools or undergoing pre-air crew education to qualify for air crew training was between 4,000 and 5,000 in October, 1944.

Total number of pilots graduated under the plan	43,858
Total R.C.A.F.	23,114
" " " navigators (all categories and air bombers trained)	37,074
Total R.C.A.F.	16,378
" " " wireless operator air gunners	15,021
Total R.C.A.F.	10,315
" " " straight air gunners trained	12,706
Total R.C.A.F.	10,315
" " " flight engineers and sundry other air crew trades	687
Total R.C.A.F.	20,000
Ground personnel recruited to operate schools, squadrons, etc.	146,184
" " " posted overseas	34,200
Trained in technical trades at technical training	