

13,000 miles. Since this run started in July 1950 the RCAF has made 515 round flights of an average distance of 13,860 miles each, for a total of 6,019,000 miles, without loss or damage to plane or personnel, a fine record for these North Star aircraft and for the RCAF.

During this year the RCAF has also been running regular scheduled flights to Churchill and Resolute Bay, as well as between Dorval and Edmonton and Dorval and Goose Bay.

Simultaneously the RCAF has been operating regular scheduled flights to Europe and has also carried out an extraordinary movement, flying to Europe and landing safely nine out of twelve squadrons of "Sabre" fighters, the aircraft of the other three squadrons having been taken over on HMCS "Magnificent".

Today the RCAF has twelve squadrons of "Sabre" fighters and nine in Europe, together with an air division headquarters at Metz and a depot at Langar in England. In the air division and the other groups there are serving abroad today in the RCAF a total of nearly 5,000 men and women. Contrast this with the total strength of 571, 25 years ago.

In addition to the planes on loan, under contract and those kept in reserve, during this last year the RCAF had in operation a total of over 1,600 aircraft. These included "Sabre" fighters and CF-100s, as well as C-119s, three aircraft which certainly are not excelled in their field anywhere. As contrasted with 19,000 hours in 1931, they flew a total of 705,707 hours. I am glad to say that their accident rate compares favourably with that of other countries known to us.

Though of American design, the "Sabres" are made in Canada and all those being currently produced are being equipped with Canadian-designed and built "Orenda" engines.

In addition, I know that it is noteworthy and particularly interesting to this gathering that as well as the aircraft mentioned we are also using the RCAF Canadian-built types such as the "Otter", "Beaver", "Chipmunk", "Harvard" and the T-33 trainer.

During this period too we have established an air-training plan under which a large number of aircrew were trained, including aircrew for Britain, France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Italy and Norway.

You will appreciate that throughout this period the RCAF, like the other armed forces, has had to carry on its operations so as to carry out our commitments in Korea to stop aggression there. In that difficult job in that far-off area the services have not failed in any respect.

At the same time, with other nations, we have done our part to build up the combined strength in the North Atlantic lines to prevent aggression in Europe. Again Canada has carried out every commitment in advance of the target date.