

Under the original agreement Canada was to pay more than \$800,000 of the total \$900,000,000 the plan was to cost, and it was intended to continue only until March 31, 1943. The success of the undertaking prompted the participating countries to sign a new agreement on June 7, 1942, to extend its operation to March 31, 1943, and to enlarge it considerably.

Canada is paying half the estimated cost of \$1,500,000,000, and the United Kingdom is paying the remainder, less deductions representing payments by New Zealand and Australia for the cost of training air crew. The United Kingdom already has paid much of the share in the form of planes and other equipment needed for the grant undertaking.

The plan has produced more than 80,000 air crew graduates (of which 48,000 are Canadians) and 114,000 ground crew. In addition to Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and Britons, men trained in Canada include Belgians, Czechs, Netherlands, Newfoundlanders, Norwegians, Poles, men from the United States, and others. First graduates of the plan went overseas in November, 1940. Over 11,000 training planes have flown 1,750,000 miles under the R.C.A.F.

R.C.A.F. Squadrons and Personnel Overseas

The first R.C.A.F. unit sent overseas was an army co-operation squadron which reached England in February, 1940. A fighter squadron followed the next June, in time to help in the Battle of Britain. There are now 43 R.C.A.F. squadrons in actual operations, nearly all the air crew, commanding officers, and ground crew being Canadian. Entire cost of these squadrons is borne by Canada.

R.C.A.F. squadrons overseas operate under the direction of the Royal Air Force bomber command, coastal command, fighter command, and 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 a number of auxiliary units.

Some idea of the activities of the R.C.A.F. squadrons is given by the following figures covering the period from January, 1943, to February, 1944:

38,544	Sorties flown
129,481	Operational hours flown
21,990	Tons of bombs dropped
208	Enemy aircraft destroyed
	Enemy aircraft probably destroyed and damaged
162	Locomotives destroyed
150	

Besides aircraft and locomotives, R.C.A.F. squadrons have destroyed enemy U-boats, merchant vessels, barges, military installations, motor vehicles, and transports of all kinds.

At the end of 1943, for every aircrew member of an R.C.A.F. squadron there were about 10 Canadians flying with the R.A.F. Canada is now, and has been for many months, the largest and principal producer of air crew for all Commonwealth forces. R.C.A.F. graduates make up considerably more than one-half the total of all air crew supplied by partners in the Commonwealth. From 224 to 224 of all the air crew in the European and Mediterranean areas under British tactical command are Canadian boys enlisted and trained in Canada, and the proportion is expected to increase to one-third.