



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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THE MCKEE TROPHY

(The Development of Aviation in Canada)

Text of a statement made by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, at the presentation ceremony at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, October 27, 1953.

This is the twenty-fifth time that the McKee Trophy has been presented to the Canadian, service or civilian, who, in the opinion of those responsible for the award, has rendered the most outstanding service to aviation during that year.

The trophy was presented by the late Dalgell McKee of Pittsburg, an aviation enthusiast who made the first Trans-Canada flight by seaplane in 1926.

This year the award has been given to a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

In the name of those responsible for the award as well as of all others present or represented here, I have now great pleasure in congratulating for his outstanding work the officer to whom this presentation is now being made, Squadron Leader Keith R. Greenaway.

...This occasion reminds us of the tremendous progress made in aviation since 1926, when the award was first given.

In 1927 the RCAF had a total strength of 470 and it operated a total of about 75 aircraft. This is what they were: Vedette-Viking-Varuna, Avro 504, DH4, Curtis HS2L, Fokker, DH Moth, Douglas Seaplane, Fairchild FC2, "Puffer" (last named used for crop dusting purposes).

Look at the year 1931. That year commercial aircraft carried 100,128 passengers a distance of 5,280,958 passenger miles.

This year, 1952-53, Canadian commercial airlines carried 2,070,870 passengers a total of 57,961,010 miles without a single fatal casualty.

In 1931 the RCAF flew a total of 19,171 hours and covered a distance of 1,725,390 miles.

This year the RCAF has a total strength of 46,307, over 80 times as much. The RCAF has been operating regular scheduled runs of two flights a week from Dorval to Tokyo and return, a distance of over