

### NATO AIRCREW TRAINING SCHEME

The final groups of students under Canada's original NATO Aircrew Training Scheme have arrived and have begun their training, it has been announced by Air Force Headquarters.

The NATO Aircrew Training Scheme was designed to aid other NATO countries in the expansion of their air forces. The majority of the countries involved in the scheme now are capable of handling their own training programme to look after attrition requirements. The scheme has formed a part of Canada's Mutual Aid Programme under which this country has, since 1950, provided military assistance to 12 of the other 14 NATO countries to a total value of approximately \$1,300,000,000.

The arrival of the final groups of trainees marks the beginning of the end of the scheme through which the RCAF has trained more than 4,600 aircrew for 10 other NATO countries: Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Turkey, and the U.K. Cost of the training has been borne by Canada.

At the moment there are more than 900 NATO trainees in Canada, at varying stages of their aircrew training. Small groups of trainees arrived during June from Denmark, Norway and Turkey, and the final group of 14 RAF student pilots arrived at RCAF Station, London, July 4. It is expected that the training of these last groups will be completed during 1958, and the

final wings parades will mark the close of the original scheme.

Although the original NATO Aircrew Training Scheme is reaching its final stages, the RCAF will continue to train aircrew from some NATO countries under new and separate arrangements, involving partial payment by the countries concerned. These arrangements have been made with countries which do not have sufficient training capacity of their own to provide all the training that they require.

For example, by the end of this year trainees are expected to arrive from three NATO countries to receive training through a modified version of the scheme. A three-year arrangement calls for the RCAF to provide training annually for 55 aircrew from Denmark, 65 from Norway, and 30 from The Netherlands.

Also under arrangements concluded last year the first of 360 German Air Force personnel to be trained by the RCAF are already in Canada. This initial group of 12, all veteran flyers, is taking refresher and jet conversion training, and the first of the German student trainees are to arrive for flight training during the autumn.

The NATO Aircrew Training Scheme got under way in August, 1950. The first graduation was held at RCAF Station, Summerside, P.E.I. in May, 1951, when navigators from Norway, Belgium and Italy received their wings in a colourful ceremony.

**BORDER CROSSINGS UP:** Volume of highway traffic crossing the border between Canada and the United States was nearly 7 per cent heavier in May and 8 per cent heavier in the January-May period than a year earlier, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Vehicle border crossings in May totalled 1,513,000 versus 1,418,000 in May last year, bringing the five-month total to 5,774,000 versus 5,332,000.

May's border crossings of foreign vehicles increased to 763,000 from 711,000 a year earlier and returning Canadian vehicles increased to 750,000 from 707,000. In the five-month period crossings of vehicles of foreign registry increased to 2,691,000 from 2,526,000 a year earlier and returning Canadian vehicles to 3,083,000 from 2,806,000.

Number of residents of the United States entering Canada by rail, through bus, boat and plane advanced to 75,900 in April from 66,900 a year earlier but returning Canadians declined to 117,800 from 123,300. In the first four months of this year 246,000 residents of the United States entered Canada by these means of transportation versus 232,000 a year earlier and close to 400,000 Canadians returned by the same means versus 376,000.

**GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT:** Persons on the payroll of the Federal Government in September 1956 numbered 171,732 compared to 169,574 in September 1955, Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Classified civil servants numbered 144,301 compared to 141,868, prevailing rate employees totalled 25,026 versus 25,431, and ships' crews amounted to 2,405 persons, (2,275 in September 1955). Month's total earnings amounted to \$46,453,000 compared to 1955's September total of \$42,781,000. Classified civil servants earned \$40,633,000 versus \$36,828,000, prevailing rate employees \$5,213,000 versus \$5,403,000, and ships' crews \$607,000 versus \$550,000.

**POTATO CONFERENCE:** Canada's first national conference of those directly interested in the potato industry will be held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, August 29-30-31, 1957. It is hoped this first conference, organized by the Canadian Horticultural Council, will arouse sufficient interest to warrant making it an annual event.

All phases of the industry will be discussed, from development of disease-resistant varieties of seed, control of disease and