

Mr. Yorath pointed out that in 1940 there was no adequate provision for compensation for injury or death but in 1941 coverage was provided by means of liability insurance or through Provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards. The Air Force witnesses estimated the risk as one fatality, each 46,846 flying hours, with total deaths approximating 40. They stated that the Service had given very careful and sympathetic consideration to the question of counting time served on leave without pay for the purposes of The War Service Grants Act and other legislation and had come to the conclusion that there was no sound basis for a recommendation that such time be so counted.

*Section 6 (b)*

INSTRUCTORS IN AIR OBSERVER SCHOOLS

The Interdepartmental Committee on Veterans Affairs examined representations dated October, 1945, by Mr. A. B. E. Strang and Mr. W. R. May. The Interdepartmental Committee also heard Air Commodore J. MacL. Murray, Director of Accounts and Finance R.C.A.F., who was accompanied by Wing Commander J. V. F. Courtemanche.

The Air Observer Schools were incorporated and supplied with instructors in the same manner as described with respect to Elementary Flying Training Schools with these exceptions:—

- (a) The instructor who had graduated under the B.C.A.T.P. with the rank of Sergeant and given a short Instructor's course was posted to the Air Observer School on one month's probation, at the end of which he could be rejected by the School or himself elect to be returned to service duties; if he remained he was seconded on leave without pay;
- (b) Instructors at A.O.S.'s were not recalled from leave on December 1st, 1942, but remained on their secondment status while they were employed at the Schools.

Mr. Strang's brief makes representations somewhat similar to those of Mr. Yorath, but with the following additional points:

- (a) That students who were considered suitable for this type of work were under constant pressure to volunteer for it and, although many did so, a great number were arbitrarily assigned. The Air Force witnesses denied that men were seconded against their will and pointed out that they were given an opportunity for a month after arrival at the School to refuse to remain;
- (b) That the majority of instructors were young men with no previous gainful occupation and were faced with as great a rehabilitation problem as other members of the R.C.A.F.;
- (c) That instructors were given to understand that they were to receive credit on their service record for the time spent on these duties. In support of this, Mr. Strang quoted a notice posted in Air Force establishments in No. 2 Command as follows:—

With the closing of several of the air force stations in this Command the supply of pilots will become surplus to requirements. It is felt that in view of the fact that so many requests for postings to operational training stations will be received and because of the fact that the available postings are so limited some system of rationing based on qualifications must be instituted.