

the R.C.A.F., numbering about 4,000 officers and men, was called upon to produce almost five times that many fully trained aircrew annually. Undaunted by the magnitude of the task the Force, ably assisted by civilian flying clubs throughout the Dominion, set to work: the first schools opened on schedule and all units of the original program (with the exception of three Bombing and Gunnery Schools) were in operation by the end of September, 1941, seven months ahead of schedule. Further, 8 Elementary Flying Training Schools had been established in addition to the 13 originally planned.

Between May, 1940, and September, 1941, the Plan had to face a crisis upon which its whole fate depended. France fell, and Britain stood alone in the breach, with the massed strength of Nazidom only 27 miles across the Channel. There was a strong temptation to scrap the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan and hurry every available pilot and aircraft to meet the threatened invasion. The Plan required time for development, time to make its effect felt in the field of battle. Many feared, in the spring and summer of 1940, that there was no time to spare. Fortunately, the long-range view prevailed, the Plan was continued—and history has recorded the verdict.

The original partnership was to remain in force until Mar. 31, 1943, but before that date a new Agreement was signed at Ottawa, on June 5, 1942, to continue until Mar. 31, 1945. The number of training units was increased from 58 to 67 (including 21 double schools) with 10 additional specialist schools. The following statement compares the two programs:—

	1939 Plan	1942 Plan
TRAINING UNITS—		
Initial Training Schools (I.T.S.).....	3	7
Elementary Flying Training Schools (E.F.T.S.).....	13	16 (12 were to be double schools)
Service Flying Training Schools (S.F.T.S.)	16	20
Air Observer Schools (A.O.S.) and Air Navigation Schools (A.N.S.).....	12	10 (9 were to be double schools)
Bombing and Gunnery Schools (B. and G.S.)	10	10
Wireless Schools.....	4	4
TOTALS, TRAINING UNITS.....	58	67
SPECIALIST SCHOOLS—		
General Reconnaissance School (G.R.S.)..	—	1
Operational Training Units (O.T.U.).....	—	4
Flying Instructors' Schools.....	—	3
Central Flying School.....	—	1
S.B.A. and Link Trainer School.....	—	1
GRAND TOTALS.....	58	77

Further details concerning the personnel of these schools are given at pp. 1096-1098.

In addition, the R.C.A.F. was given the administration of 27 R.A.F. units (6 E.F.T.S., 10 S.F.T.S., 3 A.N.S., 1 B. and G.S., 1 G.R.S., 4 O.T.U., 1 Radio School and 1 Personnel Depot) which that Force had transferred to or established in Canada.

The Plan reached its peak at the close of 1943 with 73 B.C.A.T.P. and 24 R.A.F. flying schools in operation, complemented by 184 ancillary units. Early in the following year, by the Power-Balfour Agreement of February, 1944, it was arranged, in view of the large reserve of aircrew already trained or under instruction, to begin