

3.—Canadian Army Honours and Awards Granted and Approved, Sept. 10, 1939 to Mar. 31, 1947—concluded

Half-Yearly Lists (Non-Operational)—

The Order of the Companions of Honour (C.H.).....	1
Companion of the Order of the Bath (C.B.).....	29
Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.).....	98
Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.).....	273
Member of the Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.).....	575
Member of the Royal Red Cross (R.R.C.).....	44
Associate of the Royal Red Cross (A.R.R.C.).....	83
British Empire Medal (B.E.M.).....	396
Commendations.....	5

Non-Operational Awards (Other than Half-Yearly Lists)—

George Cross (G.C.).....	3
George Medal (G.M.).....	12
Member of the Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.).....	9
British Empire Medal (B.E.M.).....	20
Commendations.....	23
Cited in Orders.....	82

Foreign Awards—

French.....	352
Belgian.....	327
United States.....	228
Tunisian.....	1
Czechoslovakian.....	23
Polish.....	6
Netherlands.....	513
Luxembourg.....	19
Chinese.....	6

Section 3.—The Royal Canadian Air Force

At the outbreak of War in September, 1939, the Royal Canadian Air Force consisted of two components, Regular and Auxiliary, with a total strength of 4,606 officers and men. During the war years three new components, Special Reserve, Women's Division and Air Cadets, were organized, and the Force expanded fifty-fold to a peak strength of 215,200 officers and other ranks in January, 1944. Of these, more than 15,150 were members of the Women's Division. Forty-eight squadrons took part in operations overseas and, in addition, many thousands of R.C.A.F. personnel were attached to Royal Air Force units scattered all over the world. Another 40 squadrons were retained in Canada for home defence and anti-submarine operations. The R.C.A.F. also undertook the operation of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, whereby 131,553 trained aircrew were provided for the Air Forces of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand (see Canada Year Book, 1946, pp. 1090-1099).

Since the conclusion of hostilities the Force has been rapidly demobilized. The last operational units overseas were disbanded in June, 1946, and the last members of the Women's Division were released at the end of that year. On Dec. 31, 1946, the total strength of the R.C.A.F. was 12,846 officers and other ranks, of whom 173 were still overseas. In addition, there were 5,981 civilian employees in Canada and 16 at Overseas Headquarters. Included in these figures are some personnel whose services are being retained only for the "interim period", to facilitate the transition from wartime to peacetime conditions. The interim period will terminate on Sept. 30, 1947, when the permanent establishment of the Force will come into effect.

The peacetime Royal Canadian Air Force will be organized in three components, Regular, Auxiliary and Reserve. The Regular Force will have an authorized strength of 16,100 officers and men, but it is not proposed, at present, to recruit this Force to its maximum authorized establishment.