

The R.C.A.F. photographed 280 square miles in 1921, the first year that photographic air survey was attempted by the Air Force. Since that date, one-half of Canada has been photographed by the R.C.A.F. In 1947 the R.C.A.F. covered more than 400,000 square miles, and in 1948 covered 911,000 square miles. Since the War, better cameras, navigational aids and aircraft have greatly increased efficiency. The two Photographic Squadrons—a part of Air Transport Command with Headquarters at Rockcliffe, Ont.—which carry out this work, send out detachments each year between Apr. 15 and Oct. 1. They operate from many bases, including: Calgary and Edmonton, Alta.; Vancouver and Fort Nelson, B.C.; Fort Chimo, Que.; Goose Bay, Labrador; Churchill and The Pas, Man.; Whitehorse, Yukon; Frobisher (Baffin Island), Yellowknife, and Norman Wells, N.W.T. In co-operation with the Canadian Army, the Department of Mines and Resources, and other Government departments, the R.C.A.F. helps to map uncharted areas and to correct existing maps. It also assists in such work as timber and geological surveys, flood control, land development, town planning, water-power development, irrigation projects, and soil reclamation. One squadron, equipped with Canadian-built Lancasters, specializes in tri-camera photography for basic exploration; the other is used primarily for vertical photography in detailed analysis of terrain.

Approximately 40 search and rescue operations were carried out in 1947. The R.C.A.F.'s Search and Rescue Organization is co-ordinated with contributing arms of the Army and Navy. Search and Rescue Control Centres are located at No. 10 Group Headquarters (Halifax, N.S.), Central Air Command Headquarters (Trenton, Ont.), No. 11 Group Headquarters (Winnipeg, Man.), North West Air Command Headquarters (Edmonton, Alta.), and No. 12 Group Headquarters (Vancouver, B.C.). These Headquarters are responsible for initiating, conducting and terminating search and rescue operations within their respective areas of control.

Search and rescue aircraft, marine craft, and special para-rescue personnel are located at the following places: Greenwood, N.S.; Trenton, Ont.; Winnipeg, Man.; Edmonton, Alta.; Fort Nelson, B.C.; Vancouver, B.C.; Whitehorse, Yukon; and Goose Bay, Labrador.

Enlistment.—The R.C.A.F. offers enlistment of skilled or unskilled men. Veterans who were on Active Service may enlist if they meet the physical requirements, and are under the age of 30 years plus their number of years of Active Service. Applicants who were not on Active Service may be accepted if they meet the physical requirements, are unmarried, and are between 17 and 30 years of age. Applicants under 18 must have written consent of parent or guardian. The majority of trades open for recruiting call for an educational standard of two years less than junior matriculation or equivalent.

Commissions.—Graduation from either of the Canadian Services Colleges (Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont., or Royal Roads, Esquimalt, B.C.) qualifies young men for acceptance in the R.C.A.F. as officer trainees. Technical officer positions are granted to selected university graduates. Six-year short-service commissions are available to qualified high-school graduates and selected serving airmen.