

more than 400,000 square miles and in 1948 reached a peak of 911,000 square miles. The three photographic squadrons which carry on this work send out detachments each year between Apr. 15 and Oct. 1. They operate from many bases, including: Goose Bay, Labrador; Fort Chimo, Que.; Churchill and The Pas, Man.; Calgary and Edmonton, Alta.; Vancouver and Fort Nelson, B.C.; Whitehorse, Yukon; Frobisher (Baffin Island), Yellowknife and Norman Wells, N.W.T. In co-operation with the Canadian Army, the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, 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 developments, 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 others are used primarily for vertical photography in detailed analysis of terrain and Shoran-controlled photographic experiments.

During the 12-month period ended Mar. 31, 1949, the Royal Canadian Air Force carried out 116 separate search and rescue operations, flying a total of more than 2,500 hours. The R.C.A.F.'s Search and Rescue Organization is co-ordinated with contributing arms of the Navy and Army. Search and Rescue Control Centres are located at Maritime Group Headquarters (Halifax, N.S.), Training Command Headquarters (Trenton, Ont.), Tactical 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: Goose Bay, Labrador; Greenwood, N.S.; Trenton, Ont.; Winnipeg, Man.; Edmonton, Alta.; Fort Nelson and Vancouver, B.C.; and Whitehorse, Yukon.

Enlistment.—The Royal Canadian Air Force offers enlistment to 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 years of age 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 Royal Canadian Air Force 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.

Training.—The Royal Canadian Air Force Staff College at Armour Heights, Toronto, Ont., trains officers for command and staff positions (see also p. 1135). At the Institute of Aviation Medicine, Toronto, Ont., there are facilities for consultant and specialist officers, laboratories for nutritional research, a human centrifuge, a cold low-pressure chamber, a tropical room, a statistical section, and well-equipped laboratories for the study of all branches of aviation medicine.