

Ground training was in full operation during 1948-49. Schools at Trenton, Aylmer, Camp Borden, Rockcliffe, Clinton and Centralia in Ontario, worked to capacity instructing recruits in the skills of the various Air Force trades, and at the same time gave additional courses to many veteran airmen who had re-engaged in the peacetime Force.

During the summer the Royal Canadian Air Force operates the Summer Employment Plan, under which veteran officers attending university are brought back into uniform, to work and train with the Air Force during the summer months. Students from Canadian universities who took part in this plan were engaged in medical and technical research and survey work. The plan is designed to train the students in the various specialist branches of the Service during their university course. Qualified students may be offered commissions in the R.C.A.F. upon completion of their professional training.

There was increased activity on flying training stations as a steady flow of new entries began aircrew training. The first of the post-war flight cadets have now completed their training and have short-service commissions in the Air Force. Regular intakes now pass through No. 1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ont., to the Flying Training School, Centralia, Ont., to the Radar and Communications School, Clinton, Ont., or to the Air Navigation School, Summerside, P.E.I., depending upon whether they are taking pilot, radio officer, or navigation training. Upon completion of their training they become flying officers.

University undergraduates under the Summer Flying Training Scheme undergo aircrew training for three consecutive summers, and upon successful completion of their university course receive commissions in the Regular, Auxiliary or Reserve Air Forces. During the summer of 1949 the first university undergraduates received their pilot and radio-officer wings.

Air Force Day.—Air Force Day, instituted in 1947, the annual "Open House" of the R.C.A.F., falls on the first or second Saturday in June. The purpose is to give the Canadian public an opportunity to see the equipment and personnel of the Air Force, with the hope of establishing a better understanding of Service activities and operations.

Subsection 4.—The Defence Research Board

The Department of National Defence Act was amended on Apr. 1, 1947, to provide for the establishment of a Defence Research Board. The Board consists of six ex officio and six appointed members serving under a full-time chairman. The ex officio members are the Director General of Defence Research (Chairman of the Board), the Chiefs of Staff of the three Armed Services, the President of the National Research Council and the Deputy Minister of National Defence. The remaining six members are appointed by the Governor General in Council and are members with scientific and technical qualifications drawn from the universities and industry. The organization consists of a headquarters staff, advisory committees and field research stations.

The Defence Research Board is an essential part of the defence of Canada and, as such, has been described as a fourth Service. Its fundamental purpose is to correlate the special scientific requirements of the Armed Forces with the general research activities of the scientific community at large. This task is the main function of the Headquarters Staff. Its work is strengthened by the expert counsel of comprehensive advisory committees.