

The strength of the RCAF at Mar. 31, 1962 was 53,119 officers and men in the Regular Force and 2,398 in the Auxiliary Air Force.

Operations in 1961.—The RCAF continued to fulfil its air defence commitments in Canada under the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD). The Canadian air defence force of nine squadrons of *CF-100 Mk-V* aircraft was replaced by five squadrons of *CF-101B Voodoo* aircraft. In addition, the first of two *Bomarc* squadrons was activated. No. 1 Air Division in Europe, comprised of eight *F-86* and four *CF-100* squadrons and an Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, continued to fulfil Canada's commitment to the NATO air defence fighter force.

Air Defence Command continued its planned build-up and had under operation three radar systems—the Distant Early Warning Line (DEW), the Mid-Canada Line (MCL), and the Pinetree Line—as an integral part of NORAD. The RCAF is progressively assuming responsibility for the U.S. financed and manned radar sites in accordance with the governmental agreement. The Ground Observer Corps continued operations in the North as a supplement to the Distant Early Warning radar system.

The RCAF Maritime Air Command during 1961 contributed four land-based maritime squadrons to the Maritime Defence of North America. Three of these squadrons, based on the East Coast, have been completely equipped with *Argus* aircraft, the largest and most modern anti-submarine aircraft in the world. A continuous program of aircraft modernization and re-equipping with improved anti-submarine devices was also conducted throughout the period. These three squadrons and a third *Neptune* aircraft squadron on the West Coast participated in a number of national, international and NATO anti-submarine exercises conducted throughout the year. Daily patrols and surveillance of ocean areas adjacent to the Canadian coastline were also maintained.

Air Transport Command continued to provide support to the Air Division and to the Army brigade in Europe using its new *Yukon* aircraft, and continued to support the United Nations Emergency Forces in Egypt and the Congo using *North Stars* and *Comets*. In addition, a flying unit operating *Caribou* and *Otter* aircraft was maintained for local employment in Egypt in support of UNEF. In Canada the *North Star*, *C-119* and *Hercules* aircraft of ATC were engaged in cargo and personnel carrier operations in Canada and in the support of Arctic weather stations. *C-119's* were used for paratroop training of the Canadian Army, and 408 Squadron carried out routine reconnaissance flights in the Arctic Archipelago and photographic missions for the Department of National Defence.

During the year, the RCAF continued to provide search and rescue services in Canadian areas of responsibility. Of the 40 major searches conducted, 34 were for civil aircraft and six were for military aircraft. In addition, there were six major marine searches and 229 mercy flights. The total time for search and rescue operations was 7,292 hours.

Training.—During the year ended Mar. 31, 1962, the RCAF provided training for approximately 4,500 officers and airmen to replace releases, meet increased establishments and assume new appointments resulting from modernization of equipment. Basic training qualified personnel to do the rather simple but vital jobs in the RCAF; conversion and advanced training qualified personnel to perform more complex jobs and to assume increased responsibilities. During the year, training continued in the operation and maintenance of the SAGE and Bomarc systems which are becoming operational in the RCAF. To keep pace with rapid technological developments, a number of officers and airmen attended short familiarization courses on guided missiles and space technology at Clinton, Ont.; some attended brief familiarization courses on computers and other electronic equipment at Clinton; a few attended specialized courses with industrial firms in new technological developments applicable to the Air Force; and a few took postgraduate courses, mainly at Canadian universities, to qualify for highly specialized positions in technical, medical or management fields.