

R.A.F. SENDING MEN TO ASSIST TRAINING PLAN

Staff of Instructors
Leaves Soon; Canadian
Flying Clubs Tied In
TO REVERSE STAGES

London, Jan. 8 (CP).—The Royal Air Force has chosen a staff of instructors to send to Canada to assist in training thousands of pilots, air gunners and radio operators in the Empire air scheme. The first party will leave in a comparatively short time, it was learned tonight.

The R.A.F. will send flying instructors, engineering officers, equipment officers and staff officers to man the service flying schools constructed by the Canadian Government. It will be a whole air force organization in miniature.

Clubs Linked to Plan.

Ottawa, Jan. 8 (CP). — Canada's civilian flying clubs in which thousands of flying enthusiasts learned to pilot aircraft for pleasure and profit are now harnessed to the national war effort.

For months past they have been used as training centres for pilots entering the Royal Canadian Air Force and now arrangements have been completed for their participation in the larger British Commonwealth air-training plan.

Just how the clubs will fit into the plan, which calls for thirteen elementary flying schools to provide the same type of training now provided in more than twenty flying clubs, has not been revealed. But after long conferences between officials of the Canadian Flying Clubs Association and the National Defense Department an arrangement has been made.

Under the air-training plan two of the stages in the training of pilots will be reversed, as compared with the procedure followed so far. The pilots will receive their initial or recruit training first and then proceed to elementary flying training. That is, candidates for the

air force will go first to one of the three initial training schools where they will learn about organization and discipline, and will receive physical training and some lectures.

After four weeks there, a selection will be made of those suitable for training as pilots, air gunners or air observers and those best fitted for ground work.

The men selected for pilot training will proceed to the elementary flying schools, where they will go aloft in light aircraft, accompanied by instructors and learn to fly solo.

The arrangement up to the present has been that men accepted for flying training went first to the flying clubs, where they learned to fly under civilian instructors. Only on completing this stage did they go to an air force training school for the ground instruction and drill.

The plan for using the flying clubs as elementary training school for the air force started last year and the first class graduated recently. A second class is now receiving instruction.

The Department has announced the first initial training school under the Commonwealth plan is being prepared at Toronto on the property of the Eglinton Hunt Club.

Four weeks from the time the Toronto school opens the first class under the Commonwealth training plan will be ready to enter elementary flying schools.

Handwritten notes:
1077
Bott
air force
training
1077