

Air Arm of NATO Defence System Observes Second Anniversary Today

FONTAINEBLEAU, France (C)—Allied Air Forces Central Europe, an air arm of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization defence system, observes its second anniversary today.

AAFCE started from scratch. Two years ago the AAFCE commander, Gen. Lauris Norstad, arrived in Fontainebleau with the headquarters in his pocket—in the form of an instructional letter from Dwight Eisenhower, then commander of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe SHAPE.

Airfields now sprout into operational existence at the rate of one a week.

Built or being built in AAFCE's area are 13 in Holland, 14 in Belgium, 30 in Western Germany, 41 in France and one in Luxembourg. Royal Canadian Air

Force officers and men, flying 300 Canadian-built Sabre jets, will be based on four of these fields next year.

DEFENCE FACTOR

Radar surveillance is maintained daily for several hours from the sea-girt border of Danish Jutland to the Swiss Alps and from the Iron Curtain to the English channel.

National air chiefs or representatives of AAFCE of contributing countries, including Air Vice-Marshal F. L. Miller, RCAF vice-chief of staff, recently heard Air Vice-Marshal John L. Plant of the RCAF outline details of the jet fuel pipeline web across France to airfield sites.

Accelerated development of two Allied tactical air forces is an-

other part of the 1953 program. Canada, which supplies nine per cent of the AAFCE headquarters personnel at present, is primarily interested in the 4th Allied Tactical Air Force. Her NATO commitment will be the 1st RCAF air division, commanded by Vice-Marshal Hugh Campbell. France and the United States will provide the remaining men and equipment.

CANUCKS PROMINENT

Canadians occupy key spots throughout the growing organization.

Plant was appointed assistant chief of staff for logistics and later one of Norstad's three deputies. Group Capt. Cavendish Carling-Kelly of Toronto specializes in manpower and organization. Group Capt. George Elms of Toronto in plans and policy matters and Group Capt. E. C. (Ted) Luke of Ottawa in airfield facilities.

Typical of Canadian adjustability is Ftl. Lt. Lester E. Steadman of Bridgewater, N.S., special services officer who maintains an athletic and physical fitness program in tune with sports traditions of six countries.

Prince Rupert Daily News
Thursday, April 2, 1953

Thorough Basic Training Necessary Says Bingham

By BILL BOSS

Canadian Press Staff Writer
IN KOREA (C)—Delayed—Korea, says Lt.-Col. Peter Bingham of Petawawa, Ont., has proven there can be no short cuts in the basic training of the private soldier.

Reviewing for The Canadian Press his unit's year in this United Nations theatre, the officer commanding the 1st battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment, said:

"It has shown that we must continue to insist on very thorough basic training. There are no shortcuts. You can't streamline that department the way you can others."

Bingham's battalion is up for rotation after being relieved by the 3rd battalion, RCR, under Lt.-Col. Ken Campbell of Petawawa, which arrived in Korea March 23.

OUTSTANDING FEAT

Solid training and sound discipline, Bingham said, won the unit's outstanding accomplishment of the year—the battle of Gibraltar spur last Oct. 23. Bingham was en route back from a holiday in Hong Kong at the time.

"I take greater pride in the fact that the battalion fought

and won the action while the CO was away than if I had been there," he said.

Bingham said the regiment's debut in the Korean line, from April to July, was a time of great enthusiasm. "Everybody wanted to go out on patrol, everybody wanted to fight the enemy."

After a rest in reserve the RCRs returned to the line in August, assigned to the dominant Little Gibraltar hill.

"The whole thing had a much more serious note," Bingham said. "The enemy was in a very strong position. Here the battalion began to suffer its really heavy casualties. Patrolling no longer had the same boyish zest, things had become much more serious."

"I would sum up our service here by saying that it has added prestige to the regiment. We have added a new regimental day to our traditions, 'Little Gibraltar Day,' which will be observed henceforth October 23.

"And we have won six Military Crosses, as many as the battalions of the original brigade won altogether, and seven Military Medals.

"But most important, it has confirmed to us something we were beginning to forget. That is, there is nothing new in war."

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AT SWEET 16...

IT'S EASTER TIME

AT SWEET 16...

IT'S EASTER TIME

SWEET 16...

EASTER TIME

SWEET 16...

EASTER TIME

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AT SWEET 16...

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