

THE AIRBORNE SERVICES

Freighter Service

Two of the RCAF's Bristol Freighters were recently posted to England where they are being operated on a shuttle service between RCAF bases in the U.K. and on the continent. They are based at the RCAF's 30 Air Materiel Base at Langar, near North Luffenham.

Home Free

Flight Lieutenant Ernest A. Glover, who spent six months in Korea, flew 50 missions on operations while attached to the USAF, and was credited with three MiG 15's destroyed and three damaged, returned to Canada in mid-October. F/L Glover, whose score is the highest to be racked up by any RCAF pilot to serve in Korea, has since been posted to 434 Squadron, based at RCAF Station Uplands.

Airwomen Overseas

A group of RCAF airwomen is to be posted overseas soon, probably early in the new year, it was revealed by the RCAF recently. It is expected that only those who volunteer for duty overseas will receive postings. They will carry out similar types of work to that which they have been doing in Canada. This includes clerical, fighter control, telecommunications, radar technicians, medical orderlies, etc.

Dubious Honor

Leading Aircraftman Joseph Lefebvre was instantly killed October 28 when he was sucked into the intake of an F-86E which was being run up at RCAF Station Chatham, N.B. LAC Lefebvre has the dubious distinction of being the first RCAF airman to be fatally injured in such an accident.

Last December, a similar accident occurred with an RCAF Sabre in the U.K., at which time LAC Albert Richards was the unfortunate victim. However, LAC Richards emerged unharmed except for two black eyes.

New Training AOC

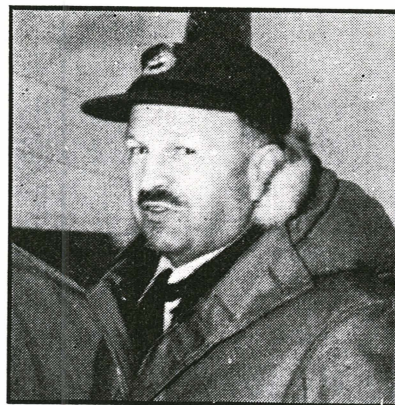
Air Commodore John Gordon Kerr, CBE, AFC, will be promoted to the rank of Air Vice Marshal, effective January 1, and appointed Air Officer Commanding Training Command, Trenton, Ontario, it was announced last month by AFHQ.

A/C Kerr, who now commands Tactical Air Group at Edmonton, will take over his new duties January 8. He succeeds Air Vice Marshal C. R. Slemon (see following). He has been a member of the RCAF since 1931, when he joined the service following graduation from RMC. During World War II he served in Canada in command of several training stations, and overseas in command of operational and advanced training units.

Curtis Retires

The often predicted retirement of Air Marshal W. A. Curtis, CB, CBE, DSC, ED, Chief of the Air Staff since September of 1947, became a reality with an official announcement on November 8. A/M Curtis will actually retire on January 31, at which time his post will be taken over by Air Vice Marshal Charles Roy Slemon, CB, CBE, currently AOC of Training Command.

Air Marshal Curtis, now 59, has had a long and distinguished military career and his term of office as Chief of the Air Staff has been noteworthy



AIR MARSHAL CURTIS



AIR VICE MARSHAL SLEMON

for the able way in which he has guided the planning, growth, and development of the RCAF during the turbulent postwar period.

His career as a military man has been unusual in that he has served in all three services. As a civilian between World Wars I and II he was a successful businessman, heading his own insurance company in Toronto.

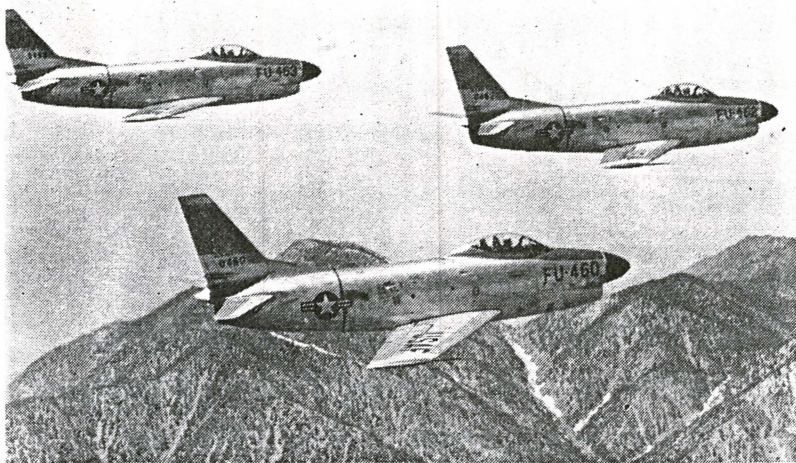
A/M Curtis, born at Havelock, Ontario, on August 21, 1893, was educated in Toronto and left school in 1915 to join the 34th Infantry Battalion. He won his commission with the 21st Regiment and later learned to fly at his own expense at the Curtiss Flying School at Long Branch, near Toronto. In 1916 he transferred to the Royal Naval Air Service and served overseas as a fighter pilot, being invalided home in 1918 after a distinguished operational career.

Following the end of World War I he served in the reserve, first as an officer of the embryo Canadian Air Force and then for eight years as an officer of the Toronto Scottish Regiment. His interest in flying continued, and he was one of the founders of the Toronto Flying Club. He assisted in the organization of 110 Auxiliary Squadron, Toronto becoming its commanding officer in 1935. In 1938 he was promoted to wing commander in charge of squadrons at Toronto, Hamilton, and London. He left his civilian occupation as president of the W. A. Curtis Insurance Company when he was called up for regular duty on September 1, 1939. During World War II he served in a variety of administrative capacities in training and headquarters work. He went overseas in November, 1941, as Deputy Commander in Chief of the RCAF Overseas, and did not return to Canada until January, 1944, when he was posted to Ottawa as Air Member for Air Staff. With the consolidation of the three Services under one department in January, 1946, he became Air Member for Air Plans, a post which he held until named to succeed Air Marshal Robert Leckie as Chief of the Air Staff.

With the departure of Air Marshal Curtis to the comparative seclusion of private life, the RCAF has said goodbye to the last of its top ranking officers who served in both World Wars.

Air Vice Marshal Slemon, new

Dec/52 AIRCRAFT



SABRE FAMILY: Now entering the USAF in numbers are these North American F-86D Sabres, an all weather, all rocket, single seat interceptor. Though Lockheed Starfire was publicized recently as first all weather, all rocket fighter, actually the F-86D preceded it by a considerable length of time. This version of the Sabre is slightly longer than the F-86E, but it is otherwise quite similar.

Chief of the Air Staff, has the distinction of being the first Air Force pilot to be trained and to fly solo in Canada after World War I. Born in Winnipeg on November 7, 1904, he began his military career in the Army's OTC

while attending the University of Manitoba. In 1923 he joined the non-permanent non-professional body known as the Canadian Air Force and during the summer months began training as a cadet. In the spring of

1924 he was commissioned in the newly-created RCAF and received his wings the following autumn.

With the exception of a period from 1926 to 1928, when he was on special leave attending university (he graduated with a B.Sc. in engineering), he has seen continuous service with the RCAF since its inception.

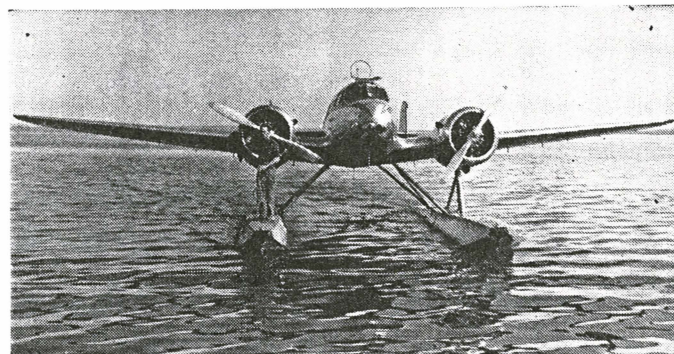
Most of his flying during the first years of his service was on photo survey work. In 1935 he became a staff officer at AFHQ, later attending RAF Staff College in the U.K. He served for a time as AOC of Western Air Command before going overseas in 1942 to help organize the Canadian bomber group, in which he held the position of senior staff officer from the date of its organization in January, 1943 until September, 1944. At this time he was named deputy AOC in chief of the RCAF Overseas, a post he held until appointed to command the RCAF's projected Pacific Force, a position that dissolved when the Japanese surrendered. Following the War he served in a number of high executive posts at AFHQ before being named AOC of Training Command in 1949.

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