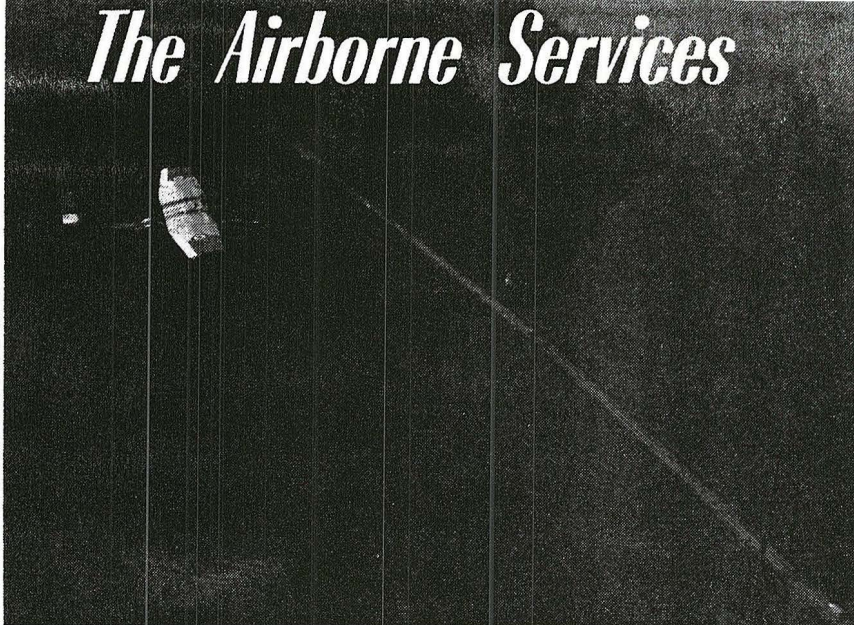


The Airborne Services



A FAMILIAR WATER BIRD flies over Vancouver's Burrard Inlet on its way for a flight over B.C. coastal waters. On April 8, the last PBY-5A Canso to wear RCAF colors was officially retired in a ceremony held at Downsview, Ont., in connection with reunion of No. 162 Squadron of World War II fame.

Bang! You're Dead!

The RCAF's No. 446 Bomarc Squadron at North Bay became operational in mid-March. At least, the squadron is operational insofar as all matters relating to the servicing, maintenance and operation of the ground-to-air missiles and their systems are concerned.

Trouble is, the Bomarc have no warheads under their nosecones and won't have unless and until the Government decides to adopt nuclear weapons. Early in the development of the Bomarc, work was started on the parallel development of a conventional warhead, but this was never completed. Thus, the choice is nuclear or nothing.

Comox Re-equips

The RCAF is going to do its best to guard the Comox-Courtenay area on Vancouver Island against sonic boom and the noise of supersonic aircraft. First pair of the Air Force's 1,200-mile-an-hour CF101B Voodoo jet interceptors has already arrived at Comox air station and more are expected in the near future.

Meanwhile, members of 409 Nighthawk Squadron stationed Comox have recently completed conversion training in the Voodoo at RCAF Station Namao, Alberta.

Residents of Comox-Courtenay have been warned that the Voodoo's noise on take-off is considerably greater than that of the obsolete CF-100s which the Voodoos are replacing.

RCAF officials said every means will be used to minimize public discomfort from noise. Climb-out angles

of aircraft will be controlled as much as possible. Ground run-up areas will be carefully selected.

Take-offs will be diverted as much as possible from over built-up residential locations. Sonic booms will take place in remote areas. Air Force officials said most of the additional noise will be made by the Voodoos afterburners, to be used on take-off where possible only away from residential areas.

Canso Retires

On April 8, the last Canso to wear RCAF markings was flown to RCAF Station Downsview in connection with a No. 162 Sqn. reunion. The Canso has served with the RCAF for over 20 years.

The first Consolidated Catalina, designated the XP2Y-1, was produced in 1935 for the U.S. Navy. The amphibious version, the PBY-5A Canso, was brought into service early in 1941. Subsequent to the war years, the RCAF has continued to use the Canso for search & rescue duties, arctic survey operations and certain types of transport jobs.

During World War II, 732 Cansos and other PBY variants were produced in Canada by Boeing Aircraft of Canada Ltd., Vancouver, and Canadian Vickers Ltd., Montreal.

Army Rotation

During February, a Yukon transport of 437 (T) Sqn., RCAF Station Trenton, airlifted 107 officers and men of the 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch, from Fredericton, N.B., to Dusseldorf, Germany, in eight hours and 50 minutes. This flight was the

initiation of the rotation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Black Watch. The rotation was completed last month.

The 1st Battalion has completed a two and one-half year tour of duty with the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group in Germany.

Emergency Arctic Strips

The USAF has selected 50 emergency landing strips in the Canadian Arctic which could be used by military or civilian planes in trouble.

With the assistance of Canadian Aero Service Ltd. of Ottawa, the USAF prepared a study entitled "Terrain Analysis of Ice-Free Land Sites in Arctic Canada." The report was completed in February 1961, and was based on an examination of RCAF aerial photographs. Results are available to interested commercial companies. One Ottawa official said, however, "the landing strip goes to the oil well, not the oil well to the strip."

Defence Minister Harkness informed the Commons March 5 that so far there are no plans for development or utilization of the landing strips.

Army Acquires SS-11

The Canadian Army's long pre-occupation with some nine inches of armor plate — the reputed hull strength of Russian tanks—is about to bear fruit in new weapons programs.

The Army has adopted a five-year, \$8 million program to acquire various anti-tank rockets and missiles for the infantry. It will spend about \$1 million of this amount in the 1962-63 fiscal year.

One weapon settled on is the French SS-11 anti-tank missile with which Army units have been experimenting for the last few years. The missile, guided by wires which trail behind the warhead, can be carried by two men and operated by one. Other weapons of a similar type probably will be obtained in the U.S. but the exact weapons have not yet been decided on.

Radar Take-over

Squadron Leader Douglas E. Biden has become commanding officer of the former U.S. Pinetree radar site at Mt. Lolo, near Kamloops, B.C., which was taken over by the RCAF March 21.

An Air Force spokesman said approximately 125 officers and airmen will form the complement when the RCAF takes over full control of Mt. Lolo.

Canada is taking over operation of 11 radar bases from the United States under an agreement involving 66-101B Voodoo jet interceptors.