

Wing Cmdr. Peter O'Brien of Toronto, who hasn't been home since he joined the R.A.F. in 1936, worried more than a trifle about the possibility of his never seeing Yonge Street again, as he drifted around in his dinghy close to the French coast, but he needn't have worried, a Canadian Press cable relates. Naval craft picked up the distinguished Flying Cross holder just 8½ hours after he had bailed out of his R.A.F. Spitfire. He was only 12 miles off Ushant when rescued. Peter is the son of Group Captain Geoffrey



Wing Cmdr. O'Brien.

S. O'Brien, commanding officer of a personnel reception centre in England. He started off on an evening attack on two enemy ships off the French coast. His plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire, and as he flew

at sea-level, glycol began streaming from the engine.

"I climbed to about 1,000 feet, rolled over on my back and bailed out," Peter reported.

Other pilots had reported his position, and when air-sea rescue planes failed to spot him in the gathering darkness, the navy was called in.

"The craft steered so accurately it nearly ran me down," O'Brien said of the rescue. "Magnificent is the only word for such navigation and I was home for breakfast."

Peter attended Trinity College and University of Toronto Schools before leaving for the Royal Air Force in 1936. At the age of 25, he was the youngest Canadian wing commander to hold that rank operationally.

Sharp Navy
Navigation
Saves Toronto
Airman