HALTON HILLS OUTLOOK, Friday, February 27, 1987 - Page 17 Outlook on Lifestyle

Book review

RCAF mirrors foreign policy

Last year military buffs in this country read reams about the Royal Canadian Navy because of its seventy-fifth anniversary. Now, in a delightful inter-service twist, an exnaval officer has written the second volume in the official history of the Royal Canadian Air Force. W.A.B. Douglas is the Director of

History at the Department of Na-tional Defence in Ottawa. His The Creation of a National Air Force (University of Toronto; 896 pages; \$39.95) can sit proudly beside S.W. Wise's superb volume on Canada's airmen in the First World War as part of what will become the definitive series on the RCAF.

Douglas traces the RCAF's development from 1918 to 1945. He covers creation, growth, and Canada's domestic-aviation contributions to the Second World War.

Bureaucratic problems, home defence, and the massive British Commonwealth Air Training Plan dominate the book, with operational treatment to coastal defence and convoy anti-submarine duty. The next volume will deal with the RCAF overseas.

CIVILIAN ROLE

Canadian air-planners after 1919 believed that any military air arm had to rest on a solid civil-aviation establishment. Using the Royal Air Force as a model, founders created the RCAF in 1924.

But the RCAF's mission was initially civilian. Military pilots mapped and photographed the country, often for the first time, and patrolled the forests.

Douglas sees the RCAF as both a national, and a nationalizing, institution. Ottawa's airmen linked farflung communities and literally flew

the flag where no one lived. A national air network emerged to deter American penetration of Canadian aviation as the government pro-vided meteorological and other ser-vices. Later, the watchful Prime Minister Mackenzie King also defied RAF attempts to subordinate the RCAF to British strategic wants.

JOINT DEFENCE Both Americans and Canadians recognized the need for continental air defence as international chaos spread in the late 1930s. Despite unequal resources and power, Canadlan-American co-operation

evolved. Our squadrons, stationed at the Unmak Island U.S. air base, protected Prince Rupert, B.C., for example, and Yanks manned radar stations to warn if Germans somehow sortled from Hudson's Bay against the locks at Sault Ste. Marie,

Once initial confusion and bickering were overcome, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan was Canada's great contribution to Allied air superiority in Europe. More than 130,000 graduates bolstered fighter and bomber fleets

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stationed overseas.

Home defence, on the other hand, was a low priority. Badly prepared Canadian units performed dismally against German convoy raiders inthe Atlantic and the U-boats that stalked the Gulf of St. Lawrence at will in 1942.

LEADERS FAULTED Douglas cites faulty RCAF leadership:

-- Senior officers floundered alongside high-level Allied staff

alarm diverted scarce aircraft to defend areas that would never be seriously attacked, such as British Columbia after 1941

British tactics out of national and services jealousy

-Parochial Canadians patrolling

the North Atlantic rejected proven

.. And events, not foresight. generated Canada's anti-submarine capacity



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Reginald C. Stuart is chairman of history at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown,

99 Main St. S.

Downtown Georgetown 877-3060 Belange Rayaritana & Tung Litertaurant

Tasty Recipes

PIZZA HAMBURGER PIE

- 1 lb ground beef · 1's tsp salt
- 14 tsp pepper
- 1 Isp horseradish
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce 1 tsp_prepared mustard
- 1 8 oz can tomato sauce
- 2 tbsp_minced onion
- 1 cup grated Mozzarella cheese
- 2 tbsp. snipped parsley
- '> tsp dried basil • • 14 tsp. dried oregano few pitted ripe olives

Realtor

Start heating oven to 375°. Lightly toss beef with salt, pepper, horseradish, Worchestshire and mustard: press against sides and bottom of 9" pie plate. Spread tomato sauce over meat; then sprinkle with onions. cheese, parsley, basil, oregano, olives. Bake 20 minutes. Cut in wedges. Makes 4 to 6 servings.



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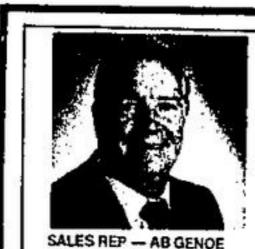
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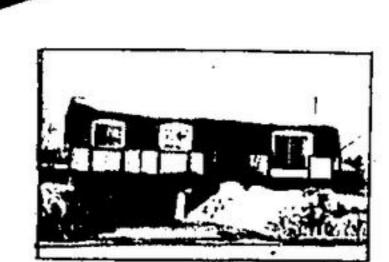
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