

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 ex-naval 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 National Defence in Ottawa. His *The Creation of a National Air Force* (University of Toronto: 896 pages, \$29.95) 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 far-flung 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 provided meteorological and other services. Later, the watchful Prime Minister Mackenzie King also defied RCAF 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, Canadian-American co-operation evolved.

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

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

stationed overseas.

Home defence, on the other hand, was a low priority. Badly prepared Canadian units performed dismally against German convoy raiders in the 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 planners.

--Popular, and hence political,

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

--Parochial Canadians patrolling the North Atlantic rejected proven British tactics out of national and services jealousy.

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

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



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PIZZA HAMBURGER PIE

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp horseradish
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp prepared mustard
- 1 8 oz. can tomato sauce
- 2 tbsps minced onion
- 1 cup grated Mozzarella cheese
- 2 tbsps snipped parsley
- 1/2 tsp dried basil
- 1/4 tsp dried oregano
- few pitted ripe olives

Start heating oven to 375°. Lightly toss beef with salt, pepper, horseradish, Worcestershire 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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