

2-502750
 AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

	Title		
LIB. 1	GV <i>Ki-planes</i> Planes lined up on ground	7411.	7
LIB. 2	Pan planes taking off	7411	7
3	LV <i>Air Comm. Cole takes School Pilots Boat</i>		7.5
3	LV Air Commodore Cole inspecting pilots		6
4	<i>Angle Slot: Boats marching Boat.</i>		3
4	CU Talking to pilots		4
5	TV Inspecting pilots		4
6	STV Making address to pilots		21
7	LV ² Men inside hut preparing for voyage		5
8	CU Stencil ing number on collar		5
9	CU Stencil ing R.A.A.F. on kit-bag		4
10	CU Stenciling number on kit-bag		4
11	CU Sewing wings on shoulder		5
12	SV Pilot packing kit-bag		3
13	SCU Ditto		3
14	SV Packing attache-case		3
15	CU Putting helmet in attache-case		4
16	SV Men up gangway with kit-bag		3
17	SCU Ditto		4
18	SV Men on boat waving		4
19	SCU Men waving		3
20	CU Mr.Mrs. Air-Cadet		5
21	LV Mrs. Cadet talks		18
22	SV Another pilot talkign		7
23	CU Pilot talking		16
24	LV Men waving on boat		3
25	CU Ditto		5
26	LV Boat Moving off		5
27	SV Airmen on ground waving to boat		4
LIB. 28	GV Boat under way, . . . 9586.		4

10109.

Length with title

172 Ft.

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 Blue from 1924.*

Check if at work summit

Handwritten notes and numbers: 137, 18, 10109.

2-50750

AUSTRALIAN AIRMEN IN CANADA

10 40 4
(1)

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS
AND EXCISE
14 OCT 1940
CASH BRANCH
MOUNT PLEASANT DEPOT
LONDON, E.C. 1.

The first contingent of Australian airmen under the Empire Air Scheme is now in Canada. These men have forged another link in Empire unity for Australia will send to help her sister Dominions man a great air fleet, a fleet that will crush Nazism.

"Each one of you," said Air Commodore A.T. Cole, C.B.E., tangible proof that the Empire Scheme is in operation, and that fighting pilots of the R.A.F."

The contingent was drawn up on the training camp parade ground during the address. Afterwards the air commodore had a personal chat with each man.

"I venture to suggest," said the air commodore in his speech, "that the announcement that you have reached Canada will not only thrill this country, but will bring re-assurance to the rest of our Empire, and be a grave warning to our enemies."

"Immediately you leave these shores," he said, "you will be carrying the flag for this service, and for this country. Upon your ability technically we will be assessed in Canada. Furthermore, retain the smartness you already have. Your training, as far as it has gone, has equipped you and brought you to a standard which is equal to the standard reached at your stage not only anywhere in the Empire, but in the world."

"Don't be over-confident. Always be full of respect for the care and maintenance of equipment."

"Remember," said the air commodore, "that our service is really the best, because much is left to individual initiative, and your training and equipment will be better than your enemy's."

"There are many thousands to come after you," he said.

"They will follow your tracks, and join you over there, and give you a well-earned spell"

"They will envy you. Among the envious are most of your fellow members of the R.A.F."

"I wish you good luck, God speed, and a safe return."

"The members of the contingent, the future pilots of our Hurricanes, Spitfires, Defiants, Blenheim, Beauforts, and Wellingtons, were not officially told of their destination until twenty-four hours before they sailed. Then the camp resounded with the cheers of the delighted men.

Before leaving Australia each man had many hours flying experience to his credit. In Canada, where they will complete their flying training, they will qualify for officer rank. In addition to learning to handle an aircraft at Australian schools, the trainees were instructed in instrument flying, aerobatics, elementary navigation, theory of flight and engineering.

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AUSTRALIAN AIRMEN IN CANADA



In Canada the trainees come under the control of the Royal Canadian Air Force, although they will retain in full their Australian identity and uniform.

They will fly in the most modern type of aircraft to prepare them for the front line fighters and bombers which they will man later. Further weeks will be spent at a bombing and gunnery school. Finally there will be a short conversion course, either in Canada or England, when they will actually fly the type of machines that they will use in action.

Although confined aboard ship, the airmen continued their training across the Pacific. Flying lectures and gymnastics occupied much of their time.

They were drawn from many walks of life, and there are representatives from every State. Their ages range from 18 to 28 years. There are university students, seamen, radio announcers, wool-classers, business and bank clerks, architects, hotel workers in their ranks.

The smallest trainee in the batch was a bell-boy at the Australia Hotel before he joined the Air Force. He remembers on one occasion that he paged Sir Donald Cameron, K.C.M.G., D.S.O.V.D., who is now Chairman of the New South Wales R.A.A.F. Recruiting Drive Committee. This youngster once saved his tips for flying lessons, but, as he put it, "the Royal Australian Air Force not only gives you free tuition, but an adventure into the bargain." Now, of course, he is a qualified pilot.

The butt of many a joke is a trainee who is six feet five inches and a half tall, thin and nineteen years old. He hails from Hobart. "I can take it," he said, with a good-natured grin when one of the contingent declared that arrangements were in hand for the building of a special plane for him.

One airman was a prominent long distance athlete at a public school. He was a wool-classer when he joined up. "I've always liked speed," he said. "Perhaps, that's why I am so attracted to aviation." Another was an assistant manager at a Queensland sheep station, but he was "getting fed up", and he wanted 'some thrills'. "By all accounts I'm going to get them", he said.

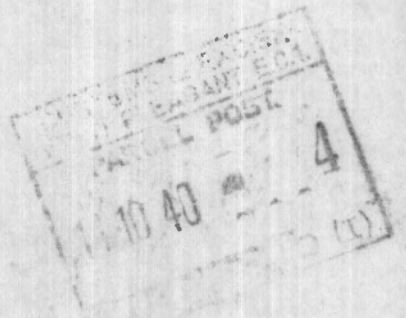
A group of airmen gathered around a mate with a ukelele half an hour before the ship pulled out, and the departure was enlivened with "Wish Me Luck", "Oh, Johnnie, Oh, Johnnie", "Till the Lights of London Shine Again", and "Waltzing Matilda".

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2-702F30

PAGE #3

AUSTRALIAN AIRMEN IN CANADA



Sir Donald Cameron watched the contingent parade at their training camp on the day before they sailed. On the departure day he visited the wharf to say good-bye to them. "They are modest, but terribly sure of ultimate success," he said. Obviously he was very proud of these splendid young men that he had helped to enter the Royal Australian Air Force.

All Australia shared that pride when the announcement was made that her air warriors had arrived in Canada. For they have begun another chapter of Empire history, in a volume already brilliantly illumined with the splendour of gallant air exploits.



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