

*Mr. Lummis*



**A NATIONAL FILM BOARD**

**Release**

**THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, OTTAWA**

Prod. No. 54-323-12  
400' fine grain pos.

Cable Code: NATO  
Cable Address: Newsreels,  
Canadafilm, Ottawa

HUNDREDS OF NEW JET PILOTS FOR NORTH ATLANTIC DEFENCE UNDER  
NATO TRAINING PLAN

.....

RCAF TRAINED PILOTS FROM NATO COUNTRIES PRESENTED WITH WINGS AT  
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE JET SCHOOL

.....

NATO PILOTS TRY THEIR WINGS OVER CANADIAN PRAIRIE

.....

Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Nov. 00/54

The NATO aircrew training program of the RCAF has been one of Canada's significant contributions in developing of NATO's strength. Since the first trainees arrived in 1950, hundreds of pilots and navigators from nine nations have received aircrew training by the RCAF.

Belgium, France, Italy, Norway, Turkey, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Portugal - all have officers training in the Canadian West.

Upon arrival in Canada, the trainees are sent to London, Ontario for familiarization lectures to aid them in fitting into Canadian service life. After several weeks on this course, they move on to flying training schools in the Canadian Prairies. Following initial training on Harvards comes the big job of learning to fly the T-33 Silver Star jets. At Portage la Prairie or Gimli in Manitoba, their basic training is adapted to flying advanced exercises.

Classroom instruction plays an important part in their training period at the jet school. Ground lectures include the most advanced and detailed study of flight instruments, their operation, causes of failure and corrective action. The ejection seat, decompression chamber, the T-33 ground trainer which simulates actual flying conditions, are all part of the classroom training.

Finally the students take to the air where they are instructed in formation flying, high altitude, high speed cross-country flights, air interception and VHF homings and fighter tactics.

Then the big day arrives. NATO trainees and students of the Royal Canadian Air Force who have completed their 13 week jet course are presented with their wings. Wing Commander C.W. Burgess, Commanding Officer at Portage, pins the wings on the tunics of the young men. . . .

Again to the skies. Clear sunny weather and fluffy clouds and the new pilots show what they have learned - cross country, high altitude and formation flying at over 500 miles an hour and finally they peel off in perfect precision in an extreme close-up before our camera.

The NATO aircrew training in Canada is giving young men from the various European countries an opportunity to become intimately acquainted and the chance to see Canada and know Canadians. It is Canada's primary contribution to the security of the countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.