

Heading The R.C.A.F. Leaves Little Time For Private Life

By DAVE McINTOSH
Canadian Press Staff Writer
OTTAWA (CP) — Air Marshal Roy Slemmon, a dapper 53, has a capacity for work equalled by few men in the defence department, where long hours are not uncommon.

He told a reporter not long ago that in his more than four years as boss of the RCAF he had found time to have lunch outside his office only eight times, excluding occasions when he had to entertain visiting dignitaries. His lunch usually consists of a sandwich at his desk as the work goes right on.

Air Marshal Slemmon, whose entire adult life has been the air force, was named last week as deputy commander of the new combined operational headquarters of the Canadian and United States air defence commands at Colorado Springs.

It will be his responsibility, with Gen. Earle Partridge of the U. S. Air Force, headquarters commander, to work out detailed plans for complete co-ordination of the RCAF and USAF fighter commands in event of a Russian air onslaught on North America.

Air Marshal Slemmon is understood to have been one of the prime movers for a combined headquarters. He had his knuckles rapped by the former Liberal government two years ago for saying publicly that establishment of one supreme command for the defence of North America was inevitable.

USAF CONTROL

The Liberals were opposed to a combined headquarters on the grounds that RCAF fighter command would come under direct control of the U. S. Air Force.

However, some officials here, including Air Marshal Slemmon, and others in the U.S.—not least of all Gen. Partridge himself—kept quietly pressing for one command with the argument that Canada and the U.S. must be considered as a single unit for purposes of air defence. This view now has prevailed.

Air Marshal Slemmon was the obvious Canadian choice as deputy commander because he is noted for seldom overlooking a detail in his sphere of defence planning.

Among some defence officials here, he has been regarded as too cautious.

He once told a reporter, however, that when he left his post as chief of air staff he didn't want to leave a legacy of costly errors.

"I want to be able to look right in the eye the men who come after me," he said.

His eyes aren't noticeably downcast these days.

For relaxation, Air Marshal Slemmon quits the headaches of his office on the first floor of national defence headquarters and visits an operational squadron.

"It's a real pleasure to see how efficiently a squadron functions," he said.

GROWN WITH RCAF

Air Marshal Slemmon has literally grown up with the RCAF. He is the only member of the 50,000-man force still serving who was also a member when the RCAF was formed in 1924.

He has taken a large hand in the shaping of its policy and or-

ganization from a small group of daredevils flying rickety biplanes into the biggest and costliest branch of Canada's armed forces.

The air marshal, who wears a small moustache and speaks in a soft voice, can still poke fun at his service. One of his public speeches a few years ago consisted almost entirely of a riotous reading of a bulky air force file concerning a matter so trivial it did not require any correspondence at all.

A native of Winnipeg, Air Marshal Slemmon was graduated from the University of Manitoba as an engineer. He won his pilots wings in 1924 and did a lot of flying in those early air-age days in the Arctic and sub-Arctic.

During the Second World War he demonstrated his talent for organization. He formed the RCAF's No. 1 bomber group in 1942 and became deputy commander of the 15 heavy bomber squadrons and 24,000 men.

He was deputy commander of the RCAF overseas in the last few months of the war and was picked to lead the RCAF Pacific force. He served at air force headquarters after the war, bossed training command and was appointed chief of air staff Jan. 31, 1953.

JULY W.M.S.

The regular meeting of the Hampton W.M.S. was held at the home of Mrs. Gordon Villet on Tuesday evening, July 2. Mrs. Wm. MacFarlane conducted the worship service, the theme of which was "Senior Citizens".

After the call to worship and prayer, hymn 281 was sung. The 23rd Psalm was read in unison, followed by silent prayer and singing of Hymn 681, then closing prayer.

Assisting in the service were Mrs. Mack Dixon, Mrs. M. K. Charman, Mrs. Clayton Morrison, Mrs. John Rogerson, Mrs. Elmer Inman, Mrs. John Dixon and Mrs. Windsor Bell. The business period opened with the reading of the minutes which were approved and signed.

Roll call was answered by 12 members and 4 visitors were welcomed. 17 cards, 1 home call and 3 treats were reported since last meeting. The meeting closed with the Benediction, after which refreshments were served by the hostess and committee and a social time enjoyed.

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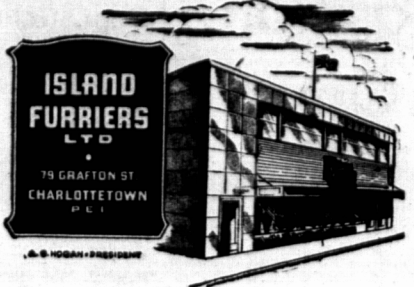
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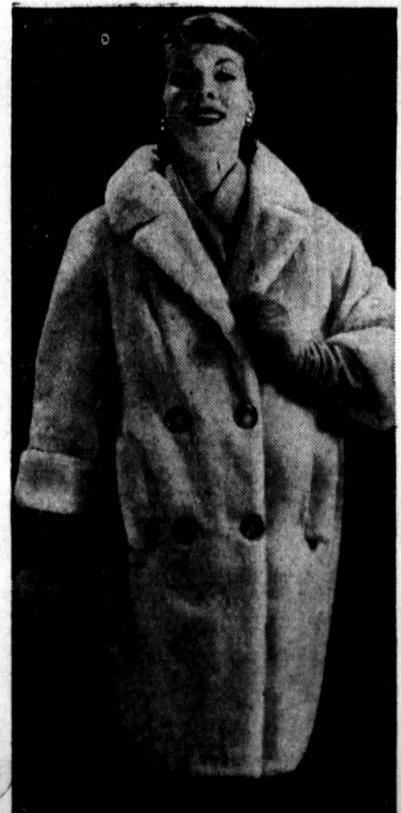
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