

Reel C12,336

Number 16 Elementary Flying Training School, Edmonton, Alberta

December 1, 1940 - July 17, 1942

September 25, 1940

Organization Order Number 64

Information: Owing to the continued expansion of the Joint Air Training Plan it has become necessary to open the 16th elementary flying training school. The first intake of pupils will consist of personnel other than the normal Joint Air Training Plan entry. It will consist of pilots with previous experience who will undergo a refresher course with a view to their employment as staff pilots in various capacities at units of the Joint Air Training Plan.

Execution: No 16 Elementary Flying Training School is to open at Edmonton on November 11, 1940 and will be operated by the Northern Alberta Flying Training School Ltd under the supervision of an RCAF supervisory officer.

Accommodation: All necessary accommodation for the operation of the school has been provided by the RCAF. All RCAF personnel will live in. Owing to the proximity of No 16 EFTS to Edmonton, barrack accommodation for the company's personnel will not be provided by the RCAF.

December 7, 1940

Good weather, high wind at 2,000 feet. Three aircraft forced landed on cross country. S/L J L Bervan assumed position of chief supervisory officer effective 7/12/1940.

February 3, 1941

A splendid day all day for flying. Available time 8 hours. Three machines used to drop flowers on funeral. Amount of time done 127 hours.

March 4, 1941

AVM Steadman visited Station to inspect technical and with W/C Luke of the RAF. A small fire took place in a number of apple boxes near cook house which was quickly extinguished. A very fine day for flying with 10 available hours. Course 19 started examinations in ground school and as there were four each lasting one and a half hours no flying was done by them.

March 19, 1941

Low fog during early morning, clearing into a fine flying day. Available hours 12. A flying accident occurred involving Tiger Moth number 4183 caused by low flying over government

highway and collision with some telephone wires near St Albert, Alberta. R75187 LAC Sexsmith, airman, in charge of aircraft was uninjured.

March 26, 1941

Ideal weather conditions prevailed for the visit of His Excellency Earl Athlone to the Station in the afternoon. The Vice Regal party was welcomed to the RCAF schools by S/L Laxdal and Captain W R May OBE DFC (Wop May - ed) of the Observer School and S/L Berven and Mr Plunkett of No 16 EFTS. His excellency showing great interest in the air schools inspected every phase - men, hangars, quarters and machines. RCAF planes saluted His Excellency with an exciting demonstration of formation flying and individual aerobatics. The planes were flown by instructors and advanced student pilots. Following the inspection, His Excellency went to the officers mess where tea was served by the officers and Canadian Airway Training Ltd. Among those attending the officers' reception were His Honour Lt Gov Bowen, Maj Gen Griesbach, G/C d'Arcy Greig, Premier Aberhart and Mayor Fry. Available hours 12.

April 1, 1941

Air Commodore R Leckie DSO DSE DFC of Ottawa, air officer in charge of training, inspected No 16 EFTS. He conferred with S/L J L Bervin and Mr Plunkett on training and administration problems. A/C Leckie expressed his satisfaction with the operation of the school.

April 18, 1941

An enjoyable dance sponsored by the graduates of course 21 was held in the Silver Glade Dance Gardens. Prizes were awarded to the following: highest marks in flying - LAC Davidson R S; highest marks in ground school - LAC Watson T W.

April 30, 1941

The strength of the unit as follows: staff - officers three, airmen five; trainees - one officer, 90 airmen; personnel other than RCAF - nil; civilians - 95. The number and type of aircraft on charge is as follows: 32 Tiger Moths.

May 6, 1941

Four RAF airmen LAC's Doggett, Williams, Connor and Woodland participated in a quiz broadcast over CFRN Edmonton, held at the Legion Hut. They failed to score a victory over their worthy opponents, four nurses CAWS.

May 27, 1941

Completing a new lap in its flight across the Dominion on its way to Great Britain, the Victory Torch arrived in Edmonton Tuesday morning. Officials of the government and city were present

at the airport to receive the torch. Examinations in ground school subjects for course 26 began today. Firing, escorting and attending parties from No 16 EFTS were present at the funeral rights for LAC Williamson R L killed in a plane crash at Lethbridge on Saturday.

Editor's note: The magazine "The Pilot Observer" was the Station publication for both the observer school and the elementary flying training school.

June 6, 1941

Heavy wind in afternoon. Concluding their course of training at No 16 EFTS the members of course 26 celebrated with a graduation banquet and dance in the drawing rooms of the MacDonald Hotel on Friday evening. This is the first RAF class to graduate from this school. Special tribute was paid to LAC Harris, St John who achieved the highest marks ever acquired at this school.

June 10, 1941

LAC Dodds J W was killed when the Tiger Moth 4132 in which he was making a solo flight crashed into the city's western limits at 0715 hours. This was the first fatal accident in connection with the training of air force pilots at No 16 EFTS since the school was opened here on November 11, 1940. S/L R H Little No 3 SFTS Calgary arrived at 1850 hours to convene a court of enquiry.

June 12, 1941

Every member of the school attended the funeral rights for LAC Dodds J W. Services were conducted by the Reverend J G Brown. Burial was made in the Edmonton cemetery.

July 4, 1941

Accompanied by a number of military and air force officers, Prime Minister W L MacKenzie King visited No 2 AOS and No 16 EFTS. At the main entrance he was met by F/L H A Beer, chief supervisory officer and F/L R H Batty. Prime Minister King and his party walked through the administrative buildings, classrooms and hangars. They watched Avro Ansons circling the airport, saw students and instructors taking off and landing Tiger Moth training planes. The Prime Minister expressed keen interest in the training.

August 13, 1941

Cheered by thousands of Edmonton residents as he traveled through streets on an inspection of RCAF training schools, Air Commodore the Duke of Kent won the acclaim of onlookers as he acknowledged the most spontaneous and enthusiastic greeting yet received on the tour. Visiting the units of the Empire Air Training Schools in the afternoon, the Duke was seen to be taking keen interest in the whole development scheme here. At No 16 EFTS, he chatted with airmen,

asked many questions of officers, and watched the training planes taking off and landing. At the administration building, His Royal Highness signed the register. Here he shook hands warmly with Mr Thomas Bull, a veteran of The Great War. The Duke was asked by Mr Bull if a summer log house which he had supervised in the course of construction on the Windsor Park Estate was still there. His Royal Highness replied that the building was still there and was used by the King and Queen. Among those accompanying the Duke were A/C A T N Cowley ADC, W/C J A Hutchinson, W/C J C Malone as well as representatives of the city, province and RCMP. The Duke later told officials with whom he conversed the deep impression he had gained of the speedy expansion of the air-training scheme in this province and in Canada.

September 5, 1941

About 50 guests were entertained informally at the officers mess on Friday afternoon from 1700 hours to 1900 hours. Among those present were four officers of the air services, United States Army en route to Alaska who were the guests of the officers mess during their stopover in Edmonton.

September 29, 1941

The appearance of the Station has been greatly improved with the completion of hard surfacing on the roadways and parade square. Purchase was made of library books for reference purposes by No 2 AOS and No 16 EFTS.

October 20, 1941

It is always a pleasure to receive visits from former students of No 16 EFTS who have graduated from the service flying training schools. Today we were pleased to welcome P/O D B Hunter, a member of course 21, who is now an instructor at No 15 SFTS Claresholm, Alberta.

Editor's note: according to Marie Wright, an Edmonton native who piloted aircraft in England for the RAF Ferry Command, Simon Eden, son of Sir Anthony Eden, later Prime Minister of Great Britain, trained at No 16 EFTS and was subsequently killed flying transports over the "Hump" into Burma and China.

December 7, 1941

Thrilling thousands of citizens from Edmonton and district, parachute jumps were made at the aerodrome Sunday afternoon to create interest in Air Force recruiting. The jumps were arranged by F/L H E Jones, officer commanding No 3 Recruiting Centre RCAF Edmonton. Three veteran jumpers took part in the display. They were Mssrs Dyck, McGovern and Brocklebank, civilian instructors and parachute packers here. The jump was made from an Anson aircraft. Broadcast was made from the plane prior to the descent of the men and during the descent a word picture of the entire procedure was broadcast.

December 25, 1941

Gaily decorated for the occasion, the airmen's mess presented a very cheerful appearance on Christmas day. At noon a real Christmas dinner with all the trimmings was served. F/Os Wanless and Conrad and Mr Kennedy waited on the airmen in the traditional Air Force manner. Following the dinner, Mr McGuire, the Knights of Columbus supervisory officer, arrived with smokes for everyone. Bursts of songs at the conclusion of the dinner reflected the keen enjoyment of the Christmas cheer provided.

January 16, 1942

Considerable damage was done to Tiger Moth number 5830 on the aerodrome at 1245 hours. Seven US Army P-40 type aircraft were being taxied out to the field. The propeller of the seventh P-40 hit the starboard wings of the Tiger Moth breaking all four spars in these wings. The Tiger Moth was sitting on the flight line at the time of the accident. No damage was done to the P-40. The pilot of the P-40, 2Lt R C Roderick, US Army Air Corps, was uninjured.

February 16, 1942

Airmen of the junior course participated in the special ladies day plan arranged by the Edmonton War Finance committee on the opening day of the Victory Loan campaign. They were among the 1,500 members of the armed forces who escorted women purchasers to the campaign headquarters.

June 6, 1942

Organization Order 210

Disbandment of No 16 Elementary Flying Training School

Information: The disbandment of certain elementary flying training schools is necessary to provide sufficient accommodation for the expansion of air observer schools. No 16 Elementary Flying Training School is to be disbanded effective 17/7/1942. AMP is to arrange for the disposition of all RCAF personnel at present on the strength of No 16 Elementary Flying Training School. The air officer commanding No 4 Training Command is to arrange for the handing over of all RCAF buildings at No 16 Elementary Flying Training School to the civil operating company of No 2 Air Observer School.

June 10, 1942

The first squadron of Canadian fighters to use this Station landed at 1545 hours in a driving rain. This squadron is using Kitty Hawks. Its official designation is 118 F Squadron.

July 17, 1942

This is the official date of disbandment of this Station. Sgt Gauly posted to No 5 EFTS High River, Alberta. F/S Cote C posted to No 3 M Depot, Edmonton. The 32 trainee pilots in course 56 now attached at No 5 EFTS High River, Alberta being posted there. No posting for officers as yet. Total number of flying hours at No 16 EFTS Edmonton, Alberta nil due to course 56 being at No 5 EFTS High River.

Signed by E S Dunn F/L Chief Supervisory Officer, No 16 EFTS, Edmonton, Alberta.