

War in the Air

- Britain had a separate military air branch – the *Royal Flying Corps* (RFC) {renamed *Royal Air Force or RAF in 1918*}
- Canada had no air force, but more than 20 000 Canadians served in the RFC/RAF
- Ontario had three flight training centres in 1917
- by the end of the war, **Canadians made up 1/4 of Britain's flyers and 4 of the top 7 leading aces in the RAF were Canadian**

- Reconnaissance was the most important role
- average life expectancy was three weeks
- *dogfights* were aerial fights
- pilots had to keep careful records – if you could prove you shot down 5 planes, you were declared an “ACE”
- very dangerous – more than 50 000 pilots and air crew killed

- Billy Bishop was the most famous Canadian ace – shot down 72 planes
- Raymond Collishaw and Billy Barker were other well known Canadian aces

- Manfred von Richthofen (*the Red Baron*) was the German top ace with 80 kills
- his 81st kill would have been Wilfred “Wop” May, but Canadian ace, Roy Brown shot and killed the Red Baron in April 1918

Sopwith Camel



Zepplin



Fokker DR.I

