

FIRST AIRPLANE MAIL HERE FROM MONTREAL

**Despite Heavy Wind, Captain
Peck Makes Trip in
Seven Hours.**

Seven hours and twenty-five minutes after receiving a sealed mail bag from the hands of the postmaster at Montreal, Captain Brian Peck, of the 83rd Squadron, R. A. F., dropped out of the clouds and made an easy landing on the aerodrome at Leaside carrying the first aerial mail in Canada from Montreal to Toronto. The mail bag was rushed by automobile to the Toronto Post-Office and part of it delivered by special carriers to the addresses reaching their hands within the hour from the time of arrival.

Six hours actual flying time was taken in the transportation of the historic mail from Montreal to Toronto. The time was greater than it would have been had the wind been favorable, but the aviator had to face a moderately strong wind and was forced to descend at Kingston for gasoline and again at Deseronto while making the trip which marks a new era in the annals of the Dominion.

Among the officers at the aerodrome there was some doubt about the fact that mail was to be carried. It was explained that Captain Peck, with first-class mechanic, Corporal Mather, had gone to Montreal to spend the week-end and was expected to return on Sunday but was prevented by the high gale and the rain.

Air Mail Feasible.

"An aerial mail is a perfectly feasible thing," said Captain Peck after his arrival in a short interview with The Star. "We had the wind against us all the time or we would have been here long ago."

"I did not intend to carry mail this time though," he continued, "you have to thank Hon. Mr. Lemieux for this. Here is the bag with its seals and label," he said, producing His Majesty's mail from the locker of machine C 230 in which he made the trip.

"I had a good trip in spite of the head wind which forced us to descend at Kingston for petrol. You know there is nothing official about it. I was just asked to carry the mail bag with about 100 letters, and here I am."

Among the letters was one from the Montreal Star to The Toronto Star.

The inauguration of the special mail service yesterday was done on authority from Dr. R. F. Coulter, Deputy Postmaster-General at Ottawa, through the courtesy of L. J. Gaboury, Chief Inspector at Montreal. A special small size mail bag was provided for the occasion, as well as a special post mark bearing on its face the words: "Via Aerial mail, Montreal."

Mayor Martin, of Montreal, sent

the following greeting to Mayor Church:

"I seize with pleasure the opportunity which is afforded to me of transmitting to you my cordial greetings by way of the first air mail service ever operated in Canada."

"Capt Bryan Peck, of the Royal Air Force, is about to leave Montreal for your city with the first letter bag carried through that medium, and I thought it would be most becoming to write to you a few words on this occasion and to express the hope that this new mail service, organized by the Dominion authorities, will be most beneficial to both Montreal and Toronto, and will greatly contribute in promoting aviation."

Mayor Church replied by wire last night reciprocating the good wishes of the Mayor of Montreal, and pointing out that Captain Peck's feat must do an immense amount of good in the cause of aviation in Canada.

The machine which carried the first aerial mail was an ordinary training aeroplane which had just been refitted.

As planes belonging to the same flight were constantly arriving and departing during the afternoon the arrival of the mail carrier was not heralded by any special signal. When he approached the aerodrome Captain Peck was flying over 3,000 feet in the air, and he descended with a series of nose dives to an altitude of just over 500 feet when he swept round and made his landing against the wind from the north side of the aviation ground.

In Lethbridge, restaurants are refusing to serve meals, and railway tickets cannot be purchased unless customers show registration cards. Registrar Robertson of St. Catharines says the railways have been notified that no one without cards will be allowed to travel on street car or train.

Letters received at Brockville from Major Doughty, say that Capt. W. N. Graham, son of Hon. G. F. Graham, who was killed in France, May 22, had been recommended for a decoration for bravery in action.

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