

The Air Force Police contains in its ranks men and women drawn from many sources. Its personnel include ex-members of the R.C.M.P. and of the provincial, municipal and railway police forces of Canada. There are members of the London Metropolitan Police, and many British city and county police forces are represented. A number have served with the British military police and intelligence organizations, and the British colonial police forces have contributed ex-members from Palestine, Malaya, Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai, and Rhodesia. The largest number, however, have come into the force as inexperienced personnel and have been trained by the R.C.A.F.

In late 1951, women were reintroduced into the trade of Air Force Police. Policewomen are established on all units having a complement of more than 25 airwomen and at each Special Investigation Unit. They are to be found at radar stations in Canada and at R.C.A.F. Wings overseas. They receive the same training as men, even to the manly (or womanly) art of self-defence. Although they fulfill a normal police function, they are primarily concerned with airwomen.

### TRAINING

All members of the Air Force Police are required to attend the Air Force Police training course at R.C.A.F. Station Aylmer, Ontario, regardless of previous experience. In addition to this basic course, Air Force Police are accepted for training by various police schools in Canada, the United States, and Great Britain. Training is also provided in special fields, such as identification and interrogation, and selected personnel are given training in arson investigation within the R.C.A.F. and at Purdue University in the United States.

Air Force police have attended courses at the Canadian School of

Military Intelligence, Camp Borden, and the Canadian Provost Corps School, Camp Shilo. Air Force Police officers and N.C.O.s are regularly included in the R.C.M.P. College courses at Regina and Rockcliffe, and in the Maritime Police School at Halifax.

### DUTIES AT UNITS

The primary function of the Air Force police on units is the protection of life and property, and to this end all efforts are bent. Whether conducting security checks to ensure that all classified matter is adequately protected, or quelling a disturbance or directing traffic, the purpose of their duties is the same: the protection of serving personnel and public property. Air Force police maintain a 24-hour watch on the station, and many of their duties are performed when the rest of the personnel of the unit are enjoying themselves in recreation or are asleep in bed. During week-ends or holidays you will always find an Air Force policeman on duty. They maintain patrols in all weather, by day and by night; for there is no real substitute for the man on patrol, who, as he goes quietly on his rounds, is quick to notice any unusual circumstance.

Air Force police handle the finger-printing and photographing of personnel for identification purposes, they take care of the custody and escort of Service prisoners, they supervise the control of entry to the unit, and they investigate Service and criminal offences. They must often spend long hours in the investigation of crime, frequently working overtime. They are called upon to handle all disturbances on the unit — and sometimes off the unit in adjacent towns, when R.C.A.F. personnel are involved. Although these tasks are usually performed quietly and without difficulty, there have been occasions when Air Force policemen have been confronted with great person-

al danger, and they must always be alert to protect themselves and others in the vicinity.

The Air Force police are ready at all times to assist the airmen of the unit. To this end the guardhouse is a general information centre for all newcomers. The police run a lost-and-found bureau on each unit, and recover articles lost on trains and other forms of public transport. It is a rare day indeed when the unit police are not called upon to help someone who needs the benefit of their knowledge and contacts. Not long ago an airman was beaten and robbed in a city near his unit. His appeal for help to his unit brought prompt action. The Air Force police, with the assistance of the civil police, were able to bring about the arrest of the assailant and recover a portion of the stolen money for the airman.

No policeman, no matter how minor his task, can carry out his duties efficiently without giving his whole-hearted support to the policies he must execute. But his efficiency is also predicated to a large extent upon the support he receives from the rank and file of airmen,

*Cpl. Patricia McGrath finger-printing an airman at R.C.A.F. Station St. Hubert.*

