

# Air Chief Marshal Rank Will Be Given Breadner

Ottawa, March 20 (CP). — Air Minister Gibson announced today in the Commons that when Air Marshal L. S. Breadner retires from his overseas command April 1 he will be given the rank of Air Chief Marshal. He is believed to be the first Canadian to hold such a high rank.

Col. Gibson made the announcement in reply to questions from Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House Leader. Mr. Graydon said there had been much speculation regarding Marshal Breadner's retirement and he felt the Commons should be given a "clarifying statement."

Col. Gibson said that contrary to some reports there had been no friction between himself and Marshal Breadner or members of the air staff and the marshal.

Marshal Breadner had previously reached the highest point of an RCAF career when he became chief of the air staff. He then had been posted to the overseas command.

## Unusual Procedure

When Col. Gibson took over at the Air Ministry he found "a somewhat unusual" procedure in existence by which Marshal Breadner was allowed to report directly to the Minister instead of through the chief of air staff—a procedure followed in other services.

Marshal Breadner preferred to report direct and expressed his willingness to retire. The high rank was being conferred on him in recognition of his great service and it would in no way affect his pension payments.

When pressed for further details by Hon. R. B. Hanson (P.C., York Sunbury), Col. Gibson said Marshal Breadner "didn't want to remain at his command under the new arrangement."

He said the defense council had endorsed the recommendation that Marshal Breadner report through the chief of air staff.

By ALLAN NICKLESON

London, March 20 (CP) — Air Marshal L. S. Breadner said in an interview today: "The Canadian Government is doing the right thing in retiring me."

He added: "Younger men have got to be brought on and I feel I am at the age where I should retire, but I hope I have been of some service during my term of office." He is 52.

It was announced at Ottawa last week that Air Marshal Breadner is being replaced by Air Vice-Marshal G. O. Johnson, air officer commanding-in-chief of Eastern Air Command, Halifax.

## Pay Differences

The retiring air marshal declined to comment on Ottawa reports on the reasons behind the retirement. An Ottawa despatch Monday said it was learned reliably that the overseas commander decided to retire when the Canadian Defense Council recommended he report through the air chief of staff and he did not wish to return to the air chief of staff post because of pay difference.

The retiring overseas commander said he had no future plans.

Taking time out from a busy round of last-minute duties prior to leaving his post, Air Marshal Breadner in a voice that filled his large office at RCAF headquarters, old of his pride in the RCAF and said with visible emotion that "these kids, whether they are in Canadian squadrons or in RAF units, are the finest bunch you ever saw."

0251065-002

149  
WAR  
EUROPEAN  
1939  
CANADA  
AIR  
FORCE  
BREADNER