

General Frederick Ralph SHARP, CMM, DFC, CD
Chief of the Defence Staff
15 September 1969 to 14 September 1972

Born: 28 December 1913 Moosomin, Saskatchewan
Died: 10 June 1992 Carrying Place, Ontario



Honours

01/07/1972*	CMM	Principal Commander of the Order of Military Merit
01/07/1972*	CMM	Commander of the Order of Military Merit (* first Member CMM)
05/09/1972a	Commander	Legion of Merit (USA)
04/04/1945+	DFC	Distinguished Flying Cross (408 Squadron)
01/01/1951a	CD	Canadian Forces Decoration

Military

01/07/1934	Private	Assiniboia Regiment – attended summer camps 1934, 1935 and 1936
01/09/1934	Officer Cadet	Royal Military College – summer camps as noted above
01/07/1937	Officer Cadet	Summer Camp with the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery
01/07/1938	Prov. Pilot Officer	Complete RMC – Transfer from RCHA to RCAF
02/10/1938	Prov. Pilot Office	Initial flying training on Fleet (10.20 dual to first solo 5.30
28/10/1938	Prov. Pilot Officer	End Initial Flying Training, \ advanced dual, 4.45 solo).
13/11/1938	Prov. Pilot Officer	Course in Instrument Flying RCAF Station Trenton
08/03/1939	Prov. Pilot Officer	Instrument Flying Course ends - Passed with 73 percent average
17/06/1939	Prov. Pilot Officer	Qualified for Pilot Wings at RCAF Station Trenton
04/07/1939	Flying Officer	Promoted FO with seniority from 04 July 1938
10/09/1939	Flying Officer	To RCAF Station Trenton Flying Instructor School
07/11/1939	Flying Officer	End FIS - Flew Oxford (3.00 dual, 2.20 solo)
07/11/1939	Flying Officer	\ Harvard (3.40 dual, 3.50 solo) and Fleet (24.35 dual, 13.05 solo)
08/12/1939	Flying Officer	To RCAF Station Camp Borden
06/05/1940	Flying Officer	To RCAF Station Trenton
01/09/1940	Flight Lieutenant	Promoted to FL at RCAF Station Trenton
25/04/1940	Flight Lieutenant	To No. 3 Service Flight Training School (3 SFTS Calgary) as instructor
28/09/1941	A/Squadron Leader	Promoted Acting Squadron Leader at 3 SFTS Calgary
25/05/1942	A/Squadron Leader	To No. 15 SFTS at Claresholm
03/08/1942	A/ Squadron Leader	Attached to No. 2 Flying Instructor School at BCATP Station Vulcan
01/05/1943	A/ Wing Commander	Promoted Acting Wing Commander; posted to BCATP Station Vulcan
01/11/1943	Wing Commander	Confirmed as Wing Commander at BCTP Station Vulcan
01/01/1944	Wing Commander	Attend RCAF War Staff College in Toronto
01/04/1944	Wing Commander	To “Y” Depot in Lachine, Quebec
10/04/1944	Wing Commander	Leave Halifax for Britain – arrive 8 days later
02/05/1944	Wing Commander	No. 3 (Pilots) AFU
13/06/1944	Wing Commander	Attached to No. 1525 Beam Approach Training Flight for a week
11/07/1944	Wing Commander	To No. 24 OUT to 24 August 1944. Flew Wellington III and X (25 hrs)
01/09/1944	Wing Commander	To No. 61 Base – No. 1664 Conversion Unit
14/10/1944	Wing Commander	To 433 Squadron
26/11/1944	Wing Commander	To 408 Squadron – awarded DFC while with Squadron
15/06/1945	Wing Commander	Repatriated to Canada and attached to No. 8 OTU
26/08/1945	Wing Commander	Air Force Headquarters in Postings and Career
29/04/1947	Wing Commander	Commanding Officer, Central Flying School, RCAF Station Trenton
23/09/1949	Wing Commander	To No. 9420 Squadron Support Unit
09/11/1950	Wing Commander	To RAF Staff College (Liaison and Directing Staff Appointment)

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01/09/1951	Group Captain	Promoted to Group Captain
04/01/1953	Group Captain	Commanding Officer RCAF Station North Bay
16/06/1954	Group Captain	To AFHQ \ (awarded EIIR Coronation Medal 23/10/1953)
12/09/1959	Group Captain	National Defence College (end 31 July 1960)
01/08/1960	Air Commodore	Promoted Air Commodore
02/08/1960	Air Commodore	Commander 25 th Region NORAD
13/09/1962	Air Commodore	Commander 26 th Region NORAD
07/09/1964	Air Commodore	To AFHQ (Director General, Management of Engineering
14/06/1964	Air Vice-Marshal	Promoted Air Vice-Marshal \ and Automation
01/09/1965	Air Vice-Marshal	To Training Command Headquarters
16/07/1966	Air Marshal	Promoted Air Marshal and appointed Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff
23/01/1969	Air Marshal	Deputy Commander of NORAD
12/09/1969	General	Chief of Defence Staff
01/07/1972	General	The first Commander and first Principal \ Commander of the Order of Military Merit
15/09/1972	General	Retire from the Canadian Forces



Citation to Distinguished Flying Cross

“This officer has completed numerous sorties against many of the enemy's most heavily defended targets and has displayed high qualities of leadership, coolness and determination. On one occasion whilst over the target with the bomb doors open, Wing Commander Sharp's aircraft was attacked by a hostile fighter. This pilot took successful evasive action, however, and afterwards pressed home a good attack. In March 1945, Wing Commander Sharp participated in a daylight attack on Essen. Sometime before the target was reached the starboard inner engine became defective. The propeller had to be feathered. Nevertheless, Wing Commander Sharp, displaying his usual tenacity, went on to press home his attack. His determination to complete his mission successfully has won much praise.”

Record of Flying as of 29 July 1949 listed the following types he had logged - Crane (567.45), Anson (539.50), Fleet (424.50), Halifax (226.10), Harvard (209.20), Oxford (127.18), Cornell (119.35), Vampire (102.45), Expeditor (68.00), Lancaster (58.15), Tiger Moth (45.05), Dakota (24.00), Lockheed (22.35), Mitchell (19.55), Wellington (19.20), Wapiti (18.10), Fairchild (13.15), S-51 (11.15) plus fewer than ten hours each on Norseman, Battle, Boeing 247, North American 44, Yale, Bermuda, Hurricane, Hudson, Beaufort, Mustang, Hampden, Auster, Stranraer, Firefly, Boston, Dove and Chipmunk.

Record of flying time as of 28 December 1965 showed he had flown a total of 115.00 day dual (single engine), 890 day solo (single engine), 3.00 night dual (single engine), 25.00 night solo (single engine), 82.00 day dual (multi-engine), 1,794.00 day as first pilot (multi-engine), 272.00 day as second pilot (multi-engine), 12.00 night dual (multi-engine), 289.00 night as first pilot (multi-engine), 76.00 night as second pilot (multi-engine). Types flown in previous ten years included U3A (103.00), C-47 (192), C-45 (326), C-54 (178), T- 29 (59.00), F-106 (2.00), F-101 (2.00) and F-102 (14.00).



Presented with American Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander), 5 September 1972 by General John D. Ryan (Chief of Staff, USAF), but due to an administrative oversight, not published in General Orders until 26 June 1974, “for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from September 1969 to August 1972.”

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Ralph was born in 1913 at Moosomin, Saskatchewan and raised at Trenton, Ontario, where he joined the Royal Canadian Artillery in 1934. He graduated from RMC in Kingston.

Following the outbreak of WWII, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in July 1939 and earned his wings as a pilot in Trenton in 1939. He completed my flying instructor course at Camp Borden in 1939.

He spent over four years [51 months] on instructional duties in Alberta, before being posted overseas as C.O. of No. 408 Bomber Squadron, 6 Bomber Group 26 November 1944. He attended the War Staff College in 1944. He won a Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) on 4 May 1945 with No. 408 Goose Squadron.

In 1946, he was a member of the Chelsey committee which was instructed to make recommendations about the provision of officers for the active force, about the educational requirements of candidates, and about the way they should be trained. The committee, headed by Brigadier Leonard McEwan Chelsey (RMC 1917) favoured three plans. Plan A proposed to eliminate RMC as a source of officers and to use the site as a two-year course for military training of university graduates. Plan B proposed to enlarge RMC so it could provide the total annual requirements of the active force, to make it free and to impose an obligation on graduates to serve in the active force. Plan C proposed to enlarge RMC to produce 50-70% of the officers needed and to have a parallel officer training system in universities to prepare the balance.

After the war, he served in the directorate of postings and careers at Air Force Headquarters and as officer commanding the Central Flying School, Trenton. General Sharp studied business administration, at the University of Western Ontario and was an exchange officer to the directing staff of the RAF Staff College.

Later, General Sharp served as Commander, RCAF Station North Bay and at the directorate of organization and establishments, later the directorate of management engineering, Air Force Head Quarters. He was a student at the National Defence College, Kingston.

General Sharp served as Deputy Commander, 25th Region, North American Air Defence Command and as Commander, Bangor Sector, 26th Region, NORAD. He was Director General, Management Engineering and Automation, Canadian Forces Headquarters and Commander, Training Command, to July 1966.

Promoted to Air Marshall, he served as Vice-chief of the Defence Staff of National Defence, Canadian Forces Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario from 1967. He wrote a paper for the July-August 1967 Air University Review on the Reorganization of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Promoted to General in 1969, he served as Chief of the Defence Staff as general from 1969-1972.

The papers he collected on the reorganization and the unification of the Canadian Forces are included in the Robert Lewis Raymont fonds at Wilfred Laurier University.

General Sharp died on 06 October 1992

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