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Canadian Relations with the People
of the United Kingdom, and General
Problems of Morale, 1939 - 44.

1. The subject of this report is the relations of the officers and the men of the Canadian Army with the people of the United Kingdom during the very long period in which the main body of the Canadian Army Overseas has been stationed in ENGLAND, and the closely allied question of the morale of the Army during the same period.
2. This is a very large subject, and from every point of view a very important one. While secondary to the story of active operations, it cannot fail to be a matter of major interest to the Canadian Official Historian. The continued presence in the United Kingdom for more than four years, under comparatively static conditions, of a large and steadily growing force of troops from the Dominion of Canada is certain to have a definite effect upon the future relations of Canada and Britain, and constitutes a fascinating episode in social history, the interest of which cannot be exhausted in the present brief study. This report, however, may serve at least to direct attention to the importance of the topic, and to indicate the nature of the source material available upon it. An attempt will be made to collect in this report the most important items of general evidence, and certain relevant quotations upon particular subjects, while at the same time indicating the whereabouts of material for further study when and if this seems desirable.
3. The situation of the Canadian troops in Britain during the present war is very different from that of 1914-18. In the earlier war the British Isles were exclusively a base for operations which were continuously in progress on the Continent. The Canadian force which arrived in ENGLAND in October 1914 proceeded to FRANCE in February 1915, and from that time on the main Canadian Field Army was actively engaged in the theatre of war. The Canadian troops in ENGLAND, while numerous enough, were mainly those engaged in advanced training, on the strength of base establishments, on leave from the front, or recovering from wounds received in action.
4. In the present war, on the other hand, the largest part of the Canadian Field Army has remained in the United Kingdom down to the present time (June 1944) without engaging in active operations. The First Canadian Division arrived in ENGLAND in December 1939. It was then assumed that it would proceed to FRANCE in the spring or summer of 1940 to join the British Expeditionary Force then operating in that country. It will be recalled, however, that the German offensive which began on 10 May 40 resulted in the collapse of FRANCE and the withdrawal of all British forces from the Continent. Only one brigade of 1 Cdn Div reached FRANCE in June 1940, and this brigade was immediately withdrawn. The Canadians, in common with the other troops in the British Isles, then found themselves committed to what

was in effect a garrison role, and for a long time thereafter their function was that of guarding the British Isles against the imminent threat of an invasion which nevertheless did not actually materialize.

5. During the period from June 1940 to July 1943 there was very little opportunity indeed for the employment of Canadian troops outside of the British Isles. The expedition to SPITSBERGEN in the summer of 1941 gave employment to only a few hundred troops and resulted in no contact with the enemy (Reports Nos. 56 and 74). The raid on DIEPPE on 19 Aug 42 was a one-day operation involving only about 5,000 troops (Reports Nos. 100, 101, 108, 109 and 116). Except for the very minor and abortive operation of 22 Apr 42 known by the code name "ABERCROMBIE" (Reports Nos. 81 and 86), and the employment of tunnellers at GIBRALTAR (Reports Nos. 80 and 105), these were the only opportunities offered Canadian troops overseas for employment outside the British Isles. Only with the invasion of SICILY (10 Jul 43) did protracted large-scale operations begin; and even then the greater part of the Canadian Army Overseas remained in the United Kingdom until the opening of Operation "OVERLORD" in FRANCE (6 Jun 44).

6. In these circumstances, with a constantly increasing Canadian force stationed in ENGLAND and denied action, the relations of the men of the force with the British people, and the general problem of morale within the force itself, became very important questions. It is not too much to say, in the opinion of the present writer, that the maintenance of the morale of the Canadian Army Overseas on a satisfactorily high level under such conditions and over such a period constitutes a remarkable achievement and indeed a triumph. Upon this aspect of the history of the Canadian Army in this war future historians may find reason to dwell with no small pride. Four years of inactivity (in the sense of an almost total absence of active operations) is a most difficult test for any army, and particularly for a volunteer army recruited in the expectation of early action and stationed far from home. On the whole, it now appears, the Canadian Army Overseas has emerged from this test with credit to itself.

7. The materials upon which this report is based are varied. Pre-eminent among them are the fortnightly reports submitted by the Field Censors upon letters written by Canadian officers and soldiers. As pointed out in Report No. 51, these reports, rendered continuously since September 1941, constitute a unique record of the general state of mind of the Canadian Army. A complete set of these reports has been assembled for future reference by Historical Section, C.M.H.Q. They have been supplemented for the purposes of the present report by the records of "A" Branch, C.M.H.Q., and by references to British newspapers. C.M.H.Q. files generally have been freely drawn upon. Wherever possible, references are made to information already organized for historical purposes in the Preliminary Narrative, 1939-40, or elsewhere.

RELATIONS WITH THE BRITISH PUBLIC DURING THE EARLIEST PERIOD

8. On the question of the relations between the Canadian troops and the British public during the period immediately following the arrival of 1 Cdn Div in ENGLAND, much information has been organized in the Preliminary Narrative,

The History of the Canadian Military Forces Overseas, 1939-40, Chapter I, paras. 126-137, and Chapter III, paras. 109 to 152. It is unnecessary, accordingly, to repeat here the points there made, except in very summary form.

9. It is quite clear that during the first winter in ENGLAND both the morale of the troops and their relations with the civil population of England left something to be desired. The main reasons for this unfortunate situation, as they appear in the chapters of the Narrative just referred to, were as follows:

(a) The fact that the Canadian troops themselves were fresh from civil life and unaccustomed to the conditions of army service and the degree of discomfort and privation inseparable from it.

(b) The fact that 1 Cdn Div was stationed during this period in ALDERSHOT, which had been a garrison town since the Crimean War, and whose population were in consequence only too well accustomed to the presence of troops and decidedly indisposed to make much of any new formation, whatever its origin, arriving among them.

(c) The fact that this winter was the period of the so called "phoney war", when the Western Front was completely static, when air activity against the United Kingdom had not yet begun, and when in consequence the importance to Britain of aid from overseas was not yet fully apparent to the average citizen.

(d) This winter brought to England "the coldest conditions since 1894" (The Times, LONDON, 29 Jan 40), with attendant discomfort to men living in barracks certainly not designed for such conditions.

10. This unhappy concatenation of circumstances produced the result reflected in the report on Canadian military mail made to the Senior Officer, C.M.H.Q., by the Chief Postal Censor on 23 Feb 40 (Report No. 51, para. 19, and Preliminary Narrative, Chapter III, paras. 119-20). The terms of this report suggest very definitely that at this period the state of Canadian morale and of Canadian relations with the British population was far from ideal. Only one paragraph of the report will be repeated here:

Boredom, homesickness and a feeling of not being really needed, appear to be the main reasons why nearly all these Canadian soldiers grumble. The majority of the writers warn their friends and relations not to join the Army.

11. This was an unhappy beginning, and it might perhaps have been feared that when it was followed by four years of static conditions the result would be unfortunate if not disastrous. On the contrary, however, the relations of the Canadian soldier with the British people may be said, broadly speaking, to have steadily improved since that time, and the general record is one which can now be viewed with considerable satisfaction.

CHANGES IN THE SITUATION AS REFLECTED IN CENSORSHIP REPORTS

12. The improvement in relations began even during 1940. This was in part the result of the movement of Canadian troops out of the ALDERSHOT area, which brought them into contact with British communities disposed to take a somewhat less sour attitude towards His Majesty's forces. A notable landmark in this respect was the movement of 1 Cdn Div into the NORTHAMPTON area in May, 1940. Here the Canadians were received with a kindly warmth which gave them a very different impression of English hospitality from that formed in ALDERSHOT. Their sense of this is recorded "in practically every unit War Diary" (Preliminary Narrative, Chapter V, paras. 81-88). By this period, needless to say, the "phoney war" was very definitely at an end; the Canadians' sojourn in NORTHAMPTON coincided with the evacuation of the B.E.F. from DUNKIRK, and it is possible that in these circumstances civilians were more inclined to welcome the presence of troops than they had been in more tranquil times. Whatever its motives, it seems likely that the reception at NORTHAMPTON was the beginning of a quite new attitude towards England in the minds of many Canadian soldiers, and a turning-point from which the beginning of better relationships may be dated.

13. Although the summer of 1940 brought the Canadians no actual contact with the enemy, it brought them much activity and gave them little time to be "sorry for themselves". They found themselves, moreover, in the midst of a population which the disasters in FRANCE had awakened to great efforts, and whose steadfast stand in the face of the enemy who had overrun the whole of Western Europe was now commanding the admiration of the world. When in the late summer heavy air attacks on ENGLAND began, there was no doubt that the Canadian troops found good reason to admire the manner in which the civilian population of England confronted this new menace. The courage of the British civilian under the bombs has certainly been an important element in winning for him the regard of the Canadian soldier. This fact is amply demonstrated in the Field Censors' reports.

14. It is of interest to compare the tone and content of these reports for the earliest period at which they were made (i.e., the autumn and winter of 1941) with those for the past few months. The rather notable contrast in their comments upon relationships with the English people reflects the steady improvement which appears to have taken place since the winter of 1939-40.

15. The fifth fortnightly report of the Field Censors (Home) on Canadian Army mail (27 Oct - 9 Nov 41) makes this general comment:

Individual relationships with Civilians have shown considerable improvement. Many men comment on the good reception which they have had in Coastal areas, in contrast to the way they are cold-shouldered in the ALDERSHOT district from which they have moved.

16. The same report contains an extract from a letter dwelling on the pleasure which Canadian soldiers derive from private hospitality in English homes, and the beneficial effect of this on morale:

There isn't anything better you can do to make these lads feel good than to have them in for meals and an evening in a soft chair with pleasant company. I can tell you it is just like a breath from Heaven to go into someone's home and having that sensation of being in a place where people "live" I think it is one of the greatest aids there is to the war effort, because it has such a stimulating effect on the morale of the men. Please be good and kind especially to the British lads who are over there because their folks are so good to us.

17. An interesting aspect is the fact that soldiers of the formations which arrived later than 1 Cdn Div are fairly frequently found remarking that they get on better with the British people than the earlier arrivals, and suggesting that the first Canadians to reach ENGLAND had made a bad impression. Thus the third fortnightly report of the Field Censors (29 Sep - 12 Oct 41) contains the following official comment:

The new arrivals of the 3rd Division are full of enthusiasm and admiration for British morale, and for the welcome they have received in this country. They express a desire to eradicate some of the bad impressions created by some of the earlier arrivals.

Frequently they strongly criticize the complacency in their homeland and contrast it with the British resistance.

18. The tenth fortnightly report (8 - 21 Dec 41) makes extended comment on general relations with the British public, indicating clearly that the situation still left much to be desired:

Although the majority of the writers from many various units, especially those stationed away from big centres, and those billeted with civilians, who (sic) now very frequently mention that they are getting along very well with the English, and more so with the Scots, there are still far too many who speak disparagingly of the British in general and much of this is probably due to reserve on the one side and sensitiveness on the other, but also much is due to lack of understanding and outspoken comments on both sides, leading to recrimination and ill-feeling. Of course there are also the brawls caused by the unmannerly acts of men on both sides, especially in public bars, and under the influence of drink, when views become somewhat distorted and there is a certain amount of acrimony. Probably a little "boosting" of the Canadians in general would help to improve this state of affairs.

19. The same report contains a long anthology of comments, both friendly and hostile, on this matter, including some from British people.

20. The point made above, that Canadians got on better with Scottish than with English people, was a matter of general

comment and experience at this period, and it was frequently noted that a very large proportion of Canadian soldiers spent their leaves in SCOTLAND. The report last mentioned quotes two Canadian writers who say respectively, "The Scotch like us better than the English do", and "The English are quite friendly, but the Scotch are more so".

21. The winter of 1941-42 must probably be accounted one of the most difficult periods of the war from the point of view of Canadian morale. Many Canadians were now completing their second year in ENGLAND. Their hopes of action had been disappointed, and for the third year in succession the United Kingdom was having an unusually cold winter with attendant discomfort to the troops. The Times (LONDON) of 13 Mar 42 may be quoted on this matter:

In striking contrast with the weather of 1914-1918, when wet winters predominated, the outstanding feature of the weather of this war has been the unusually cold winters. Taken altogether, January and February, 1942, were appreciably colder over England and Wales than the similar period in 1941, and very little colder than that of 1940.

The Daily Telegraph for 4 Mar 42 made the following comment:

It can now be stated that the first three weeks of February this year were the coldest since 1895. Temperatures were 10 or 11 degrees below the average for the month.

These matters are worthy of note, as three successive unusually cold winters undoubtedly had a direct relationship to the problem of Canadian morale at this period.

22. While the censors were usually unwilling to make any generalized adverse comment on Canadian morale (and such comment would in any case probably not have been warranted), occasionally their remarks indicate the existence of what they clearly consider an undesirable situation. The sixth fortnightly report (10 - 23 Nov 41) includes a rather striking reference to 1 Cdn Div, the morale of which, it is suggested, is somewhat lower than that of the rest of the force:

In spite of the frequently expressed boredom, due to monotony and inaction, there is an underlying and quite highly developed self-confidence, coupled with a strong will to get things done, revealed in most of the letters, the tone of which in the main is still a cheerful one.

The majority of the men are just eagerly awaiting an opportunity to prove themselves in action and to put an end to this long period of irksome waiting.

In general it may be said that their morale remains good, and that, notwithstanding grumbles, their spirits keep high. One writer states:-

"We wouldn't be good soldiers if we didn't grumble."

(11) It is noticed, however, that some of the writers, chiefly from (sic) men in the 1st Division, are

getting rather discouraged and are showing rather poor morale, which is typified in the following extract from one writer:-

"We are all so sick of it now that we don't care for anything. We don't try to be good soldiers any more, we just do whatever comes into our heads whether (sic) it is right or wrong - then get arrested and go before the Major and all he can say now is 28 days' pay or 28 days Field punishment."

(These views appear to be held by many from the 1st Division, who write in a similar strain).

23. It is probable that this apparent period of low morale in 1 Cdn Div was reflected in an unsatisfactory state of relations with the British population in the area where the Division was quartered. At this time 1 Cdn Div was holding the right sector of the Canadian front on the SUSSEX coast (Report No. 58, para. 58). The eighth fortnightly report of the Field Censors (24 Nov - 7 Dec 41), contains several adverse comments from civilians in this area. One such civilian writing from ARUNDEL makes a particularly hostile reference to French Canadians, writing in part, "I must tell you that it is like being in hell over here for one can't move in Arundel for French Canadians, and I can't bear them ...". On the other hand the same report contains this comment from "an English-woman (head of the W.V.S., LITTLEHAMPTON)":

We have now got Canadians quite the most charming creatures I have met in this war, and as for the French ones among them words fail me to describe their delightfulness. We had been led to expect that a French Canadian and an Apache Indian were synonymous terms, but how far from the truth, and as we have experienced the London Irish and the Welsh, we are good judges of Savages.

Since ARUNDEL and LITTLEHAMPTON are only about four miles apart, and the two letters referred to must have been written nearly simultaneously, these extracts may serve to warn the historian against building an argument upon statements made in individual private letters.

24. Enough has been said to indicate that during the period under review, late in 1941, relations between Canadian soldiers and people of the areas where they were billeted were mixed, but certainly not wholly satisfactory. It is instructive to turn now to the censorship reports for the most recent period with a view to comparison.

25. The first censorship report covering Canadian units of 21 Army Group is that for the period 16 - 31 May 44. The censor has prepared a statistical statement of the comments made by Canadian soldiers on relations with various groups (1). This shows 1218 writers as reporting that relations with British civilians are good, while only 84 refer to them as bad. With respect to relations with British troops, 98 writers refer to them as good and only 28 as bad. The total number of letters read during the fortnight was 19,194. The immediately preceding report of the Field Censors (Home), the 90th,

(1) No such statistics are available for 1941. It may be noted that three different censorship reports are now received at C.M.H.Q.: Field Censors (Home) (for units under C.M.H.Q.); 21 Army Gp; and C.M.F. (Italy).

covering the period 6 - 21 May 44, and based on the examination of 12,950 letters, indicates that 1.5 per cent of the letters refer to good relations with British civilians; there are no references to bad relations. The text of the report nevertheless observes that, while adverse comments "are rarely noticed", they do occur, and two are quoted. As against this, the 88th fortnightly report (8 - 20 Apr 44) makes the very remarkable statement:

The relations between British civilians and Canadian troops continue to be very cordial, and not one adverse comment has been seen.

During the period to which this 88th report refers, 11,652 letters were read.

26. It is unnecessary to go further than the evidence briefly given above to establish the fact that there has been a vast general improvement in the relations of Canadian soldiers with British civilians, and it may almost be said at this time that the relationship leaves nothing to be desired.

27. The reasons for this most satisfactory improvement can, in the nature of things, be only a matter of conjecture. Nevertheless, certain obvious factors in the situation may be set down. Among them the growing expectation of imminent action must certainly take a high place. For many months before the actual beginning of Operation "OVERLORD" on 6 Jun 44, no secret had been made of the fact that the Allies intended to land in North-West Europe at a comparatively early date. The Canadian troops accordingly felt assured they would see action in 1944; their morale rose accordingly, and the problems encountered in the days of inactivity were proportionately reduced. This certainly had its due effect upon relations with the British public.

28. It is likely that the arrival of very large numbers of United States troops in the British Isles, beginning in 1942, has contributed to bringing the British and the Canadians closer together. It is a commonplace of conversation that whereas the Canadians seemed distinctly foreign to many Englishmen when they first arrived, and many Canadians found English ways more than a little strange, they have now realized mutually that Canadians have a great deal more in common with the British than have the Americans now flooding the country. An American writer has made the following comment on this matter:

Tens of thousands of Canadian troops have been garrisoned on the overcrowded British Isles since December, 1939. The British and the Canadians have had time to renew their old and often neglected acquaintanceship. It hasn't been easy. The Englishman expected to welcome another Englishman, or at least a dominion cousin who would think like an Englishman and respect English ways. Instead he found an incomprehensible North American character who for an Englishman's taste drank too much, bragged too much, had too much money. And even with a good Scottish or Welsh or Yorkshire name he was quite capable of materializing as an Eskimo from Hudson Bay, a Ukrainian from the wheat prairies, a French Canadian from the logging camps, or a Nova Scotia fisherman.

Notwithstanding these differences, the two discovered in proper time that they had much in common. (There have been 15,000 marriages.) And one circumstance that helped to hasten the understanding was the arrival of the Americans. The British, to their consternation, discovered that while the Americans had all the peculiarities of the Canadians, only in twice the intensity, they were an entirely different breed of North Americans, with infinitely more complicated racial strains. And so for the last two years the Canadians have been trying to explain Americans to the British, and the British to the Americans whom they meet in the pubs.⁽²⁾

30. This comment by an able American journalist who had spent some weeks acquainting himself with the position and problems of the Canadian troops in the United Kingdom suffers no doubt from the fault of over-simplification so common in such writing; nevertheless, the main point is probably a sound one - the advent of the Americans led British civilians and Canadian soldiers, who previously had perhaps dwelt overmuch on their differences, to realize how much, in fact, they had in common.

31. When all is said and done, however, the basic reason for the improvement in relations is certainly the simple fact that the Canadians, during their long sojourn in the United Kingdom, have become increasingly accustomed to England and English ways; while the English, on their side, have in some degree at least become accustomed to the Canadians' rather different outlook.

32. At one stage, the present writer considered it not altogether certain that the long stay of the Canadian troops in this country would produce an improvement in relations between Britain and Canada. These doubts have been removed by subsequent events, and in 1944 he sees every reason to believe that the two countries' relationship in the future will be on a sounder basis as a result of this remarkable episode in their joint history.

RELATIONS WITH BRITISH TROOPS

33. The above paragraphs deal primarily with relations between Canadian soldiers and British civilians. Relations with British troops are a separate and somewhat different problem. This also can be considered to good effect on the basis of the censorship reports.

34. The figures quoted above (para. 25) suggest that relations with soldiers of the British Army, while in a generally satisfactory state, are now somewhat less completely satisfactory than those with civilians. This was probably still more the case at earlier periods. The reports for 1941 afford some insight into the problem. For example, the fifth fortnightly report (27 Oct - 9 Nov 41) contains the following comment by the censor:

(2) Charles J.V. Murphy, "The First Canadian Army" (*Fortune*, January, 1944).

Relations between British and Canadians working together on gun-sites and on courses are varied. English instructors are, in most cases, praised and respected for their abilities, but jealousy or the natural pride of the Canadian soldiers prevents them from having much good to say of British Army en masse.

One adverse individual comment quoted in this same report may perhaps be cited as a type:

You may get pretty fed up with things over there⁽³⁾ but if you can that is the place to stay. That is my opinion of the thing anyway if you could see the war effort they are putting on over here you would think the same. Half a dozen good Canadians could do as much in a week as a Battalion of these linsys could do in a month. Give them a cup of tea and a pair of darts and they wouldn't care if Hitler was living next door.

35. Earlier reports of Historical Officer have made the point that Canadian soldiers have been much disposed to criticize the English for what they consider lack of energy and an indisposition to work harder than is absolutely necessary.

36. In this matter, as in the case of relations with civilians, there has probably been a material improvement since the early days, and we have already noticed the fact that favourable references to British troops in Canadian letters now far outnumber the unfavourable ones. The 90th fortnightly report (6 - 21 May 44) makes the following comment:

Canadians who have attended British camps, schemes and courses write with enthusiasm of the friendly reception and helpful instruction received during these contacts. A favourable impression is created and admiration expressed for British officers and men.

The same report quotes a letter from a Canadian sapper at a British school:

This is a British Camp and they have some funny ideas, but they can teach me something. They have longer hours and less food than I am used to. They are a good bunch of boys these English chaps and will do anything for a Canadian. Their discipline may be a little tighter than ours, but I still do not forget some of the treatment I have had handed out by the Canadian Army.

37. A special comment is called for on the question of English instructors. From the beginning, these men as a class were highly praised in the letters written by Canadian soldiers; even in the earliest period, comments upon them were generally warm and favourable. An example has already been given in para. 32 above. Another comment by the censors may be quoted. It occurs in the second fortnightly report (15 - 23 Sep 41):

(3) i.e., in Canada?

Most of the men who have been on courses express great appreciation of British instructors and are loud in their admiration of the British N.C.Os. under whom they have been for a short training.

38. The third fortnightly report (29 Sep - 12 Oct 41) quotes the comment of a somewhat unlettered soldier of 2 H.A.A. Regt, R.C.A., on this matter:

We have been here with the English Regiment they are a swell bunch of fellows to work with the difference between them and the Canadian instructors are the English no their stuff and no fooling they can talk to a squad of men for one hour and half without looking at book and do their stuff boy it is a treat to work with them

39. It is interesting to note that while the Canadians' comments on the British troops with whom they have been in contact under the static conditions prevailing in the United Kingdom have not been universally favourable, the comments now available in censorship reports from ITALY suggest that troops in that theatre of war have established very friendly relations with the British there and have a high regard for them. The following is an excerpt from "C.M.F. - B.N.A.F.: Appreciation & Censorship Report No. 44, for Period 1 - 15 May 44 Inclusive, Pt. B - Canadian Expeditionary Force":

Canadians generally write in the highest terms of English officers and men with whom they have been in contact. Recently the number of these references have increased and the following selected extracts indicate their nature:- "The guns were no sooner in action when the English lads came over and offered them hot tea (Cdn Gns: Examiner's note). They ended up by cooking all meals for one of my detachments and feeding them better than they had ever been before. The lads took quite a liking to them." - (6 Bn 2 CBRD). "We are with the English here - the limies - and the more we see of them the more we respect them, for as organisers, instructors and soldiers generally they are hard to beat." - (6 Bn 2 CBRD).

40. An earlier report in this C.M.F. series (No. 40, 1 - 15 Mar 44) contains the following comment, including incidentally an interesting observation by a Canadian soldier on the effect of the Canadians' long stay in England:

ALLIED TROOPS: The British fighting soldier is continuously singled out for a special word of praise and lately comments upon allied forces have mainly concerned him:- "None of us can say too much for the British lads who go at things in such a calm and sensible way - so practical in such a chaotic business as this is at times." - (3 Cdn Armd Recce Regt). "It's the same way in the front line. They (the British) stick together like twins and the Jorries know it's a combination which they can't beat." - (6 Bn 2 CBRD). "On the whole we get on pretty well with the Yanks for after all we talk the same language as they do. But I think, if anything we are on better terms with the Tommies. Our years in England have I suppose made us more English than we realised.

There is a pub (or should I say wine shop) up behind the front which the Canadians have taken over. They call it the 'Sussex Inn' and have taught the Italian waiter to say 'Time Gentlemen Please.' You run into things like that quite often which illustrates our 'Anglicised outlook.' - (Cdn Sec GHQ 2 Bch).

The present writer was told when visiting Italy that when the conversation of Canadian troops turns towards "home" it is of England almost as frequently as of Canada that they speak.

41. A special point worth making in connection with relations with the British military forces is the particularly friendly relationship which the Canadian troops have established with the Home Guard in the United Kingdom. Some reference has already been made to this in Report No. 35. An interesting symbol of this relationship was the presentation made to 1 Cdn Corps by the Home Guard of Sussex in 1943, which 1 Cdn Corps turned in fact into a presentation by themselves to the Home Guard. The Canadian Corps Trophy was handed over to the Lord Lieutenant of Sussex in a ceremony on 26 Sep 43, only a short time before 1 Cdn Corps embarked for the Mediterranean theatre. The speech which Lieut.-General Crerar made on this occasion sums up the whole matter and is worth quoting in full:

When some months ago I received a communication from the Zone Commander, Sussex Home Guard, Colonel Pike, telling me of the presentation he desired to make to a Canadian Corps, on behalf of all members of the Home Guard of Sussex, in appreciation of the association we had formed during our many months together, I was deeply touched. I was also constrained to do a bit of thinking concerning the significance of this kindly action. I shall tell you my thoughts.

You will not think it strange, I am sure, when I tell you that my first reaction to Colonel Pike's letter was a further sense of pride in the officers and men who I have the honour to command. This gift of nearly £700, subscribed to by all members of the Home Guard of Sussex, was evidence, if such was needed, that all ranks of a Canadian Corps, in spite of the strain of being held for these four years of war mainly on the side-lines, had never lost faith in themselves, in the cause that induced them to volunteer for overseas service, or in an unselfish conviction that the winning of the game was more important than the individual performance of any of the players. This faith and this conviction have been our inspiration during our own long-continued period of training and preparation. They have also provided the incentive to all ranks of a Canadian Corps to assist in every way they could in the training of the Home Guard of Sussex.

But the officers and men of a Canadian Corps could not have gained and maintained the advantage of this spiritual struggle if it had not been for the kindness, sympathy and understanding of the Sussex people amongst whom we have lived for these years. Our mutual understanding and relationships were good at the outset but a definite upward surge in that good feeling can be clearly marked from the fortnight in June last year when some tens of thousands of a Canadian Corps and Home Guards of Sussex trained

successfully and enjoyably together. In the result, we of this Canadian Corps owe to the Home Guard of Sussex much more than we have, in fact, contributed to them.

In view of what I have said, the decision as to what use should be made of the money presented to this Canadian Corps by the Home Guard of Sussex was not difficult to reach. I know that I express the views of all ranks in deciding that the best manner in which we can commemorate the firm and fraternal associations which have been established between us is to arrange that the moneys so raised shall remain in the county of Sussex and that the benefit shall accrue to the Sussex Home Guard or to any post-war military or semi-military organisation which may succeed it.

A portion of the fund has been applied in the purchase of a trophy, to be known as the Canadian Corps Trophy. The income from the balance will be utilised to provide annual prizes to the unit or sub-unit of the Sussex Home Guard that may be deemed by the Advisory Committee to be the most efficient. The responsibility of forming the Advisory Committee, I am grateful to be able to announce, has been most kindly undertaken by the High Commissioner for Canada, the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, and the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Leconfield.

Now, that is all I have to say, except to tell the people of Sussex, through those present, that, because you have understood us and opened your homes to us and helped us, I can assure you that those of us who return to Canada will take with us the intention that the ties which have previously existed between this country and our own should be strengthened; that more effective means to cooperate in preventing a recurrence of wars should be mutually developed; and that, in the evolution of a better world order, the British Empire - tested and purified by the experience through which we are passing - will have a vital part to play.

I now have great pleasure in handing over to the Lord Lieutenant the deed of trust and the Canadian Corps Trophy. (Canada's Weekly, 1 Oct 43)

General Crerar's correspondence in this matter with Colonel E.J.W. Pike is to be found in 1 Cdn Corps file G.O.C. 6 - 9 Pike, F.D.1, now in the custody of Hist Sec, C.M.H.Q.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE FRENCH-CANADIANS

42. The Canadian soldiers of French origin have been, as was to be expected, something of a special problem. English is not their mother tongue, and a considerable proportion of the men could not speak English when they reached the United Kingdom. This inevitably made it more difficult for them to adapt themselves to English ways than was the case with other Canadians, and undoubtedly interposed a barrier between them and the people of England, which may have contributed to the growth in some places of such hostile feeling as that mentioned in para. 23 above. The very first fortnightly report of the Field Censors (1 - 14 Sep 41) refers to this special problem:

There is some homesickness among those who have been over here a long time particularly amongst French Canadian Units, but the impression is given of wanting to get on with the job of fighting, which is what they came for.

43. It seems likely that the French Canadians, like their English-speaking compatriots, have become increasingly accustomed to English life as time has passed, and this problem has become rather less important. Examination of the most recent censorship reports reveals no indication of a difficult situation in this respect, and indeed there are very few specialized references to French Canadians, although occasionally there are hostile comments upon them by Canadians of other origin.

44. There are some indications that, at least at certain periods, the discipline of French-Canadian units, and the relations of French-Canadian soldiers with the British public, have been less satisfactory than was the case with the Canadian force at large (see below, paras. (65 - 68) . In considering such indications, it is well to take into account the circumstances noted in para 42 (above).

DISCIPLINE AND DEPORTMENT

45. Something must be said of the general behaviour of the Canadian troops during their long sojourn in England, and of the state of discipline as reflected in official records. This question may be conveniently studied in a series of summaries prepared by the A.G. Branch of C.M.H.Q.

46. The earliest of these summaries was submitted to G.O.C.-in-C. First Cdn Army on 29 Sep 42. A copy of its covering letter is attached as an Appendix to the present report. This summary dealt with the situation during the whole period from the first arrival of Canadian troops in the United Kingdom to the end of August 1942. The information included is, however, complete and thoroughly reliable only for the latter part of this period.

47. An extended commentary on the summary is unnecessary, but one or two important points may be noted here. It is of special interest that the standard of behaviour within the force showed a distinct improvement as time passed, and the number of offences did not grow in proportion to the growth of the Canadian force in the United Kingdom. In connection with military offences generally among other ranks, the summary observes that in August, 1942, "with respect to both field formations and static formations, a smaller percentage of personnel are causing trouble than in Jan 41".

48. The observations in connection with civil offences are likewise of special interest. The total of civil convictions was considerably smaller than might have been expected in view of the occasional unfavourable publicity to which the Canadian Army has been subjected in this connection. During a period of considerably more than two and a half years, only 923 soldiers were recorded as convicted by the British civil Courts. While these figures are admittedly not complete, the report comments that they "are sufficiently accurate to show that the proportions of our troops involved in civil prosecutions is relatively small".

49. At the end of the period dealt with in this first report (31 Aug 42) the total strength of the Canadian Army Overseas was 151,978 all ranks (Report No. 85, Appendix "A").

50. On 24 Mar 43 a further summary was submitted to G.O.C.-in-C. First Cdn Army, covering the four-month period 1 Sep - 31 Dec 42 (C.M.H.Q. file 20/Offence/1). This report produced figures showing the incidence of certain types of offences per thousand troops in the United Kingdom at various dates. These have been incorporated in Appendix "B".

51. Major (now Lt.-Col.) L.R. McDonald, A.G.S., C.M.H.Q., who prepared the report, made in it the following comments upon the figures referred to:

These figures disclose that the proportion of offending soldiers is still decreasing. The same results otherwise as appear from the last summary appear from this one. A.W.L. has remained the most prevalent offence; drunkenness is still a very small proportion of the whole, and the small number of soldiers who become involved with the civil authorities is most encouraging....

Information has recently been received from Canada giving comparative figures to those set out.... above, that is the incidence per thousand of tps in Canada committing offences of A.W.L., drunkenness, those tried by Court Martial, and those involved in civil offences....

It will be seen that, with the exception of the incidence per thousand of trials by Courts Martial, the Overseas figures are rather substantially better than those concerning tps in Canada for the same months. A.W.L. on the average is a little more than two thirds of that in Canada, drunkenness appears to be in about the same proportions as a.w.l. and civil offences are almost three times as prevalent in Canada as they are here. The use of F.G.Cs.M. is more than twice as frequent overseas.

52. On the matter of civil offences, Major McDonald made the point that while figures on the total number of personnel involved were not available, the number of actual convictions for offences tried by the civil authorities during the final four months of 1942 was 215. Of the sentences awarded, only eight were for periods of more than two years' imprisonment.

53. Major McDonald's final summary of the whole disciplinary situation during the quarter ran as follows:

Summary: It is considered that under all of the circumstances, the disciplinary situation within the Cdn Army Overseas may be described as good. When the fact is taken into consideration that unquestionably many of the cases reported are of chronic or repeating offenders, it is realized that a relatively small number of Cdn tps in the U.K. is giving trouble. Particularly is this the case with regard to civil offences. It will be seen that approximately one third of 1% of our forces have become involved with the civil authorities.

54. A third summary, despatched to G.O.C.-in-C. First Cdn Army on 13 Jun 43, covered the period 1 Jan - 31 Mar 43. The Senior Officer's covering letter remarked that this report reflected "a generally satisfactory state of discipline in the Canadian Army". It added, "there has been a slight increase since the last report for the period ending 31 Dec 42, but this may be attributable to the normal seasonal fluctuation".

55. The report proper noted, in connection with civil convictions particularly, that there had been an increase. "The total for the last 3 months was 231 as against 215 for the last 4 months of 1942". It was noted that the proportion of long sentences (i.e., over two years) had increased slightly; and the report had to chronicle one conviction for murder which resulted in the convicted soldier being hanged, and one for manslaughter which produced a sentence of six months' imprisonment. A table was again given showing the incidence of certain offences per 1,000 Canadian troops in the United Kingdom (see Appendix "B").

56. The final summary included in this report ran as follows:

The general disciplinary picture as reflected in these reports, has a very definite pattern, the following features of which are salient:-

- (a) Between 4% and 5% of the troops in the U.K. become involved with military offences in the period of a month.
- (b) Absence without leave leads among the military offences, accounting for more than 50%.
- (c) Drunkenness does not appear to be a very serious factor.
- (d) As an average figure, 4 to 5 soldiers out of every 10,000 are involved with the civil authorities each month.
- (e) The number of soldiers dealt with by Courts Martial is approximately 60% of the total number of offences with which they are charged.

57. For the period subsequent to 31 Mar 43, no consolidated reports have been prepared at C.M.H.Q. Full records have however been maintained, and A.A.G.(Dis), C.M.H.Q., has made available statistics of civil convictions for all Canadian troops in the United Kingdom down to the end of 1943, as follows. For the three months ending 30 Jun 43, the total number of civil convictions was 241; for the three months ending 30 Sep 43 it was 219; and for the three months ending 31 Dec 43 it was 216.

58. The total strength of the Canadian Army Overseas at the three dates mentioned was as follows:

30 Jun 43	-	203,747	all ranks
30 Sep 43	-	237,568	" "
31 Dec 43	-	242,409	" "

(Reports Nos. 110 and 119, Appx "A")

By this period, however, a considerable part of the Canadian Army Overseas had left the United Kingdom and was employed in the Mediterranean theatre. The actual strength of the Canadian Army in the United Kingdom at these dates was as follows:

30 Jun 43	- 201,046	all ranks
30 Sep 43	- 204,981	" "
31 Dec 43	- 171,273	" "

(C.M.H.Q. file 22/Strength/2/2).

These figures include the women's services.

59. The situation as described above is on the whole a very creditable one, and the figures of civil offences in particular appear decidedly small in relation to the size of the Canadian force in the United Kingdom and the conditions under which it has been serving. 219 civil convictions in a period of three months, out of a force of more than 200,000 men, is a record which provides no just basis for complaint.

60. In these circumstances it may appear surprising that the Canadians should at various times have received very considerable adverse publicity and have been the subject of critical observations by certain English magistrates. It should be noted, however, that this situation has been much less in evidence in recent months.

61. The worst outburst of adverse publicity perhaps followed the movement of the Canadian Corps into Sussex late in 1941. As noted above, the winter of 1941-42 was a difficult period from the point of view of the morale of the Canadian troops. One incident which attracted considerable attention arose out of an anonymous letter to the Sussex Daily News, which accused Canadian soldiers of "hooliganism", and added, "unless the officers in charge of these brutes can control them it would be a good thing for the authorities to apply for their removal".

62. This letter was answered in a communication to the same paper from Earl Winterton, M.P., who said he wrote as "Senior Member of Parliament in length of service for Sussex and as a former Cabinet Minister anxious to support a maximum war effort for the whole Empire; as one who knows Canada, and has been brought into intimate relationship with the Canadian forces in England". Lord Winterton remarked that the anonymous correspondent's remark above quoted was a "monstrous thing for any person, especially one writing under the cloak of anonymity, to say about servicemen and fellow-subjects from another part of the Empire here to defend us against invasion". He did not deny that there were offences committed by Canadians, but remarked that these were the work of a minority. He made a further comment which is worthy of quotation:

In my constituency some eighteen months ago the most serious wilful damage done to property was by a certain unit of the British Army. Neither my constituents nor I thought it patriotic or desirable to write to the press about it.

(Canadian Press despatch in Globe and Mail, TORONTO, 17 Jan 42.)

The fact that a soldier, sailor, or airman transgresses the law surely does not imply "discredit" on the particular Service to which he belongs.

Why, therefore, single out the Canadians for the pillory?

May we venture to hope that magistrates in future will temper with discretion and fair words any observations they may be tempted to make when "a black sheep" of this magnificent army from the Dominion stands in their police-court dock.

64. It is only fair, perhaps, to mention one or two examples of the bad behaviour of which, undoubtedly, a small minority of Canadian soldiers were guilty, and which was responsible for the adverse comments in Sussex reported above. Some indication of the occasionally difficult state of things during this winter of 1941-42 may be drawn from references in the press. The Evening Standard (LONDON) of 31 Dec 41, reporting a case at BRIGHTON in which three Canadian Sappers were each fined two pounds, quoted the Deputy Chief Constable as saying, "these disturbances at night are getting rather serious. Our men have been extremely tolerant with the Canadians, but recently they have had to draw their truncheons in self-defence".

65. Another incident from BRIGHTON, involving three soldiers not specifically referred to as Canadians, but having French names, was reported in the Evening Standard of 17 Jan 42; the three men were accused of having kicked in a tobacconist's window, causing damage amounting to more than £25.0.0. They were fined £2.0.0 each and ordered to pay for the damage, or alternatively to undergo terms of imprisonment. A more serious charge was referred to in the News of the World of 11 Jan 42, when a Canadian soldier, also with a French name, was reported to have been remanded in custody on a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm on a fifteen-year old girl. This incident had previously been referred to in the Daily Telegraph (LONDON), 5 Jan 42, which referred to it as the culmination of "the recent series of assaults on pedestrians and police in Brighton", and observed "last night few girls or women ventured out of doors after blackout". The soldier involved was subsequently sentenced to nine months' imprisonment (C.M.H.Q. file 10/Sauriol E./1).

66. These references culled from contemporary newspapers suggest that the allegations made against the Canadians in Sussex at this period, while certainly too sweeping, were not merely frivolous.

67. Although, as already noted, some British magistrates were reported to have made acid comments on the frequency with which Canadians appeared in their courts, many tended on the other hand to treat offending Canadians with greater leniency than the Canadian authorities considered desirable. This matter had come to official attention at an early date, and on 6 Nov 40 the Rt. Hon Vincent Massey, High Commissioner for Canada, wrote formally to the Home Secretary pointing out the unfavourable effect upon discipline likely to follow

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from the policy of unnecessary leniency, and adding,

It is my own view and that of the Canadian Military authorities that lenient direction of this kind should not be given and that Canadian soldiers charged with offences should be dealt with strictly on the merits of the case and given such punishment as would be deterrent to themselves and others....

(C.M.H.Q. file 20/Civil/1)

68. This official attitude is frequently reflected in reports of proceedings in court, in which Canadian officers asked that magistrates should not show Canadian soldiers a leniency which would not be shown to Englishmen in similar circumstances. Thus, for instance, the News of the World of 11 Jan 42 reported that a Canadian officer asked the magistrates at the CHICHESTER Quarter Sessions not to treat his men leniently. The men concerned were "three French-Canadians who had pleaded guilty to breaking into the Wheatsheaf Hotel, High-street, PETWORTH, Sussex" and stealing various articles. The officer in question was reported to have told the magistrates, "Things of this nature give the Canadian Army a very bad name and if these men are treated lightly we are going to continue to have trouble of this nature throughout". In the event one of the men was sentenced to twelve months and one to six months imprisonment. It would not be difficult to multiply examples of similar cases. (4)

ANGLO-CANADIAN MARRIAGES

69. During the long stay of the Canadian Army in the British Isles, a very large number of marriages have taken place between Canadian soldiers and English women. The actual total of marriages in the United Kingdom to 31 May 44 is 17,390. This includes, of course, a certain number of marriages in which both parties were Canadians, and no doubt a certain number in which the woman was not of British nationality. But the vast majority were between Canadian officers or soldiers and British women. The following breakdown of the total has been provided by A.G.7(c), C.M.H.Q.:

1939 - Nil	1943:	1944:
1940 - 1222	Jan - 312	Jan - 499
1941 - 3011	Feb - 358	Feb - 759
1942 - 4160	Mar - 539	Mar - 639
	Apr - 327	Apr - 542
	May - 271	May - 670
	Jun - 149	
	Jul - 1128	
	Aug - 669	
	Sep - 744	
	Oct - 497	
	Nov - 567	
	Dec - 336	

70. The effect of this very large number of marriages on the future relations of Britain and Canada is an interesting subject for speculation, but one on which little can be said here. It will certainly result in a great many English women finding new homes in Canada after the war; many English wives

(4) Evening Standard (LONDON), 27 Jun 44, quotes Mr. Justice Macnaghten as observing that in some ways it would be better if offences by Canadian soldiers were dealt with by Canadian courts-martial. He added: "In my experience there is a natural reluctance on the part of any court to inflict punishment upon Canadian volunteers."

of Canadian soldiers have in fact already been given transportation to Canada. On the other hand, it may very well result in a certain proportion of Canadian soldiers taking their discharges in the United Kingdom at the end of the war and remaining in that country. Many of the marriages, no doubt, particularly in the earlier period, were hasty and some have not proved or will not prove successful. On this question, obviously, it is difficult to generalize; as A.G. 7(c) points out, it is only the unsuccessful marriages that come to the attention of C.M.H.Q. There is no doubt, however, that the very large number of marriages which have taken place have both reflected and contributed to the steady improvement in relations between the Canadian Army and the British public which has already been referred to.

71. A not unimportant problem has been that of bigamous marriages. It was comparatively easy for a Canadian soldier with a wife in Canada to represent himself as a single man and deceive an Englishwoman into marrying him. This practice has however been largely scotched by the promulgation of Overseas R.O.s. providing for very careful investigation of a soldier's marital status being made before permission to marry is granted, while in addition a delay of not less than two months is imposed after permission is obtained (Overseas R.O. 2475, 3 Sep 42). Under Overseas R.O. 3136 (4 Mar 43) permission to marry can be granted only by the appropriate brigade commander or an officer of roughly equivalent status. The problem has been further reduced in importance through means being found of informing the local English authorities concerned (registry offices, etc.) of the nature of Canadian regulations and the necessity of a Canadian soldier who applies to be married being provided with proper written permission (information from A.A.G. (Dis), C.M.H.Q.).

RELATION WITH UNITED STATES FORCES

72. It is worth while, in the course of the present report, to say a few words on the question of relations between the Canadian troops in Britain and the United States troops who have recently been stationed in the British Isles in such large numbers. As already suggested, the presence of the Americans, while constituting naturally a special and separate problem, has also had an effect on the relations between Canadian soldiers and the British public.

73. United States troops began to arrive in the British Isles soon after the United States entered the war. The first body of American soldiers landed in NORTHERN IRELAND on 26 Jan 42 (The Times, LONDON, 27 Jan 42). From this time forward the American force grew steadily. Very large numbers of Americans have been in ENGLAND for months past and the streets of LONDON have been full of them.

74. In August, 1942, a special piece of legislation, The United States of America (Visiting Forces) Act, was rushed through the British Parliament in very quick time to provide a legal basis for the trial of American soldiers accused of offences in Britain by American Military Courts. As the Home Secretary (The Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison) told the House of Commons,

It was the considered opinion of the United States Government that it was most expedient, and from their constitutional point of view right, that any offences on the part of members of their armed forces should be tried by their own military courts and not by the British courts.

(The Times, LONDON, 5 Aug 42).

75. The effect of this legislation has been that all offences, including those against British subjects, committed by American soldiers have been tried by court martial. This practice has extended as far as capital offences and at least one United States soldier has been executed in the United Kingdom after conviction by court martial. It will be observed that in this respect the situation of the American forces in the United Kingdom is entirely different from that of Canadian, who have accepted the jurisdiction of British courts even in capital cases. This is an important distinction to make in comparing the American and the Canadian situation in Britain.

76. The state of relations between Canadian and American soldiers in the United Kingdom, like relationships with other groups, can be assayed on the basis of censorship reports. The British censors have regularly referred to this matter in their fortnightly statements. The 70th fortnightly report (6 - 20 Jul 43) gives the impression that there has been an improvement in relations as compared with earlier periods. The censor writes:

Relations with U.S. Troops - Very few comments are noticed, which indicates there is less criticism. Individual writers mention having trouble on occasion with American soldiers, but on the other hand several say "they are a good bunch of guys".

One writer, who has been on leave in N. Ireland, criticizes U.S.A. for lack of reciprocal hospitality in Services Clubs, and refers to a visit to a U.S. Red Cross Club in LONDON DERRY:-

(1) ".....I slid off looking for the canteen to get a bite to eat. However instead of getting it I got asked out, was told the club was exclusively for Americans. Dam it, they go into all our Service Clubs, and are welcome, but we can't get into theirs. Same old YANKEES, take all and give nothing."
(Sgt., G.H.Q., 2nd Echelon, Cdn Section).

The exclusive attitude adopted by the U.S. forces with respect to their clubs and canteens has certainly had an adverse effect on those forces' relations with the servicemen of other nations.

77. On the other hand, the next fortnightly report (21 Jul - 5 Aug 43) while observing that there is still "very little comment" on the subject, makes the general remark, "Most comment noted seems to be critical, and refers mostly to boastfulness and having too much money

to spend." The 78th fortnightly report (6 - 21 Nov 43) observes on this subject, "Comments are of a mixed character and they are few in number".

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78. More recent comments are of a similar nature. It is quite apparent that the volume of comment is still small, which suggests that there has actually been comparatively little contact between Canadian and American soldiers. The 90th fortnightly report (6 - 21 May 44) makes the general observation, "Few writers comment on this subject, and their opinions are of a varied nature."

79. The statistics given in a very recent fortnightly report from 21 Army Group (16 - 31 May 44) are worth quoting. Of 19,194 letters read, it appears that only 49 referred to this subject. Of these references, 14 were favourable and 35 adverse. These figures may be compared with those given in the same report with reference to relations with British troops (above, para 25).

80. The figures given are far too small to provide a sure foundation for generalization, but taken in conjunction with the censors' generalizations for a long period, some of which are quoted above, it would appear that the Canadians have had relatively little contact with American troops; that their reactions to such contacts as have taken place have been extremely varied; but that in general the Canadian has more regard for the British soldier than for the American whom he has met in ENGLAND.

81. It is worth while to compare these United Kingdom censorship reports in this respect with those from ITALY. The latter do not contain a great many references, but these have some interest. As already noted (paras. 39 - 40) the opinion of the British soldier expressed in Canadian letters quoted in these reports is normally very high. Relations with Americans as reported are perhaps rather less friendly, although the censorship report No. 37 (16 - 31 Jan 44) makes the comment, "Relations with American troops appear quite cordial". A recent report (No. 44, 1 - 15 May 44), after quoting references to British troops already noticed, (para. 39 above) continues with the following paragraph:

Any remarks which have come under review concerning United States troops have not been of such a complimentary nature. The two factors causing the most irritation and complaint appear to be (a) the liberal spending of American personnel which results in raising local prices and (b) American propaganda. A Canadian officer writes:- "The Americans have made prices sky rocket by paying whatever is asked. Went into one shop and saw a beautiful bedspread. - It was worth 2500 lire (\$25.00). Succeeded in lowering the price to 1500 lire when in walked an American Sgt. asked how much? The Itle turned around and said 2500 lire. He paid it. Gosh I was mad. Walked out as I didn't want to break good international relationship." - (1 GAR). "I intend going to see 'Stage Door Canteen' tonight, but it will probably be another glamorization of the American Army. How we Canadians wish they were half as good in action." - (25 CADR).

82. One distinction between the Canadian and American armies is worth noting. It is best expressed in the words of a coloured Canadian soldier quoted in the 78th fortnightly report of the Field Censors (Home) (6 - 21 Nov 43):

"Most of the negro Americans here can't seem to understand just why we are not separated from the whites like they are. It is a difficult question to answer, but in short it adds up to just one thing. There is no racial prejudice in the Canadian Forces. We eat, sleep, play and fight together, and each gun-crew is a well trained fighting unit with everybody protecting the other man. It is a wonderful army, this army of ours. Only one out of every hundred and fifty coloured are servants, the rest are qualified soldiers; infantry, tank, artillery, air force, navy, and last but not least the para-troops." (Gnr., 2nd H.A.A. Regt., R.C.A.)

83. Of late, in spite of a very obvious desire on the part of the British authorities to prevent any adverse comment, the United States troops in Britain have occasionally been exposed to the same sort of allegations which were directed at the Canadians at an earlier time (above, paras. 61 - 66). Thus Mr. Dennis Kendall, M.P. for GRANTHAM, has raised in Parliament the question of the behaviour of the U.S. soldiers in that town, and it has been alleged that "the state of affairs in Grantham and other towns in this country is indeed deplorable" (The Times, 5 Jun 44).

GENERAL SUMMARY

84. The objects of this Report have been, as explained in the beginning, to direct attention to an important subject and to collect for future use a significant body of evidence relating to it. The story is very incomplete (the topic might in itself provide the matter of a large book) and the treatment is somewhat disjointed. In these circumstances conclusions must be presented with caution and reserve. It may be in order, however, to summarize what appear to be the leading points which emerge from the evidence examined:

- (a) Although a sojourn of four and a half years in the United Kingdom under static conditions has been an extremely severe test, the morale of the Canadian Army Overseas has been very successfully maintained.
- (b) The deportment of the Canadian troops in the United Kingdom can be shown to have been, on the whole, correct and creditable. There have been difficulties at certain periods (notably the winters of 1939-40 and 1941-42) but the general trend has been one of steady improvement.
- (c) The relations of the Canadian troops with the British people, not universally cordial in the beginning, have likewise steadily improved and in recent months have been on an extremely sound and friendly basis.

85. The reasons for the satisfactory results obtained have been to some extent examined above, though a full account

would require much more space. For the maintenance of the spirit of the troops some credit is due, no doubt, to many agencies which have not been mentioned; the Canadian Chaplain Services, the Auxiliary Services, and the educational programme have all played their parts. Many other factors might be noticed; the increasing realism of training, and the growing anticipation of action in recent months, among them. But it would be unfair and improper to end this Report without paying due tribute to the qualities of the Canadian soldier himself, for it is these, in the last analysis, that have made possible the highly creditable achievement that has been described above. In this connection, it is well to recall the remarks of Lt.-Gen. McNaughton at his press conference on 17 Dec 42, the third anniversary of the landing of 1 Cdn Div (Report No. 88):

It was, he thought, a great tribute to the men of the Army that in spite of so many frustrations morale had remained on the highest level. He attributed this happy result to the fact that "our men have good common sense"; they are a very intelligent body of men, not an army of adventurers, but men who have come to Britain to serve a cause.

86. This report is written in June, 1944, the month which has seen the end of the long hard period of waiting and the beginning of that invasion of German-occupied Western Europe which has long been regarded as the end for which the Canadian Army Overseas has been created. Let the final comment be that of the censors who read the letters of Canadian soldiers. The 92nd fortnightly report of the Field Censors (Home) (C - 20 Jun 44) makes the following remark:

The morale of the Canadian Army, always good, has reached even higher levels since the news of the long awaited invasion of France was announced, and their splendid fighting spirit continues to be manifested. The desire to participate in the present operations is evident in a number of letters, and the men appear to be keener than ever to see the job through.

The 21 Army Group censorship report for the period 1 - 15 Jun 44, dealing with the letters of men of the field army who may expect to be in action shortly, comments as follows:

Prior to 6 Jun 44 morale was high, and the successes in ITALY, particularly of Canadian Tps, had a stimulating effect and increased the general desire to get cracking.

From 6 Jun 44 tps feel that their hour is about to come. They are ready, fighting fit, tough, well trained, confident tps, proud and envious of the Canadian spearhead, and longing to show their mettle. They say that this is the moment they have lived for, trained for, left their homes for.

C. P. Stacey

(C. P. Stacey) Lt.-Col.,
Historical Officer,

CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

NOTE:

The voluminous Appendices to this Report have been omitted.

APPENDIX "A"

REPORT ON DISCIPLINE OF THE CANADIAN ARMY
OVERSEAS BY SENIOR OFFICER, C.M.H.Q.

29 Sep 42

G.O.C.-in-C.,
First Cdn Army.

DISCIPLINE - SUMMARY

1. This summary of discipline has been prepared to show sentences awarded by civil courts in the United Kingdom as well as by Courts Martial and military Summary Trials. The material which is submitted in the form of tables and graphs has been divided into military offences generally, General Courts Martial, Field General Courts Martial and civil offences, and general comments are made under the appropriate headings.

2. The tables and graphs appear as appendices as follows:-

APPENDIX

"A" - List showing various offences under the Army Act.

"B" - Tables showing total offences committed in field formations.

"C" - Tables showing total offences committed in static formations.

"D" - Tables showing totals of offences committed by the various formations both field and static.

"E" - Graphs showing:-

(i) Relationship of number of offences to troops in the U.K.

(ii) Relationship of number of offences to troops of field formations.

(iii) Relationship of number of offences to troops of static formations.

"F" - Tables showing number and particulars of General Courts Martial.

"G" - Tables showing number and particulars of Field General Courts Martial.

"H" - Tables showing number and particulars of civil convictions.

"I" - Nominal roll of Canadian soldiers at present serving sentences awarded by the civil courts.

"J" - A list of the total number of Canadian soldiers under sentence awarded by Service Courts.

3. For the purpose of this report the formations of the Canadian Army Overseas have been shown as follows:-

FIELD FORMATIONS

First Cdn Army Troops
1 Cdn Corps Troops
1 Cdn Army Tank Bde
1 Cdn Div
2 " "
3 " "
5 " (Armd) Div

STATIC FORMATIONS

CMHQ Group including Hospitals
H.Q. C.R.U.
"A" Group Reinf Units
"B" " " "
"C" " " "
"D" " " "
"E" " " "
"F" " " "
C.F.C.
1 Cdn A.A. Bde
4 Cdn (Armd) Div

MILITARY OFFENCES GENERALLY (O.Rs)

4. These offences include those tried by F.G.C.M. as well as those tried summarily by Commanding Officers.

5. Appendix "B" contains a series of tables giving a summary of offences committed by personnel of field formations. It is divided to show the number of offences under different Sections of the Army Act and is divided also to show the numbers committed monthly from Jan 41 to and including Aug 42. The first table is a summary of totals and the others give this information for the various field formations.

6. Appendix "C" contains a series of tables giving similar information in respect of the static formations for the months of Apr 41 to Aug 42 inclusive.

7. Appendix "D" is a table showing the total number of offences committed by personnel of the various formations, both field and static, and provides all available information from Jan 41 to and including Aug 42.

8. Appendix "E" contains three graphs. They show the following information:-

(a) The total number of offences committed, the total number of offences of absence without leave and the total number of offences under the Army Act Section 40 in relation to the total number of troops involved for each of the months of Apr 41 to and including Aug 42.

(b) Similar information in respect of the field formations for the months of Jan 41 to and including Aug 42.

(c) Similar information in respect of static formations for the months of Apr 41 to and including Aug 42.

9. The following comments are made:-

(a) It will be noted particularly that the number of offences has not increased in proportion to the increase in the number of troops in the U.K. With respect to both field formations and static formations, a smaller percentage of personnel are causing trouble than in Jan 41.

(b) The most prevalent offence is absence without leave. It accounts for rather better than 50% of the total.

- (c) The next most prevalent class of offences is that coming within the Army Act Section 40 - conduct or neglect to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. Roughly one third of the total number of offences are of this class.
- (d) The third most prevalent offence is that of drunkenness which accounts for a remarkably small percentage of the total.
- (e) Offences involving disobedience and insubordination are relatively few.

GENERAL COURTS MARTIAL

10. Appendix "F" contains five tables showing the number of General Courts Martial held within the various formations both field and static. They are divided into the most prevalent types of offences and show also the total number of accused involved and the sentences awarded. The five tables cover the periods:-

- (i) To 1 Jan 42
- (ii) 1 Jan to 1 Apr 42
- (iii) 1 Apr to 1 Jul 42
- (iv) The month of Jul 42
- (v) The month of Aug 42.

11. The following comments are made:-

- (a) During the period in question there have been 71 officers tried by General Court Martial. Of these 6 have been cashiered and 21 dismissed the Service. The total represents less than 1% of the number of officers in the U.K. at the present time and in a few instances officers have been tried on more than one occasion.
- (b) The great majority of the offences come within Section 40 of the Army Act. A large number of these had to do with the careless handling of the officer's bank account and the consequent non-payment of cheques.
- (c) Drunkenness and absence without leave account for most of the remaining offences.

FIELD GENERAL COURTS MARTIAL

12. Appendix "G" contains five tables covering the five periods:-

- (i) To 1 Jan 42
- (ii) 1 Jan to 1 Apr 42
- (iii) 1 Apr to 1 Jul 42
- (iv) The month of Jul 42
- (v) The month of Aug 42.

The information furnished is the same as that for General Courts Martial excepting that there is a wider distribution of offences and the sentences awarded are, of course, different.

13. The following comments are made:

- (a) Absence without leave is the most prevalent offence, followed by offences under the Army Act Section 40.

- (b) 3238 of the personnel of the Canadian Army Overseas have been involved in trials by F.G.C.M. They have been convicted on an average of two offences each.

CIVIL OFFENCES

14. Appendix "H" contains a similar series of five tables for the periods:-

- (i) To 1 Jan 42
- (ii) 1 Jan to 1 Apr 42
- (iii) 1 Apr to 1 Jul 42
- (iv) The month of Jul 42
- (v) The month of Aug 42.

15. These tables show the nature of the offences and the sentences awarded for each of the formations, both field and static.

16. The following comments are made:-

- (a) The most prevalent offences shown by the tables are those involving theft, larceny and burglary and the next most prevalent are those involving assault.

- (b) A total of 923 soldiers have been convicted by the civil courts during the period under review. This figure is not entirely accurate by reason of the fact that records for the early stages are not complete but are sufficiently accurate to show that the proportion of our troops involved in civil prosecutions is relatively small.

- (c) Appendix "I" is a nominal roll of all Canadian soldiers serving sentences awarded by civil courts as at 21 Sep 42. They total 156. The list also shows the nature of the offence, date of conviction, sentence awarded, prison to which committed and, where available, the probable date of release.

17. Appendix "J" is a list showing the number of Canadian soldiers under sentence awarded by Service Courts as of certain dates in 1942. This list reflects the move of Canadian personnel out of British Detention Barracks to the Canadian Detention Barrack. The list also shows the number undergoing field punishment in the Canadian Field Punishment Camp and those serving their sentences in civil prisons.

18. The outstanding features disclosed by the information submitted appear to be as follows:-

- (a) The proportion of Troops committing offences has, subject to certain seasonal fluctuations, steadily decreased.
- (b) The great majority of offences, approximately 90%, are purely breaches of military discipline.
- (c) The proportion of troops involved in civil offences is small and has steadily decreased.

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INCIDENCE OF CERTAIN OFFENCES PER 1,000 CANADIANTROOPS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

(Source: Periodical Summaries of Discipline of the Cdn Army Overseas prepared by C.M.H.Q., 29 Sep 42, 24 Mar 43 and 13 Jun 43, and additional statistics supplied by A.A.G.(Dis), C.M.H.Q.)

	<u>Sep 41</u>	<u>Dec 41</u>	<u>Aug 42</u>	<u>Sep 42</u>	<u>Oct 42</u>	<u>Nov 42</u>	<u>Dec 42</u>	<u>Jan 43</u>	<u>Feb 43</u>
A.W.L.	39.52	24.23	31.75	27.84	30.51	22.98	23.28	34.18	25.29
Drunkenness	2.52	1.94	1.43	1.32	1.66	1.25	1.36	1.54	1.33
F.G.Cs.M.	- -	- -	1.38	2.27	1.80	1.26	2.54	2.04	4.31
Civil Convictions	- -	- -	.49	.37	.33	.21	.43	.39	.44
	<u>Mar 43</u>	<u>Apr 43</u>	<u>May 43</u>	<u>Jun 43</u>					
A.W.L.	25.41	27.3	26.5	29.2					
Drunkenness	1.31	1.48	1.29	1.56					
F.G.Cs.M.	2.46	1.87	2.00	2.16					
Civil Convictions	.52	.36	.42	.52					