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BY: FOR DHIST NDHQ
DATE: 19/6/86

REPORT NO. 145
HISTORICAL OFFICER

CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

Hist Sec (G.S.), A.H.Q.,
12 Apr 47

THE "CANLOAN" SCHEME, 1943 to July 1945

Amendment No. 1

1. Information of later date than that available when Report No. 145 was compiled, indicates that the following correction should be made:

Para 38, p. 11, sub-para (a)

Instead of: Missing, presumed killed 4
" (carried on Cdn X List) 1

Read: Presumed dead 5

(Official figures given by D. Records on 22 Feb 47)

Para 38, p. 11, sub-para (b)

Should read: Died of injuries 1

(Ibid)

Para 39, p. 12

Should be amended to read as follows:

There had been much promotion of Canloan officers, and the list of 79 honours and awards is impressive.

British

Member of the Order of the British Empire 1
Military Cross and Bar 1
Military Cross 40
Mention-in-Despatches twice 1
Mention-in-Despatches 24

American

Distinguished Service Cross 1
Silver Star 2
Bronze Lion 1

French

Croix de Guerre avec Etoile de Vermeil 3

Croix de Guerre avec Etoile d'Argent 2

Belgian

Chevalier of the Order of Leopold II with
Palm and Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm 2

Dutch

Knight 1st Class in the House Order of
Orange 1

(Ibid)

2. An amended card index with the names of the officers decorated will be found in custody of D.H.S. (G.S.) under file reference 145.91.

3. A complete nominal roll of Canloan officers with initial ranks and a further nominal roll of Canloan deaths prepared by D. Records on 22 Feb 47 are also in custody of D.H.S. (G.S.) under 145.91065 (11)

4. Attached as Appendix "A" to this amendment is a personal narrative written by a Canloan officer on his own experience with the British Army.

Jean Gauthier Capt

for (C.P. Stacey),
Colonel,
Director Historical Section.

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PERSONAL NARRATIVE

BY

CAPTAIN J.H.J. GAUTHIER

OTTAWA,

26 Mar 47

1. I have been asked to put down on paper some experiences I had with the British Army as a Canloan officer. I shall endeavour to do so in as concise a manner as possible. At the end of February 1944, all the officers of the unit were called in the C.Os. office and were told that, under a new scheme called "Canloan", junior officers could volunteer for service with the Imperial Army. We were then stationed in Terrace, B.C., undergoing the Mountain Warfare Course. Every unit of the 6th Division had to take it sooner or later. We were read a little pamphlet called "Opportunity for Early Overseas Service with the British Army". It stated in part, that the British Army, being in need of Lieutenants and Captains (Infantry), arrangements had been made whereby officers of the Canadian Army might volunteer for service on loan to the British Army. I jumped at the opportunity readily but the C.O. refused to consider my case, as majors were not needed. I told him that I was quite willing to revert to Captain, but without success. I was allowed to take my case up to the Brigade Commander and was finally permitted to proceed to Vancouver in front of the Selection Board. Eight officers had volunteered from "Les Fusiliers de Sherbrooke (C.A.(A.))" and five were accepted, including myself.

2. Once the screening, the medical boards and the administrative arrangements were completed, our brigade draft from the 6th Division, totalling about 30, proceeded eastward to Sussex, N.B., where the new A 34 S.O.T.C. had been set up in order to give a one month's refresher course to all future Canloan officers. That course proved very elementary and I still wonder if it achieved its purpose of raising the Canloan's standard of efficiency. However, that month of April 1944 passed rapidly and our batch of 250 officers left Halifax on 4 May 44 and landed in Liverpool, England, on 10 May 44.

3. We were immediately despatched to London by special train and we arrived at the British Reception Centre at 2300 hours. We were fed and given accommodation for the night. The next day, we had a general meeting where we were welcomed by General Sir Miles Dempsey's representative and allocated to different divisions of the British Second Army. Those, whose parent unit had no battalion in the Second Army, were given a choice. I chose the 43rd (Wessex) Division and about 50 others did the same. On 11 May 44 we left for Tenterden, in Kent,

to be welcomed by our divisional commander, Major-General G.I. Thomas, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. 43rd Division. After the usual greetings, we were allotted to our respective battalions. Six of us chose the 5th Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry in 214 Infantry Brigade. Transport came to fetch us and we finally arrived at our unit, located at Crowhurst Park in Sussex, near Battle.

4. At that time, our unit had its full complement of officers in accordance with War Establishment. It had just been completed recently with the addition of one Canadian officer (Lt R.B. Arthurs) who had arrived on a previous draft. The purpose of our going to the unit, since we were ear-marked as first reinforcements, was to get acquainted with the officers and men of the unit. That proved a very sound move later when we were recalled in France. Some Canadian officers had taken the opportunity of going on disembarkation leave after their arrival in England instead of spending a fortnight with their future unit. We decided to postpone our leave in order to remain with the "Dukes" until such time as every reinforcement officer was mustered in the different R.H.U.s. We went to 33 R.H.U. located in Rythe, Kent, near Hastings. We stayed there a little over a week, attending lectures, getting rid of our surplus equipment and being on 12 hours notice to embark for a theatre of operations. "D"-Day was not over before we received instructions to proceed to the embarkation port. We arrived in Southampton on 8 Jun 44 and we bade farewell to the shores of England early the next day. We were at sea all day and on the evening of 9 Jun 44, I was setting foot for the first time on the land of my ancestors at Arromanches.

5. I might say here that we received quite a noisy reception in the form of an air raid carried out by low flying German Messerschmitts, Focke-Wulfs and Me 109s, strafing the beaches and inflicting casualties and chaos amongst our troops. We did not linger very long there and we proceeded by foot to some reception centre located in the middle of a cultivated field between La Rosiere and Ryes. We got there at 0400 hours on 10 Jun 44, after having been on the road since midnight. The excitement caused by the Luftwaffe and the ploughed field on which we were lying prevented everybody from getting any sleep. Emergency rations were eaten at dawn and we were on the road again by 0800 hours. We had received orders to go to an orchard just outside Sommervieu where we were to dig ourselves in. One man from my company suffered a fatal accident just before we got there when he was killed by one of our own Bofors firing at a low flying German raider.

6. We stayed there two days during which time our 43rd Division arrived on the Continent.² Unfortunately, I could not contact my battalion because 33 R.H.U. was moved

² It might be worth noting here that most of Second Army's first reinforcements landed on the European Continent before the divisions themselves, apart from the assault divisions on "D"-Day.

again near Bayeux. We were not to enjoy the comfort of that undamaged city very long because five of us Canloan officers were ordered to 8 Corps Reception Centre near Crepon. The 5th D.C.L.I. was then part of that Corps and it had suffered quite heavy casualties the first time they were in action at Cheux. The Commanding Officer and two company commanders were killed, apart from four lieutenants and 60 O.R. Two days after, four Canloan officers were ordered to report to the unit's "B" Echelon near BRAY. The next day, on 6 Jul 44, I took 80 O.R. and three other officers to the unit in Colleville. The unit had been badly cut up in the previous week's fighting around Cheux and Moven and it had been given two days to get its full complement of officers and men. We were met by the Adjutant who told us that the C.O. was out on a recce and that the best thing we could do in the meantime was to dig ourselves a hole in the ground.

7. I met the C.O. at 1900 hours the same day. He was one of the nicest men I ever had the privilege of knowing. He appointed me O.C. Support Company. The other three Canadians were posted to "B", "C" and "D" Coys. Lieut Arthurs, previously mentioned, was already in "A" Coy. The officer I took over from had been killed the day before by a mortar bomb while taking a nap on the parapet of his slit trench. It was evident that the unit had been through quite heavy and continuous fighting during the last 72 hours, because everybody looked exhausted. At 2100 hours there was an "O" Group for the Company Commanders and we were told by the C.O. that the unit would be moving to Fontaine-Etoupefour on the night 7/8 Jul. At that time, Canadians were fighting desperately for Carpiquet and Caen.

8. The next morning, I heard with great sorrow that Lieut "Chris" Rush had just been killed by a mortar bomb shrapnel, coming out of a slit trench. He was the first Canloan casualty in the unit. Being the senior R.C. in the unit, I had the painful honour to recite the prayers to the dead. I was really affected by that, as Chris was a very good officer, young and dashing and full of "joie de vivre". He had originally been an O.R. with the Winnipeg Grenadiers in England and had earned his commission in the field, before going back to Canada to volunteer as a Canloan officer. Unfortunately, he was not to be the last one. In fact, three days afterwards, two other Canloan officers, Lieut Arthurs and Lieut Comolli were killed in the fiercest battle the unit has ever fought throughout the entire North-Western Europe campaign. It took place at "Hill 112", subsequently called "Crucifix Hill", located on the Caen - Evrecy road, North-East of Esquay. "H"-hour was set at 2100 hours. As O.C. Support Company, I took the battalion to the concentration area located at the main crossroads between Fontaine-Etoupefour and Baron. The Boche's artillery was very active and we suffered casualties even before we got to the start line. Finally everything was ready and we went over the crest on the dot. It was a two-company frontal attack, followed by the two remaining companies, in support. Then things began to happen. The minute we got in the open, over the main road towards the "herbage", we were decimated by very heavy M.G. 42 enfilade fire and by "Moaning Minnies". Eventually, those still alive managed to get into the little square wood. Then, the C.O.

found out that our artillery was firing short, inflicting casualties to our own men. He decided to climb in a tree in order to make a correction, never thinking of his personal safety and forgetting that the place was infested with snipers. I begged him to come down, but I was not to beseech very long for a machine-gun burst caught him in the neck and he fell heavily at my feet, dead and almost beheaded. No finer soldier had ever made the supreme sacrifice of his life for the safety of his men; Lt-Col "Dick" James will long be remembered. At 0400 hours on 11 Jul 44, two company commanders had been killed and a third one wounded and evacuated. When we came out of the wood at 0700 hours, 150 men were left of the original 500. At 1000 hours the same day, a certain Lt-Col, commanding the unit we had gone through the night before, ordered us back into the same wood. It was sheer madness. When another counter-attack with eight "Tiger" tanks and a regiment of the 12th S.S. Panzer Division came up the approximate 75 men left of the unit were routed in disorder. The last infantry company commander had been wounded and the Adjutant officially told me that I was the senior officer of the unit alive and that I was commanding the remnants of the 5th D.C.L.I. We were taken out of the line the next day. Our casualties had been about 425 men, including 20 officers of whom two were Canloan. I feel sure we had lived up to our motto; "One and all". I do not intend to go through every operation in detail; it would be too long. Let it only be said that the "Dukes" had their ups and downs throughout the campaign and acquitted themselves extremely well, when we consider that Lt-Gen B.G. Horrocks, commanding 30th British Corps, in which the 5th D.C.L.I. served most of the campaign, referred to them on many occasions as the "cream".

9. To continue with my personal experiences, I was fortunate enough to join the H.Q. of 214 Infantry Brigade in 43rd Division at the end of August 1944 as senior Liaison Officer and P.A. to the Commander. I recall those days as the happiest of my military career. Brig H. Essame, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., was not only an extremely nice man to work with, but he was also a brilliant commander. I like to remember the little speech he made in July 1945 at his farewell dinner at Brigade H.Q. before his departure for England on his recent posting, as one of the wittiest addresses I have ever heard. Speaking of success necessary to every commander in the field, he said:

To be successful in any campaign, a Brigadier has got to have three things:

- (a) Good common sense to take decisions.
- (b) A good staff to do all the work for you.
- (c) Above all, to be extremely lucky.

10. The 5 May 45 saw the end of our miseries. What happened to us until then will be told much more expertly in the official history of the war when the daily life of

soldiers in action with their hopes and discouragements, their joys and sufferings, their exploits and reverses, are depicted. It was the beginning for me of an extended period of travels throughout North-West Europe. I first went back to Normandy on an inspection tour of graves of our men lost in the early days. While in Caen, I was told by the "Prefet du Calvados", that they intended to celebrate the first anniversary of the liberation of Caen early in July and that they wanted to invite my divisional commander as the senior British representative. Soon after my return in Luneburg, Germany, where we were stationed, I was ordered to proceed to Paris and Caen one week ahead of Maj-Gen G.I. Thomas, to make the necessary arrangements for his two-week visit. The Caen celebration presided by Gen Koenig was very impressive amongst this mass of debris. They also took advantage of that anniversary to unveil a monument on Hill 112 in memory of those who had made the supreme sacrifice. On the obelisk was the following inscription: "Ici fut décidé le sort du monde. D'un peuple reconnaissant aux héros anglais, morts au champs d'honneur".

11. Early in September 1945, I received an order from 21st Army Group to report to the British Military Mission in Brussels for special work. I reported to the B.G.S. (Training) Belgian and Netherlands Forces on 8 Sep 45 and I was told that I had been selected, with another officer from 51st (Highland) Division, to go on a conference tour at the different Belgian officers and N.C.Os. training Centres in Belgium. We were to prepare our own lectures and submit them to the B.G.S. and Belgian Minister of War for approval. These lectures were to deal with morale, discipline and man management. The text was finally approved and I went on my tour which lasted three weeks and proved an excellent experience. I arrived back in Germany to find that my repatriation orders had just been received and that I was to proceed immediately to No. 1 Cdn Repat Depot in England. I was moved to four different camps while in England and I finally sailed on the Queen Elizabeth on 15 Nov 45, thus ending my adventure with the British Army.

12. Before I conclude this report, I would like to express my personal views on different points which have been discussed rather freely by certain officers without the necessary experience. It has been said that Canloan officers were not of the same standard as the junior British officers. I entirely disagree. On the contrary, the Canloan officers proved so efficient and liked by the British "Tommy" that they were allotted very difficult tasks and patrols which may account for the number of casualties suffered. The Canloan officers were always ready to go on any mission while the British officers were rather more cautious. I personally think that we Canloan officers did more than our share in patrols and special missions. I feel that I am entitled to make such a statement having had a few nasty experiences myself. I would also like to note the fact that during 18 months service with the British Army, I never received, at any time, any Canadian publication, like the "Maple Leaf", nor orders, nor notification for any

Canloan get together. There might have been a Canloan Liaison Officer permanently employed at C.M.H.Q. to look after our interests, but I feel sure that he had never been staff-trained in liaison work before. There have been instances where urgent requests, made to the D.A.A.G. (L) at C.M.H.Q., were never even acknowledged. We had no information whatsoever from the Canadian authorities and no Canadian news, apart from what trickled in our mail from home. This might be explained by the fact that any Canloan liaison visits made to the Continent were never carried far enough forward to meet those Canloan officers posted in fighting echelons.

13. I should further like to record here certain personal observations on Report No. 145.

Para 21, p. 6

States that Canloan officers had not had intensive training and battle school experience. This might be true for the odd cases, but I am positive that the majority had taken battle drill courses and had had collective and intensive training with troops under command, either in England or in Canada.

In the same para, I think that a rather funny statement is made when it states that "casualties were high but not unduly so". Not excessive if it is admitted that they were overworked.

Para 22, p. 7

Says "It is not improbable that Canloan officers were on the average superior to the British junior officers since they were carefully selected from those who volunteered". How can this statement be reconciled with the one in para 21 where it says that Canloan officers had not had intensive training and battle school experience? If there was a lack of intensive training and battle school experience, they cannot very well be called superior to the British officers, unless the British standard is put amazingly low which would be untrue.

Para 27, p. 8

Says "During September 1944, Major MacLaren made an extremely useful liaison visit to the Continent". It might have been useful to him as far as putting in time towards the obtainment of the France and Germany Star, but not to the Canloan officers because the majority never saw him and could not therefore state their griefs.

Para 40, p. 12

Says "No other group of officers perhaps, has been so well looked after in regard to inquiries, complaints and information... He and his staff prevented them from feeling cut off from Canadian affairs". I disagree entirely with that statement. A complete opposite feeling was experienced by the great majority of Canloan officers. In fact, I never heard one good word said by Canloan officers towards our Liaison Officer at C.M.H.Q.

14. However, in spite of those few unfortunate incidents, related in the previous paragraph, my stay with the British Army was a most happy one. I shall never forget the British soldiers' iron discipline displayed under the worse conditions, their complete disregard for their own personal safety and their indomitable courage. I shall always remember the ties of close friendship acquired over there and I feel sure that those who volunteered for service in the British Army, have improved, in no small way, the friendly understanding most essential between the heterogeneous nations of the British Empire.

(Jean Gauthier)
Captain.

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HISTORICAL SECTION

CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

27 Sep 45

THE "CANLOAN" SCHEME, 1943 to July 1945

1. This report deals with the "CANLOAN Officers", a group of C.I.C. and R.C.C.C. officers who served in units of the British Army by agreement between the governments concerned. It traces the Canloan scheme from its origin late in 1943 to the end of July 1945. By this time, as a result of our victory in Europe, the officers still serving under the terms of Canloan were about to be reallocated for service in the Pacific, for repatriation, or for service with the occupation forces in Germany.
2. On 9 Oct 43, Major-General H.F.G. Letson, A.G., Canada, who was in England on a visit, had lunch with Sir Ronald Adam, Bt., K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., A.G. British Forces. In the course of the conversation, the latter mentioned that 21 Army Group was desperately short of junior officers, especially for the infantry. General Letson said that he thought Canada could lend some officers to overcome this shortage. After checking with Records Branch and with A.G. Stats, C.M.H.Q., he notified Sir Ronald Adam that about 2000 officers would be available for loan to the British Army (C.M.H.Q. file 24/Reports/1/3: Interview with Major A.B. MacLaren, D.A.A.G.(L), 19 Jul 45).
3. The main outlines of the plan were contained in a cable of 4 Dec 43 from General Letson after his return to Canada to Lieut-General K. Stuart, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Chief of the General Staff^x. He suggested that Infantry or Army Service Corps officers who volunteered might be loaned to the British Army, with the proviso that they could later be withdrawn if urgently required in the Canadian forces. Their service should be restricted to Europe and the Middle East to facilitate such withdrawal. Canada would be responsible for their pay, allowances, and pensions, but their promotions would be made on recommendation of the British, approved by the appropriate Canadian authority. General Letson urged that some captains be included in the loan, in the proportion of one captain to eight lieutenants. He anticipated finding about one-fifth of the officers to be loaned from among those already overseas (C.M.H.Q. file 9/Loan/6: Cable, AG90, Defensor to Canmilitary, 4 Dec 43).
4. Brigadier E.G. Weeks, A.D.A.G.(A), C.M.H.Q., added a number of practical suggestions to this general plan in a memorandum of 15 Jan 44. He proposed that, on arrival from Canada, these officers should go direct to British staging

^x General Stuart was visiting C.M.H.Q. from Canada at this date. He still held the appointment of Chief of the General Staff at N.D.H.Q. He assumed the appointment of Chief of Staff at C.M.H.Q. and acting G.O.C.-in-C. First Canadian Army on 27 Dec 43, subsequent to the resignation of General McNaughton.

camps and pass at once under British control. He thought they should be carried on the Q List^x, but that for liaison purposes there should be at the War Office a British or Canadian officer with whom all branches of C.M.H.Q. could deal (ibid., Brigadier Weeks to Brigadier Booth, 15 Jan 44).

5. In the meantime, General Letson had met with the War Committee of the Cabinet and had got the loan approved on the general terms of his cable to General Stuart. The War Committee were most anxious that this should not turn out to be an unfortunate experience for all concerned. They stressed that such officers as were loaned would be most carefully selected, from those who volunteered, as to age, medical category, and qualifications and would be at least up to the same standard as reinforcement officers for Canadian units. They said that if wholesale rejections occurred, it would be very harmful not only to the success of the scheme, but to British-Canadian relations and to the officers themselves. General Letson instructed that assurance be obtained from Sir Ronald Adam that the Canadian selection would be accepted, that there would be no "mass returns", and that no officer be rejected till he had had three months in which to make good (ibid., Cable AG154, Defensor to Canmilitary, 19 Jan 44). This assurance was readily given by Sir Ronald Adam, nor was any particular difficulty experienced on this point (ibid., Sir R. Adam to General Montague, 27 Jan 44). N.D.H.Q. had suggested that a proportion of French-Canadian officers be included in the loan, on the condition that they were thoroughly bilingual and "temperamentally compatible" with British troops (ibid., General Montague to Under-Secretary of State, War Office, 29 Jan 44).

6. The climax to these conversations came in the form of a meeting of War Office and C.M.H.Q. personnel on 4 Feb 44 at Hobart House. Brigadier E.H. O'Donnell, Brigadier A.G. Coordination at the War Office, was chairman. The Canadian representatives were Brigadier C.S. Booth, D.A.G., Brigadier E.G. Weeks, A.D.A.G.(A), and Major A.B. MacLaren, O i/c Administration, Overseas Canadian Records Office. The notes of Brigadier Weeks record several points not already mentioned. Of the 2000 officers required, the first 600 would go almost directly to British units, and it was felt that the selection board should be made aware of this. The British did not now require any Army Service Corps officers, but asked that the prospect of borrowing 50 urgently-needed Ordnance officers be explored. Promotion was to follow the Canadian practice: all ranks were to be temporary, with promotions in the first instance to acting rank which would normally be confirmed after six months. All loaned officers were eligible for promotion as though they were British; the War Office was to notify C.M.H.Q. of promotions and the appropriate entries would be published in Canadian Routine Orders. They were to be paid at all times at Canadian rates, including allowances and assigned pay, managed through Canadian channels. While they remained in the United Kingdom, these officers would receive all subsistence and travelling allowances at Canadian rates, using Canadian forms, chargeable to the Canadian Government. Once outside the United Kingdom, however, subsistence and travelling allowances became entirely the responsibility of the British. Those chosen for service with British units were to conform to the age limit of 37 years for a captain, or 33 years for a lieutenant. They were to wear on battledress all the badges peculiar to their respective British

* The Q List was composed of Canadian officers with British units where a Canadian Section, G.H.Q., 2nd Echelon, was not operating. See A.C.I. 1352/44.

units, plus "Canada" badges; when in service dress they were at liberty to wear Canadian uniform and badges. The War Office promised to draft a pamphlet welcoming the Canadian officers and to submit this to C.M.H.Q. for concurrence. Finally, the matter of a code name for the scheme was to be taken up by the British (ibid., notes of Brigadier Weeks on meeting at Hobart House, 4 Feb 44).

7. The minutes of this meeting made by the British secretary were very similar to Brigadier Weeks' notes. Regarding the withdrawal of loaned officers, both sides agreed "the right of recall would be exercised only in very exceptional cases". No applications for return to Canadian service would be considered, except on compassionate grounds, though it was suggested that there be a liaison officer at C.M.H.Q. whose duties would include dealing with any such claims for return. Force or command headquarters would send any adverse reports direct to C.M.H.Q. for action, and a copy was also to be sent to the War Office. No officer could be returned from a British unit on this ground till his three months' probation was over. At the termination of their service, whether by reason of low medical category or at the end of the war, C.M.H.Q. was to accept these officers in the United Kingdom for repatriation to Canada. The British put the age limits at 35 for a captain and 33 for a lieutenant, which does not agree with Brigadier Weeks' notes, but the Canadian figures were actually used (ibid., minutes of meeting at Hobart House on 4 Feb 44).

8. This meeting provided the basis of the Canloan scheme. On February 9 and February 17 representatives from branches of C.M.H.Q. and the War Office met at Hobart House to coordinate details of documentation, administration, and accounting. The word "Canloan" was originated by Major L. Ridgway, A.G.1 (Officers-R) at the War Office, and adopted, though not without objections on grounds of security (C.M.H.Q. file 24/Reports/1/3: Interview with D.A.A.G.(L), 19 Jul 45). C.M.H.Q. arranged for pay and documentation teams to cross with the first flight of officers so that there might be no delay in despatching them from the port of disembarkation (C.M.H.Q. file 9/Loan/6: General Montague to Secretary, Department of National Defence, 26 Feb 44).

9. Two pamphlets were prepared in connection with the Canloan scheme. The Canadian one consisted of 36 questions and answers designed to induce officers to volunteer for service with British units (ibid., "Opportunity for Early Overseas Service with the British Army"). Copy attached as Appendix "A". C.M.H.Q. took objection to three of these answers: one inadequately described the necessary grounds for return; two others, by what they said or left unsaid, appeared to promise that these officers would later come back to the Canadian forces (ibid., Cable A1804, Canmilitary to Defensor, 18 Mar 44). Of the three passages, N.D.H.Q. agreed to alter two, leaving as it stood the one about grounds for return to Canadian service (ibid., Cable AG4307, Defensor to Canmilitary, 20 Mar 44).

10. The British leaflet, on the other hand, was intended primarily to welcome the Canloan officers on their arrival in Britain, besides explaining why such a loan was necessary and outlining again the conditions of service. One

paragraph was removed at the request of C.M.H.Q. and in its final form it was issued "With the compliments of General Sir Ronald Adam, Bt., K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., Adjutant-General to the Forces" (ibid., leaflet to Canloan Officers, April 1944. Copy attached as Appendix "C").

11. In the meantime selection boards in Canada were interviewing the Canloan volunteers, many of whom belonged to units that had been mobilized as part of the 6th, 7th and 8th Canadian Divisions (home defence formations) and later disbanded in the fall of 1943. Those approved were sent to the new A34 Special Officers' Training Centre at Sussex, N.B. There they received a four weeks' course designed to bring them to the standard of those leaving our reinforcement units in the United Kingdom. This centre provided for 600 officers under training, plus 200 already trained and awaiting shipping space (ibid., N.D.H.Q. Training Instruction No.1, A34 S.O.T.C., 8 Mar 44). It was arranged with the British to send Canloan officers overseas in batches of 250, preceded by nominal rolls indicating the Canadian unit (where applicable) to aid in assigning these officers to British regiments.

12. The legal basis for the Canloan scheme is Order-in-Council P.C.3464, of 29 Apr 44. General Letson's disposal order placed the number of officers at 1500, however, rather than the 2000 originally mentioned (ibid., P.C. 3464 of 29 Apr 44, Designation by Minister of National Defence, 23 Mar 44, and Disposal Order by A.G., 25 Mar 44). No routine order was ever issued covering the Canloan officers, nor were they finally carried on the Q List, but the details of their terms of service are contained in A.C.I. 504, of 5 Apr 44. Minor additions and alterations to this were carried in A.C.Is. 972 and 973 of 12 Jul 44.

13. Each officer proceeding under Canloan arrangements was required to sign a formal acknowledgement that he was willing to serve with the British forces and that he understood the terms under which he was serving (ibid., Appendix A to H.Q.C. 8932-1 F.D.12 (Pers 2) of 23 Feb 44. Copy attached as Appendix "B"). On 10 Apr 44 Major A.B. MacLaren, D.A.A.G.(L), commenced his duties as Canloan Liaison Officer at C.M.H.Q., a post he has held ever since. At almost the same time N.D.H.Q. notified C.M.H.Q. that the supply of officers available for loan was coming to an end, and that the infantry total was very unlikely to exceed 625. Arrangements were being made, however, to lend 50 non-technical Ordnance Officers as requested (ibid., Cable AG4430, Defensor to Canmilitary, 7 Apr 44). In Major MacLaren's opinion, 2000 volunteers could have been obtained had the authorities in Canada thought it desirable to strip the home defence units of junior officers (C.M.H.Q. file 24/Reports/1/3: Interview with D.A.A.G.(L), 19 Jul 45).

14. On 7 Apr 44 the first group of 52 Canloan Officers docked at Liverpool. Representatives of the War Office and C.M.H.Q. went on board to welcome them. Lieut-General D.G. Watson, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., Commander-in-Chief Western Command, gave a welcoming address to the Canadian officers, and each of them was handed a copy of the leaflet from Sir Ronald Adam already described. The only difficulty lay in the non-arrival of documents showing the officers' Canadian units, which delayed their posting to affiliated British units (C.M.H.Q. file 9/Loan/6:

Memo of Colonel C.H. Walker, A.D.A.G.(A), 10 Apr 44). The required documents were marked for transmission by bomber, but actually came by surface mail. Each Canloan officer was allotted a personal number in the form "GDN/--" which was to be used on all orders, nominal rolls, and correspondence relating to that officer.

15. The second group, numbering 57, arrived on 11 Apr 44 at Liverpool and were welcomed by another War Office delegation. No effort was spared to welcome the newly-arrived Canadians: those who had allied units were given the opportunity of serving with them, and those who had not were permitted to go to the same units as their friends. As the documents were received in good time, administrative arrangements were carried out more speedily than with the first group (*ibid.*, General Montague to Secretary, Department of National Defence, 12 Apr 44).

16. Probably the best welcome was accorded to the third group, 93 in all, who docked at Leith on 23 Apr 44. The address was given by Major-General N.M.S. Irwin, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Commander, East Scotland District. The brass band of the Royal Scots played from the tender during the official welcome. The newcomers were entertained by the various messes in the Edinburgh area, taken to see the places of historical interest, and piped out of Waverley Station at 2100 hrs after what must have been an exceptionally busy day (*ibid.*, Memo on Reception of Canadian Officers, 22 Apr 44). The fourth group of 48 arrived on 1 May 44, completing the first batch of 250.

17. Canloan officers continued to arrive till the end of July; altogether 673 of them came overseas, as follows:

<u>Date of Disembarkation</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Corps</u>
8 Apr 44	52	Infantry
11 Apr 44	57	"
23 Apr 44	93	"
1 May 44	48	"
10 May 44	250	"
2 Jun 44	34	"
24 Jun 44	88	"
	<u>622</u>	
	Infantry Total	622
25 Jun 44	30	Ordnance
27 Jul 44	21	"
	<u>51</u>	
	Ordnance Total	51

(A.G.Stats: Strength Control Record - Canloan. A single Canloan officer shown as having arrived 11 Aug 44 had in fact already been sent overseas with a previous draft.)

18. The War Office does not appear to have been disappointed at the reduction in the number of Canloan Officers from the figure of 2000 originally mentioned (C.M.H.Q. file 9/Loan/6: Cable A2398, General Montague to General Letson, 11 Apr 44). About the middle of May, C.M.H.Q. was considering the loan of a number of surplus A.A. officers, after an infantry conversion course, but no action was taken (*ibid.*, Brigadier W.N. Bostock, A.D.A.G.(A) to H.Q., C.R.U., 16 May 44).

19. The administrative details applying to the Canloan officers were through practice clarified and made known to those concerned. They were required to have Canadian identification card MFM 182 in lieu of AFB 2606. The services of the Canadian kit storage depot at ALDERSHOT were extended to Canloan officers. At first there were many complaints regarding the slowness with which mail was received, but when proper postal information had been sent out, this situation improved. (*ibid.*, General Montague to Secretary, Department of National Defence, 28 Apr 44). In due course these officers were sent the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal ribbon and clasp, for which they were ruled to be eligible. For all Canloan officers the holding unit was No. 3 Infantry Depot, Kirkee Barracks, Colchester. They went there on disembarkation, on discharge from hospital, or if struck off strength of their units.

20. It was not long before reports began to come in as to the Canloan officers. Lt.-Col. A.O. Sibbald, A.A.G. at the War Office, stated that British divisional commanders were "high in their praises" of Canloan officers and that they reported their battalion commanders were "crying for more Canadian officers" (*ibid.*, extract from log of Major MacLaren, 19 Apr 44). As the first Canloan officers had landed only eleven days before, it seems a little early for such favourable comment; probably the truth is that the British commanders were glad to receive junior officers of any description. On 1 May 44, Lieut-General M.C. Dempsey, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., writing to General Montague from Second Army headquarters, said, "...some 200 Canadians have been posted to units in Second Army to take part in future operations. I need hardly tell you I am delighted to have them." (*ibid.*, General Dempsey to General Montague, 1 May 44). The general opinion was that the Canloan officers were well chosen and had a high degree of individual training, but that some were weak in man management because they had had little or no experience as platoon commanders. This criticism did not apply to those who had already served in the United Kingdom as N.C.Os. in Canadian units. A check made from nominal rolls and cards indicates that 160 of the Canloan officers had been O.Rs. earlier in the war (C.M.H.Q. file 24/Reports/1/3: Memo of 31 Aug 45).

21. The officers themselves seem to have fitted into their British units rather better than they had expected. And they found themselves very actively employed. Some of the units they joined landed in Normandy on D-day, others not long after. On the whole, it seems clear, the Canloan officers acquitted themselves well, despite their lack of intensive training and battle school experience. Their casualties in this as in later parts of the campaign were high but not unduly so. A large number of cases of battle exhaustion occurred in the first two or three months, but these declined as soon as the officers became adjusted to being in action. It was arranged that wounded Canloan officers who would obviously be unfit for further military service should be returned to Canadian hospitals, where they could be reboarded, struck off strength of Canloan, and repatriated in due course. Those fit for duty in any category after recovery were discharged to No. 3 Infantry Depot at Colchester (C.M.H.Q. file 9/Loan/6/2: D.M.S. circular letter No. 88, C.M.H.Q., 16 Aug 44).

22. It has occasionally been rumoured that Canloan officers got the "dirty jobs" and did more than their share of patrols. One of them, posted to a battalion of the Black Watch, stated that the four Canadian subalterns were obviously much better trained than the British subalterns in the same unit, and that during the first four weeks in Normandy in every attack it was a Canadian who commanded the leading platoon (C.M.H.Q. file 9/Loan/6: cable A5298, Canmilitary to Defensor, 1 Aug 44). On the other hand, five Canloan officers, in conversation with the writer, stated that in their units the dangerous tasks did not fall invariably to the Canadian officers, and that patrols were assigned in rotation. It is not improbable that Canloan officers were on the average superior to the British junior officers, since they were carefully selected from those who volunteered, and had the element of national pride to spur them on. The fact that some Canadian officers did more than their share of patrols, as occasionally reported to Major MacLaren by some of them, may be said to constitute a compliment from their British units. In all likelihood those who were overworked in this respect, or who thought they were, have attracted an undue share of attention.

23. The Ordnance officers under the Canloan plan did not go direct to units. Of the first group, numbering 30, most were experienced only with clothing and general stores, and some were not qualified to drive a truck or ride a motorcycle. They went as a body to the R.A.O.C. Training Establishment at Leicester for a four weeks' course to prepare them for duty with field units. The Commandant, Brigadier K.F. Farquharson-Roberts, remarked of them on arrival, "They are all very keen to join field units, but the general standard of training is far from high" (*ibid.*, Brigadier Farquharson-Roberts to War Office, 29 Jun 44). The second group of Ordnance officers, numbering 21, took a similar course ending on 3 Sep 44 before they were posted.

24. The Ordnance officers, though fewer in number than the Infantry officers, became much more widely scattered when they went out to units. Here is a comparison of the theatres in which they served:

<u>Infantry</u>			
To North-West Europe		614	
To Central Mediterranean Force		5	
Served in U.K. only		<u>3</u>	
Infantry total			622
<u>Ordnance</u>			
To North-West Europe		24	
To Central Mediterranean Force and Middle East Force		26	
Served in U.K. only		<u>1</u>	
Ordnance total			<u>51</u>
Total Canloan Officers			673

(C.M.H.Q. file 24/Reports/1/3: Memo re Canloan theatres, 31 Aug 45). A list of units in which Canloan officers served would occupy much space, for they were very widely dispersed during the course of the European war. Some battalions had only one or two Canadians, others had several. By 5 Jul 44, 90 Canloan officers had been posted to airborne units (C.M.H.Q. file 9/Loan/6: Lt.-Col. F.J. Fleury, A.A.G.(MS) to Brigadier W.N. Bostock, A.D.A.G.(A), 29 Jun 44, marginal note). Ten Canloan officers served with various Guards units; this, it is believed, is the first time that officers from the Dominions have been permitted to wear the badge of their country while on the strength of the Guards.

25. One difficulty arose in connection with the Canloan scheme during July and August 1944. Certain officers had received from selection boards in Canada the impression that they would be returned to the Canadian forces after three months' service with the British. These selection boards, and apparently a section of the press in Canada, had misinterpreted the meaning of the "three months' probation" clause. A number of applications for return was received through appropriate channels in 21 Army Group. On 22 Aug 44 Major MacLaren visited the group of Canloan officers then at No. 3 Infantry Depot, Colchester, and clarified the meaning of this clause. The vast majority of the Canloan officers knew that they were on loan to the British for the duration, barring unforeseen circumstances. Of those who expected, or wished, to return to Canadian service, Major MacLaren stated, "The general feeling is that Canloan officers are not dissatisfied with the British Army, but that they feel promises made to them in Canada have not been kept" (C.M.H.Q. file 9/Loan/6/2: D.A.A.G.(L) to A.A.G. (MS), 23 Aug 44).

26. A.C.I. 504/44 had provided (para 15: Representation of Grievances) for an officer representing C.M.H.Q. with whom a Canloan officer might be granted an interview if he had a grievance which, after application through the proper channels, had not been redressed to his satisfaction. General Montague appointed Brigadier A.W. Beament, Officer in Charge Cdn Sec G.H.Q. 1 Ech, 21 Army Group as the officer to undertake such interviews when occasion arose (C.M.H.Q. file 9/Loan/6: General Montague to Officer i/c, Cdn Sec, G.H.Q., 1 Ech, 21 Army Group, 15 Aug 44).

27. During September 1944 Major MacLaren made an extremely useful liaison visit to the continent. He visited formation headquarters of 21 Army Group and Second Army, and went to some of the units to interview personally the Canloan officers serving with them. Most of them were quite satisfied with their service in the British Army; the main complaints were about mail and the lack of Canadian publications. The British authorities were pleased with the Canloan officers and willing to place more of them if they were available. H.Q., Second Army said that the small number who had proved unsatisfactory had tended to distort the general picture, and that "the other 95% are doing a splendid job". This visit adjusted many personal problems and saved a great deal of paper work. It was arranged to send the Canadian Press News and other Canadian publications to the Canloan officers. At the conclusion of the visit, Major MacLaren recommended that other liaison trips be arranged when operations would permit (C.M.H.Q. file 9/Loan/6/2: Major MacLaren to A.A.G.(MS), 28 Sep 44).

28. It had been the practice for C.M.H.Q. to select officers with experience in a fighting theatre to go on lecture tours for the Ministry of Supply. In September 1944 the War Office agreed that Canloan officers temporarily unfit for field force duty and on strength of No. 3 Infantry Depot might be made available to the Ministry of Supply, provided they were not category "D". The words of a Canadian officer serving in a British unit speaking in a British factory about the weapons or munitions being manufactured there seemed to carry extra conviction to British workers (*ibid.*, Lt.-Col. A.C. Sibbald, A.A.G. (D. of O.) at the War Office to D.A.A.G.(L) at C.M.H.Q., 27 Sep 44). This gave the Canloan scheme some very favourable publicity, especially as it was not familiar to a large section of the British public.

29. On 4 Nov 44 the first Canloan reunion was held in the form of a meeting and a dance at the Royal Empire Society. Besides some 160 Canloan officers, many of whom had lately been in hospital, there were present several senior officers from the War Office and British infantry depots or commands, and various staff officers from C.M.H.Q. Major MacLaren comments that by this time the Canloan officers had developed considerable esprit de corps, and that their individual morale was, in general, high (ibid., cable A8826 Canmilitary to Defensor, 6 Nov 44).

30. The decision to grant airborne pay to Canloan officers posted to airborne units was not made till December 1944, though correspondence on this subject had been going on since the end of June. F.R. and I. Canada was amended by G.O. 539 of 1944, amendment No. 128, to give extra pay of fifty cents a day to such officers. This was made effective from 1 Apr 43, though no Canloan officers were posted to British airborne units earlier than 8 Apr 44 (ibid., cable A5543, Defensor to Canmilitary, 15 Dec 44).

31. When the Southern and Eastern Commands were reorganized, about the end of 1944, No. 3 Infantry Depot was disbanded, and No. 6 Infantry Holding Battalion, Southend, became the home of the Canloan officers not with units. This move had unfortunate results, due to the non-cooperative attitude of the commanding officer and the poorer quarters, which were in Westcliffe Hotel. On Major MacLaren's recommendation the Canloan officers came under No. 1 Infantry Holding Battalion when No. 6 moved to a new location (ibid., memorandum of Major MacLaren to A.D.A.G.(MS), 1 Feb 45). About a month later they were quartered at "Glencarse", Chalkwell Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, but were still part of No. 1 Infantry Holding Battalion. Finally, about the first of July, 1945, Kirkee Barracks at Colchester became again the holding unit for Canloan officers. The holding unit for Canloan Ordnance officers was at R.A.O.C. Mobilization Centre, "K" Camp, Donnington, Shropshire (ibid., D.M.S. Circular letter, 15 Mar 45).

32. On 13 Feb 45 N.D.H.Q. asked for information as to the number of Canloan officers returned for various reasons. The reply to this gives a good picture as to the success of the scheme. Ignoring those who were casualties, we find that 51 others had been struck off strength of Canloan for reasons given:

Compassionate return to Canada	2
S.O.S. to Canadian Army Overseas	
At request C.M.H.Q.	1
At own request	4
At request of British	44
Medical grounds	22
Adverse report	12
Language	10
	<hr/>
	51

45 requests for return had been received from individual officers the majority of which were later withdrawn for various reasons (ibid., cable 2026 Canmilitary to Defensor, 17 Feb 45). Regarding the ten returned for language reasons, it will be recalled that any French-Canadian officers sent on Canloan were to be thoroughly bilingual. In practice it was found that some officers who were quite understandable in ordinary conversation became unintelligible over an 18 set in the heat of battle.

33. Some of the Canloan Officers inquired at various times regarding the prospect of service with British units in theatres other than North-West Europe and the Mediterranean. As early as 24 Sep 44 one of them applied to volunteer for service in Burma till the Far East campaign was finished (ibid., letter of CDN/337 Lieut. W.T.M. Edwards, 24 Sep 44). The matter of extending the theatres to which Canloan officers might be sent was referred to N.D.H.Q. Before an answer was obtained on this, the War Office formally requested one Canloan officer, CDN/503 Lieut. A.E. Delaney, for posting to India as a parachutist with the Indian Airborne Division (ibid., D. of O. War Office, to D.A.A.G.(L) at C.M.H.Q., 5 Dec 44). The War Office was anxious to obtain permission for Canloan officers to serve in the Far East, as Ordnance officers especially were required there. Already several of them had individually volunteered to serve there but had necessarily been refused (ibid., memo of Major MacLaren, undated).

34. On 17 Jan 45 N.D.H.Q. replied to this inquiry. Far from agreeing to extend the bounds of the Canloan scheme, they took the view that the original agreement should be revised so that return to Canadian service of all who wished (unless trained for a particular operation) should be approved, as all had now served the three months' period (ibid., Cable AG1205, Defensor to Canmilitary, 17 Jan 45). If followed, this change of policy would have seriously embarrassed the British, especially as 21 Army Group, already short of officers, was then preparing to mount an offensive in February. After an interchange of correspondence, in which the views of the British were mentioned, it was decided that such an about-face was unwise at this time, but that "sympathetic consideration" would be given each application for return, especially as the British had no desire to hold an officer who was unhappy in their service (ibid., Cable A1230, Canmilitary to Defensor, 30 Jan 45). N.D.H.Q. agreed to inquire into the possibility of permitting Canloan officers to volunteer for service in other theatres with British units.

35. On 19 Mar 45 a new designation was approved by General A.G.L. MacNaughton, Minister of National Defence, allowing Canadian officers to be loaned to the British wherever British units were serving. Their number was limited to 1500 and their period of service to six months unless extended by the Chief of the General Staff, Department of National Defence. This designation was based on the original order-in-council P.C.3464, and was put into effect by Disposal Order No. 105, signed on 23 Mar 45 by Lieut-General J.C. Murchie, Chief of the General Staff (ibid., Cable AG2080, Defensor to Canmilitary, 24 Mar 45).

36. This was very fortunately timed, as it permitted decisions to be made on a number of points arising out of service in other theatres before such service became a reality. An attempt was made to get the Canadian Army Pacific rates of pay guaranteed for Canloan officers who served in the South East Asia Command with British units, but N.D.H.Q. ruled that such rates were payable only to personnel in the Canadian forces in the Pacific (ibid., Cable AG7861, Defensor to Canmilitary, 21 Jun 45). They were eligible, however, for Indian allowance on the same basis as the British. Some British units proceeded on 28 days' embarkation leave preparatory to refitting and proceeding to the Far East, and those Canloan officers who had volunteered to go with them were given leave at the same

time. By 28 May 45, written application had been received from 22 Canloan officers to serve in SEAC (ibid., Cable A6332, Canmilitary to Defensor, 28 May 45). N.D.H.Q. said that there was no objection to these officers proceeding to SEAC with their units providing they waived the right to thirty days' leave in Canada normally given to C.A.P.F. personnel (ibid., Cable AG1307, Defensor to Canmilitary, 2 Jun 45). The British then proposed that all Canloan officers volunteering for service in SHAC be despatched for thirty days in Canada under British arrangements, and this was carried out (ibid., Cable A6647, Canmilitary to Defensor, 4 Jun 45).

37. In order to obtain a complete picture regarding the wishes of Canloan officers after the end of the European war, each of them was sent on 18 May 45 a copy of the pamphlet, "After Victory in Europe", the Reallocation Questionnaire, and the Supplementary Declaration of Service in Pacific Theatre. On 2 Aug 45, their preferences were as follows:

Volunteered for C.A.P.F.	42
" " S.E.A.C.	18
" " C.A.O.F.	15
" " British Army of Occupation	18
Reallocation (140 points or over)	83
" (under 140 points)	138
Replies awaited from	18
	<u>332</u>

(C.M.H.Q. file 9/Loan/6/3: Cable A9763, Canmilitary to Defensor, 2 Aug 45).

38. This total represents those officers who were still on the strength of Canloan. What had happened to the remainder of the 673?

(a) Battle casualties -		
Killed in action	102	
Died of wounds	20	
Missing, presumed killed	4	
" (carried on Cdn X list)	<u>1</u>	
Total		127
(b) Died -		1
(c) Returned to Canadian control -		
Medical repatriation to Canada	134	
Liberated P/Ws	27	
Dismissed from His Majesty's Service	2	
Miscellaneous - language, adverse, etc.	<u>50</u>	
Total		<u>213</u>
Total S.O.S. Canloan for all reasons -		341

(ibid.) It will be seen that the fatal battle casualties were high but not excessive. Complete casualty figures are given in Appendix "E". Those who proved to be unsatisfactory for various reasons numbered 52, or less than 8% of the total.

39. There had been much promotion of Canloan officers, and the list of 61 honours and awards is impressive:

British -		
Bar to Military Cross		1
Military Cross		36
Mention-in-despatches		18
American -		
Distinguished Service Cross		1
French -		
Croix de Guerre Avec Etoile de		
	Vermeil	3
" " " " "	d'Argent	2

The names of the officers decorated, and their units, are given in Appendix "D".

40. On the whole, the Canloan scheme has been a success: the majority of the officers concerned have materially assisted the British Army over a period of emergency and brought honour to Canada*. Many of those who proved to be misfits would have been equally unsatisfactory in the Canadian service. No other group of officers, perhaps, has been so well looked after in regard to inquiries, complaints, and information. Major A.B. MacLaren has held the position of Canloan Liaison Officer throughout, and he and his staff have looked after the interests of the individual officers and prevented them from feeling out of place from Canadian affairs.

41. At the moment the Canloan scheme is being wound up. A number of officers have been struck off strength to be sent to C.A.P.F. and C.A.O.F., and those for repatriation are being returned to Canadian control in batches according to their points score. The group wishing still to remain with the British, either in S.E.A.C. or the British Army of Occupation, will be relatively small (36 as at 2 Aug 45) and so widely spread that it is expected that other means of administering it will be adopted.

42. This report was prepared by Capt. J.L. Field, R.C.A.

C.B.S.

(C.P. Stacey) Colonel
D.D.Hist Sec
CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

* It should not be forgotten that other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations supplied personnel for service in the British Army, under arrangements similar to the Canloan scheme. Canada's contribution was second only to that of South Africa, whence came some 1200 Southloan officers.

APPENDIX "A"

"OPPORTUNITY FOR EARLY OVERSEAS SERVICE WITH THE BRITISH ARMY"

Questions, Answers and General Information Concerning Loan of Canadian Officers to the British Army.....

The Canadian Army having a surplus of Reinforcement Officers and the British Army being in need of Lieutenants and Captains, (Infantry), arrangements have now been completed whereby Officers of the Canadian Army may volunteer for service on loan to the British Army.

This plan provides an opportunity for Canadian officers to see Overseas service in the very near future and to acquire valuable experience with the British Army without sacrificing any of the rights and privileges enjoyed as officers of the Canadian Army. Officers on loan will continue to draw Canadian rates of pay and allowances, and the Canadian Government will continue to be responsible for pay, pension claims, etc. All rehabilitation entitlements will be granted on exactly the same basis as to officers who serve Overseas with the Canadian forces. Officers may be recalled to Canadian service as and when needed, with due regard to operational requirements.

Volunteers may also be accepted from R.C.A. and R.C.A.S.C. provided they are willing to take a refresher course to obtain the necessary infantry qualifications, and transfer to the Canadian Infantry Corps. Officers on loan may continue to wear their Canadian badges and regimental insignia on service dress and "Canada" together with such British insignia as necessary, on battle dress. Wherever possible, officers of Canadian regiments will be posted to the British regiment of which the Canadian regiment is an affiliate.

The purpose of this booklet is to endeavour to answer questions which have been raised by Canadian officers considering this transfer. If you are of Overseas age and Fulhams profile, and eager to see action in the near future, secure from your Commanding Officer the details regarding service with the British Army.

PROBABLE QUESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH VOLUNTARY SERVICE WITH THE BRITISH ARMY

1. Q. What procedure is necessary to volunteer for service with the British Army?
A. Application to Commanding Officer.
2. Q. How would my pay and allowances, and eligibility for pension be affected by voluntary service with the British Army?
A. Not affected - still retained on strength of Canadian Army and services only loaned.
3. Q. Would my Dependents' Allowance be affected?
A. No.
4. Q. Which Government (British or Canadian) would be responsible for my pay and allowances?
A. Canadian.
5. Q. Would service with the British Army affect my Canadian post-war rehabilitation?
A. No.

6. Q. Would I be expected to pay British rates of Income Tax, or would I be exempt - similarly to Canadian serving Overseas?
A. Exempt.
7. Q. Under what jurisdiction would I be for discipline, etc?
A. While on loan the officer would be under the jurisdiction of his Commanding Officer as in the case of Canadian Service, but provision is being made for the control of the more severe disciplinary actions by the Overseas Canadian authorities.
8. Q. Can I withdraw from serving with the British Army for one reason or another - compassionate grounds, inability to get along with British officers, unhappiness, etc?
A. After a minimum period of three months service with the British an officer may, through his Commanding Officer at that time, make application for return to Canadian Service. This application will be referred to Canadian Overseas authorities. This provision has been made, however, to meet exceptional circumstances and will not be utilized to facilitate the return of officers to Canadian service for other than essential reasons, prior to recall by Canadian Army.
9. Q. Can the British Army have me returned to the Canadian Army and, if so, how would this procedure affect my military career?
A. The War Office may, where the services of a Canadian Officer have been found in any way unsuitable, return him to Canadian service but in no case shall this action be taken until the officer has served a minimum of three months with the British and until C.M.H.Q. has concurred in this procedure. The effect of such a return to Canadian Service on the military career of an officer would necessarily depend on the circumstances in each individual case.
10. Q. Would I have any channel of communication other than through regimental channels in connection with complaints, etc.?
A. Normal channel through Officer Commanding, but Liaison Officers will be at C.M.H.Q. to watch interests of officers on loan.
11. Q. By volunteering for British service, is an officer likely to miss an opportunity to proceed Overseas in the immediate future as a Canadian Reinforcement Officer?
A. No - He should proceed Overseas much earlier.
12. Q. Upon the cessation of hostilities, how soon would a volunteer be returned to the Canadian Army?
A. As soon as the necessary administration arrangements can be completed.
13. Q. Does service with the British Army affect my eligibility for confirmation of rank or promotion?
A. No.

14. Q. What are the prospects of promotion while on loan?
A. Officers will be employed in British formations and will be eligible for promotion on those establishments on British recommendation, approved by Canadian Overseas authority. An officer consequently by leaving the reinforcement pool for service in unit becomes eligible for promotion earlier than would now be possible.
15. Q. In what theatre of operations would I serve?
A. European or Mediterranean.
16. Q. Would other Canadian officers be with me in larger or smaller formations?
A. Yes.
17. Q. Was the idea of loaning Canadian officers to the British Army instigated by Canada or Great Britain?
A. Canada.
18. Q. Why was the question of loan of officers developed with the British?
A. The Canadian Army can now afford to loan officers to British to secure necessary active service experience and also the British are in need of the services of a great number of officers to complete their formations.
(Amended by deletion of underlined words.)
19. Q. Would I keep my identity as a Canadian, through the wearing of "Canada" badges?
A. Yes.
20. Q. Officer qualification in what branches of the service are required at the present time?
A. Only officers qualified in Infantry will be loaned at the present time, but volunteers from R.C.A.S.C. and R.C.A. (Coast Defence and Anti-aircraft Artillery) will be accepted. These officers will be given special qualification courses in Infantry prior to despatch but will be given assurance of inclusion in quota of loan to British when qualification completed.
21. Q. What training standard is necessary?
A. As for qualified Canadian Reinforcement Officers, Infantry.
22. Q. What medical standard is necessary?
A. As for qualified Canadian Reinforcement Officers, Infantry.
23. Q. What age groups are required?
A. As for qualified Canadian Reinforcement Officers.
24. Q. What ranks are required?
A. Captains and Lieutenants on basis of one Captain to eight Lieutenants.
25. Q. Is any specialized training planned?
A. One month at Special Officers' Training Centre before despatch Overseas.

26. Q. Would a fully trained Canadian Infantry Officer have any difficulty with different standards of training in the British Army?
A. Standards not essentially different.
27. Q. Can the British Army reject volunteers upon arrival in the United Kingdom?
A. No.
28. Q. Is there a sufficiently large officer surplus in Canada to spare whatever numbers may be required for service with the British Army?
A. Reinforcement officers for Canadian Army are now available in such numbers as to preclude their early service Overseas and consequently their services can be made available to the British but only in numbers as can be spared.
29. Q. Are French-Canadian Officers eligible?
A. Yes, if thoroughly bilingual.
30. Q. Would compassionate leave be granted under such circumstances as would warrant such leave in the Canadian Army?
A. Yes.
31. Q. Would a volunteer lose seniority in the Canadian Army?
A. No.
32. Q. Would a volunteer be given an opportunity to remain in the permanent British Army after the war?
A. British authorities are encouraging applications for service in post-war Army.
33. Q. Can an officer with unit affiliation in Canadian Army be posted for service in a battalion of the same regiment in the British Army?
A. The British Army will, wherever possible, post an officer to the British unit to which his unit in the Canadian Army is affiliated.
34. Q. Was a similar plan operated in the last war, and were results satisfactory to all concerned?
A. No, but over 21,000 Officers and Other Ranks transferred to British Units from Canadian in World War I. Hundreds of officers and thousands of other ranks are serving in conjunction with British in this war.
35. Q. Is it not possible that a Canadian officer might be posted to a Welsh or Highland unit, and experience difficulty in adapting himself to unfamiliar accents, etc.?
A. No difficulty is anticipated. English is the common language of the soldier.
36. Q. What are the advantages of volunteering for service with the British Army?
A. The advantages are numerous, but principally are:
(a) Opportunity for early Overseas service.
(b) Having the benefit of active service experience before returning to command experienced Canadian

36(Cont'd) troops. in event of recall to Canadian Service.
(Amended by addition of underlined words)

- (c) Opportunity for earlier promotion.
- (d) Avoiding prolonged delay in Canada due to large backlog of reinforcements presently in training here.
- (e) Material advantages such as tax exemption.

APPENDIX "B"

Appendix "A" to H.C.C.8932-1 F.D.12 (Pers 2) of 23rd February 1944

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, an officer of the Canadian Army serving on active service, do hereby acknowledge that I have of my own volition expressed my willingness to be placed by the appropriate Canadian Service Authorities, as an officer of His Majesty's Military Forces raised in Canada, at the disposal of the Army Council of the United Kingdom for attachment, pursuant to the Visiting Forces British Commonwealth Act, 1933, to the Military Forces of His Majesty raised in the United Kingdom, hereinafter referred to as "the United Kingdom Forces", for service with the said last mentioned Forces under the following conditions:-

- (i) That, subject to what is hereinafter contained, I shall serve with the United Kingdom Forces until such time as I may be recalled therefrom by the appropriate Canadian Military Authority, but in any event such service shall not extend beyond the termination of the state of war now existing;
- (ii) That if, in any exceptional case, I consider that I have just and reasonable cause for so doing, I may request that I be returned to the Canadian Military Forces for service therein, provided, however, that in no event will I make such request within a period of three months from the date of commencement of my service with the United Kingdom Forces, and provided further that the granting of any such request will be at the discretion of the appropriate Canadian Military Authority if, in the opinion of that Authority, said request is in the circumstances just and reasonable;
- (iii) That during my attachment to the United Kingdom Forces I shall be subject at all times to the Military and other laws applicable to such Forces and the members thereof except to such extent as the same may be adapted or modified by Order of His Majesty in Council;
- (iv) That while attached as aforesaid to the United Kingdom Forces I shall continue to be paid the Canadian rates of Pay and Allowances as are applicable to or in respect of the rank or appointment I may from time to time hold; and shall be eligible for pension, rehabilitation grant and other non-effective benefits in like manner and to the same extent as if my service while so attached to the United Kingdom Forces had been service with the Canadian Military Forces in like rank or appointment therein.

The foregoing shall not be deemed to be or construed as any admission or acknowledgement on the part of His Majesty in the right of Canada, or of the Canadian Service Authorities, that my consent or willingness, as an Officer of the Canadian Army serving on active service, to be placed at the disposal of the Army Council of the United Kingdom for attachment to

the United Kingdom Forces is a legal prerequisite to my being so placed at such disposal as aforesaid and being so attached in consequence thereof. This document is to be construed solely as an acknowledgement on my part that I voluntarily express my willingness to be placed at such disposal for attachment as aforesaid and that I understand fully the general terms and conditions under which I shall serve with the United Kingdom Forces whilst so attached thereto.

DATED at this day of 19 .

Witness

Signature of Officer

APPENDIX "C"

TO.....

.....

With the compliments of

General Sir Ronald Adam, Bt., K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.,

Adjutant-General to the Forces.

The War Office,
April, 1944.

-
1. The object of this leaflet is to welcome you on your arrival in England and to explain to you the reasons for your posting to the British Army and the conditions of your service while so posted.
 2. The Army Council wish to extend to you their most cordial welcome and to assure you that the Army, and in particular the unit to which you are now being posted, will receive you in the same spirit.
 3. The reason for this most generous loan by the Canadian Government of the services of a large number of Canadian officers is the considerable officer shortage in British Infantry, which the Canadian Government are helping to make good by the loan of your services.

The officer commitments of the British Army do not end with the British Army itself. They are world wide and include the provision of officers for the Indian Army; for the large Force which has been raised in West Africa; for the East African Forces and for numbers of other smaller Non-European Forces, such as the Sudan Defence Force, the Transjordan Frontier Force, etc.

It is these large outside commitments which have led to the shortage, together with the demands on the potential officer material made by the other fighting Services.

4. On being posted, as you will be immediately, to a British Army unit, you will become, to all intents and purposes, as much a part of that unit as are those officers of the British Service now serving with it. You will be posted to units for service in European or Mediterranean Theatres of War and not in Theatres of War in India and the Far East.

Wherever possible Canadian officers belonging to Canadian Regiments affiliated to British Regiments are being posted to their affiliated Regiments.

5. Your conditions of service whilst you serve with the British Army will be very much the same as those of the other officers of your unit and, broadly speaking, you will be treated as if you were a British Army officer. There are, however, certain matters which are handled differently in the two Armies, and as you will continue to be a Canadian Army officer, certain

modifications in administrative procedure are necessary. These are stated briefly in the following paragraphs.

6. **PAY AND ALLOWANCES.** - You will receive all your emoluments (pay, dependants' allowances, allowances in lieu of accommodation and rations, and travelling allowances and expenses) from Canadian Army Paymasters at Canadian Army rates. When serving outside the United Kingdom, however, you will receive travelling allowances and expenses from British Army Paymasters at British Army rates.

Food and accommodation when provided in kind, which will probably be the general rule, will be in accordance with British Army scales.

7. **PROMOTION.** - Any promotion which you receive will be in accordance with the Canadian Army system of acting and temporary rank. The appropriate British Army authority will be empowered to promote you to and revert you from acting rank and in this respect the normal British Army rules will be applied. Acting rank will normally be relinquished when you cease to perform the duties of that rank, though under British rules you are entitled to retain such rank for limited periods when sick, on a course, on temporary duty and so on. Conversion of acting to temporary rank will, however, be affected by Canadian Military Headquarters on the recommendation of the British Army authority. Acting rank must be held for six months before it can be converted to temporary rank. Broken periods may be reckoned cumulatively.

Once you are granted temporary rank by Canadian Military Headquarters it will be regarded as equivalent to war substantive rank in the British Army.

8. **DRESS.** - Your dress whilst serving with the British Army will be battledress with the badges of the unit to which you are posted, and the shoulder strip "CANADA". When in service dress you may wear your own Canadian Army uniform and Canadian badges if you wish.

9. **DOCUMENTATION.** - You have been asked to complete two copies of Army Form B199A (Officers' record of service). One copy is required at the War Office so that your location and other particulars may be available if needed there. The duplicate will be sent by your unit to 2nd Echelon where it will be maintained for the same purpose.

It is not the purpose of this leaflet to set out the full details of administration and documentation which have been adopted in your case. That is being done in an Army Council Instruction which is being printed and issued to all concerned. A copy is available in your unit.

But you will no doubt wish to know at once that arrangements have been made for all information affecting you to be reported to Canadian Military Headquarters with all possible speed. Canadian Military Headquarters will in turn transmit this information to Canada wherever and whenever this is necessary, and should you become a casualty it is the aim to ensure that your next of kin are informed as certainly and as quickly as they would be if you were serving overseas with the Canadian Army.

It is for this reason that (among other things) you have been given a personal number with a prefix "CDN" so that you can be picked out quickly from reports on British Army officers. It is therefore in your interests to see that this number and prefix are used in all documents relating to you.

10. MEDICAL PROCEDURE. - Medical procedure will be as for British Army officers, and if you are admitted to hospital you should make quite certain that the authorities know that you are a Canadian Army officer serving with the British Army. Reports about your state of health will be forwarded to the Officer-in-charge Records, Canadian Military Headquarters, who will transmit them to Canada. Hospitals in this country have been told to regard him as your next of kin for this purpose.

The British Army system of Medical Categories will be used. This you will learn about in your unit.

Should you become permanently medically unfit for service with the British Army, arrangements would be made with Canadian Military Headquarters for your return.

11. RETURN TO CANADA. - Should you have strong compassionate reasons for wanting to return to Canada you should apply to your Commanding Officer. Your application will be sent, via the War Office, to Canadian Military Headquarters where it will be considered and a decision given. You will understand that operational considerations must influence that decision and that the general policy to be followed will be that adopted for the Canadian Army overseas as a whole.

APPENDIX "D"

HONOURS AND AWARDS, CANLOAN OFFICERS

BAR TO MILITARY CROSS

R.O.No.			
6028	CDN/50	Lieut. G.V. Wright	The Somerset Light Infantry
<u>MILITARY CROSS</u>			
5064	CDN/18	Lieut. C.B. Ewart	The Seaforth Highlanders
	CDN/194	Lieut. G.G. Short	The South Wales Borderers
	CDN/283	Lieut. J.M. Suttie	The Royal Welch Fusiliers (since killed in action)
5116	CDN/165	Lieut. W.A. James	The Durham Light Infantry (since killed in action)
5207	CDN/81	Lieut. J.H. Hitchcock	The Gordon Highlanders
	CDN/380	Lieut. G.J. Booth	The Welch Regiment
5279	CDN/267	Lieut. J.R. Fetterly	The East Yorkshire Regiment
	CDN/554	Lieut. C.R. MacLellan	2nd Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, R.A.C.
	CDN/192	Lieut. L.B. Robertson	The East Yorkshire Regiment
	CDN/475	Lieut. H.A. Taylor	The Hampshire Regiment
5321	CDN/59	Capt. R.A. Reid	The Devonshire Regiment
	CDN/409	Lieut. J. Cochrane	The Oxfordshire and Buckingham- shire Light Infantry (since killed in action)
5370	CDN/228	Lieut. J.R. Stobo	The Royal Scots
	CDN/102	Lieut. W.J. Stainton	The Lincolnshire Regiment
	CDN/249	Lieut. J.N. Orr	The Essex Regiment
	CDN/50	Lieut. G.V. Wright	The Somerset Light Infantry
5444	CDN/536	Capt. D.J. Selvage	The Essex Regiment
5445	CDN/494	Capt. J.A. Brayley	The Gordon Highlanders
	CDN/60	Lieut. E.G. Andrews	The Dorsetshire Regiment (since killed in action)
	CDN/14	Lieut. R.B. Coates	The Black Watch
	CDN/624	Lieut. B. Harley	The Queen's Royal Regiment
	CDN/507	Lieut. G.D. Hebb	The East Yorkshire Regiment
	CDN/468	Lieut. J.A. McIntosh	The Royal Scots Fusiliers
	CDN/515	Lieut. D.H. Struck	The Highland Light Infantry
5622	CDN/421	Capt. (A/Maj) J.W.G. Hunter	The Green Howards
5693	CDN/415	Lieut. L.J. Heaps	Army Air Corps
5694	CDN/86	Capt. (A/Maj) C.V. Lilley	The Queen's Royal Regiment
	CDN/287	Capt. M.L. Baker	The Queen's Royal Regiment
5770	CDN/171	Lieut. J.A. Laurie	The Royal Norfolk Regiment (since killed in action)
5868	CDN/514	Capt. (A/Maj) J.C. Duncan	The Cameronians
	CDN/4	Capt. (A/Maj) J. Hemelryk	The Highland Light Infantry (since killed in action)
	CDN/115	Capt. R.J. Gelston	The Black Watch
	CDN/677	Lieut. D.W. Mitchell	The Black Watch
5911	CDN/56	Capt. (A/Maj) R.F. MacKay	The Seaforth Highlanders
	CDN/671	Lieut. I.M. Macdonald	King's Own Scottish Borderers
5966	CDN/543	Lieut. (A/Capt) M.G. Carter	The Seaforth Highlanders

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

R.O.No.
5644 CDN/298 Capt.(A/Maj) J.H.J. Gauthier
CDN/287 Lieut. M.L. Baker
CDN/150 Lieut. W.A. Harvie
CDN/152 Lieut. H.F. Henry
CDN/304 Lieut. E.B. Mann (since died of wounds)
CDN/101 Lieut. L.G. Sneath
5695 CDN/86 Lieut. (A/Capt.) C.V. Lilley
CDN/61 Lieut. F.L.J. Arnett (since died of wounds)
CDN/485 Lieut. R.G. Marsh (since killed in action)
CDN/247 Lieut. P. Mercier
CDN/38 Lieut. C.M. Patch
CDN/186 Lieut. J.W. Pennington
CDN/40 Lieut. L.A. Stilling
CDN/316 Lieut. A.J. Street
5912 CDN/514 Major J.C. Duncan
CDN/4 Major J. Hemelryk (since killed in action)
CDN/485 Capt. R.G. Marsh (since killed in action)
CDN/432 Lieut. W.J.C. Ayers

FOREIGN AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

5913 CDN/476 Lieut. P.H. Turner The South Staffordshire Regiment

CROIX DE GUERRE AVEC ETOILE DE VERMEIL

5737 CDN/42 Capt.(A/Maj) A.F. Smith The Glasgow Highlanders
CDN/459 Capt. A.C.F. de Serres The Seaforth Highlanders
CDN/101 Capt. L.G. Sneath The York and Lancaster Regiment

CROIX DE GUERRE AVEC ETOILE D'ARGENT

5737 CDN/145 Lieut. F. Evans The Monmouthshire Regiment
CDN/552 Lieut. B.E. Harper The East Lancashire Regiment

APPENDIX "E"

CASUALTIES, CANLOAN OFFICERS

Killed in action	102
Died of wounds	20
Natural death	1
Wounded	310
Missing	3
Missing, presumed dead	4
Repatriated P/Ws	<u>27</u>
Total casualties	<u>467</u>

(A.G. Stats: Casualties, Canloan, to 31 Jul 45.)