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HISTORICAL SECTION

CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

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THE CANADIAN FORESTRY CORPS 1944-45.

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Appendix "A"

REPORT NO. 151

HISTORICAL SECTION

CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

18 Mar 46

The Canadian Forestry Corps 1944-45.

INTRODUCTION

1. This Report describes the principal activities of the Canadian Forestry Corps in Great Britain and on the European mainland from 1 May 44 until the final disbandment overseas. Three previous reports in this series have dealt with the Canadian Forestry Corps in the War of 1939-45. The first, Report No. 29, analysed the work of the Corps from its organization until May 1941. Report No. 97 described the growth of the Corps in the two-year period from May 1941 to May 1943, while Report No. 117 traced its development from May 1943 to the end of April 1944. For this report the principal sources of material have been: Canadian Military Headquarters files, the several War Diaries of the C.F.C. units and headquarters and certain C.F.C. files in the possession of the O.i/c War Diaries, Historical Section, C.M.H.Q.

2. With the cessation of timber operations in Scotland already in sight, the principal task facing the Canadian Forestry Corps in 1944-5 was the carrying out of the forestry services required by 21 Army Group in North-West Europe. To that end five companies had been earmarked in all the Field Force Committee plans since the end of 1942. This would leave 15 companies* in Scotland to supply reinforcements when needed to the Canadian Forestry Corps component with 21 Army Group and to complete the timber cutting programme which had been previously laid down as far as the end of 1944.

ORGANIZATION OF NO. 1 CANADIAN FORESTRY GROUP

3. On 11 Oct 43 the Canadian Government officially approved the allocation of five Forestry companies to carry out Forestry work for 21 Army Group in the operations which were pending in North-West Europe. As the result of a number of conferences held at C.M.H.Q., with senior officers of the Canadian Forestry Corps in attendance, Nos. 5, 15, 16, 28 and 30 Companies were selected for this task in January 1944 and instructions were issued to mobilize Headquarters, No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group with a strength of 15 officers and 110 other ranks (Report No. 117, para 50).

* The despatch of a District Headquarters and 10 Forestry Companies to Canada in the autumn of 1943 has been described in Report No. 117.

This re-organization took effect from 10 Mar 44 but the new Headquarters and these five Companies remained under C.M.H.Q. command and administration until they moved south to join 21 Army Group.

4. Negotiations, unofficial at first, were initiated in March by Headquarters, 21 Army Group for the possible addition of a further five Canadian Forestry companies to serve in North-West Europe. After the question had been discussed with senior officers of the Canadian Forestry Corps, it was decided at C.M.H.Q. that the re-organization and despatch of a further five companies to 21 Army Group could be carried out without creating additional difficulties with respect to the Canadian man-power situation (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Org CFC/1: Bogert to M.G.A., C.M.H.Q., 10 Mar 44; see also Report No. 117, para 53). The matter was referred to Ottawa and on 3 Apr General Crerar was able to inform Headquarters, 21 Army Group that, if an official request was made to C.M.H.Q. for a further five companies, approval would be given by the Canadian Government (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry/1/4: Crerar to Headquarters, 21 Army Group, 3 Apr 44). On 23 May such a request was received at C.M.H.Q. and a letter signifying official assent was sent to the War Office on 31 May (ibid: Penhale to Under Secretary of State for War, 31 May 44).

5. In addition to the formation of Headquarters, No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group, Colonel C.E.F. Jones, commanding Canadian Forestry Corps, had urged that two Forestry District Headquarters Type (B)*, each comprising two officers and 16 other ranks, should be created; each would be capable of administering a group of three or more companies. Personnel for these latter two headquarters, which would be known as 7 and 8 Headquarters Forestry District (B), C.F.C., would be obtained from the two disbanding Forestry Headquarters Type (A) which were no longer needed in Scotland. Nos. 1, 9, 14, 25 and 27 Canadian Forestry Companies were selected as the five additional companies to join 21 Army Group and Colonel Jones considered that these companies should be able to join the remainder of No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group by 30 Jun 44. Due to various delays, however, it was not possible until 15 Jul 44 for the Headquarters, 7 and 8 Canadian Forestry Districts (B) and Nos. 1, 9, 14, 25 and 27 Canadian Forestry Companies to be put under command of 21 Army Group (C.M.H.Q. Adm Order No. 124, 15 Jul 44).

6. On 20 Mar 44 Headquarters 1 Cdn Forestry Group opened at Wilderness Camp, Kildary, Ross-shire, which had

* The difference between a Forestry District Headquarters Type "A" and a Forestry District Headquarters Type "B" was one of function. Type "A" was designed to administer static companies in Scotland, while Type "B" the mobile companies on the Continent. Approval was granted for the formation of Nos. 7 and 8 Canadian Forestry District Headquarters Type "B" on 1 Jun 44 (C.M.H.Q. file 6/CFC/1/3: C.M.H.Q. Adm Order No. 107 dated 15 Jun 44).

hitherto been the scene of timbering operations by 14 Canadian Forestry Company. Lt.-Col. E.P. Burchett,* as second-in-command, supervised the organization of the Group which was to be commanded by Colonel C.E.F. Jones** who up to now had been Commander, Canadian Forestry Corps (W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Group: 20 Mar 44). Then on 27 Mar Nos. 5, 15, 16, 28 and 30 Companies went on a field return basis and having ceased technical operations at their respective camps by the beginning of April, concentrated on preparations for a new role overseas. It might be noted, at this point, that in the selection of companies for service with 21 Army Group, territorial representation had once again been followed:

- No. 15 Cdn Forestry Coy - New Brunswick and Nova Scotia
- No. 16 Cdn Forestry Coy - Quebec
- No. 28 Cdn Forestry Coy - Ontario
- No. 5 Cdn Forestry Coy - Western Ontario and Eastern
Manitoba
- No. 30 Cdn Forestry Coy - British Columbia.

7. On 9 Apr the personnel of 1 Canadian Forestry Group arrived at Carronbridge Camp, near Thornhill, Ross-shire, to carry out basic military training under instructors provided from Nos. 1, 2 and 6 C.I.R.U.s. and No. 1 C.O.R.U. (Ibid: 28 May 44). Training of an infantry nature was continued until 29 May at which time the various companies returned to their home stations (Ibid: 29 May 44).

8. On 2 Jul, Headquarters, No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group and these five companies moved south by rail to the concentration area at Lancing, Sussex, where refresher training was continued. On 23 Jun the remaining companies designated for service overseas (Nos. 1, 9, 14, 25 and 27) concluded timbering operations in Scotland. Before moving south, however, these companies also underwent a period of refresher training at Carronbridge. It was not until 26 Aug, therefore, that the five latter companies, together with Headquarters, Nos. 7 and 8 Canadian Forestry Districts (Type B) were concentrated at Billingshurst.

RAFTING OPERATIONS BY NO.1 CANADIAN SPECIAL FORESTRY SECTION

9. During the later stages of the planning operations for opening a Second Front in North-West Europe the problem of transporting timber across the Channel for the use of Allied Engineer units had presented itself. Due to the overall shortage, ship bottoms could not be allocated for this purpose, so the possibility of towing long piling across the Channel was investigated. Appearing before a meeting of representatives from the War Office, E.T.O.U.S.A. and the Ministry of Supply in the latter part of February 1944, Lt.-Col. E.P. Burchett, then Assistant Director of Timber Operations C.F.C., stated his belief that such a project was feasible and agreed to draw up the necessary plans for

* Appointed from Assistant Director of Timber Operations, C.F.C., w.e.f. 28 Mar 44.

** Posted to command No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group w.e.f. 14 Jun 44.

the undertaking (W.D., H.Q. C.F.C.: February 1945, Appx 2, Memo of Operations carried out by the Canadian Forestry Corps for the War Office and E.T.O.U.S.A. in rafting of piling and other work in preparation for and during the Invasion of France between 4 March and 11 October 1944).

10. An official request for the use of a detachment of the Canadian Forestry Corps to raft 22,000 pieces of round timber was made subsequently by the War Office to C.M.H.Q., and on 25 Feb General Montague informed Lt.-Col. Burchett that the project had been given official approval. On 28 Feb the latter therefore attended a second conference at which plans were made for a detachment of C.F.C. personnel to proceed to each of the ports of Southampton and Barry (south west of Cardiff on the Bristol Channel). Their duties would be to construct rafts of round timber, unload and store lumber delivered by rail from inland depots and supervise the construction of square timber rafts. The responsibility of the C.F.C. was to end, however, once the rafts were completed. Lt.-Col. Burchett visited both ports within the next few days and, after selecting work sites, made all the necessary arrangements with the Naval, Harbour and Port Authorities.

11. On 7 Mar Major R.T. Colquhoun arrived at Southampton with an initial detachment to commence operations. Due to the inability of the Royal Engineers to construct square timber rafts, as had been originally planned, this additional task was given to the Canadian Foresters. Consequently, considerably more personnel were required for the task. Thus the W.E. authorized on 9 Mar for No.1 Canadian Special Forestry Section made provision for a total of six officers and 134 other ranks, 44 of whom were to be tradesmen. By 21 Apr the Section was at full strength and work at Southampton and Barry was progressing with the maximum of effort.

12. The square timber rafts constructed at both ports varied in size according to the sizes and lengths of the timbers, "running from 70,000 f.b.m. (say 35 standards) to 90,000 f.b.m. (say 45 standards)." (Ibid.) The procedure used at Southampton was to build the first two layers on a ramp on shore; the embryo raft was then launched and completed in the water. At Barry, on the other hand, a heavy ramp was built on shore, upon which two rafts could be constructed at a time; the finished rafts were then launched. The round timber rafts consisted of Douglas Fir peeled timbers, (18" butts and 4½" tops, 60 to 120 ft in length) and were constructed to a design somewhat similar to the "Davis Raft" which was used extensively in Pacific Coast lumbering operations. The following procedure was used:

Roughly, a cradle was made of approximately one sixth of the logs to be rafted, all butts at one end, held together by a weave, over and under each timber, of 3" Cir. S.W.R. at intervals. On this was loaded the balance of the timbers reinforced by cross straps through the raft, the whole being

wrapped and held together by approximately 6 wraps of 3" Cir. S.W.R. The rafts had a towing bridle fore (butt-end) and a hook on bridle aft, each running through the rafts, and when under tow, so affixed, that all wrappings tightened. The bridles were 3½" Cir. S.W.R. (Ibid).

13. The design and construction of all rafts was sound and no timber, either round or square, was lost through faulty construction. Considerable rough weather was encountered by the rafts at sea, particularly those from Barry which had to round Land's End, but the tugs were able to move them safely at speeds up to eight knots.

14. In addition to the construction of the rafts, personnel of the detachments found themselves engaged in operating cranes, pile drivers and tugs and in the unloading of lumber brought by ship or rail to Southampton and Barry. During the spring and summer of 1944 three American ships were unloaded at the former port and five at the latter by C.F.C. personnel, while an average of 100-300 tons of lumber arrived by rail every day from inland points.

15. On 20 Aug work was curtailed on the project, owing to the satisfactory turn taken by the Normandy campaign which now made it more economical to obtain future timber needs from the forests of Normandy where C.F.C. Companies were by this time at work (see para 17). Then on 31 Aug the rafting operations were brought to a close, there being sufficient rafts awaiting despatch to care for current operational needs. During these months 50 square timber and 7 round timber rafts had been built at Southampton while 27 square timber and 47 round timber rafts had been constructed at Barry.

16. On 21 Aug, with the work then nearing completion, Brigadier Sir Bruce White, Director of Ports at the War Office, approached Colonel R.D. Roe, now commanding the C.F.C., with a request that one officer and 65 other ranks of this Section should be put to work constructing A.A. gun towers in the Thames Estuary to complete the defences of London against the flying bomb attacks. After due consideration, this project met the approval of C.M.H.Q. but the further request that the remainder of No. 1 Canadian Special Forestry Section be employed on special test construction work in connection with forthcoming British operations in Burma was not found acceptable (Ibid.) The Barry Detachment duly arrived in London to undertake the construction of gun towers but the capture of the flying-bomb sites in the Pas de Calais area by troops of the First Canadian Army had by then rendered such construction no longer necessary. The project was therefore dropped (Ibid. See also C.M.H.Q. file 1/Org CFC/1: D.S.D. War Office to C.M.H.Q., 15 Sep 44). On 13 Sep, however, one officer and 20 other ranks were despatched to Dover to construct a special "V" trestling structure for loading locomotives and trucks on ships, in place of one which had been destroyed by enemy shellfire from across the Straits.

These men had been picked especially for the job and warned that, although it would most likely involve working under enemy shell fire, the project had a top priority. Work commenced on 14 Sep and on the following day the Canadian Foresters were subjected to their first shelling, with 32 rounds falling in the harbour area where they were working. On 20 and 22 Sep shelling was continued and then, on 26-27 Sep, it became quite heavy. Only one and a half hours were lost through enemy shell fire, however, and the job was completed on the last day of the month. This party then returned to London and by 11 Oct had rejoined the remainder of the Section in Scotland. The following day No. 1 Canadian Special Forestry Section was disbanded and the personnel then absorbed into the Reinforcement Section, C.F.C. at Blair Atholl.

OPERATIONS ON THE CONTINENT

17. In the last week of July 1944 No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group completed its preparation for the move to France and concentrated at the marshalling points of Havant (5 miles N.E. of Portsmouth) and Tilbury (in the Thames Estuary). The Companies went ashore in France during the last week of July and the first week in August, with No. 15 Company landing at Courcelle on 27 Jul and No. 30 Company on 5 Aug. (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry/1/4: Report on Operations and Production of No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group from arrival in France to 31 Dec 44.) On 4 Aug Headquarters 1 Canadian Forestry Group disembarked at Arromanches and established itself in the village of Subles in Normandy. For the impending operations No. 220 Pioneer Company (British) and Nos. 129 and 131 Companies R.E. (Forestry) were placed under command of No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group. Timber sites were allotted to the several companies in Cerisy Forest which was between Bayeux and St. Lo - in the U.S. First Army area. The quality of the hardwood lumber here was definitely inferior to that encountered in Scotland as the trees were of the smaller and more stunted varieties of beech and oak. The Canadians endeavoured to follow the wishes of French forestry officials who had urged that a minimum of 30 trees per acre be left standing. By 19 Aug 44, after two weeks' work, the Canadian Companies had produced 739,981 f.b.m. of sawn lumber, 54,000 f.b.m.^{XX} of slabs, 2,783 poles and 6,975 pickets and pitprops (W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Gp: August 1944, Appx 9). On 29 Aug the Headquarters 8 Canadian Forestry District (B) commenced functioning as a control over the timbering operations of these companies, in the same manner as the districts had been doing in Scotland (Ibid. 28 Aug 44).

18. The lumber and by-products were despatched to No. 17 Advance Ordnance Depot yard at La Belle Epine, on the Vire - St. Lo road, 28 miles from the French Atlantic coast. From here it was shipped to units of the Allied Armies on presentation of timber release vouchers issued

* On 28 Aug 44 Headquarters No. 8 Canadian Forestry District arrived from the United Kingdom and joined 1 Canadian Forestry Group at Subles, Normandy. This Headquarters was set up in the village of Castillon.

^{XX} F.B.M. is board feet measure.

by the Works Directorate, 21 Army Group. Although Canadian Forestry Corps troops administered the yard they did not perform the manual labour which was the job of the attached British Pioneer Company (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry/1/4: Report on operations and production of No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group from arrival in France to 31 Dec 44). A considerable amount of this piling was handed over to the United States Army Engineers for their repair work at the port of Cherbourg. Writing to the Director of Works, 21 Army Group, on 21 Aug 44 Major-General C.R. Moore, U.S.A. Chief Engineer, stated that:

I want you to know how much the timber piles from Forêt de Cerisy have helped our port reconstruction work at Cherbourg. Will you please express our appreciation to the Canadian Forestry Units that participated in the work? (W.D., H.Q. 1 Canadian Forestry Group: August 1944, Appx 15; Moore to Tickell, 21 Aug 44.)

U.S. Army Engineer units were cutting timber in the same district but used civilian mills and P.W. labour (Hist Sec file A.E.F. 45/1 Cdn Forestry Gp/C/F: Account of Operations of 1 Cdn Forestry Group in North-West Europe). During their sojourn in Normandy, which lasted until well into October, the Canadian Forestry Companies produced the following:

Sawn lumber	7,049,424	f.b.m.
Edged slabs	341,506	"
Pitprops and pickets	40,445	cu.ft. (44,248
Firewood	19,806.5	tons pieces)

19. During late October and November 1944, No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group moved into Belgium. The Group, with the exception of No. 16 Company C.F.C., was centred in the Westerloo Forest in the proximity of Brussels, with Headquarters at Westerloo near Waterloo. These Companies were placed under the command of Headquarters No. 8 Forestry District. The remaining Company, No. 16, proceeded to Spa in the Ardennes Forest (under command U.S. 9th Army), where it was shortly afterwards joined, during the first week of November, by Nos. 1, 9, 14, 25 and 27 Companies and Headquarters 7 Forestry District (B) C.F.C. from England.

20. On 26 Oct 44 Headquarters 8 Canadian Forestry District and Nos. 1, 9, 14, 25 and 27 Companies had sailed from England in a convoy of 12 L.C.Ts. After landing at Boulogne they proceeded by road through Lille, Tournai and Brussels to the Ardennes Forest, in the American sector. Timbering operations were commenced during the days 1-7 Nov by the six companies (including No. 16 Company) which operated under command of Headquarters No. 7 Canadian Forestry Corps District. They found that the trees allocated to them were a heavy stand of small sawlog size spruce, tall and well formed. The ground varied from being flat to a moderate slope but was wet and inclined to be boggy which made the use of tractors difficult in certain of the areas (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry/1/4: Report on operations and production of No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group from arrival in France to 31 Dec 44). Selective logging was carried out

due to natural regeneration by No. 14 Company but all the other companies clear-felled their areas. On 30 Nov the companies under command of Headquarters 7 Canadian Forestry District (B) were organized for defence, under American command, into three sub-areas St. Hubert, Houffalize and Spa, as a consequence of U.S. First Army intelligence that "a German attack was impending" (W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Gp Jan 45; Appx 10, Ferguson to Commander 1 Cdn Forestry Group 26 Jan 45). The American troops included in these defensive plans were "second line service troops" and included units of U.S. Combat Engineers.

21. On 16 Dec Field Marshal von Rundstedt launched an attack with a force of 24 divisions and broke through the American VIII Corps in the Ardennes sector on a 40 mile front. On the following evening the Canadian Forestry Corps companies received a "STAND TO" order and plans were made by Headquarters 7 Canadian Forestry District for a withdrawal should the German attack attain more serious proportions. American units did pull out of Spa during the following day. No. 16 Canadian Forestry Company thereupon followed suit as it was not equipped with A.Tk weapons or grenades and could not alone remain in defence of the town with its limited ammunition supply. It withdrew to Namur. Meanwhile, since No. 14 Company appeared to be "sitting in the centre of a Pincer move through Veilsalm and Bastogne", the Commander of 7 Canadian Forestry District (Lt.-Col. N.C. Ferguson) ordered it to pull out, taking along as much key equipment as possible.

22. On the morning of 19 Dec Lt.-Col. Ferguson moved his own Headquarters and the General Workshops to St. Hubert in order to operate more closely with the remaining four companies. By the time he arrived, however, Nos. 1, 9, 25 and 27 Companies were already on the move, having received orders from an American source to retire towards Givet. This move had been ordered after a false appreciation of the situation and later countermanding orders resulted in the companies moving back to their original positions during the night 19/20 Dec. Unit vehicles were kept loaded with technical stores and equipment, however, and all personnel remained on the alert, ready to move out or dig in and fight should the occasion warrant it. Heavy firing could be heard to the front and on the flanks but accurate information as to the depth of the German advance or disposition of American troops could not be obtained (W.D., 25 Coy C.F.C.: 21 Dec 44).

23. During the early morning of 20 Dec, No. 1 Canadian Forestry Company was assigned the task of aiding the American 158th Combat Engineer Battalion clear a wooded area in the vicinity of La Vacherie, suspected of containing some 40 German air borne troops. With the Americans on their left, the Canadian Foresters advanced in line through the thickets and underbrush, with two platoons up and one in reserve, but were not able to make contact with any Germans. This task finished and the American Engineer locality once more made secure, No. 1 Company returned to its camp at St. Hubert. After a light meal the personnel

turned in for the night, but not for long, as the diary entry for 21 Dec relates that:

Received another message at midnight, and were ordered to take up positions on roads around camp, and at the aerodrome. Everyone dug themselves in, and we were re-inforced (sic) by No. 25 Coy, C.F.C. Everyone just about out on their feet having little sleep or much to eat for the last few days. There seemed to be much confusion amongst the American lines of communication and no one seemed to be able to locate petrol or ration dumps. American armour pulled out from LaVacherie at about 0800 hours and at 0925 hours we received word they were returning to LaVacherie, which failed to materialize. At 1200 hours received a verbal message from Lieut. Rice, and our own D.R. that U.S. Forces were leaving St. Hubert, and advising us to do likewise. Cleared camp at 1230 hours proceeding directly to Brussels, arriving at 2200 hours into billets partly used by British Survey Engineers. Everyone dead beat. (W.D., No. 1 Coy C.F.C.: 21 Dec 44).

24. Orders to withdraw were also received by the other three companies on 21 Dec. Withdrawal to Brussels was completed satisfactorily but, although they were able to take a considerable amount of their technical equipment with them the six companies had had to abandon 21 sawmills in the Ardennes (W.D., No. 25 Coy C.F.C.: 20-21 Dec 44; W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Gp: December 1944, Appx 12; C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry/1/4: Macklin to C. of S., C.M.H.Q., 4 Jan 45). The companies then were assigned other timber areas in the vicinity of Brussels, Antwerp, Charleroi, Louvain and Lierre.

25. While these developments were taking place, Headquarters No. 8 Canadian Forestry District and the other four companies were at work in Belgium cutting trees, sawing lumber and timber suitable for bridges and for the endless miles of corduroy roads in the 21 Army Group L. of C. area (Ibid.). By the end of the year the production figures of the 10 Canadian Forestry Companies since their move into Belgium, stood at:

Sawn (Squares and Lumber)	8,949,659 F.B.M.
Poles and piling	4,511 pieces
Posts and pickets	164,812 "
Corduroy	2,200,941 Linear Ft.
Firewood	1,902 Tons
Edged slabs	4,100 F.B.M.

26. A few of the more important tasks performed by C.F.C. personnel, outside of normal timbering, were the lifting and transporting of pontoon bridging from the River Orne to forward areas, the design and the supervision of construction of a boom for the protection of the Nijmegen bridge from floating mines which the Germans were putting into the River Waal, farther up the stream, and the supervision of lumber yards (imported lumber) at Brussels and Ghent (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry/1/4: Report on Operations and Production of No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group from arrival in France to 31 Dec 44. See also W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Gp: 31 Dec 44).

27. Normal production of lumber was continued during the first quarter of 1945. The greater proportion of the sawn output during the first part of this period took the form of squared timbers which were then re-sawn in civilian mills into lumber for pre-fabricated army huts. The need for scantlings and heavy timber, however, gradually replaced this work. For the first time since operations commenced, a Canadian Forestry Company (No. 9) was put directly under the command of First Canadian Army to work with R.C.E. units at Tilburg. A further company was put under command of the British Second Army in order to produce sufficient quantities of corduroy, poles, and pickets for forthcoming operational needs. It was also necessary to provide heavy timbers and long piling for the permanent bridges which later would be required over the Meuse, Rhine and other large rivers in Germany (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Formations/1/4: Report on Operations and Productions of No. 1 Cdn Forestry Group from 1 Jan 45 to 31 Mar 45). During this three month period, three companies were employed exclusively on the production of pitwood to enable Dutch and Belgian coal mines to carry on operations. A number of civilians were also engaged on this work. The twelve companies under command of Headquarters No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group worked on 22 sites during this period. For these operations No. 220 Pioneer Company, No. 1 Spanish Pioneer Company* and No. 25 Canadian Special Employment Company were placed under command for technical supervision and control (Ibid.). During the last week in January parties from the companies concerned in the Ardennes battle returned to the area to decide what abandoned equipment could be salvaged (W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Gp: 22 Jan 45). The companies working in the Antwerp and Nijmegen areas suffered a number of casualties from the incessant flying bomb and rocket attacks which carried on during the winter.

28. Late in February 1945 two Forestry Companies, Nos. 5 and 9, were sent to the Reichswald and afterwards to the Hochwald to prepare lumber and timber for the Rhine crossings. These companies also did considerable work preparing wood for the repair of corduroy roads which had been badly cratered by enemy shelling. The companies which returned to the Ardennes Forest began cutting 75-ft pilings for the bridges to be built over the Rhine (W.D., 5 C.F.C.: March 1945). In order to cut these abnormal lengths it was necessary to build special sawmills in the Ardennes (Ibid.). On 15 Feb 45 No. 9 Company, C.F.C. moved onto German soil and was followed by Nos. 15, 30 and 28 Companies before the end of the month. The remaining companies were still in Belgium at the end of March.

29. Normal production was maintained during the whole of the second quarter of 1945. After completing the orders for bridging timbers for the Rhine, sawn production was diverted to planking, scantling-sized lumber and railway sleepers.

30. Following the end of the war in Europe all the Corps under command, with the exception of No. 1 Spanish

* This Company had worked for two years with a New Zealand Forestry Company in England (W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Gp: 10 Nov 44).

Pioneer Company, carried on operations in the forests of Germany, occupying 33 sites from Bruges, Belgium, to Bad Segeberg in the east, a distance of almost 500 miles by road (W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Gp; July 1945, Appx 18, Report on operations and production of No. 1 Cdn Forestry Group from 1 Apr 45 to 30 Jun 45). New timber operations were started in the forests near Osnabruck, Minden, Bassum, Hanover and Hamburg whilst other companies remained in the Reichswald and the Rhine area. Two lumber yards were set up along the Rhine, at Pfalzdorf on the west bank and Drevenack on the east bank, to store and season the lumber prior to shipping. The several companies were allotted to formation areas as follows:

- First Cdn Army - No. 9 Coy C.F.C.
- 1 Brit Corps - Nos. 5, 15, 16, 25 and 30 Coys C.F.C. and Nos. 129 and 131 Forestry Coys R.E.
- 6 Brit Corps - No. 16 Coy C.F.C.
- 30 Brit Corps - Nos. 1, 27 and 28 Coys C.F.C.
- 21 Army Group - No. 1 Spanish Pioneer Coy, No. 220 Pioneer Coy and No. 25 Cdn Special Employment Coy.

31. During June 1945 it was necessary to concentrate once again on bridging materials for the structures being erected over the Dortmund-Ems Canal and the Weser River. A special piling detachment was organized to cut piling for these bridges and to build up stock for future use. The first German P.O.W. Forestry Company was formed in June and placed under command of Headquarters, 1 Canadian Forestry Group; its work was actually supervised by No. 129 Forestry Company R.E. (Ibid.: 27 Jun 45). Others were organized during the summer and by autumn a considerable amount of civilian enterprise was also underway. Production figures for this three months period (1 Apr - 30 Jun) showed:

Sawn lumber	13,572,652 F.B.M.
Pitprops & pickets	1,364,444 cu.ft.
Poles and Piling	184,771 cu. ft.
Firewood	2,389 tons

32. Production figures gradually dwindled as C.F.C. personnel were repatriated to Canada and companies were disbanded. The week ending 26 Nov 45 saw an end to Canadian timbering operations on the Continent. At this time the following production figures were produced for the whole period in which Canadians cut timber in North-West Europe (Ibid.: November 1945, Appx 2):

Sawn timber	53,095,663 F.B.M.
Edged slabs	348,645 "
Pitprops & pickets	4,661,484 cu.ft.
Poles & piling	641,505 "
Firewood	34,126 tons

OPERATIONS IN SCOTLAND

33. The ten companies remaining in Scotland during 1944 and the first months of 1945 carried on with completing the cuttings on the timber sites already assigned to them. The forests of Scotland were becoming denuded of sizable timber and in line with the policy outlined in 1943, which had been worked out to suit the needs of both the Canadian Government and the British Ministry of Supply, no new cuttings were to be undertaken and on the completion of timbering operations at a site the services of that particular company would no longer be required (see Report No. 117). Timber still continued to be shipped to the ports of Inverness, Aberdeen, Bowling Harbour and Grangemouth but due to restricted rail and shipping facilities stocks had a tendency to pile up in the yards during the earlier part of 1944 (W.D., H.Q. C.F.C.: December 1944). At the beginning of August 1944 a basic military training programme was revived, involving each company being taken off timbering operations for a week in order to brush up units' infantry training (Ibid.: 1 Aug 44). Men were given an opportunity to fire all infantry weapons, including the Bren, Sten and Piat (Ibid.: 2 Dec 44). Concerning activities during the following winter, the diary of H.Q., C.F.C. notes that:

...our production has been quite low due to heavy snowstorms and to frost in the timber. Companies continued to operate with the exception of the two companies in military training.

We have been, more or less, obliged to do quite a lot of snow ploughing on the main highways, particularly between Inverness and Blair Atholl, as the County Road Authorities have been unable to keep the roads clear of snow. (Ibid.: January 1945, Appx 2.)

34. During the early winter of 1945 a party of forestry officers from Malaya visited several units of the C.F.C. to study logging and milling operations and the construction of sawmills (Ibid.: 20 Feb 45). On 15 Feb 45 the Construction and Maintenance Section C.F.C. embarked on a further project for the Ministry of Supply, involving the construction of 50 Scotch portable sawmills for use in Burma. By 10 Mar the necessary jigs and templates to fabricate parts had been completed. Ten days later the manufacture of the required timbers was finished. The creosoting process quickly followed and then the timbers were bored and cut to size. By the end of March the first sample bench was completed and the whole programme was well under way (Ibid.: March 1945, Appx 15). During June representatives of the Ministry of Supply investigated the possibility of dismantling several of the Canadian mills which had been shut down and shipping them out to S.E.A.C. for use in Burma. On 26 Jun Colonel R.D. Roe, Commander C.F.C. informed Mr. George McCaw, Equipment Engineer for the Ministry of Supply in Scotland, that after four years of hard service these mills would practically have to be re-built before they could be used again. Most

of the personnel of the Construction and Maintenance Section C.F.C. had returned to Canada by this time and it would be very difficult to obtain enough skilled personnel to do this work. In the end it was decided that the mill at Kinveachy could be shipped to Burma. This particular mill had never been used after its erection and as a consequence was capable of easy shipment (Ibid: 26 Jun 45).

35. Once a timber site was cleared there remained considerable work dismantling the mills and directing the salvage of the buildings, which had been used by C.F.C. personnel. The old mill ponds, in particular, were a menace to the local livestock and steps had to be taken either to fence them in or have them filled with debris and dirt.

36. Production operations ceased entirely in the latter part of June 1945 and, as stock on hand had been kept at a low ebb for some time, all shipments of lumber were completed by the end of the month. A certain amount of slab wood was left in various dumps but these were turned over to the Ministry of Supply for disposal (Ibid.: June 1945, Appx 4). The production figures for four and a half years of work in the Scottish forests are quite impressive and, stated simply, they are:

Total production and shipments from
January 1941 to June 1945

Sawn lumber	394,467,161 F.B.M.
Lagging	6,122.30 tons
Birch Spoolwood	1,906.46 tons
Tonnage Wood	208,311.54 tons
Pulpwood	36,997.06 tons
Quartered, Square or Equal Props	205,535 cu.ft.
Pitprops, Pitwood and Pitprop Poles	10,574.44 tons
Slabs	273,173.29 tons
Logs and Boatskins	277,798 cu.ft.
GPO Poles	25,255 poles
RAF Poles	44,248 poles
Special Purpose Poles	30,500 poles

(Ibid: June 1945, Appx 6).

DISBANDMENT

37. As has been already noted, agreement had been reached in the Autumn of 1943 that the services of the Canadian Forestry Corps would not be required in Scotland following the completion of the timber cutting programme which was set forth at that time by the Ministry of Supply (see para 33). Indeed the Home Timber Department of the Ministry of Supply had no desire to see the Scottish forests depleted of young trees and tentative plans were even then being made to again import more foreign timber to meet British future requirements. The Canadian Forestry Corps programme thus was scheduled to draw to completion during 1945 (see Report 117) but no policy had been laid down as regards the termination of service of C.F.C. companies serving with 21 Army Group.

38. On 27 Sep 44 General Stuart, Chief of Staff at C.M.H.Q., therefore addressed an enquiry to the War Office as to what would be the probable length of service required from the Canadian Forestry Corps after the conclusion of the war in Europe (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry/1/4: C. of S., C.M.H.Q. to War Office, 27 Sep 44). Not until 20 Nov was a reply received from the War Office. The Director of Staff Duties at the War Office then replied that the services of C.F.C. units serving with 21 Army Group would be required for a minimum period of three months following the cessation of hostilities against Germany; on the other hand, the Ministry of Supply was willing to release all but one of the companies working in Scotland within a month after such date (Ibid: D.S.D., War Office to D.C.G.S., C.M.H.Q., 20 Nov 44). Assuming that fighting came to an end in June, the one company required to remain in Scotland after that date would be required for special work until the Autumn of 1945.

39. In the same letter, the Director of Staff Duties also requested that a further five Canadian Forestry Corps companies, together with an additional Headquarters, Forestry District should be made available to 21 Army Group, since the anticipated production on the Continent up to the end of March 1945 would not meet the forecast requirements for the same period (Ibid.). On 24 Nov this matter was taken up by Lt.-Col. Hamilton (S.D.(O) C.M.H.Q.) with Colonel Roe, commanding the C.F.C. in the United Kingdom. Colonel Roe stated his belief that it would be possible to provide an additional five such companies, with reinforcements, but that, as a consequence, there would be only sufficient skilled personnel remaining to continue the operation of two companies in Scotland (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Org CFC/1: Hamilton to D.C.G.S., C.M.H.Q., 1 Dec 44). After further discussions with officers at the War Office, such a proposal was broached to Ottawa in a telegram of 6 Dec (Ibid.: Tel GS 3837, Canmilitary to Defensor, 6 Dec 44). A reply from Ottawa, dated 14 Dec, turned down the suggestion to despatch a further five companies to North-West Europe. It was suggested, however, that the use of civilian labour should be explored and added that: "we would be glad to assist by loan of officers and N.C.O's skilled in woods operations." (Ibid.: Tel GS 757, Defensor to Canmilitary, Montague from Murchie, 14 Dec 44.) Furthermore, it was stressed that:

It is desired that Forestry Corps presently in England be returned to Canada for demobilization to help meet manpower shortage here at earliest possible date practicable having regard to need for their services in the UK (Ibid.).

40. By the close of 1944 the need to provide reinforcements for the First Canadian Army was becoming critical but in order to release more "general service" men for service overseas it was considered necessary, due to the existence of a "man-power ceiling", to return over-age and category personnel in the United Kingdom to Canada for service with the Home War Establishment (see

Report No. 117). It was also considered in Ottawa that the Forestry companies still remaining in Scotland could be more gainfully employed in the Canadian forests, where production had fallen off as a result of the increasing shortage of skilled labour.

41. On 19 Dec 44 Headquarters, 21 Army Group informed the War Office that there were already about 35 civilian sawmills working for the Allies (Ibid.: Teleprinter message, Exfor Main to Broadness Two C, 9 Dec 44). The prospect of forming Belgian forestry units did not appear good owing to the shortage of suitable Allied officers and N.C.Os. for directing staff; eventually such a project had to be abandoned. Whole-hearted attempts were being made to employ civilian labour by contract but here again numerous difficulties were encountered. Most of the better firms had worked with the Germans and were therefore considered collaborators. The employers of civilian labour lacked transportation facilities and their methods of payment to workers were extremely slow. The civilian labour situation therefore was one of the main reasons why the demand exceeded the supply of wood in the Forestry Corps' operational areas.

42. Suggestions emanating from Ottawa during the next couple of months were that the best contribution to the total war effort would be to return the Canadian Forestry personnel who were now winding up timbering operations in Scotland; a nucleus of skilled foresters could be provided for despatch to the Continent to oversee and direct local civilian labour. Finally, on 8 Mar, since no action had been taken by the British Government to accede to the Canadian Government's wishes, General Montague received a telegram from the C.G.S. to the effect that the Canadian War Cabinet was asking, through diplomatic channels, for the return of the ten companies still remaining in Scotland, "in order to release fit personnel for service overseas as reinforcements for Canadian Army whose provision remains top priority policy of Government even though fulfilment this policy may impose some disadvantage and difficulties in other phases of mutual endeavour." (Ibid.: Tel C.G.S. 108 Defensor to Canmilitary, Montague from Murchie, 8 Mar 45.) To meet the drastic reductions being visualized in the Canadian home war establishments it was being planned to use men in lower categories returned from overseas, specifically including men from the Canadian Forestry Corps. It would be necessary, therefore, for the War Office to review its plans so that, beginning with April, a minimum of 400 C.F.C. personnel a month might be returned to Canada.

43. Faced with the Canadian Cabinet's decision, the War Office revised its plans and in a letter to C.M.H.Q., dated 12 Mar, outlined a programme whereby, starting with April, two companies a month would be withdrawn from Scotland. In order to offset such a loss, the War Office now wished to take advantage of the Canadian offer to supply a nucleus of skilled Forestry personnel. This programme proved acceptable at C.M.H.Q. On 14 Apr a Special Forestry Section of 11 officers and 54 other ranks was mobilized

from among personnel in Scotland for supervisory duties with 21 Army Group (Ibid.: Montague to Under-Secretary of State, War Office, 5 Apr 45. See also W.D. Increment "A" to No. 1 Cdn. Forestry Group: 14 Apr 45).

44. The programme as envisaged by C.M.H.Q. called for the progressive withdrawal from timber operations of two companies in each of April, May and June, three companies in July and one in August. Subsequent to that, the disbandment of Headquarters, Canadian Forestry Corps would be carried out. Following this disbandment a small depot would be formed to handle and despatch technical equipment and spare parts required by the Canadian Forestry Companies still operating under 21 Army Group. Manpower needs would be attended to by the maintenance of a reinforcement pool, based on C.F.C. wastage figures for a six months period, for the units serving with 21 Army Group. This pool of approximately 4 officers and 122 other ranks was to become the authorized holding in the theatre of operations following V-E day (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry/1/4: Weeks to G.O.i/c Cdn Sec 1 Ech, H.Q. 21 Army Group, 27 Apr 45).

45. On 19 Mar 45, when the first two of the ten companies in the United Kingdom to be disbanded ceased their timbering operations, the total strength of the Canadian Forestry Corps in Scotland was 87 officers and 2,349 other ranks (W.D., H.Q. C.F.C.: 19 Mar 45). Personnel from these, and subsequent companies to be disbanded, were absorbed in the reinforcement stream or posted to companies remaining in Scotland when considered suitable for further service. As an initial move, the "unfit" personnel of all companies were to go home first. The first two companies, Nos. 4 and 20, actually were to contain the largest proportion of unfit personnel. On 23 Apr the disbandment of Nos. 19 and 24 Canadian Forestry Companies took place and Headquarters, 4 Canadian Forestry District followed on 14 May. Five more companies were disbanded in June, the conclusion of the war in Europe making such a speed-up possible. The last company remaining in Scotland (No. 10) was disbanded, with effect from 5 Jul 45.

46. During August the disbandment was carried out at Headquarters, Canadian Forestry Corps of the Auxiliary Sections, Construction and Maintenance Section, Audit & Accounting Section, Technical Equipment & Supply Section and the General Workshop. Finally on 1 Sep 45 the Headquarters of the C.F.C., which had moved from Beaully to Blair Atholl (Black Island Camp) on 23 Jul, was officially disbanded. The entry in the War Diary for the previous day relates that:

All remaining vehicles have been turned in and all personnel proceeding on draft at 1910 hrs. This is the day of disbandment of all remaining C.F.C. units in the U.K. and this will be the last War Diary to be written (W.D., H.Q. C.F.C.: 31 Aug 45).

A lot of timber had been felled and shipped out of the Scottish Forests since the first company of the Canadian Forestry Corps had arrived at a "Scottish Port" on Christmas Day 1940.

DISBANDMENT OF UNITS IN NORTH-WEST EUROPE

47. Following V-E day, the Director of Works, Headquarters 21 Army Group, was contacted by Canadian Section 1 Echelon, Headquarters 21 Army Group, with the suggestion that C.F.C. personnel should be released for repatriation on the same basis as personnel of all other Canadian corps and units in the theatre and that the point score level should be reduced in the C.F.C. directly in accordance with the prevailing overall point score for the rest of the Canadian Army. Lower score personnel in companies being disbanded would be reposted among the remaining companies so that work could be continued to the last with maximum efficiency. This proposal proved acceptable to Headquarters 21 Army Group and demobilization on this basis worked satisfactorily during the summer months (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry/1/4: Moran to C.M.H.Q., 21 Sep 44). C.F.C. personnel who volunteered for C.A.O.F. were reposted only after their own companies had completed timbering operations and were ready for disbandment (Ibid.).
48. Disbandment of the two District Forestry Headquarters took place in August and September respectively. Control over Nos. 800 and 154 P.W. Forestry Companies (German), the two R.E. Forestry Companies and No. 220 Pioneer Company was turned over to Increment "A" of No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group, the staff of which was eventually slated to join the British Control Commission in Germany (W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Gp: 13 Aug and 4 Oct 45).
49. Five of the companies (Nos. 30, 15, 25, 27 and 14) were disbanded in July, one in August (No. 5) and one in September (No. 1) but it did not prove possible to carry out further disbandments until November. At this time there were still 32 officers and 852 other ranks of the Canadian Forestry Corps on the Continent. Nos. 9 and 16 Canadian Forestry Coys completed their operations with B.A.O.R. during that month and were disbanded on 20 and 28 Nov respectively. No. 28 Canadian Forestry Company, which had been worked for C.F.N. producing lumber to be used to crate Canadian Army stores for return to Canada (W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Gp: 21 Sep 45), received instructions to disband on 30 Nov and the Headquarters No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group, at Minden, ceased to exist as of 3 Dec 45. The control of forestry operations in Germany now became the responsibility of the Forestry Section (M.G.6) of the British Military Government of Germany (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry /1/4: Hamilton to D.C.G.S., C.M.H.Q. 7 Nov 45 and Tel VL 50, H.Q. C.F.N. to C.M.H.Q., 12 Nov 45 and Tel O.I.C., CANFOR (EXFOR) to CANMILITRY, 13 Nov 45).

EQUIPMENT

50. The units comprising No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group took their own technical mill equipment with them to North-West Europe and, subsequently, additional items of equipment, maintenance spares and further sawmills were supplied by the Technical Equipment and Stores Section C.F.C. at Blair Atholl. As has been pointed out in Report No.29, the Ministry of Supply was responsible for the supply and purchase of all items of technical equipment and stores used by the Canadian Forestry Corps in Scotland, even

though a considerable amount of it was obtained from Canadian industry. Thus all equipment held in the depot at Blair Atholl was the property of the Ministry of Supply. Upon technical mill equipment being shipped overseas to No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group, however, it was vouchered over to War Office charge. The actual procedure used by No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group in North-West Europe to obtain additional sawmill equipment or maintenance spares was to indent through Headquarters, 21 Army Group to W.D. 10 at the War Office. Such indents, bearing the inscription "Saw Mill Equipment obtainable from Forestry Corps" were then passed on to Headquarters, Canadian Forestry Corps at Beaulieu (C.M.H.Q. file 13/CFC/1/3: Wilson to D.Q.M.G., C.M.H.Q., 3 Mar 45).

51. Initially, Canadian clothing and special technical clothing were issued from the Equipment Depot at Blair Atholl, whilst the deficiencies in other G.1098 stores were made up by issues from British Central Ordnance Depots (Ibid.: A.D.O.S., C.R.U. to A.D.Q.M.G.(A.E.), C.M.H.Q. 21 Mar 44). The units of No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group were issued with British type W.D. vehicles for service on the Continent. Following arrival on the Continent replenishment of these stores and equipments was obtained from the R.A.O.C. chain of supply within 21 Army Group. Clothing and personal equipment for the men continued to be of Canadian pattern, as much as possible, although it had to come through R.A.O.C. channels from the Central Ordnance Depots in the United Kingdom. The standard capitation rate was paid from the date these Forestry Companies came under command of 21 Army Group (Ibid.: Wilson to D.Q.M.G., C.M.H.Q., 3 Mar 45).

52. During June 1944 four portable Scotch Mills were delivered to each of the original five companies slated to serve with 21 Army Group, as well as a complete complement of tractors, bullgraders and logging sulkies. Most of this equipment was forwarded by road, in M.T. convoy, from Scotland to Lancing, Sussex (W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Gp: 29 Jun 44). Five additional Scotch Mills went forward in September and then, on 17 Oct, five Canadian Mills (heavy type) which had been built by the Construction and Maintenance Section C.F.C. were despatched to Aldershot for forwarding to No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group (W.D., H.Q. C.F.C.: October, 1945, Appx 5). The construction of further mills by the Construction and Maintenance Section C.F.C. was delayed as a result of the difficulties being experienced by the Ministry of Supply in obtaining components, particularly Hoe saws and bits, from the trade (H.Q. C.F.C. file 9-5/Tech Vol III: McDougall to Gordon, 13 Jul 44 and Jones to Roe, 3 Sep 44).

53. Colonel Jones was anxious to be fully equipped with Canadian mills before No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group moved from Normandy up into Belgium but due to the delay in construction of the remaining mills in Scotland this was not possible (Ibid: Jones to Roe, 3 Sep 44). Maintenance spares were in short supply for a time and he had already noted in a letter to Colonel Roe, dated 24 Aug, that: "We are running into a lot of shrapnel in the timber and it appears that our wastage in saw teeth will be high" (Ibid.: 24 Aug 44). Another failing, noted after a few weeks of timber operations, was that the rubber tires on the logging sulkies were not heavy enough to withstand the

wear and tear experienced by the forestry companies in their mobile role.

54. The disbandment of the Canadian Forestry Corps in Scotland created no problem as to the disposal of equipment, since, according to the original agreement made in 1941 (see Report No. 29), it merely was turned back to representatives of the Ministry of Supply which had originally borne the expense. For operations in North-West Europe the forestry equipment and stores used by No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group, however, had been turned over by the Ministry of Supply to the Canadian Government, whose property it thus was. Following the withdrawal and disbandment of the units of No. 1 Canadian Forestry Group, the British Government wished to obtain this equipment for further use by British and civilian foresters working in the forests of Germany under the direction of Military Government (M.G.6) which was taking over the responsibility for timber production and control in the British Zone (C.M.H.Q. file 13/CFC/1/3: Minutes of a meeting held on 12 Jul 45, to discuss the transfer of sawmill equipment). Negotiations were completed during July - August 1945 for the sale to the British Government of this mill equipment and technical stores, valued at £12,111. 19. 0d for each of the 10 companies. As each company was disbanded its equipment was therefore turned over to the R.A.O.C. but left standing on its existing mill site (Ibid.: Wilnot to A.D.Q.M.G. (A.E.), C.M.H.Q., 22 Aug 45). The major items of equipment thus disposed of included 10 Canadian mills (heavy type) with equipment and power units, 40 portable Scotch mills with power units, 40 T.D.9 Tractors, 10 T.D.9 Cargo Winch Bullgraders and 40 Logging Sulkies (Ibid.). Vehicles and G.1098 stores on charge to the several companies were turned into No. 1 Canadian Ordnance Demobilization Depot prior to disbandment (C.M.H.Q. file 13/CFC/1/4: C. of S., C.M.H.Q. to H.Q. C.F.N., 14 Nov 45).

CONCLUSION

55. For a second time in the still young Twentieth Century the Canadian Forestry Corps had completed its task. Its production of timber in the United Kingdom, and later in North-West Europe, had made it possible to conserve valuable shipping space during the months when U-Boat packs hunted the North Atlantic. The importance of timber and its by-products to the success of the War just concluded is prone to be overlooked, dwarfed as it was by the introduction into the conflict of a number of hitherto undreamed of weapons and means for destruction, but without wood much of what happened would not have been possible in this age of iron and steel and atomic power. Thus the role of the Canadian Forestry Corps, though perhaps a bit prosaic and unexciting to the general reader, must not be minimized. It was another typical Canadian achievement, based on the lessons gained from logging operations in the forests of the Dominion.

56. This report was drafted by Lieut. W.D.M. Sage, and revised and completed by Capt. J.M. Hitsman.

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fn (C.P. Stacey) Colonel
Director Historical Section

APPENDIX "A"

The following tables have been taken from "F. & A. Section, Headquarters, 1 Canadian Forestry Group, Canadian Army Overseas, Operation Statement Jan 1941 to Nov 1945" (W.D., H.Q. 1 Cdn Forestry Gp: November 1945, Appx 2).

TABLE "A" showing dates of commencement and termination of operations by Companies in Scotland and Northwest Europe.

COY	SCOTLAND		EUROPE	
	Commenced	Terminated	Commenced	Terminated
1	4 Mar 1941	14 Jun 1944	1 Nov 1944	18 Sep 1945
2	20 Mar 1941	1 Oct 1943	-	-
3	20 May 1941	30 Sep 1943	-	-
4	5 May 1941	20 Mar 1945	-	-
5	3 Jan 1941	1 Apr 1944	28 Jul 1944	21 Jul 1945
6	6 Mar 1941	25 May 1945	-	-
7	12 Apr 1941	7 Oct 1943	-	-
8	25 Apr 1941	7 Oct 1943	-	-
9	1 Jun 1941	9 Jun 1944	1 Nov 1944	17 Nov 1945
10	8 Sep 1941	16 Jun 1945	-	-
11	27 Apr 1941	26 May 1945	-	-
12	15 Jul 1941	1 Oct 1943	-	-
13	14 Aug 1941	17 Mar 1945	-	-
14	29 Aug 1941	22 Jun 1944	3 Nov 1944	14 Jul 1945
15	20 Jun 1941	1 Apr 1944	28 Jul 1944	23 Jun 1945
16	27 Jul 1941	1 Apr 1944	7 Aug 1944	22 Nov 1945
17	14 May 1941	30 Sep 1943	-	-
18	20 Jun 1941	26 May 1945	-	-
19	4 Sep 1941	21 Apr 1945	-	-
20	14 Aug 1941	21 Mar 1945	-	-
21	5 Feb 1942	2 Oct 1943	-	-
22	18 Jul 1942	28 May 1945	-	-
23	16 Feb 1942	2 Oct 1943	-	-
24	18 Jul 1942	21 Apr 1945	-	-
25	5 Jul 1942	14 Jun 1944	5 Nov 1944	14 Jul 1945
26	11 Aug 1942	1 Oct 1943	-	-
27	8 Nov 1942	13 Jun 1944	7 Nov 1944	14 Jul 1945
28	22 Jun 1942	1 Apr 1944	3 Aug 1944	23 Nov 1945
29	28 Jun 1942	29 Sep 1943	-	-
30	27 Jul 1942	1 Apr 1944	9 Aug 1944	23 Jun 1945

TABLE "B" showing details of locations of Companies in Scotland and Europe.

- No. 1 Coy - Holmrose Cawdor, Skibo Spinningdale (Scot.);
St. Hubert, Soignes Brussels (Bel.);
Luneberg (Ger.)
- No. 2 Coy - Ballogie Aboyne (Scot.)
- No. 3 Coy - Ballogie Aboyne (Scot.)
- No. 4 Coy - Glentannar Aboyne, Cooper Hill Forres (Scot.)
- No. 5 Coy - Blair Atholl, Insh Kineraig (Scot.);
Cerisy Balleroy (Fran.); Soignes Brussels (Bel.);
Reichswald Goch, Diersfordter Wesel,
Wesel Wesel (Ger.)

- No. 6 Coy - Bog O'Shannon Black Isle, Abernethy Boat of Garten (Scot.)
- No. 7 Coy - Highwood Inverness (Scot.)
- No. 8 Coy - Inchyettle Cawdor (Scot.)
- No. 9 Coy - Lamington Park Invergordon, Beriedale Helmsdale (Scot.); St. Hubert, Schilde (Bel.); Tilburg (Hol.); Reichswald Goch, Bentheim (Ger.)
- No. 10 Coy - Dochfour Inverness (Scot.)
- No. 11 Coy - Dall Loch Rannoch, Carrbridge (Scot.)
- No. 12 Coy - Insh Kineraig (Scot.)
- No. 13 Coy - Southesk Brechin, Skibo Spinningdale, Muir of Ord (Scot.)
- No. 14 Coy - Wilderness Invergordon, Boat of Garten (Scot.); Cedrogne Vielsalm, Schilde (Bel.); Wesel Wesel (Ger.)
- No. 15 Coy - Boblainey Beaulieu (Scot.); Cerisy Balleroy (Fran.); Schilde (Bel.); 'sHertogenbosch (Hol.); Reichswald Goch (Ger.)
- No. 16 Coy - Blackhall Banchory (Scot.); Cerisy Balleroy (Fran.); Spa (Bel.); Rips (Hol.); Segeberg Neumunster (Ger.)
- No. 17 Coy - Invershin (Scot.)
- No. 18 Coy - Kiltarlity Beaulieu (Scot.)
- No. 19 Coy - Belladrum Beaulieu (Scot.)
- No. 20 Coy - Torwood Kineraig, Nethybridge (Scot.)
- No. 21 Coy - Muir of Ord (Scot.)
- No. 22 Coy - Abergeldie Balmoral, Blackhall Banchory (Scot.)
- No. 23 Coy - Darnaway Forres (Scot.)
- No. 24 Coy - Abergeldie Balmoral, Boblainey Beaulieu (Scot.)
- No. 25 Coy - May Lodge Braemar (Scot.); St. Michel St. Hubert, Haute Marlagne Charleroi, Lalu Samree (Bel.); Lembeck Wulfen (Ger.)
- No. 26 Coy - Skibo Dornoch (Scot.)
- No. 27 Coy - Cooper Hill Forres (Scot.); St. Michel St. Hubert, Exel (Bel.); Gangelt, Binnen Nienborg (Ger.)
- No. 28 Coy - Ardersier Nairn (Scot.); Cerisy Balleroy (Fran.); Westerloo, Zonhoven (Bel.); Hochwald Xanten, Kerrsenbrock Osnabruck, Unterluss (Ger.)
- No. 29 Coy - Skibo Spinningdale (Scot.)
- No. 30 Coy - Skibo Spinningdale, Invershin (Scot.); Cerisy Balleroy (Fran.); Westerloo, Schilde (Bel.); Rips (Hol.); Reichswald Goch (Ger.)

TABLE "Z". Grand Total Production of all units, by products and countries.
 Note: "Other Units" comprise 129 and 131 Forestry Coys, R.E. and No. 1 Spanish Pioneer Coy.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SCOTLAND</u>	<u>FRANCE</u>	<u>BELGIUM</u>	<u>HOLLAND</u>	<u>GERMANY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(i) Sawn Lumber (FBM)						
CFC	394,467,161	5,933,676	21,733,618	226,998	19,840,456	442,201,909
Others	-	1,115,748	2,398,308	-	1,361,660	4,875,716
TOTAL	394,467,161	7,049,424	24,131,926	226,998	21,202,116	447,077,625
(ii) Sawn Lumber (cu.ft.) - 1 cu.ft. = 12 bd.ft.						
CFC	32,872,263	494,473	1,811,135	18,916	1,653,372	36,850,159
Others	-	92,979	199,859	-	113,472	406,310
TOTAL	32,872,263	587,452	2,010,994	18,916	1,766,844	37,256,469
(iii) Special Logs, Boatskins, Poles and Piling (cu.ft.)						
CFC	1,002,984	67,968	273,610	8,723	277,189	1,630,474
Others	-	3,241	10,774	-	-	14,015
TOTAL	1,002,984	71,209	284,384	8,723	277,189	1,644,489
(iv) Corduroy, Pickets and Posts (cu.ft.)						
CFC	-	14,163	210,969	827,787	268,920	1,321,839
Others	-	26,282	353,653	71,884	104,098	555,917
TOTAL	-	40,445	564,622	899,671	373,018	1,877,756
(v) Round Mining Timber (Tons)						
CFC	218,886	-	52,397	-	13,809	285,092
Others	-	-	13,328	-	-	13,328
TOTAL	218,886	-	65,725	-	13,809	298,420
(vi) Round Mining Timber (cu.ft.)						
CFC	7,661,010	-	1,833,909	-	483,322	9,978,241
Others	-	-	466,497	-	-	466,497
TOTAL	7,661,010	-	2,300,406	-	483,322	10,444,738
(vii) Misc. Production (cu.ft.) - Lagging, Quartered Props, Pulpwood and Birch Spoolwood						
CFC	1,894,320	-	-	-	-	1,894,320
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1,894,320	-	-	-	-	1,894,320
(viii) Slabs (Tons) (Includes edged slabs produced by C.F.C. in Scotland)						
CFC	273,173	18,609	4,800	80	7,723	304,385
Others	-	1,197	1,266	-	449	2,912
TOTAL	273,173	19,806	6,066	80	8,172	307,297

TABLE "Z" Cont'd.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SCOTLAND</u>	<u>FRANCE</u>	<u>BELGIUM</u>	<u>HOLLAND</u>	<u>GERMANY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>(ix) Edged Slabs (FBM)</u>						
CFC	-	306,261	-	-	-	306,261
Others	-	35,245	7,139	-	-	42,384
TOTAL	-	341,506	7,139	-	-	348,645

(x) Total production of all products (except edged and unedged slabs) in cu.ft. (For this table 1 cu.ft. = 12 bd.ft.)

CFC	43,430,577	576,604	4,129,623	855,426	2,682,803	51,675,033
Others	-	122,502	1,030,783	71,884	217,570	1,442,739
TOTAL	43,430,577	699,106	5,160,406	927,310	2,900,373	53,117,772

TABLE "Z-1"

Grand total depletion of all units by countries (cu.ft.) (For this table 1 cu.ft. = 7 bd.ft.)

CFC	66,910,766	929,799	5,423,290	868,938	3,863,782	77,996,575
Others	-	188,915	1,173,539	71,884	298,621	1,732,959
	66,910,766	1,118,714	6,596,829	940,822	4,162,403	79,729,534