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Directorate of History
National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0K2

July 1986

~~SECRET~~
CANCELLED

Triplicate

29
31 May 41

Visit to Units of the CANADIAN FORESTRY CORPS, **DECLASSIFIED**
Scotland.
Notes on the History and Work of this Corps.

Authority: DHD 3-3
by me for DHist NDHQ
Date: _____

NOV 13 1986

Canadian Military Headquarters,
2 Cockspur Street, S.W.1,
London, ENGLAND.

The Director,
Historical Section,
General Staff,
National Defence Headquarters,
Ottawa, CANADA.

1. A further report is presented. This report concerns a visit recently made by me to a number of units of the CANADIAN FORESTRY CORPS now at work in Scotland. In addition to reporting the results of my observations during this tour, it contains a brief summary of the development of this Corps, based mainly on reading of C.M.H.Q. files, and designed to supply the Official Historian with an outline which may save him some time and trouble in dealing with this subject.

2. Captain W.G. ABEL, Public Relations Officer, C.M.H.Q., had arranged a Press visit to the Canadian Forestry Corps beginning on 14 May 41, and I considered that this would be a useful opportunity for me to see something of the work of this Corps. With the approval of the S.G.C., C.M.H.Q., therefore, I joined the party and accompanied it on its round of visits. During the tour I also found an opportunity of visiting (in company with Lieut. AUDRAIN, the official photographer) the detachment of No. 1 TUNNELLING COMPANY, R.C.E., which is now at work on a special task near KINGUSSIE. The work of this detachment will be the subject of a subsequent separate report. As its activities are secret, the newspapermen of the party did not visit it.

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VISITS TO FORESTRY UNITS

3. The Press party, which was conducted by Capt. Abel and accompanied by Lt. Audrain, consisted in the beginning of Mr. ROSS MUNRO, who as mentioned in earlier reports is an accredited and uniformed Canadian War Correspondent and ordinarily represents the CANADIAN PRESS at Headquarters, Canadian Corps; Mr. JOHN BIRD, of the Winnipeg TRIBUNE, representing the SOUTHERN PAPERS; Mr. NORMAN FRENCH, representing the TIMBER TRADES JOURNAL; and Messrs. R.J. WILMOT and A.E. ALTHERR, representing the CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION. The group left HUSTON STATION by train on the evening of 13 May 41 and arrived at BLAIR ATHOLL about 0800 hrs the following morning.

4. BLAIR ATHOLL is a most charming stone-built village in GLEN GARRY. Up this valley pass both the main road and the line of the L.M.S. Railway to INVERNESS, with considerable mountains rising on either side. A few miles below is the forbidding PASS OF KILLIECRANKIE, the scene of the memorable action of 1689 in which CLAVERHOUSE ("Bonnie Dundee") lost his life and the plug-bayonet proved its inefficiency. Close to the village is BLAIR CASTLE, the seat of the DUKE OF ATHOLL, but now, we were told, full of evacuated children.

5. BLAIR ATHOLL was the first station of the Headquarters, Canadian Forestry Corps, in the present war. The Technical Equipment and Supply Section, and the Transport Section, C.F.C., still are located at this point; and in addition No. 5 Company, C.F.C., is stationed here and has its mill and quarters on the outskirts of the village.

6. At the railway station we were met by Captain J.F. MACFARLANE, Staff Captain, R.C., C.F.C., who accompanied us throughout our tour. He conducted the party to the Atholl Arms Hotel, where after breakfast we were received by Brigadier-General J.B. WHITE, D.S.O., E.D., the Officer Commanding Canadian Forestry Corps, who was accompanied by Lt.-Col. C.B.F. JONES, C.F.C., Assistant Director

of Timber Operations. The General treated us with great kindness and outlined to us the circuit which he had arranged for the party, beginning with a day in the vicinity of BLAIR ATHOLL, followed by a day in the ABOYNE region (DORRIDE), a day in the NAIRN region, and finally a day devoted to H. ., C.F.C., and the companies in its vicinity. We began the programme almost immediately, with a visit to No. 5 Company, C.F.C.

7. This Company was the first company of the C.F.C. to arrive in the United Kingdom. It arrived on the S.S. "Pasteur", along with the Headquarters, C.F.C., as part of T.C. 8, which is noted in my Report No. 1 disembarked on 25 Dec 40.

FORESTRY CORPS OPERATIONS IN AND NEAR BLAIR ATHOLL

8. Our first visit was to No. 5 Company's sawmill, which is situated just west of the village of BLAIR ATHOLL and on the north side of the BLAIR ATHOLL - DALHINNIE road. This is a situation of really astonishing beauty. The men of this company work against a magnificent background of Highland scenery: just above them to the north is the FOREST OF ATHOLL, in the lower skirts of which their loggers are at work; in the distance to the north and east are the splendid snow-covered peaks of BEN VRACKIE and BEINN A'GHLO; while close at hand the turrets of BLAIR CASTLE rise among the trees. I found myself wishing that a painter was at hand to depict the Canadian foresters at work before this tremendous back-drop; for no photograph could do justice to the scene.

9. The mill building is sided with log slabs. As this sawmill is of standard type (Lt.-Col. JONES explained to me that the C.F.C. has adopted the principle of making its mills, as far as possible, all precisely similar, with interchangeable parts) a description of it will serve to describe the mills used by the Corps in general. The officers of the C.F.C. emphasize that fact that the mills were

ordered in accordance with the Corps' own design, and that they have been set up by the units themselves.

10. The power unit is a 120-horse-power International Diesel motor which drives all the mill's machinery, though the company also operates one or two small "re-saw" mills which have their own power-plants. The "headsaw", the saw which makes the first cut in the logs, is circular, as indeed are nearly all the saws in use by the C.F.C. Beyond the headsaw is an "edger" for removing the untrimmed edges of the rough lumber, and beyond this a pair of small saws which serve to cut the boards to the length required. At the far end of the mill is a "re-saw" for working small pieces which otherwise would be wasted, and as just noted there are other re-saws outside the main mill altogether. All the machinery mentioned was brought from Canada.

11. At the west end of the mill building is a "log-pond" or "tank" filled with water, into which the logs are tipped for washing. This is the more essential as they get very muddy while being dragged along the tracks from the "bush", and pick up many substances likely to injure the saws. From the pond they are carried up into the mill on an endless chain, and in due time are clamped to the power-operated "saw-bench" which feeds them into the headsaw.

12. The timber dealt with by the C.F.C. appears to be mainly Scots Pine and Larch. At BLAIR ATHOLL, however, we saw some exceptionally large sticks of Douglas Fir (possibly saved up for our visit) which were as much as 53 inches in diameter. I was told that this timber had been about 55 years old when it was cut. I watched some of these very thick logs pass through the mill. Their diameter was too great for the headsaw; and after it had made its cut the sawyer and his mates had to finish the job with axes, which they did with great expertness. No. 5 Company was recruited in the region of PONT ARTHUR, Ontario, and the saw team in this mill had worked together in a mill there in civil life. I was told

that there were many such cases in the C.F.C.

13. No. 5 Company is especially fortunate in one respect. An open grove of trees between the mill and the road affords good cover for its piles of sawn lumber. Such piles are in ordinary circumstances very difficult to camouflage, and one might expect them to appear a tempting target to an enemy airman. This is the only case which I saw during this tour where the lumber-piles could be said to be effectively concealed.

14. A further advantage afforded by the situation of No. 5 Company is the fact that both road and rail transport for its sawn lumber are available practically beside the mill. Lt.-Col. Jones remarked however that he would be better pleased if the British authorities made ^{greater} use of these facilities to remove the lumber, instead of letting it accumulate at the spot where it is produced.

15. We next visited No. 5 Company's camp ("Black Island Camp") which is located a short distance west of the mill and on the opposite side of the road, between the GARRY River and the railway. This was formerly a summer camp for the SCOTTISH HORSE, and is subject to the disadvantage of being very exposed, the huts being completely in the open with no vestige of cover. The huts are now being protected from bomb-blast by a locally-devised expedient: each hut being surrounded by a sort of double stockade of slabs enclosing a mixture of sand and sawdust. The huts are heated very effectively by Quebec heaters, 600 of which, we were told, were brought by the Corps from Canada. We visited the sick-bay, where the only patients were three men with cases of trench-mouth, and were taken over an unfinished Medical Reception Depot, designed to serve two companies, which will evidently be a very commodious and well-equipped establishment.

16. In the afternoon we visited the other side of the company's operations - the work of felling and logging. It should be explained that a Canadian Forestry Company is designed to be a self-contained organization for the production of lumber, from the stage at which

the tree is felled to that at which the finished lumber is ready for use in building. It follows that the company works in two main sections, one "in the bush", felling the trees and moving the logs out, and one in the mill, turning the logs into lumber.

WAR ESTABLISHMENT, FORESTRY COMPANY

17. It is convenient at this point to describe the War Establishment of a Forestry Company, C.F.C. The ~~Provisional~~ Establishment (CDN/IV/1940/12A/1, dated 30 Nov 41) provides for a total of 194 all ranks, of whom six are officers: one Major as Commanding Officer, one Captain as Second in Command, one Adjutant, and three Subalterns "for Timber operations". Of these last, one normally is in charge in the bush, one in charge of the mill, and one is technical officer. There are 12 Sergeants, of whom two are Mill Foremen and five Bush Foremen, one a Blacksmith, one a M.T. Sergeant, one a Sergeant Cook, and two Assistant Instructors. It is not necessary or desirable to rehearse all the details here, as the Official Historian will have all War Establishments easily available to him; but it may be noted that the list of rank and file includes the following tradesmen: 2 Millwrights; 2 Sawyers, Forestry; 1 Electrician; 3 Motor Mechanics, one of whom is a Corporal; 1 Carpenter; 1 Plumber; 1 Shoemaker; and 1 Tailor. Among the mass of non-tradesmen, the following groups are conspicuous: 20 Logmakers, 30 Rollers and Chainmen, 10 Road Cutters, 14 Drivers I.C. (Internal Construction).

18. It will be noted that a Forestry Company is a singularly self-contained unit, a community complete in itself, almost like a medieval village; and the officers of the C.F.C. are tremendously proud of this aspect of their corps, and like to call attention to the number of handymen in its ranks and the fact that it is difficult to provide a task which a Forestry Company cannot find men to do.

19. In the FOREST OF ATHOLL a few hundred yards above the mill we saw Scots Pine being felled with axe, saw and wedge, and the heavy logs being dragged out to the edge of the woods by "cats" - caterpillar tractors - equipped with winches. When more open ground was reached the logs were taken over by sulkies - heavy two-wheeled contrivances, also drawn by caterpillar tractors, to which the logs are fastened by wire ropes for dragging to the mill. Photographs taken by Lieut. AUDRAIN and Capt. ABEL illustrate this equipment and procedure, as well as many other phases of the work.

20. At another felling-site, somewhat to the east towards GLEN TILT, we saw a "side-jammer" or "jack-ladder", not unlike a pair of dockyard sheer-legs, lately erected for loading logs on to lorries. Near the summit of GALLOW'S HILL, overlooking BLAIR CASTLE, we saw one man of the company engaged in "high-rigging" (i.e., trimming and topping a tree while it still stands).

21. Later in the afternoon we visited the establishment of the Technical Equipment and Supply Section, C.F.C., located alongside the railway not far from No. 5 Company's mill. This section is commanded by Major W.S.M. HERCHMER. We saw the warehouse in which spares are kept, a large wooden building constructed by the Corps. We then passed on to the new transport garage nearby, a slab-sided building with a concrete floor, now nearly completed and likewise entirely built by the C.F.C. A vulcanising shop is adjacent.

PRESS CONFERENCE

22. Before dinner General WHITE held a sort of informal "press conference" for the correspondents, to give them an opportunity of asking questions, and I attended.

23. Comparing the work of the Canadian Forestry Corps in the present war with that done in the first Great War, the general pointed out that the C.F.C is now a combatant unit, which was not then the case. He also recalled that whereas in the last war many horses were employed, so far in the present one the Corps has used none, while internal combustion engines have replaced steam as mill

power. He mentioned that with the present mechanical equipment it is possible to cut timber that would have been inaccessible under the conditions of 1914-18.

24. General White mentioned the Newfoundland foresters now working in Scotland. He pointed out that unlike the C.F.C. these men were civilians, and hinted that this arrangement had not worked well.

25. In response to a question, he said that he had been "agreeably surprised" at the extent and quality of the Scottish forests. He added that every possible facility had been given his Corps for its work, and that the people of the areas in which it worked had been extremely kind.

26. The lumber produced by the C.F.C., he said, goes into what is known as "National Stock" for use in any manner considered desirable by the British authorities.

27. At 1830 hrs on 14 May we were given a demonstration of the military side of the work of the C.F.C., when No. 5 Company paraded past the Atholl Arms. They were in full kit, including rifles and bayonets, respirators and steel helmets, and were led by a small bugle-band. They made a very smart appearance, and it was curious to think that these were the same men who had been at work in the bush or in the company mill an hour or two before.

28. In this connection it is in order to describe the routine now being followed by Forestry Companies. They are working on the basis of a 50-hour week (five 9-hour days and one 5-hour day); in addition they do two hours' drill on the 5-hour day. Except for essential activities, Sunday is not now a working day; though I understand that until recently the companies worked Sundays as well as week-days.

29. In the evening General White gave our party dinner at the Atholl Arms. Throughout our trip the general and his officers treated us with the greatest hospitality.

30. On this same evening, at an entertainment in No. 5 Company's canteen, the representatives of the C.B.C. recorded messages from officers and men of the Company to be broadcast to Canada at a later time. They had previously recorded the sounds accompanying the march-past for the same purpose, and I heard the music of the bugles played back from a record only a moment or two after the company had passed. The C.B.C. men did not accompany our party beyond BLAIR ATHOLL.

VISIT TO FORESTRY COMPANIES ON DEESIDE

31. On 15 May 41 about 0945 hrs we left BLAIR ATHOLL by motor to visit the C.F.C. camps on DEESIDE. This trip took us through magnificent mountain scenery. We travelled via PITLOCHRY and KIRKMICHAEL to the SPITTAL OF GLENCHEE, and on through a mass of snow-covered mountains, the highest of which was GLAS MAOL (3502 feet), to BRAEMAR, and thence down the valley of the DEE, past BALMORAL CASTLE and through BALLATER and DINNET to ABOYNE.

32. ABOYNE is the Headquarters of No. 2 Forestry District, C.F.C., commanded by Major E.A. CALDWELL, who met us at this point and accompanied us for the rest of the day.

FORESTRY DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

33. It may be explained at this point that the Forestry Companies of the C.F.C. are grouped territorially under the command of Officers Commanding Forestry Districts. The War Establishment for a Headquarters, Forestry District, as at present authorized (CDN/IV/1940/12AD/1), provides for a total of 35 all ranks, of whom five (including an attached paymaster) are officers. The O.C. may be a lieutenant-colonel or a major, the second-in-command a major or a captain; the remaining officers are an Adjutant and a Quartermaster.

34. The present establishment provides for one District H.Q. for each five companies, or a total of four for the C.F.C., whose authorized strength is 20 companies. However, on 22 April 41 C.A.H.Q. represented to N.D.H.Q. (cable G.S. 673) that the

timber areas being exploited were more widely dispersed than had been expected and asked permission to organize five district headquarters on a smaller establishment than that just described, arguing that the net effect would be not an increase of expense but an actual saving. This was based upon a communication from Brig.-Gen. WHITE dated 17 Apr (C.M.H.Q. file 6/For. Corps/1, folio 149) which remarked,

The location of each of our Company operations is governed solely by the location of the various timber areas that are acquired for us by the British Ministry of Supply, Home Grown Timber Production Dept.

35. The authorization requested has not been received up to the present time; but while the matter is being considered I gather that the C.F.C. has tentatively, and as a matter of convenience, organized a fifth District H.Q. (numbered No. 4) at BLAIR ATHOLL, commanded by Major F.J.DAWSON, the O.C. No. 5 Company. The organization as now contemplated is outlined in an Appendix to this Report.

36. In the afternoon of 15 May we proceeded to GLENTANAR, on the South (right) bank of the DEE above ABOYNE, where we visited No. 4 Company, C.F.C. Here a guard was mounted, but it was unarmed, this company at the time of our visit having no rifles. The company's mill, similar to that at BLAIR ATHOLL already described, is situated close to the road which here runs beside the river; its huts are well concealed among the timber on the hillside above. Logs were being brought out down the steep slope above the mill by the use of a "sloop" or "scoot". This company is made up mainly of men from New Brunswick.

37. We next visited No. 3 Company, which is located at the camp known as BALLOGIE 1, near MARYWELL. There had been snow flurries throughout the day, which was quite cold; and during our visit here a violent hailstorm took place. Here we saw another mill operating, and in addition saw "bulldozers" at work cutting out a hillside road to serve the company car-park.

38. Our next visit was to No. 2 Company at camp BALLOGIE 2, at the opposite end of the same stand of timber on which No. 3 is working. Here a guard was mounted armed with rifles, and I was told that this company had received a total of 48 rifles. No. 2 has an excellent campsite well concealed in timber and the camp in general makes an excellent appearance. The company has built its own commodious canteen. A petrol engine runs a generator to supply the camp with electricity. Here we saw another mill of the standard type in operation with logs arriving by lorry. This company arrived at its camp on 1 Mar 41 and had the mill in operation within three weeks. Much of the hutting accommodation had been provided for the company in advance but it is still improving the situation by additional construction.

39. Major CALDWELL mentioned that relations with the British military authorities in the district had been most friendly and satisfactory. In particular, the 5th Battalion THE BLACK WATCH (Lt.-Col. WEDDERBURN) had been most cordial; and on the day of our visit Lt.-Col. Wedderburn sent his unit's pipers to entertain the men of the local C.F.C. units, and perhaps to assist Major Caldwell in putting on a show for the newspapermen. On our return to ABOYNE we had the pleasure of meeting Lt.-Col. Wedderburn and seeing and hearing his pipers playing on the village green for a considerable audience of Canadians and villagers. At Mr. MUNRO's request they played "The Road to the Isles".

40. Major Caldwell had arranged to entertain our party at dinner that night; but as Mr. Audrain and I desired to visit the detachment of Tunnellers near LOCH LAGGAN the next day we were obliged to make our apologies and return to BLAIR ATHOLL. The rest of the party stayed at ABOYNE overnight.

THE CANADIANS AND THE SCOTTISH CIVIL POPULATION

41. At BLAIR ATHOLL that evening Mr. Audrain and I had some conversation with two of the hotel servants about the relations of the

people of the village with the men of No. 5 Company; and it may not be wholly out of place to record their remarks. The officers had told us that the company had been most kindly treated, and we had ourselves seen the troops fraternizing freely with the people. We were a little bit surprised, therefore, when these two witnesses proved to be something less than enthusiastic about the Canadians. ~~in their midst~~ Their complaint, however, was not of active bad behaviour. They said that the people of BLAIR ATHOLL felt a bit hurt over the fact that the Canadians were ready to accept hospitality in the village, and spend their time taking village girls for country walks, when they were "broke"; but on pay nights they invariably rushed off to PITLOCHRY (the nearest place of any size) and never thought of asking a local girl to go with them. They admitted that there were exceptions, and mentioned that one man of No. 5 Coy had married a BLAIR ATHOLL girl and was now living in the village.

42. On the whole, if there are no worse complaints than this to be made against the men of the C.F.C., it may perhaps be assumed that their relations with the civil population are on a fairly satisfactory basis.

43. Mr. Audrain and I spent most of 16 May in finding and visiting the detachment of No. 1 Cdn Tunnelling Coy above referred to (see subsequent separate report) and rejoined the press party that evening at INVERNESS. In our absence the party had visited Nos. 1, 7 and 8 Companies, C.F.C., in the region of NAIRN.

VISITS TO FORESTRY UNITS IN INVERNESS REGION

44. On 17 May 41 our reunited party left INVERNESS about 0615 hrs by way of the KESOCK Ferry across the mouth of BEAULY FIRTH. Here we had to show our identity cards (A.F.B. 2606) as we were entering the region known as No. 1 Protected Area (which is presumably related to the naval establishments in the vicinity of INVERGORDON). Our journalistic associates had been equipped with special passes to enable them to enter. Later in the morning we had again to produce our identification when passing through BEAULY.

45. We drove to BOG O'SHANNON, near ROSEHAUGH HOUSE, west of AVOCH, the station of No. 6 Company, C.F.C. Here we met Lt.-Col. A.E. PARLOW, O.C. No. 1 Forestry District. This is a British Columbia company, and Lt.-Col. Parlow pointed out that in consequence it has a fondness for "rigging" trees and handling logs with wire ropes. It has two mills, of which we visited only one. These are not of Canadian origin, but are "Scotch mills" set up by the British Forestry Commission and taken over (with a few alterations) by the C.F.C. The saw-bench here, unlike those in Canadian mills, is moved by manpower and the men push the logs into the saw. The Canadian officers consider this system both dangerous and inefficient. They have, in general, very little respect for native Scottish methods of lumbering.

46. No. 6 Company's camp is unusual in that it is not wholly composed of hutting, but includes also a number of permanent farm buildings.

47. From here we drove back through BLACK ISLE to BEAULY, and on to KILTARLITY, not far from BEAUFORT CASTLE. In this region Nos. 15 and 18 Companies, C.F.C., are co-operating in cutting and milling the timber on the great LOVAT estate. No. 15 Coy is from New Brunswick, No. 18 from British Columbia. At KILTARLITY the two companies together are building what will be, we were told, the largest saw-mill in Scotland, a double mill with two headsaws (one circular, one a bandsaw). The frame of the mill building was complete, and work was in progress on the log-pond; the whole was a rather impressive construction job, all being handled by the units themselves.

48. We drove on to No. 18 Company's camp at TEANACAIL. This is a fine camp which the men are already beginning to decorate in various ways. We were taken to see the garden and piggery (the Forestry units are raising a considerable number of pigs) and saw the men messing. I gathered that the C.F.C. manages to provide fairly adequate meals for the men, though there is some complaint of shortage of meat. Some of the cooks are lumber-camp cooks from

Canada. (The more I hear of the problem of rationing, the more I become convinced that ninety per cent of it is a matter of cooking. If the cooks are good, the men are satisfied.)

49. For luncheon, we drove to the Headquarters of the Canadian Forestry Corps at PHOINEAS HOUSE, near BEAULY. Here we again met Brig.-Gen. WHITE and Lt.-Col. JONES, and were also introduced to Colonel G.M. STRONG, D.S.O., Second in Command and Director of Timber Operations, and a number of other officers, including Capt. J.J. SCANLON, formerly connected with the Historical Section, who is Records Officer and acts as corps Adjutant, though there is no actual adjutant on the H.Q. establishment.

50. The ~~Revised~~ War Establishment for the Headquarters, C.F.C., (CDN/IV/1940/110/1) provides for a total personnel of 115 all ranks, 18 of these being officers, *plus 7 officers and 33 a.n. attached.*

51. PHOINEAS HOUSE is a somewhat severe old stone structure, but agreeably situated, commodious, and probably fairly well suited to its present function. A considerable amount of hutting has been constructed nearby. It has been occupied by the Headquarters, C.F.C., since 1330 hrs on 13 Feb 41 (see War Diary of H.Q., C.F.C., under this date).

52. After luncheon, General White again agreed to a conference with the correspondents, and I again attended. The newspapermen particularly asked for details of the general's past career. He explained that he was Vice-President of the Canadian International Paper Company in civil life. Before the last war he was a major in the 17th DUKE OF YORK'S ROYAL CANADIAN HUSSARS (and after the last war he commanded this unit). He served in France with the Canadian Forestry Corps of the last war, in 1917 as Colonel and Director of Timber Operations, France, in 1918 as Brigadier-General.

53. He left INVERNESS by train that afternoon, reaching LONDON the next day (18 May 41) about 0945 hrs.

54. During this tour I saw something of the work of seven of the thirteen Canadian Forestry Companies at present in this country. It was a most interesting experience. The enthusiasm and efficiency with which these units are performing their special task are plain to see, and their morale is obviously high. The officers, and I think the men also, take pride in their corps and in the important work on which they are engaged. In one respect the C.F.C. has an advantage over most Canadian units in this country: almost alone among them, it is actually doing at this moment the work for which it was recruited. The men of the Canadian Corps and Canadian Base Units have been disappointed at having seen no action so far and (rightly or wrongly) are certainly tired of training; but the foresters are doing their destined job and are the happier for being busy.

55. Notes on a few special topics follow.

MILITARY ASPECT AND OPERATIONAL ROLES

56. General WHITE and his officers like to emphasize the combatant aspect of their corps, the fact that the men of the C.F.C. are soldiers as well as foresters; and I gathered that, within limits, the men rather enjoyed their military drill as a change from their ordinary labour.

57. As noted above, some of the companies we visited were wholly without rifles, and some were only partly equipped. I gather however that this situation is rapidly improving, for Lt.-Col. PARLOW visited me at C.M.H.Q. on 26 May 41 and told me that during the past couple of days two companies had drawn a full scale of rifles and bayonets. The War Establishment provides for each Forestry Company 187 rifles and one light machine gun; but no L.M.G.'s whatever had been issued at the time of my tour.

58. The Forestry Companies are taken into account in the defence schemes for the regions in which they are stationed. On 25 Mar 41 an Operation Instruction was issued by Sutherland Sub-Area to the

effect that the Companies within its limits (Nos. 1, 6, 7 and 8) would, while armed on their present scale, have no role beyond protecting themselves, their camps and their mills; but in the event of further issues of arms permitting it, they might be given an active role of counter-attack (see War Diary, H.Q., C.F.C., March, 1941, Appendix 33 (1)). During February, 1941, officers of No. 5 Company conferred with those of the local Home Guard battalion on the operational situation (War Diary, No. 5 Coy., C.F.C., for the month named); and on 25 Mar 41 Perthshire Sub-Area (H.Q., DUNBLANE) informed No. 5 Company that South Highland Area had been allotted the defence of DRUMCHTER PASS (at the point where the BLAIR ATHOLL - DALWHINNIE road cuts through the main GRAMPIAN chain) and that this Company were the most suitable troops for this task. It was suggested that if circumstances permitted they might be supported by a "mobile column" of 100-120 men to be provided by the 157th Pioneer Company at DUNKELD. (See War Diary, No. 5 Coy., C.F.C., March 1941, Appendix 22.) Lieut. BEAMISH, Adjutant of No. 5 Company, told me that the unit had given some consideration to the means of carrying out this role.

59. Several C.F.C. officers in the course of our tour suggested that the wild Highland terrain in which their corps is working was ideal country for parachute operations, and it is clear that the C.F.C. generally hope that fate may give them a chance to do some fighting. Against an enemy not equipped with armoured vehicles or artillery these tough and resourceful Canadian woodmen, many of them well acquainted with the use of explosives, and all possessed of some degree of military training, might prove dangerous antagonists. It is worth noting in this connection that the corps contains a very considerable proportion of officers and other ranks who saw service in the last war. For example, Major M.R. McCracken, O.C. No. 3 Company, has the M.C. (with bar) and the M.M., and his sergeant-major, C.S.M. H. CAMINER, has the D.C.M. and the M.M.

60. During our tour we saw nothing of the Canadian Auxiliary Services; but the office of the Assistant Director, Auxiliary Services (formerly Senior Officer, Auxiliary Services) tells me that in fact one Supervisor (Salvation Army) and one helper are at work among these units in the north, which are so widely separated from the main mass of the Canadian troops in this country, and that further measures are intended. Several C.F.C. officers mentioned that sports equipment had been received from Canadian sources. The services supplied to most of the troops in the south by supervisors of the four Canadian voluntary organizations (see my Report No. 9) are provided for a number of the C.F.C. companies by huts established by the N.A.A.F.I. (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes). Lt.-Col. PARLOW told me, however, that the N.A.A.F.I. service had not been especially satisfactory, and that the best arrangement appeared to be for the men to run their own unit canteens, as some companies are doing.

SNOW REMOVAL SERVICE

61. An example of the versatility and handiness of the Forestry personnel is afforded by the service they rendered during the heavy snows that fell in the Highlands in the course of the past winter. On 12 Apr 41 Lt.-Gen. R.H. CARRINGTON (then G.O.C. in C. Scottish Command; since replaced by Lt.-Gen. A.F.A.N. THORNE) wrote a letter expressing appreciation of the work of the C.F.C. in clearing roads in the North Highland Area, and remarking, "Such work was of very great assistance and enabled important moves of the Division there to take place..." On 11 Feb 41, Mr. J.W. McKILLOP, County Clerk of Inverness, wrote similarly in appreciation of work done in clearing the INVERNESS - PERTH road during the past fortnight, speaking of "the great assistance from the tractor ploughs belonging to the Canadian Forestry Corps which were working continuously late and early until the road was clear for traffic." (See copies of letters in C.M.H. file 6/For. Corps/1). I note further that during February two steel snow-ploughs were built to Canadian design under C.F.C. direction; one of these was actually built by the Transport Section at BLAIR ATHOLL. (This Section is under the command of Major C.R. TOWNSEND.) (See War Diary, H. ., C.F.C., March, 1941, Appendix 43.)

PART II

NOTES FOR THE HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN FORESTRY CORPS

1940 - 1941

62. The history of the present Canadian Forestry Corps is really an extension of that of the C.F.C. created in the last war. For a summary of the operations of 1916-1918, see Report of the Ministry, Overseas Military Forces of Canada, 1918 (London, n.d.), pp. 363-71.

63. The earliest document relating to Forestry troops in the present war, which I have found on file at C.M.H., is Tel. 454, Massey to External, 3 Oct 39, which reports a War Office enquiry "whether Canadian Government would be in a position to assist by raising Railway Troop units and Forestry Companies for service overseas". This was answered by Tel. 462, External to Dominion, 20 Oct 39, which runs in part

...the Department of National Defence takes the position that pending negotiations in connection with Air Training Scheme, it is not considered desirable to give an affirmative answer at this time to suggestions contained in your telegram.

Copies of these documents are in C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry/1 ("Provision of Forestry Units").

64. Further developments may be traced in the same file, as follows. On 19 May 40 Tel. 633, Massey to External, reported the British Government as desiring further consideration of the matter of Forestry units, possibly to be provided under special financial arrangements similar to those of the last war. On 23 May 40 the Hon. Mr Massey wrote to Lord CALDECOTE, paraphrasing External's telegram No. 588 of the same date, to the effect that Canada would be prepared to organize and despatch Forestry units on this basis. On 7 June 40, in consequence, Lord Caldecote wrote to Mr. Massey making definite proposals. As this letter is, in a sense, the fundamental document of the present Canadian Forestry Corps, a copy of it is attached to the present Report as Appendix "B".

65. It will be noted that this letter contemplated the possibility of a Corps with an ultimate strength of 80 companies, more than half of which would have operated in France. Immediately after this suggestion was made, however, French resistance to the enemy collapsed; and for a time the situation with respect to provision of Forestry units remained obscure (see cable Canmilitary to Immediate Defensor, 27 Jun 40, File 1/Forestry/1, folio 12A). On 29 Jun 40 Mr. Massey cabled External (Tel. 1015, folio 14A) to the effect that, while the railway units requested earlier were not at present required, an urgent need still existed in the United Kingdom for the initial 20 Forestry Companies asked for on 7 June, and "which it is hoped will still be available by late summer". The full 80 companies originally contemplated would certainly not be required. The telegram continued:

Recent experience in France and military situation here make it most important to ensure that forestry companies should have received appropriate scale of military training before they arrive here.

Two months' military training was suggested.

66. Mobilization of the C.F.C. now proceeded. The Hon. Mr. RALSTON's announcement concerning the new Corps was reported in The Times (London), 10 Jul 40. Brig.-Gen. WHITE was appointed to command it with effect from 3 Jun 40. The companies received military training in Canada as had been suggested.

67. While organization was under way in Canada, preliminary arrangements for the arrival and work of the C.F.C. were being made in Britain by C.M.H. with the aid of Mr. (now Major) HARCHER (see above, para. 21). Mr. HARCHER had, I understand, held the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the C.F.C. in the last war; he is a member of a family well known in the annals of the ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE. He had lately returned from IRAN, where he had been engaged in construction work; and now he worked for some time in an undefined civilian capacity, investigating questions of equipment, siting the companies' camps in Scotland and watching their

construction, and giving general assistance in technical matters.

68. An advance party of the C.F.C., commanded by Lt.-Col. PARLOW, sailed from Montreal in the S.S. "Duchess of Richmond" on 18 Oct 40. This party consisted of 6 officers and 52 other ranks. The main body of it arrived at BLAIR ATHOLL on 26 Oct. (See C.M.H.Q. file 1/Forestry/1/2, folios 44A, 71A.) It will be noted that the C.F.C. was not arriving in the United Kingdom as soon as had been hoped; among other matters, the difficulty of finding naval escorts for convoys had caused delay.

69. On 30 Nov 40 Lt.-Col. Parlow wrote a memorandum from BLAIR ATHOLL on the question of accommodation for the incoming companies:

Consideration should be given to using working parties of our own men, as soon as the first Units arrive, to prepare further camps, in place of civilian contracts, which have proven very slow and unsatisfactory.

(C.M.H.Q. file 6/For. Corps/1, fol. 30A).

In practice, construction by the C.F.C. itself has invariably been more satisfactory than construction by contract. The slowness and inefficiency of British civilian labour under present conditions is one of the most prevalent complaints among Canadian officers in the United Kingdom.

70. As noted above, the Headquarters, C.F.C., and No. 5 Forestry Company, arrived in the United Kingdom with T.C. 8 on 25 Dec 40. Five additional companies (Nos. 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8) and a nucleus for the Forestry Corps company in the General Holding Unit, arrived with T.C. 9 at the end of February, 1941, and disembarked on 1 Mar (see War Diary, H.Q., C.F.C., under 28 Feb 41, and also Appendix 48 to Diary for March, 1941). The personnel of No. 1 Forestry District H.Q. also arrived at this time. The remaining seven companies now in this country (Nos. 3, 4, 9, 11, 15, 17, and 18) arrived with T.C. 10 on 19 Apr 41. For statement of location, see Appendix "A".

71. The British authorities have been anxious to arrange for the early arrival of the full 20 companies, as a cable (GS 343),

Canmilitary to Defensor, 4 Mar 41, indicates:

Troopers advise that timber output of each Forestry Company is roughly equivalent to the timber carried by a ship of six thousand tons plying regularly from Canada under war-time conditions and therefore the early arrival of the fourteen companies would effect considerable saving in shipping.

The sea-transport situation, however, has made it difficult to reconcile the reinforcement needs of the fighting formations of the Canadian Army Overseas with the desirability of bringing the rest of the C.F.C. to Britain as soon as possible. It is now understood, nevertheless, that the remaining seven Forestry Companies will arrive by the next troop convoy (T.C. 11).

72. The first Canadian mill operated by the C.F.C. was turned over for the first time ^{at BLAIR ATHOLL} on 16 Feb 41 (War Diary, No. 5 Coy., C.F.C., under this date). The second Canadian mill, that at BAILLOGIE 2 (see above, para. 38) began work on 19 Mar 41 (War Diary, H.C., C.F.C., March, 1941, Appendix 4A).

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM

73. As indicated above (para. 64) the Canadian Forestry Corps has been the subject of a special financial agreement between the Dominion of Canada and the Government of the United Kingdom. This somewhat complicated subject can only be outlined here.

74. The basis of the arrangement is found in two cables of which copies are attached hereto as Appendix "C". It will be noted that Tel. 870, External to Dominion, 2 Jul 40, undertakes to raise 20 Forestry Companies under arrangements proposed in Tel. 26, Massey to External, 9 Jan 40, which actually referred to the possibility of Canada raising Railway Survey Companies. The effect is that Canada agrees to bear the cost of pay, pensions, dependents' and field allowances, officers' mess allowances, and transport to and from the United Kingdom, plus that of initial personal equipment, while the United Kingdom takes responsibility

for "all other expenses connected with equipment, work or maintenance". This general understanding naturally had to be supplemented in due time by more detailed agreements. The details of the negotiations may be followed in C.M.H.C. files 6/For. Corps/1 and 1/Fin. Can. U.K./9 ("Financial Policy - Cdn. Forestry Corps"). A conference on the matter was held at the War Office on 9 Dec 40, and details still outstanding were settled by later correspondence. The main points which occasioned controversy were the question of whether C.F.C. travelling allowances should be paid by the British Government on the British or the Canadian scale, and the matter of responsibility for medical costs. On the former point, the Canadian contention (i.e., that allowances should be paid on the Canadian scale) was accepted by the War Office after Canada had made concessions on certain other relatively minor questions, and it was also agreed (8 Apr 41) that costs of medical treatment and medical boards should be recoverable from the War Office. Canada, however, provides and pays R.C.A.M.C. personnel for the C.F.C.

75. A consolidated statement of the final financial arrangements between Canada and the United Kingdom in the matter of the C.F.C. is at present being prepared in "A" Branch, C.M.H.C. As soon as this becomes available, a copy will be forwarded for attachment to the present Report.

PHOTOGRAPHS

76. As noted above, a large number of official photographs were taken during the recent Press tour to illustrate Forestry Corps activities. These are to be found in film series Nos. 220-27 and 253-58.

C.S.

(C.P. Stacey) Major,
Historical Officer, C.M.H.C.

LOCATION OF CANADIAN FORESTRY UNITS, SCOTLAND

MAY, 1941

Headquarters, Canadian Forestry Corps

PHOINEAS HOUSE,
BEAULY, Inverness-shire.H.Q., No. 1 Forestry District
(O.C., Lt.-Col. A.E. PARLOW)

ALNESS, Ross-shire.

No. 6 Company

BOG O'SHANNON, near
AVOCH, Ross-shire.

No. 9 Company

BALNAGOWN (1), KILDARY,
Ross-shire.

No. 17 Company

STRATHOYKELL (ROSEHALL),
INVERSHIN, Ross-shire.H.Q., No. 2 Forestry District
(O.C., Major E.A. CALDWELL)

ABOYNE, Aberdeenshire.

No. 2 Company

BALLOGIE (2), ABOYNE.

No. 3 Company

BALLOGIE (1), ABOYNE.

No. 4 Company

GLENTANAR, ABOYNE.

H.Q., No. 3 Forestry District
(O.C., Lt.-Col. W.E. GARDNER)

NAIRN, Nairnshire.

No. 1 Company

HOLME ROSE, CROY,
Nairnshire.

No. 7 Company

HIGHWOOD, CULLODEN MUIR,
Inverness-shire.

No. 8 Company

INCHYETTL, NAIRN.

H.Q., No. 4 Forestry District, provisional
(O.C., Major F.J. DAWSON)BLAIR ATHOLL? Perth-
shire.

No. 5 Company

BLACK ISLAND, BLAIR
ATHOLL.

No. 11 Company

DALL, STRUAN, Perth-
shire.H.Q., No. 5 Forestry District
(O.C., Major E.P. BURCHETT)

BEAULY, Inverness-shire

No. 15 Company

LOVAT (2), BOBLAINY

No. 18 Company

LOVAT (1), TEANACAIL

ADDENDUM TO REPORT No. 29
APPENDIX "A".

C. M. H. Q.

1/FIN CAN U.K./9 (A.A.G.(Org.))

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS NO. 5

26 MAY 41

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS RE
CANADIAN FORESTRY CORPS

1. Under arrangements concluded by the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Canada, the costs of units of the Cdn Forestry Corps whilst stationed in the United Kingdom are to be borne by the respective Governments in accordance with the following:-

Canada	United Kingdom	Authority
Pay, incl. adm.	All other services connected with equipment, work or maintenance	External -
Pensions		Dominion cable 870 of 2/7/40 (folio 66)
Dependents' & Field Allowances		Massey-External cable 26 d 9/1/40 (folio 64)
Officers' Mess Allce.		
Transport to and from U.K. or France		
All initial personal equipment	Administration, by C.M.H.Q. of:	
	Discipline	(W.O.058/5254 (F.1)
	Spiritual Welfare	(d 22/1/41 (folio 55)
	Burials	(6/For Corps/1 d 4/2/41
	Reinforcements	((folio 59)
	Disposals	(
	Auxiliary Services	(W.O.058/5254 (F.1) d ?/3/41 (folio 60)
	Travelling expenses & allowances; also fuel, light & ration allces. at Canadian rates.	
Records & Documentation.		
Regimental Funds & a/cs.		
Graves registration & disposal of effects		Ditto.
Stationery		
Postage & Telephone	Medical Services	(6/For Corps/1 d 25/3/41 (folio 61)
	(Hospital Stoppages credited to Canada	(W.O.058/5254(F.1) (d 8/4/41 (folio 70)
	(W.O.058/5254 (F.1) d 22/1/41	
	Road Accidents	Assume by 6/For Corps/1 d 7/4/41 (folio 69)

2. The purpose of this memorandum is to prescribe a procedure for all Branches and Establishments to ensure that prompt and effective steps are taken to bring to account all expenditures made from Canadian funds, which are recoverable from the U.K. pursuant to the provisions of the financial arrangement referred to in para. 1.

3. The following procedure will be adopted for the compilation of claims against the U.K.

(a) Issues of Stores and Equipment from Canadian stocks.

Recoverable invoices, which are to be supported by receipted copies of Issue and Receipt Vouchers or other forms of documentary evidence of proof of delivery, will be prepared for stores and equipment of all kinds issued to units of the Forestry Corps. The issuing officer will price the issues, after reference to C.M.H.Q. where necessary and submit the Recoverable Invoices through the normal channels to the Head of the Branch of C.M.H.Q. concerned.

(b) Rations.

Personnel of the Forestry Corps will, in the main, be rationed by British Authorities, but in cases where such personnel (including reinforcements) are attached to other Canadian units for rations, the latter will show them separately on their S.T. 103's and 104's, and will also append thereto a nominal roll showing the names of the attached personnel and the dates "from" and "to" comprising the period of attachment. From the information shown on the S.T. 103's and 104's, the S. & T. Branch, C.M.H.Q. will prepare Recoverable Invoices. Claims for the 2½d. cash allowance will be submitted in a similar manner to that followed in the case of attached British personnel.

(c) Barrack Accommodation.

In cases where personnel of the Forestry Corps (including reinforcement personnel) are attached to other Canadian units for accommodation, the latter will show such personnel separately under the heading "Attached from other Units. Forestry Corps," in the semi-monthly Accommodation State (CAN - F.S.T. 1003). The S. & T. Branch, C.M.H.Q. will see that the total accommodation strength figures are reduced by the numbers representing Forestry Corps personnel when submitting consolidated strength returns to the War Office for use by the latter when billing Canada with the cost of barrack accommodation.

(d) Barrack Services (Fuel, Light, etc.)

If personnel of the Forestry Corps occupy barracks or other buildings, and if neither British personnel nor personnel of other Canadian units are accommodated in the same quarters, the Canadian Barrack Officer, or other officer acting in that capacity, will take steps to see that such accommodation is handed over to the British Authorities, and that no charges for barrack services are assessed against Canadian funds. In cases where Forestry Corps personnel are quartered jointly with personnel of other Canadian units, the Commanding Officer, in preparing accommodation state, Can-F-ST.1003, will ensure that such personnel are shown in a separate category, giving the number of man-days which are chargeable to Canadian Forestry Corps personnel. One copy of these returns will be submitted to the A.Q.M.G. (S.T.), C.M.H.Q., and one copy to the British Barrack Officer, who will be requested to reduce the relevant accounts for barrack services accordingly.

(e) Travel Claims.

Travelling allowances to personnel of the Forestry Corps and to other Canadian personnel whilst travelling on business connected with the Forestry Corps are paid at Canadian rates, and are recoverable from the U.K. The individual preparing the travel claim will clearly state the nature of the duties which necessitated the trip, and will endorse in red ink on the claim the words "Recoverable-Canadian Forestry Corps". The Treasury will then prepare the necessary Recoverable Invoices.

(f) Railway Warrants.

Railway warrants, both duty and leave warrants, issued by Canadian issuing officers to personnel of the Forestry Corps, or to personnel of other Canadian units when travelling on business directly associated with Forestry Corps activities, will be marked "Recoverable-Forestry Corps" at time of issue. From this information, the Treasury will be responsible for preparing Recoverable Invoices. Special arrangements have been made with British R.T.O's whereby all warrants issued by them to Forestry Corps personnel will automatically become a charge against British funds.

(g) Medical Services.

The cost of medical services provided to Forestry Corps personnel in any Canadian hospitals or institutions is a financial responsibility of the U.K. The procedure to be followed in compiling these recoverable charges will be exactly the same as that already prescribed in respect of the treatment or hospitalization of British personnel in Canadian hospitals.

(h) Use of Canadian Transport on Forestry Corps Business.

In each instance where a Canadian vehicle is used to transport personnel or stores for the Forestry Corps, Can.F-ST.1025 will be prepared in duplicate covering the detail.

This form must be completed to show all particulars required and signed by both the Officer Commanding the unit whose transport has been used and the officer acknowledging the work performed for the Forestry Corps.

Copies of Can. F-ST-1025 will be forwarded at the end of each month to A.Q.M.G.(S.T.), C.M.H.Q., who will prepare Recoverable Invoices.

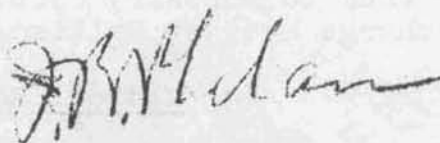
(i) Road Accident Claims.

Instructions have been issued to Headquarters, Canadian Forestry Corps that any road accident claims arising out of the operation by personnel of the Forestry Corps of vehicles furnished to them are to be referred to Headquarters, Scottish Command, for necessary action. In the case of road accidents arising out of the operation by personnel of other Canadian units of vehicles temporarily employed on business

directly associated with the Forestry Corps, the Branch of the D.J.A.G., C.M.H.Q., when passing the relevant Damage Claim Reports (C.M.H.Q. 1000:4) to Treasury for payment, will endorse thereon the words "Recoverable-Canadian Forestry Corps". The Treasury will prepare Recoverable Invoices in these cases.

(j) Burials

Accounts for the funeral expenses of deceased Forestry Corps personnel will be endorsed "Recoverable-Canadian Forestry Corps" by the respective officers who certify such accounts under the provisions of Article 828(5), F.R. & I. (Overseas).



(F.R. Phelan) Brigadier
D.A.G.
Canadian Military Headquarters.

COPY OF A COPY

DOMINIONS OFFICE

DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

7th June, 1940.

SECRET

My dear High Commissioner,

I am now able to convey to you, for communication to the Canadian Government, the results of the very careful consideration which has been given to the question of forestry personnel. You will remember that in your letter of the 23rd May you informed me that the Canadian Government were prepared to organise and despatch forestry units, and that, on their behalf, you invited me to give details of the requirements in this respect.

The whole timber situation has been the subject of anxious examination, and it will readily be appreciated that, with the cessation of the supplies which we had expected to receive from Scandinavia, and the failure of another normal source of supply, viz. Russia, the position has gravely deteriorated. The requirements of the Allies, as originally estimated, for timber of all kinds for 1940 were of the order of 16,000,000 tons. The invasion of the Low Countries and the intensification of the war have however, greatly increased the Allies' difficulties; there are increased needs for timber for fortifications, a possible need for civilian use in the event of aerial bombardment, and increased requirements in various other directions. There is, moreover, likely to develop a serious limitation upon the capacity of British and French ports, and it may therefore prove impossible to rely on imports of timber even to the extent which shipping would allow.

The present rate of production by the United Kingdom and France amounts to 5,500,000 tons per annum only. It is believed that this production can be increased to 11,500,000 tons per annum, reducing thereby the gap between local supplies and essential requirements as originally estimated to 4,500,000 tons a year.

This greatly increased rate of production, though still not adequate in present circumstances, is dependent on additional labour, plant and machinery; it is estimated that to achieve the maximum production of which the forests of the United Kingdom and France are capable, some 27,000 skilled and 56,000 unskilled workers will be required in addition to those already engaged in this field. Such figures are entirely beyond the resources of the United Kingdom and France. Every effort is being made to secure labour from other sources in Europe and elsewhere, but His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have reached the inevitable conclusion that the assistance of Canada in this respect is essential to the prosecution of our common war effort.

I have felt it desirable to deal thus fully with the supply situation and our essential requirements, since they form the background of the suggestion which we hope the Canadian Government will be prepared to consider, that Canadian forestry personnel should be made available in considerable numbers, and with the least possible delay to assist in meeting the requirements in skilled labour. The effort made by Canada in this direction in the latter part of the last war is well remembered. On that occasion, a Canadian Forestry Corps was formed which ultimately comprised very substantial numbers of men and the United Kingdom Government would be very grateful if the Canadian Government would consider whether some such organisation, on which the units immediately required could be

based, might be brought into being at an early date.

As was made clear in my letter to you of 19th May, and in previous correspondence, the financial conditions which are proposed for forestry units raised in Canada would be similar to those which applied in the last war. Under these conditions the Canadian Government would be responsible for pay, pensions, family and dependants' allowances, field allowances, officers' mess allowances, initial personal equipment and the cost of transportation between Canada and this country or France, all other expenses connected with the equipment, work or maintenance of the units being borne by the Government of the United Kingdom.

As regards immediate requirements - and I cannot emphasise too strongly the great assistance which Canadian co-operation in this field would constitute in a matter of the highest importance - the Government of the United Kingdom would suggest that consideration be given at once to the formation of twenty forestry companies, of which ten would operate in the United Kingdom and ten in France, and it would be a source of the greatest encouragement if the first arrivals could take place in the late summer. It is also hoped that further companies of the same number for each country could be sent later in the present year.

I understand that all such units could be employed at once, though to facilitate their allocation to the available sources of supply, and to avoid the necessity of large base camps, it would be convenient if their arrival could be spread over the period in question.

It will be seen that a company establishment has been proposed and it is suggested that this should be on a basis analogous to that adopted in the last war, the units functioning in the same manner as before. This is due to the type of forest from which it is hoped to obtain our timber requirements. The best results are likely to be achieved by such personnel so constituted though it might be necessary to suggest that the organization be so arranged as to make it possible for smaller units such as half companies to operate in the United Kingdom forests. We should hope that the necessary equipment, including mills could be furnished from Canada and we should be grateful if the Canadian Government would investigate this question and inform the United Kingdom authorities of the extent to which this could be done.

It is estimated that, in order to secure a continuous and uninterrupted flow of timber supplies, at a time when our war effort is likely to be reaching its greatest expansion, a further forty companies in all (to operate mainly in France) would be needed from Canada in 1941, and it is hoped that the Canadian Government would be prepared to take the necessary steps to provide them.

If the Canadian Government can see their way to co-operate on this scale, it is thought that they would themselves wish to initiate, at a very early stage, the necessary staff for the effort, and to send over to the United Kingdom an advance party with technical experts at the earliest possible moment, in order to consult with us in the necessary organisation of the personnel and the work to be performed.

As the proposal is made on the basis that the requirements, both of ourselves and of our French Allies are to be regarded as a common task essential to our joint prosecution of the war, steps have been taken, in conjunction with the French Government, to establish an Anglo-French Timber Production Commission, which

(APPENDIX "B")

- 3 -

would be charged with the selection of the areas in which the forestry units would work. This commission would of course work in the closest touch with the suggested Canadian Forestry organisation.

I should be grateful if you could let me have the views of your Government on these proposals at the earliest possible date.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) CALDECOTE.

C O P Y

From: EXTERNAL
To: DOMINION.
D. 3.7.40.
R. 3.7.40.

Tel. No. 870

Secret. Your cablegram 1015 June 29th.

It is noted transportation units previously requested are not at present required.

Canadian Government will raise and despatch 20 Forestry Companies under financial arrangement stated in your telegram 26 January 9th.. Companies will be trained in Canada for two months in accordance with your proposal. Operating and transporting equipment will be supplied here as requested but will be a charge against United Kingdom Government in accordance with financial arrangement above referred to. Should it be found that all above equipment cannot be supplied in time to accompany companies overseas remainder will follow as soon as it can be obtained.

No recruiting has been done for four companies you referred to and therefore none will be ready to sail before about end of September.

The United Kingdom suggestion that further discussion of details be conducted direct between Cammilitary and War Office is concurred in.

Reference your last paragraph an advance party with technical experience will be despatched as suggested, date to be notified later.

From: HASSEY
To: EXTERNAL
D. 9.1.40.

Tel. No. 26

Your telegram 462 October 21st. War Office wish to re-open question of possibility of Canada supplying two Railway Survey Companies for service with B.E.F. Matter now stated to be one of particular urgency as certain essential work necessary in France and personnel for that purpose with requisite training and experience not available in this country. Establishment of these two Companies would involve total of 14 officers and 128 other ranks. War Office suggest financial arrangements might be same as those of last war, namely Canadian Government would bear cost of pay, pensions, dependants' and field allowances, officers' mess allowances, cost of transport to and from this country and all initial personal equipment, while all other expenses connected with equipment, work or maintenance would be borne by United Kingdom.

I have been asked to emphasize the great urgency and importance of this matter.

SECRET

Triplicate

Addendum to Report No. 29
(dated 31 May 41)

4 Jun 41

Financial Arrangements re
Canadian Forestry Corps

Canadian Military Headquarters,
2 Cockspur Street, S.W. 1,
London, ENGLAND.

The Director,
Historical Section,
General Staff,
National Defence Headquarters,
Ottawa, CANADA.

1. The following addendum is presented for attachment to my Report No. 29.
2. Attached as Appendix "A" is a copy of "Administrative Instructions No. 5" issued at C.M.H.Q. and bearing date 26 May 41. This instruction summarizes the effect of the various negotiations with the British authorities concerning the financial arrangements for the Canadian Forestry Corps, referred to in Report No. 29, and presents in convenient form the present, and perhaps the final, state of those arrangements.

C.P.S.

(C.P. Stacey) Major,
Historical Officer, C.M.H.Q.