

NOTE

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DUPLICATE

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Presentation of Colours by H.M. the King to
Carleton and York Regiment and Edmonton
Regiment, Dominion Day, 1941.



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 deals with the presentation of colours to two units of the First Canadian Division, the CARLETON AND YORK REGIMENT (3 Cdn Inf Bde) and the EDMONTON REGIMENT (2 Cdn Inf Bde), by His Majesty King George VI at the Guards' Depot, CATERHAM, SURREY, on 1 Jul 41.
2. I was present on this occasion, driving to CATERHAM with Colonel C.R. SCOTT (Military Secretary, N.D.H.Q.) who had recently arrived from Canada by air in company with the Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE, Minister of Pensions and National Health in the Dominion Government.
3. Several documents pertinent to this ceremony are attached as appendices. Their availability enables me to make the text of this report relatively short.

CEREMONY OF PRESENTATION OF COLOURS

4. The ceremony took place on the spacious parade-square of the Guards' Depot at CATERHAM, in the area in which 1 Cdn Div are billeted (see my Report No. 33). The weather was favourable, though a trifle too warm for complete comfort. The ceremony was to begin at 1130 hrs, but the King's party did not arrive until a little past this time.

5. Among those present at the ceremony, in addition to Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE (above), were Lt.-Gen. B.C.T. PAGET, G.O.C.-in-C. South-Eastern Command, and Mrs. Paget; Lt.-Gen. and Mrs. McNAUGHTON; Major-General MONTAGUE; Major-General and Mrs. PEARNES; the Rt. Hon. and Mrs. VINCENT MASSEY; the Rt. Hon. R.B. BENNETT (the Viscount BENNETT of CALGARY and HOPEWELL).
6. Careful precautions had been taken to preserve secrecy concerning the King's presence on this occasion, and in documents issued in advance it was stated that the colours would be presented by "A British General". Presumably as protection against possible enemy interference, a fighter patrol of Hurricanes circled overhead during the ceremony.
7. The Queen did not accompany His Majesty on this occasion.
8. This was a joint presentation ceremony, in which the two battalions paraded together (with the senior, the CARLETON AND YORK, on the right) and the two colour parties were grouped together in the centre as one party. The brief, somewhat truncated wartime ceremonial is outlined in Appendix "A".
9. The colours were consecrated by the two Assistant Principal Chaplains, Protestant and Roman Catholic, at Canadian Military Headquarters. By a somewhat curious coincidence, these two gentlemen came overseas as chaplains of the two battalions receiving the colours on this occasion: Hon. Lt.-Col. W.T.R. FLEMINGTON (A.P.C. (P.)) with the CARLETON AND YORK REGT and Hon. Lt.-Col. H.C. O'NEILL, M.M., (A.P.C. (R.C.)) with the EDMONTON REGT.
10. After the brief prayers of consecration (followed, in the case of the EDMONTON REGT, by the sprinkling of the colours with holy water), the King came forward and presented the colours. He then made a short speech, the text of which was published in The Times next day (Appendix "B"). His Majesty spoke slowly and firmly.
11. At the end of the ceremony the battalions marched past off the ground in column of route with their new colours in front, played past to "A Hundred Pipers" in the case of the CARLETON AND YORK and "Bonnie Dundee" in the case of the EDMONTON REGT. Music

was furnished for the ceremony by the excellent band of the EDMONTON REGT. After the march-past the King spoke to the bandmaster.

12. Both units made an excellent appearance on this occasion, and the ceremonial was performed with commendable smartness and with no visible hitch.

FIRST CANADIAN DIVISION SPORTS DAY

13. After taking lunch at the Headquarters of the First Canadian Division, the King made a brief appearance in the afternoon at the division's Track and Field Championships contests at REDHILL Football Grounds.

MISCELLANEOUS

14. Owing to the photographers being, as they complained, kept at a distance from the royal party by those responsible for the arrangements for the occasion, the record photographs available of the colours ceremony will probably be less satisfactory than in many cases.


15. It will be noted that the article from The Times (Appendix "B") is guilty of a technical breach of security regulations in that it names the two units receiving colours. The Court Circular, however, makes the same lapse. It is sometimes difficult to get the British Press to realize that publication of the name of a Canadian infantry unit possessing only one battalion in the field gives information to the enemy concerning its whereabouts, while a British regiment with many battalions can be safely referred to provided battalion numbers are not given. On the other hand, as the composition of the Canadian divisions was fully published in the Canadian press at the time of mobilization, and many details have been given in Canadian newspapers since that time, the importance of the leakage taking place through the press in Britain should perhaps not be exaggerated.

16. It will be further observed that the article in The Times states that this was the first occasion on which a British Sovereign had presented colours to Canadian regiments in the United Kingdom. I am unable fully to check the accuracy of the statement, but I cannot recall any earlier instance of such a presentation to a Canadian unit or units. If the statement is true, as it may be, this adds considerably to the historical interest of the ceremony above described.

17. Attached as Appendix "U" is a copy of certain "Historical Notes" on the two units concerned, which were, I believe, prepared at H.Q. 1 Cdn Div for issue to the press, but were withheld on security grounds. (See para. 15, above.) These notes contain certain additional facts concerning the colours presented on 1 Jul 41.

C.B.S.

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



PRESENTATION of COLOURS to TWO CDN BNS

1. Bns will be formed up on three sides of a square, facing saluting base, in open order with bayonets fixed.
2. On approach of General Presenting Colours (G.P.C.), the O's.C. (in order of seniority of bn) will call the bns to "Attention" and "Slope Arms."
3. When G.P.C. arrives on saluting base the O's.C. will give (in turn) "Salute," "Present Arms." (Band plays after second Present Arms). The O's.C. will then adv towards G.P.C. and salute. They will then turn about and give their bns "Slope Arms" and "Order Arms."
4. G.P.C. inspects bns. (Band plays selections). Drums are piled.
5. On completion of inspection O's.C. will give "Stand at Ease."
6. Senior O.C. will give "Colour Party to the Front." Senior Major of senior bn will give "Colour Party Attention," "Slope Arms," "By the centre, Quick March," "Colour Party Halt," "Uncase Colours." When colours have been placed on Drums, he will give "Colour Party will retire," "About Turn," "Quick March," "Halt," "About Turn," "Order Arms," "Stand at Ease," "Stand Easy."
7. Chaplains will, during this time, place themselves on side opposite Drums facing G.P.C. Consecration: Chaplains will then place themselves on opposite side of Drums, facing inwards. Chaplain of senior bn will consecrate colours of senior bn, then Chaplain of junior bn will do likewise. (See K.R. (Can) para 1373 and K.R. (Eng.) para 937). Chaplains return to original position.
8. Bns "Attention," "Slope Arms."
9. Senior O.C. gives "Officers for the Colours, Quick March." The eight officers will form line on the near side of G.P.C. Majors on the outside of each four. Majors will take up King's Colours, the others the Regimental Colours. The four Majors will then take a pace fwd and turn inwards at the same time the ensigns will bend on to right knee to receive Colours. When last colour has been handed over the four Majors will turn outwards and take one pace to rear, at the same time the four ensigns will rise to "Attention."
10. Colours handed over.
11. Address by G.P.C. (?)
12. Senior Major of senior bn gives "Inwards Turn," "Take Post, Quick March."
13. O's.C. give "General Salute, Present Arms." (Band plays on completion of second "Present Arms").

(P.T.O.)

14. As Band commences, Officers carrying Colours will step off in slow time and take up their place in Line; Halt and turn about; Change Over.
15. When Band ceases, O's.C. give "Slope Arms," "Order Arms."
16. Senior O.C. gives "Remove Head-dress," "Three Cheers," "Replace Head-dress," "Slope Arms," "Close Order March."
17. O's.C. will give "Bn will march past in column of route," "Move to the right in column of route, Right Turn." On the command, Officers with the Colours will take post in front of bns. O's.C. give "By the Left, Quick March." Bns will wheel onto saluting line by the right and march off the parade ground.

EAC/t
1 CDR/6-6
10 Jun 41

From "THE TIMES" (London), 2 July 1941.

"GREAT IDEALS"

TRADITION OF THE CANADIANS

COLOURS PRESENTED BY THE KING

The King, presenting Colours to two famous Canadian regiments at a depot in southern England yesterday, told the troops that wherever they might be called on to meet and beat the enemy they would be defending their own homes.

The Colours were presented to the Carleton and York Regiment and the Edmonton Regiment, and it was the first time that a British Sovereign had presented Colours to Canadian regiments in this country. The occasion was the celebration of Dominion Day, the seventy-fourth birthday of Canada.

The KING said:—

"To-day is Dominion Day, and I am very glad to be spending it among my Canadian troops. Many of you, maybe, have never before been out of Canada on your national day. You will all, I know, be thinking of those near and dear to you whom you have left at home. With all my heart I hope that it may not be long before you are with them again. Meanwhile, remember that wherever you may be called on to meet and beat the enemy, you will be defending your own homes as surely as if you were fighting on the very soil of New Brunswick or Alberta.

"Your two regiments perpetuate no less than seven battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force which a quarter of a century ago went out to win immortal fame under the inspired leadership of Lord Byng and Sir Arthur Currie. The tradition then established, the high honour which was then won, are also perpetuated in the Colours that I now present to you. I am very proud to do so, for I know that you will ever hold them safe and will sustain the great ideals of which they are the outward symbol. I wish you one and all the best of good luck."

Mr. Vincent Massey, High Commissioner for Canada, Mr. R. B. Bennett, Lieutenant-General B. Paget, Lieutenant-General A. L. McNaughton, G.O.C. Canadian Corps, and other Canadian officers were present.

The King took luncheon at the Canadian Headquarters, and in the afternoon he attended the Canadian divisional athletic championships, at which 10,000 Canadian troops were present.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, JULY 1

The King this morning presented Colours to The Carleton and York Regiment and The Edmonton Regiment.

Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Piers Legh was in attendance.

The Right Hon. Winston Spencer-Churchill, M.P. (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury and Minister of Defence), had the honour to be present.

HISTORICAL NOTES ON CARLETON & YORK REGIMENT

The Carleton & York Regiment was formed by the amalgamation of two New Brunswick regiments, The Carleton Light Infantry and The York Regiment, in 1937.

The York Regiment was organized with headquarters in Fredericton, New Brunswick, in 1787, and The Carleton Light Infantry at Woodstock, New Brunswick, in 1834.

The York Regiment perpetuated the 12th and 140th Canadian Infantry Battalions and The Carleton Light Infantry, the 44th and 104th Battalions, Canadian Expeditionary Force of the war 1914 - 1918.

The Regiment is affiliated with the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and The East Yorkshire Regiment, the principal features of whose badges are incorporated in the badge of The Carleton & York Regiment, the White horse of Kent superimposed on the Star of Brunswick.

The colours presented to the unit are the gift of Colonel (the Honourable) Murray MacLaren, P.C., C.M.G., V.D., M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.S. Honourary Colonel of the regiment, while Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick.

Brigadier-General F.W. Hill, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D. is also an Honourary Colonel of the regiment.

The Regiment was mobilized at Woodstock, New Brunswick, on the outbreak of war, on September 1st, 1939, as a unit of the Third Brigade, First Canadian Division, and proceeded overseas on December 10th, 1939.

HISTORICAL NOTES ON EDMONTON REGIMENT

The Edmonton Regiment perpetuates the 49th, 51st and 63rd Battalions, Canadian Expeditionary Force (1914 - 1918)

Allied regiments are The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), Kimberley Regiment (Union of South Africa Defence Forces), and the 47th Battalion, Wide Bay Regiment (Australian Military Forces).

The Battalion was mobilized on January 4th, 1915 under command of Lieut.-Colonel W.A. Griesbach, now Major-General (The Honourable) W.A. Griesbach, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D.

In May, 1915 colours were presented by His Honour the Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Alberta, at a joint presentation with the 51st Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. These colours were deposited in Canterbury Cathedral.

In February, 1919 the regiment embarked for Canada, arriving in Edmonton on March 21st, 1919 where it was demobilized. It was reorganized on September 15th, 1920 as a unit of the N.P.A.M.

On September 4th, 1939 the regiment was mobilized as a unit of the Canadian Active Service Force, arriving in Great Britain in December of that year.

The present colours are a gift of the regiment's Honourary Colonel, Major-General Griesbach and the late Honourary Lieut.-Colonel James Ramsey.

The old colours are now in custody of the 2nd Battalion, Edmonton Regiment, in Edmonton, Alberta.