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Arrival of Main Body of Third Canadian
Division in the United Kingdom,
July, 1941.

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1. A further report is presented. This deals with the arrival in the United Kingdom of the main body of the Third Canadian Division, which took place on 28-29 July, 1941.
2. As this appeared to be an important arrival and likely to be of some historical interest, I arranged to travel to GLASGOW with the official party from Canadian Military Headquarters with a view to making a record of it. The convoy was divided between three western ports - the GLYDE, LIVERPOOL and AVONMOUTH - but the S.S. "Empress of Canada" with H.Q. 3 Cdn Div on board came to the GLYDE and the official reception by the British and Canadian authorities took place there.
3. In a subsequent report I propose to review the arrivals of troops from Canada that have taken place during 1941, giving a summary of statistics and noting the progress so far made with the Canadian Overseas Army Programme for the present year. The statistical aspect of T.C. 12, on which the main body of 3 Cdn Div arrived, will be reserved for treatment in this later report.

COMPOSITION OF T.C. 12

4. In the present report it is sufficient to note that the convoy arriving at the end of July brought H.Q. 3 Cdn Div and two brigade groups of the Division (8 Cdn Inf Bde Gp and 9 Cdn Inf Bde Gp); the third brigade group (7 Cdn Inf Bde Gp) being held for a later sailing. The ships of the convoy were as follows:

S.S. "Empress of Canada"	}	The GLYDE
S.S. "Strathmore"		
S.S. "Strathnaver"	}	LIVERPOOL
S.S. "Duchess of York"		
S.S. "Orion"	—	AVONMOUTH

5. The largest units arriving were the following: "Empress of Canada", 14 Fd Regt R.C.A., 3 Div Sup Coln R.C.A.S.C.; "Strathmore", QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA, HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY OF CANADA, REGIMENT DE LA CHAUDIERE; "Duchess of York", 12 Fd Regt R.C.A. (part also on "Strathnaver"), 1 Cdn Construction Coy R.C.E., NORTH SHORE (NEW BRUNSWICK) REGIMENT; "Orion", 3 Div Sigs R.C.C.S., NORTH NOVA SCOTIA HIGHLANDERS, STORMONT, DUNDAS AND GLENFARREY HIGHLANDERS, 22/21 Fd Amb R.C.A.M.C. H.Q. 8 Cdn Inf Bde was on the "Duchess of York" and H.Q. 9 Cdn Inf Bde on the "Orion". With this convoy came advance parties for the units of 3 Cdn Div coming by S.A. Tr Regt R.C.A., slightly later sailings, including 13 Fd Regt R.C.A., 7 Cdn Recce Bn (17 D.Y.R.C.H.), ROYAL WINNIPEG RIFLES, 1 Bn CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT, REGINA RIFLE REGIMENT, 3 Div Amn Coy and 3 Div Petrol Coy R.C.A.S.C., 3 Army Fd Wkshp R.C.O.C., 23 Fd Amb R.C.A.M.C.; all of these were on the "Strathmore".

ARRIVAL AND RECEPTION OF TRANSPORTS IN THE GLYDE

6. The "Empress of Canada" and "Strathmore" came up the GLYDE on the evening of 28 Jul, before it was too dark for the men on board to see their surroundings, and anchored above the boom and a little below GOUROCK (see my Report No. 1).

7. The official welcoming party from LONDON arrived at GLASGOW on the morning of 29 Jul and proceeded to Prince's Pier, GREENOCK, where it boarded a pinnace for the trip to the transports lying in the stream.

8. The party included the Rt. Hon. DAVID MARGESSON, Secretary of State for War; the Rt. Hon. VINCENT MASSEY, High Commissioner for Canada; Lt.-Gen. Sir HENRY POWELL, V.C., I.C.S.; Lt.-Gen. A.F.A.E. THORNE, C.O.C.-in-C. SCOTTISH COMMAND; and Major-Gen. the Hon. P.J. MONTAGUE, Senior Officer, CANADIAN MILITARY HEAD-QUARTERS, who represented the Corps Commander, the Senior Canadian Combatant Officer in the United Kingdom. *The Dominions Office was represented by Rear Admiral Sir ARTHUR BROMLEY.* Photographers and newspapermen accompanied the party.

9. On boarding the "Empress of Canada", the welcoming party was greeted by Major-General C.B. PRICE, D.S.O., D.C.M., V.D., C.O.C. 3 Gdn Div. The official party visited the officers' sitting-room and the military officers on board were introduced; it then moved on to the foredeck, where Captain MARGESSON, Mr. MASSEY and General MONTAGUE briefly addressed the troops.

10. Captain MARGESSON said that this was a bad day for Hitler. The arrival of these troops was further proof that Canada and the Mother Country stood together - and that Hitler had not won the Battle of the Atlantic yet. Englishmen had known that Canada had made up her mind that this was her war, but had never expected that by this stage of it she would have sent nearly a quarter of a million men into the army for overseas service. This was an evidence of the magnificent spirit of her sons.

11. He went on to the following effect. "Why are you here? It is not because of some Canadian Gestapo at your backs driving you on. You are here because you know how serious is the situation; because you prefer to risk all as freemen rather than live as slaves. Your wives, mothers and sweethearts know why you have come here. You were moved by the same irresistible determination as in 1914."

12. "If you ask how your coming affects the people of this country" (Captain Margesson continued), "we feel the better for your presence. We like your toughness. We like your faces. Strangely enough, Hitler and his gang won't feel the same way. They had a taste of Canadian quality last time and will have it again. With you at our side the days ahead, however difficult, will be better days." The Secretary of State then proceeded to recall Mr. Churchill's words of June, 1940: "...We shall not flag or fall. We shall go on to the end... we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air..." It was not only in the air, to-day, that our confidence and our strength were growing. Captain Margesson concluded with the words, "On behalf of His Majesty's Government I welcome you. May good luck be yours; may God go with you."

13. General PRICE, in reply, expressed appreciation. The men of the Third Division were very proud to belong to the great Empire brotherhood. He expressed their gratitude to the Royal Navy which had brought them safely across the ocean.

14. Mr. MASSEY said that he was glad of the opportunity to say a word of welcome. He knew the sort of welcome that awaited the incoming troops. He was glad they had had a good voyage, and spoke of "those two great services", the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, which had made it possible. "We Canadians in Britain are proud of our Corps and are happy that you have come to join it. May good fortune attend you."

15. General MONTAGUE, on behalf of General McNAUGHTON and Canadian Military Headquarters, welcomed the Third Division to the Canadian Army Overseas. The Canadians had made a good reputation for themselves in Britain, and "We count on the Third Division to maintain it". The men of the Division should aim to behave as they would wish British troops to behave in Canada.

16. The troops then sang for the visitors: "Roll Out the Barrel", "There'll Always Be an England", "O Canada", and "God Save the King".

17. The welcoming party then returned to the pinnace and crossed to the "Strathmore", where much the same procedure was followed. Here the men were eating *dinner*, and Captain Hargesson, Mr. Massey and General Montague addressed them, in about the same terms as on the "Empress", as they sat at mess. At the end of his remarks, the Secretary of State, recognizing the presence of a French-speaking unit on this ship, added a word or two of greeting in French; and General Montague's address was all the better received for being brief and concluding with an exhortation to the men to get on with their interrupted meal.

18. The official party then returned to the "Empress" for lunch.

19. In the afternoon, as I was going out from GOUROCK Pier to the "Strathmore" with Lieut. AUDRAIN, the Official Photographer, and Mr. ROSS MUNRO, of the Canadian Press, who wished to make another visit to this ship, we passed the tender "King George V" carrying the first unit to come ashore (the Queen's Own Rifles).

GENERAL

20. The convoy had had a pleasant passage, with good weather until it reached the danger zone and a certain amount of cloud and fog in the last stages. There was no encounter with the enemy, though on at least one occasion depth-charges dropped by the escort shook the ships, and a report of enemy aircraft was received. The escort, I was told, consisted of the battleship "Malaya" and eight destroyers.

21. The arriving troops were in good spirits, and cheered the welcoming pinnace as it approached the "Empress". These units of the Third Canadian Division make a fine appearance suggestive of high morale.

22. As in December last (see my Report No. 1) there is still a great concentration of shipping in the CLYDE above the boom; and nothing could be more encouraging at this stage of the war than the sight of the innumerable vessels, large and small, mercantile and naval, which ride at anchor here without, apparently, any interference from the enemy. There were other transports besides the

"Empress" and "Strathmore", apparently loading British troops for distant stations; off GREENOCK were a battleship of the "Royal Sovereign" class and a "C" or "D" class cruiser; destroyers were numerous, among them members of the latest ("L") class, so large as to resemble small cruisers; and there were many merchant vessels of moderate size, including one with a fighter aircraft on a catapult on the forecastle. At least one Short Sunderland four-engined flying-boat was in the air, and Catalina flying-boats were fairly numerous. It may be imagined what a spectacle this scene, backed by the beauty of the CLYDE estuary, presents to the eyes of incoming Canadian troops; entering the United Kingdom in wartime by the great CLYDE gateway is an experience to be remembered for a lifetime.

EQUIPMENT OF 3rd CANADIAN DIVISION

23. It should be noted in passing that 3 Cdn Div arrived in this country better equipped than than the two divisions which had preceded it. This reflects the progress made in war production in Canada. The great manufacturing programme undertaken at the time of the reverses in the early summer of 1940 may be said to have begun to bear fruit about Midsummer of 1941. A cable of 8 Jul 41 (CSD 1045, Defenseor to Cammilitary, for Brigadier Stuart from General Crerar) stated that 3 Cdn Div would proceed complete in personal equipment (less anti-gas gloves and overboots) and in rifles, Bren guns, pistols and Thompson sub-machine-guns; it would also take twenty 5-inch mortars. The cable added that 415 universal carriers had already been shipped from Canada, that 121 more were awaiting shipment, and that 130 more were expected to be ready within three weeks.

PHOTOGRAPHS

24. Photographs taken by Lieut. AUDRAIN of the CLYDE arrival of this convoy are in film series 318 and 319; those of the arrivals at other ports are in series 320, 321 and 322.

QUARTERING OF NEWLY ARRIVED TROOPS

25. The troops of 3 Cdn Div who arrived on T.C. 12 are now in barracks in ALDERSHOT, as explained in my Report No. 59. Disembarkation leave has been in progress, and LONDON has been full of 3 Cdn Div troops, recognizable by their unfamiliar shoulder-flashes or by coloured field-service caps of types different from those to which we have grown accustomed. An occasional officer is seen already wearing the French-gray divisional patch. (For some weeks past, the brilliant red oblong patch of 1 Cdn Div has brightened the streets and the countryside, supplemented by the various-coloured diamond patches of Corps Headquarters and Corps Troops.)
26. The newly-arrived units have been engaged in drawing vehicles and equipment, and on the arrival of the remainder of the Division, which is expected very shortly, divisional training to fit the formation to take its place in the order of battle of Cdn Corps can begin in earnest.
27. 3 Cdn Div came under command of Cdn Corps on arrival in the United Kingdom.

C.P.S.

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