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Directorate of History  
National Defence Headquarters  
Ottawa, Canada  
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TRIPLICATE

**CANCELLED**

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23 Sep 41

Royal Inspection of Third Canadian  
Division, 18 Sep 41.

**DECLASSIFIED**

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

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

1. A further report is presented. This deals with the visit of Their Majesties The King and Queen to the Third Canadian Division at ALDERSHOT, on 18 Sep 41.
2. Their Majesties had previously seen both the First and Second Divisions (for some of their contacts with 1 Cdn Div, see Report No. 18; for their visit to 2 Cdn Div on 27 Mar 41, see Report No. 19). The Third Division had the special honour of being inspected by them very soon after its arrival in the United Kingdom, and, indeed, before the Division was quite complete.
3. The writer was present on this occasion, accompanying the party of newspapermen who followed Their Majesties during the visit.

#### MORNING VISITS

4. His Majesty, accompanied by Colonel Dermot McMurrough KAVANAGH, arrived at H.Q. 3 Cdn Div, ALDERSHOT, at 1030 hrs, and was received by Major-General C.B. PRICE, D.S.O., D.C.M., V.D., commanding the Division, and Major-General MONTAGUE, Senior Officer C.M.H.Q., who was present throughout the day. After the officers of Div H.Q. had been introduced, the royal party proceeded to

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forward of honours before  
DHD HQ*



HELMORE BRIDGE, where the King witnessed a demonstration by the divisional Engineers. Here he saw the very rapid construction of a small box girder bridge, which was begun after his arrival (the bank seats, of course, having been prepared in advance) and which he crossed a few minutes later. A lorry was driven across the bridge to demonstrate its solidity. An assault bridge was also shown, and assault boats, folding boat equipment, electric saws and pneumatic drills were demonstrated.

5. The next visit was to LEIPZIG BARRACKS and the Divisional Artillery. Here 12 and 14 Fd Regts, R.C.A., were drawn up on three sides of a square under Brigadier BROWNFIELD, the C.R.C.A. The fourth side of the square was supplied by the regiments' full establishment of 48 25-pounder guns, standing wheel to wheel in solid line. This was the most impressive display of artillery weapons I have yet seen in the Canadian Army Overseas, and a striking testimony to the recent improvement in the equipment situation (Cf. my Report No. 46). The band of one of the regiments played during the inspection of the line, after which the gunners gave three lusty cheers for their Colonel-in-Chief.

6. The third of the Division's Field Regiments (13 Cdn Fd Regt) has not yet arrived in this country.

7. The inspecting party now moved on to HAIG AREA, where the King saw demonstrations of a light section of an advanced dressing station; an advanced dressing station; and a main dressing station, all set up and operating. Thereafter, at TWESSELDOWN Track, His Majesty inspected the divisional reconnaissance unit (7 Cdn Recce Bn (17 D.V.R.C.H.)), of which he is Colonel-in-Chief, and the officers were introduced.

8. After a visit to BADAJOS BARRACKS, where Ordnance personnel were inspected, the royal party proceeded to STANNHOPE PARADE, where 8 Cdn Inf Bde was drawn up in hollow square under command of Brigadier J.P.U. ARCHAMBAULT. Here the Queen was to join the King, and as the previous inspections had gone a little more rapidly than had been expected there was a short wait before Her



Majesty's arrival. After she arrived Their Majesties walked on to the parade together, were received with a royal salute, and then inspected the line while the bands played. The units were, in order, the QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA (which only a few days before, on 10 Sep, had been visited by H.M. QUEEN MARY, their Colonel-in-Chief), LE REGIMENT DE LA CHAUDIERE, and the NORTH SHORE (NEW BRUNSWICK) REGIMENT. The Queen spoke to many men in the ranks.

9. It will be noted that this was a more formal inspection than that of 2 Cdn Div in March last (Report No. 19), in which training demonstrations were more in evidence.

#### AFTERNOON VISITS

10. After taking luncheon at "A" Mess, Their Majesties proceeded with the remainder of their round of visits. The first of these was to 7 Cdn Inf Bde, which was formed on three sides of a square on the greensward of QUEEN'S PARADE, covering so large an area that Brigadier SALMON, in command, had to give his executive orders through a bugler. Here again the line was formally inspected, the units in order being the ROYAL WINNIPEG RIFLES (the last infantry unit of the Division to arrive, and less than a week in the United Kingdom on the day of this inspection), the 1st Battalion CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT, and the REGINA RIFLE REGIMENT.

11. The next visit was to the Divisional R.C.A.S.C. at TOWNHALL BARRACKS. Here Their Majesties saw a demonstration of motorcycle riding by men of the divisional Ammunition Company, and of vehicle driving - a sort of musical drive without music, carried out mainly with 15-cwt lorries, at considerable speed and with a high degree of precision - by drivers of the Divisional Supply Column. Thereafter, at MONS BARRACKS, the King and Queen inspected the Divisional Signals, saw signal offices in operation and R/T and line equipment at work.

12. The last inspection of the day was that of 9 Cdn Inf Bde, the Division's Highland Brigade, for which Their Majesties



returned to STANHOPE PARADE. Here the brigade was formed up under the command of Brigadier HALDENBY, who commanded the 46TH HIGHLANDERS on their journey into (and out of) France in June of 1940. Here, for the third time in one day, the King and Queen walked along the lines of a full infantry brigade, inspecting in succession the HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY OF CANADA, the STORMONT, DUNDAS AND GLENGARRY HIGHLANDERS, and the NORTH NOVA SCOTIA HIGHLANDERS. The pipe and brass bands of the brigade were massed in the centre, opposite the flagstaff from which (as in the case of other visits during the day) the Royal Standard flew during the inspection.

#### DISPLAY BY MASSED BANDS

13. Their Majesties now proceeded to the ALDERSHOT Officers' Club, where they had tea with the senior officers of the Division.

14. Thereafter the King and Queen witnessed a display by the Division's massed bands on the Club's green cricket-field, which provided a most lovely setting for the spectacle. The bands - pipe, brass and bugle - having formed on the low ground beyond the edge of the field, suddenly appeared upon it and proceeded to beat Retreat. It was a most impressive spectacle. At least eleven bands took part, and the standard both of music and marching was high. The contrast with the practice of the earlier period of the war, when bands were proscribed, must have occurred to many minds; and most, I believe, were glad of the change. In the present static condition of things in England, there are strong practical arguments for anything tending to add colour and interest to the life of the troops.

15. After inspecting a Guard of Honour mounted by the 1st Bn CANADIAN SCOTTISH, Their Majesties ended their visit about 1700 hours.

#### GENERAL

16. Like the similar visit to 2 Cdn Div, this royal inspection proved a most interesting occasion, and was, I feel sure, most



genuinely appreciated by the men of the Division, to whom, coming so soon after their arrival in this country, it must have been a striking experience. Very fine weather contributed to make the occasion a success. It was clear, too, that much most careful organization had been expended upon preparation for it; and while the Division's drill occasionally showed minor roughnesses not found in the performance of formations which have been longer mobilized, it made a very fine appearance. I heard spectators commenting upon the clean-cut look of the men in the ranks; and it seems to be a general opinion that this division, raised in the critical days of the summer of 1940, is fortunate in its personnel. It will be surprising if it does not give a good account of itself when the opportunity comes.

17. The success of this inspection, and the general sound condition of the Division, presumably reflect the care and industry bestowed upon it by General Price. Of him a junior officer of his staff remarked to me admiringly, "He works ten times as hard as anybody else, and never seems to be the worse for it."

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

18. Lieut. AUDRAIN took a large number of official photographs on this occasion. They are to be found in film series Nos. 372, 402, 413 and 414.

C.P.S.

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