

NOTE

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Directorate of History
National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Canada
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29 JAN 42

Situation of the Canadian Forces in the
United Kingdom, Winter, 1941-42 : III

Growth of Canadian Military Force in the
United Kingdom, September 1941 - January 1942.

Canadian Military Headquarters,
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DECLASSIFIED

Authority: DHD 3-3

by Che for DHist NDHQ

Date: NOV 12 1985

1. A further report is submitted. This deals with the further growth of the Canadian military force in the United Kingdom which has taken place since Report No. 45 was despatched (2 Sep 41). The present report should be read in conjunction with No. 45, and the tables attached as Appendices are continuations of those submitted with No. 45.

2. The period under review has seen a large further increase in the Canadian force in this country, and the completion of the Canadian Overseas Army Programme for 1941. This development may be said to be, historically speaking, one of the three most important occurrences affecting the Canadian Army Overseas during 1941: the others being the change in the role of the Canadian Corps involved in the move into Sussex (Report No. 58), and the expedition to SPITZBERGEN (Report No. 56).

INCREASE IN NUMERICAL STRENGTH

3. The important increase in the strength of the Canadian Army Overseas which has taken place since 1 Aug 41 may be traced in Appendix "A", showing the total strength at intervals of one month since that date.

4. It will be noted that the total shown for 31 Dec 41 is 123640 all ranks, as compared with 86152 on 1 Aug 41 (Report No. 45). The "breakdown" of the totals given for 31 Dec 41 is as follows:

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Actual Strength

(31 Dec 41)	Officers	Other Ranks
1st Canadian Division	836	18044
2nd Canadian Division	814	16017
3rd Canadian Division	775	15448
5th Canadian (Armd) Division	765	13278
Corps Troops	882	12099
Others not included above	<u>3447</u>	<u>43657</u>
TOTAL	7297	116543

Unlike the similar figures given in Report No. 45, those just given do include the Canadian detachment at GIBRALTAR. The strength return provided by C.M.H.Q. for the War Office is now prepared monthly instead of weekly, and on a somewhat different basis from before in other respects.

5. It will be noted from the above that the actual strength of the Canadian Corps on 31 Dec 41 was 3,087 officers and 59,608 other ranks. 5 Cdn (Armd) Div was, and remains at the time of writing, under command of C.M.H.Q. and not included in the Corps. The troops of Cdn Corps constitute, it will be seen, approximately one-half of the Canadian military force now in this country.

6. The decrease in the number of Corps Troops as compared with that given for 1 Aug 41 is presumably explained by the fact that considerable numbers of Corps Troops passed to the command of C.M.H.Q. when Cdn Corps moved into Sussex (see Report No. 58).

COMPLETION OF OVERSEAS ARMY PROGRAMME, 1941

7. The figures given in Appendix "A" reflect the successful completion of the Canadian Overseas Army Programme for 1941 (see Report No. 45, paras. 10 ff.). A strikingly rapid increase of the force in the United Kingdom took place during the last few months of the year, as the result of the arrival of the remaining elements of 5 Cdn Div, of Corps Troops in considerable numbers, and finally of 5 Cdn (Armd) Div.

8. In particular, two very large convoys (T.Cs. 14 and 15) arrived in October and November respectively, the latter, bringing the main body of 5 Cdn (Armd) Div, being by a considerable margin the largest Canadian convoy (in numbers of troops transported) to reach this country during the present war (see Report No. 54). Statistical and other details of the successive convoys, from T.C. 12A to T.C. 16 inclusive, will be found collected in Appendices "B" and "C". It will be noted that there was no T.C. 13, and that T.C. 12B actually arrived before T.C. 12D although sailing after it. T.C. 12C is also referred to as T.C. 12B, Second Flight; the records of A.G. (Statistics), C.M.H.Q., use the latter designation, but Movement Control files use the former.

9. It will be noted (cf. Report No. 45, Appendix "A") that the strength of the Canadian Army Overseas was more than doubled during the year 1941, as the result of this Programme.

10. Among the additional Corps or Army units arriving since 1 Aug 41 have been 7 Cdn Army Fd Regt (T.C. 15); 7 Cdn Lt A.A. Regt (T.C. 15); 2 Cdn Hy A.A. Regt (T.C. 12E; large advance party T.C. 12A); 7 Cdn General Hospital (T.C. 15); 2 Cdn C.C.S. (T.C. 14); 2 Cdn Tp Carrying Coy (T.C. 14); 1 Cdn Bridge Coy (T.C. 15). It should perhaps be added that 5 Cdn Med Regt has been organized in this country (cf. Report No. 46).

11. T.C. 16 brought to this country 21 Coy, Cdn Forestry Corps. This was the first of five additional Forestry companies authorized some time ago, which have the effect of increasing the total establishment to twenty-five companies. 22 and 23 Coys, C.F.C., arrived on the next convoy, known as N.A. 1, in January, 1942.

FURTHER NOTES ON SEA TRANSPORT

12. The following additional points may be noted in connection with paras. 15 - 23 of Report No. 45.

13. Naval Escorts. Even before the formal entry of the United States into the war, American warships were escorting Canadian troop convoys part of the way across the Atlantic: see Report No. 54. T.C. 16, like T.C. 15, was escorted by a United States battleship (believed to be the old "Arkansas"), a cruiser, and a number of destroyers. In the vicinity of Iceland this United States escort handed the convoy over to British destroyers and the American vessels (and a U.S. transport which had accompanied the convoy) presumably put into Iceland (information from Capt. D.W. CUNNINGTON, G.M., R.C.E., who travelled with this convoy). It is understood that the succeeding convoy, N.A. 1, was escorted by only two British destroyers; and it is possible that this reflects a new stringency in naval resources resulting from the extension of the war to the Pacific. (1)

14. Ports of Disembarkation. Increased use has of late been made of LIVERPOOL as a disembarkation port. For notes on the wartime appearance of this port, see Report No. 54. Of the convoys dealt with in the present report, T.C. 12A went to LIVERPOOL; T.C. 12B was divided between LIVERPOOL (one ship) and the CLYDE (two ships);

(1) Capt. G.P. HARTLING, R.C.A., who arrived on N.A. 1, states that this convoy was to have been accompanied by an armed merchant cruiser, but the latter grounded when leaving HALIFAX, and the convoy proceeded without her. Both the transports of this convoy went to the CLYDE.

T.C. 12C went to LIVERPOOL; T.C. 12D went to LIVERPOOL; T.C. 12E went to the CLYDE; T.C. 14 was divided (five ships to LIVERPOOL, one to the CLYDE); T.C. 14A went to the CLYDE; T.C. 15 was equally divided between LIVERPOOL and the CLYDE (Report No. 54); while in the case of T.C. 16 two ships went to LIVERPOOL and one to the CLYDE. Of the ships proceeding to the CLYDE, a proportion continue to go to KING GEORGE V DOCK, GLASGOW, but most disembark their troops at GOUROCK.

15. As in Report No. 45, it can still be said that no troop convoy bringing Canadian forces to this country has suffered by enemy action. That some 125,000 officers and men of the Canadian Army should have been transported to the United Kingdom without any loss other than that of the 73 lost with the "Nerissa" (Report No. 28) is a remarkable fact and a great achievement. The process by which this has been accomplished is certain to be of the highest interest and importance to the Canadian Official Historian.

SOURCES

16. This Report derives mainly from the files of Movement Control, C.M.H.Q., and the M.Fs.M. 33 at present deposited at ACTON.

17. It is worth noting, that an important cinema record of the voyage of one convoy - T.C. 12B - was made by Staff-Sergt. SPENCER of the Canadian Army Film Unit, who crossed on the "Stratheden" in this convoy. It is understood that this film, which will have considerable historical interest, has been forwarded to the National Film Board, OTTAWA. Staff-Sergt. OGILVIE, now an Official Artist, crossed on the same ship in the same convoy, and made a certain number of pencil sketches en route.

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SECRET

REPORT NO. 59

APPENDIX "A"

STRENGTH, CANADIAN ARMY OVERSEAS

at monthly intervals, September 1941 - December 1941.

Extracted from monthly returns prepared for the War Office by A.G. (S), C.M.H.Q. (C.M.H.Q. file 22/STRENGTH/2 and 22/STRENGTH/2/2). Includes personnel at GIBRALTAR.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>OTHER RANKS</u>
30 Sep 41	5,482	89,039
31 Oct 41	6,132	99,275
30 Nov 41	7,203	113,935
31 Dec 41	7,297	116,543

SECRET

REPORT No. 59

APPENDIX "B"

CONDENSED INFORMATION RELATING TO TROOP
CONVOYS FROM CANADA - T.Cs. 12A - 16

Note. The figures here given for the total personnel of troop convoys derive from A.G. (Statistics), C.M.H. &, and should be reliable.

The basis of computation is the same as that adopted for Appendix "B" of Report No. 45. Only Canadian Army personnel are included, though many others groups, and in particular Air Force personnel in increasing numbers, travel in troop convoys from Canada.

It should again be stated that while these troop convoys carry the great majority of Canadian troops arriving in the United Kingdom, parties of military personnel continue to arrive by independent sailings, as has been the case from the beginning, and there is some movement of personnel by air. In this report no account is taken of these means of transport.

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TROOP CONVOYS FROM CANADA

Condensed Information extracted from M.Fs.M. 33 and Movement Control files, C.M.H.Q.

CONVOY	NO. of SHIPS	DATE of DISEMBARKATION	TOTAL CDN ARMY PERSONNEL, ALL RANKS	GENERAL NATURE OF COMPOSITION
T.C.12A	1	19 Aug 41	1221	3 Cdn Div RCASC units, etc.
T.C.12B	3	1-2 Sep 41	4031	Two Inf Bns, Recce Bn, Lt A.A. Regt (3 Cdn Div), etc.
T.C.12C*	1	13 Sep 41	954	One Inf Bn (3 Cdn Div), etc.
T.C.12D	1	29 Sep 41	844	One A Fd Wkshop, many small units and dets.
T.C.12E	1	27 Sep 41	2851	One Engr Bn, One Hy A.A.Regt, One Lt A.A. Regt, etc.
T.C.14	6	18-20 Oct 41	10274	One Arm'd Bde (less one Arm'd Regt) (5 Cdn (Arm'd) Div) etc.
T.C.14A	1	13 Nov 41	2254	One Fd Regt (3 Cdn Div), 5 Cdn (Arm'd) Div RCASC units, etc.
T.C.15	8	21-24 Nov 41	13986	H.Q. and main body 5 Cdn (Arm'd) Div, One A Fd Regt, One Lt A.A.Regt (Corps), etc.
T.C.16	2	23-26 Dec 41	3065	One Forestry Coy, reinforcements and minor units.

* Also referred to as T.C.12B, Second Flight.

TRANSPORTS IN CONVOY

Troop Convoys 12A - 16

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T.C. 12A "Northumberland".

T.C. 12B "Stratheden", "Empress of Russia", "Dominion Monarch" (1).

T.C. 12C "Orbita".

T.C. 12D "Empress of Asia".

T.C. 12E "Pasteur".

T.C. 14 "Reina del Pacifico", "Andes", "Warwick Castle", "Capetown Castle", "Aorangi", "Monarch of Bermuda".

T.C. 14A "Pasteur".

T.C. 15 "Duchess of Atholl", "Durban Castle", "Sobieski", "Orcades", "Andes", "Oronsay", "Reina del Pacifico", "Warwick Castle".

T.C. 16 "Pasteur", "Cuba", "Letitia" (1).

(1) This ship carrying no Canadian Army personnel.

Above information extracted from Strength Returns on Disembarkation (D.F.M. 55) at Records Office, ACTON, and files of Movement Control, C.M.H.Q.