

NOTE

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

July 1986

CANCELLED

QUADRUPLICATE

61

13 Feb 42

Correspondence of General
McNAUGHTON with British Officers,
etc., 1940 - 1941.

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

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

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: DHD 3-3
by OKC for DHD 3-3
Date: NOV 13 1985

1. A further report is presented. This serves as covering letter to a collection of Lieutenant-General A.G.L. McNAUGHTON's correspondence with the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, the Commander-in-Chief, Home Forces, and other British military authorities during the years 1940 and 1941. These letters are attached in the form either of copies or of photographic facsimiles.

2. As early as 27 Feb 41 General McNaughton mentioned to the present writer the possibility of his handing over to him, for custody for historical purposes, his correspondence with the British authorities during the critical days of the early summer of 1940; and he arranged for this to be done previous to his departure for a visit to Canada, where at the moment of writing he still remains.

3. On 27 Jan 42 the writer received the following letter from General McNaughton :

[Transcript]

PA 6 - 9 - 04

c/o H.Q., Cdn Med Arty,
21 January, 1942.

Dear Major Stacey,

I send you herewith my file PA 6 - 9 - 04, which contains some miscellaneous correspondence with the C.I.C.S. and C.-in-C., Home Forces. Some of the letters are clearly of historical importance and if you wish to have them for the official records you may take them off the file, in which case I would ask that copies be substituted indicating what has been done with the originals.

Please return the file to Major Anderson, who will be acting Personal Assistant to the Corps Commander during the absence of Lt.-Col. Rodger, and ask that he replace it in our filing cabinet.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

(A.G.L. McNaughton)

Major C.P. Stacey,
Historical Section,
Canadian Military Headquarters,
2 Cockspur Street,
London, S. W. 1.

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Authority: DHD 3-3
for DHist NDHQ
by
Date: NOV 13 1986

4. The file in question contained a variety of correspondence dating from May, 1940, to January, 1942, including the originals of many letters addressed to General McNaughton and carbon copies of letters written by him.

5. The action taken by the Historical Officer was as follows. The documents contained in the file were checked against the War Diaries of "G" Branch, 1 Cdn Div, 7 Corps, and Cdn Corps (according to date) to determine whether copies had been attached as Appendices. It was found that this had been done in almost every instance with respect to the documents dated 1940; the sole exception found was that of the letter from the Rt. Hon. Anthony EDEN, dated 9 Jun 40, which had not been copied for the War Diary.

6. While the most important needs of the Official Historian are served by the copies thus preserved on War Diaries, some of the documents on this file appeared to have an interest beyond that of their mere textual contents: that is, they would have importance also as material objects closely associated with great personalities and great events. It was desirable to remove these from the file for preservation, and this was done. However, as the risk of loss by enemy action appeared to preclude the despatch of the originals to Canada at the present time, it was arranged to photograph them, and prints are attached. Similar prints were substituted for the originals in General McNaughton's file. The originals are retained for the present in the custody of the Historical Officer at C.M.H.Q.

7. A considerable number of documents of more recent date were found to be not present on the "G" War Diary of Cdn Corps and as it seemed desirable to preserve their text for historical purposes these (in cases where their importance appeared to warrant it) were carefully copied and copies are attached. Except in the instances of four letters in the handwriting of General Sir Alan BROOKE and Field Marshal Sir John DILL, it seemed unnecessary to photograph them.

8. Finally, a certain number of documents relating to the events of May and June, 1940, of which copies were known to exist on War Diaries, and which were not of a type to be worth photographing, were nevertheless copied in order that copies might be available for reference at C.M.H.Q. in event of circumstances permitting the compilation of a comprehensive historical narrative of the Canadian aspect of those events.

9. The historical value of some of the documents of which copies or facsimiles are forwarded herewith needs no demonstration; the very important letter from General DEWING to General McNAUGHTON, dated 27 May 40, for example, is a valuable contribution to understanding of the important episode with which it deals. Certain of the documents, on the other hand, are of a largely personal nature, and these are of interest not so much as illuminating particular events as for the light they shed upon the relations existing between the correspondents. Such a document as the note from General DILL to General McNAUGHTON dated 1 Oct 41 would, in the nature of things, probably never be published; but it seems worth while to ensure its preservation merely for the sake of affording the Official Historian additional evidence of the nature of a relationship which will have considerable historical importance.

10. A concise catalogue of the attached documents follows. Some references to documents not here present are appended.

APPENDIX "A" : PHOTOGRAPHS

- (1) General CRERAR to General McNAUGHTON, 27 May 40. Evidently sent with (2).
- (2) Major-General R.H. DEWING (D.M.O. and P., War Office) to General McNAUGHTON, 27 May 40. A copy of General McNAUGHTON's reply, dated 28 May 40, is on "G" War Diary of 1 Cdn Div, May, 1940.
- (3) General McNAUGHTON to General CRERAR, 29 May 40 (carbon copy) : concerning (1) and (2). On foot of this copy, pencilled note by General McNAUGHTON relative to sabling substance of his correspondence with General DEWING to Minister of National Defence.
- (4) Pencilled draft by General McNAUGHTON of introduction for cable to Minister of National Defence referred to in (3). ("Anglin" is Major (now Lt.-Col.) W.A.I. ANGLEN, R.C.) The cable referred to is Telegram No. 747, DOMINION to EXTERNAL, 31 May 40 : copy on "G" War Diary, 1 Cdn Div, June, 1940.
- (5) Rt. Hon. Anthony EDEN, Sec. of State for War, to General McNAUGHTON, 9 Jun 40. General McNAUGHTON's reply, 11 Jun 40, is on "G" War Diary of 1 Cdn Div, June, 1940. Mr. EDEN's letter is not on the Diary.
- (6) General Sir John DILL to General McNAUGHTON (teleprinter), 11 Jun 40. General McNAUGHTON's reply, 12 Jun 40, is on "G" War Diary, 1 Cdn Div, June, 1940.

- 4
- (7) General Sir John DILL to General McNAUGHTON, 21 Jun 40. General McNAUGHTON's reply, 29 Jun 40, is on "G" War Diary, 1 Cdn Div, June, 1940.
 - (8) Field-Marshal Sir John DILL to General McNAUGHTON, 23 Nov 41. Not found on any War Diary.
 - (9) Field-Marshal Sir John DILL to General McNAUGHTON, 25 Nov 41. Not found on any War Diary. In reply to General McNAUGHTON's letter of 22 Nov 41 (see Appendix "B", below).
 - (10) General Sir Alan BROOKE to General McNAUGHTON, 24 Nov 41. Not found on any War Diary. In reply to General McNAUGHTON's letter of 21 Nov 41 (see Appendix "B", below).
 - (11) General Sir Alan BROOKE to General McNAUGHTON, 26 Nov 41. Not found on any War Diary. In reply to General McNAUGHTON's letter undated (CG7/120) (see Appendix "B", below).

APPENDIX "B" : COPIES

- (1) Lieut.-Gen. B.C.T. PAGET to General McNAUGHTON, 6 Sep 41. Not found on any War Diary.
- (2) General Sir John DILL to General McNAUGHTON, 1 Oct 41. Not found on any War Diary.
- (3) General McNAUGHTON to General Sir Alan BROOKE, undated, but evidently of November, 1941. Not found on any War Diary. See above, Appendix "A", item 11.
- (4) General McNAUGHTON to General PAGET, 21 Nov 41. Not found on any War Diary.
- (5) General PAGET to General McNAUGHTON, 26 Nov 41. Not found on any War Diary. In reply to (4).
- (6) General McNAUGHTON to General BROOKE, 21 Nov 41. Not found on any War Diary. Answered by item (10), Appendix "A", above.
- (7) General McNAUGHTON to Field-Marshal Sir John DILL, 22 Nov 41. Not found on any War Diary. Answered by item (9), Appendix "A", above.

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C.B.S.

(C.P. Stacey) Major,
Historical Officer (S.D.2),
CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS.

SECRET

REPORT No. 61

Appendix "B"

COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GENERAL
McMAURISTON AND FIELD-MARSHAL DILL, GEN-
ERAL BROOKIE AND GENERAL PAGET (1941) .

[COPY]

HEADQUARTERS,
SOUTH EASTERN COMMAND,
HOME FORCES.

6 Sep 1941.

My dear General,

I have been thinking over what you told me this afternoon about the Canadian Corps not staying on the Coast after the winter. I do not know what the Chief's plans are for the future & I hope you will discuss the question with him next week. It seems to me that he may have difficulty in finding a Corps to relieve you, owing to the reductions which he has to make in the strength of the Army at home. Anyway it is a problem we need to face up to now.

Yours ever

[signed] B Pagot

* * *

[Marked with stamp of G.C.C., Cdn Corps, as received at 1015 hrs, 8 Sep 41. Endorsed in pencil, "Not answered".

Copied from the original in General Pagot's handwriting by C.P. Stacey, 29 Jan 42.]

[C.P.S.]

[COPY]

My dear Andy

I am so sorry to have missed you. The S of S & I have been looking for you but failed to find you.

I wanted particularly to see you for two reasons.

- (1) About the battle.
- (2) To let you know confidentially that I am going to marry Mrs Furlong - widow of Brig Furlong - this day week.

I say confidentially as I shall put nothing in the papers till afterwards & avoid all publicity. I am only telling beforehand my special friends.

Bless you

Yours ever

[Signed]

Jack Dill

1st Oct 1941.

[Pencil note on scrap of paper. Copied by C.P. Stacey, 30 Jan 42.]

Exercise "BUSTER" was in progress on the date on which this was written.]

[C.S.]

[COPY]

CC7/120

PRIVATE and SECRET

c/o Canadian Military Headquarters,
2 Cockspur Street,
London, S. W. 1.

Dear General,

You will recall our conversation at G.H.Q., Home Forces, on 1 November last, in the course of which I told you of the arrangements I proposed in reference to command of Canadian Corps and of our Divisions during my temporary absence under medical orders.

At that time we agreed that Major-General G.R. Pearkes should act for me as C.O.C., Canadian Corps, in my absence; that no acting promotion should be given to him; and that I would endeavour to arrange for Major-General H.D.G. Crerar to be sent over from Canada.

In accordance with my recommendation to the Government of Canada, I am now advised that Crerar has been appointed to command 3 Canadian Division in succession to Odum and that I may expect him to reach the United Kingdom about the middle of December. He will be the senior officer next to myself in our forces here and, in consequence, I propose that he should then take over acting command of Canadian Corps from Pearkes, who is his junior.

Further, as regards to rank, Crerar was made an acting Lieut.-General recently as C.G.S., Canada, and, if you see no objection, I will ask for authority for him to continue in this rank whilst acting in command of Canadian Corps in my absence from duty which I imagine from the reports of our medical authorities will be until some time in January.

Sorry to trouble you with these domestic matters but I want to be quite sure that our operational command here is arranged as closely as may be possible in harmony with your views.

Very sincerely yours,

[Initialed]

(A.C.L. McNaughton)

General Sir Alan Brooke, K.C.B., D.S.O.,
C. I. G. S.,
War Office, Whitehall.

P.S. The Post is usually so slow that I have told the special D.R. carrying this to wait for an answer; alternatively, a message marked "Immediate", sent over to G.H.Q., 2 Cockspur St., will be sent on to me.

[Copy of a carbon copy; made by G.P. Stacey, 29 Jan 42.]

[C.B.S.]

[COPY]

007/30-3

PERSONAL

c/o Headquarters,
Cdn Med Arty,
21 Nov 41.

My dear Paget,

This is just a line to offer my sincerest congratulations on your promotion to the high office of C.-in-C., Home Forces, and to say that you can count on the continuance of the fullest co-operation from the Army of Canada.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

[Initialed]

(A.G.L. McNaughton)

Lieut.-General B.C.F. Paget, C.D., D.S.O.,
General Officer Commanding-in-Chief,
South Eastern Command.

[Copy of a carbon copy; made by C.P. Stacey, 30 Jan 42.]

[COPY]

[5]

A.H.Q.

Home Forces.

26th Nov 1941.

My dear McNaughton

Thank you very much for your letter. I greatly value your good wishes & the privilege it has been to work with you in South Eastern Command as it will be now in my new job.

I hope that you are making good progress to complete recovery. This brings you my best wishes.

Yours

[signed]

B Paget

[Copied from the original in General Paget's handwriting by C.P. Stacey, 10 Feb 42.]

[C.P.S.]

[COPY]

607/30-1

PERSONAL

c/o Headquarters,
Cdn Med Arty,
31 Nov 41.

Dear Alan,

This is just a line to offer you my sincerest congratulations and best wishes on your appointment as C.I.C.S., and to say that both personally and in the conduct of your official duties in this high post, you can continue to count on the fullest co-operation from the Army of Canada.

On your leaving the direct command of the Home Forces, I want you to know how very deeply I have appreciated the sympathy and consideration which you and your staff have always extended to us in the many problems we have had to surmount in developing our forces here under the difficulties inseparable from the circumstances and particularly because of our prolonged wait for action.

May I say, too, that we are very happy in the selection of Paget as your successor. We have had the happiest relations with him in SECO which we look forward to continuing in his new office.

With best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

[Initialled]

(A.C.L. McNaughton)

General Sir Alan Brooke, K.C.B., D.S.O.,
Commander-in-Chief,
Home Forces.

P.S. I have just had news that Crerar will be posted to command 2 Canadian Division in lieu of Odium and that he will be coming over early in December. Kenneth Stuart, in whom I have every confidence, will follow Crerar as C.I.C.S., Canada.

[Copy of a carbon copy; made by C.P. Stacey, 30 Jan 42.]

[COPY]

CC7/30-1

PERSONAL

c/o Headquarters,
Cdn Med Arty,
22 Nov 41.

Dear Jack,

This is just a line to send to you my best congratulations on your promotion to Field-Marshal, and to say that this recognition of your outstanding work at the War Office brings pleasure to all of us in the Canadian Army who have had the great privilege of working with you and under your wise and sympathetic direction during all these long months when we have been in England.

As you may well imagine, our satisfaction in your promotion is tempered by the news that you are moving on to another sphere of activity. We will miss you very much indeed and our best wishes will go with you to India and your new tasks.

Mabel joins me in sincerest best wishes and congratulations to you and to Lady Dill.

Very sincerely yours,

[Initialed]

(A.G.L. McNaughton)

Field-Marshal Sir John Dill, KCB, CMG, DSO, ADC,
c/o War Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

[Pencil note by Lt.-Col. RODGER : "Phoned ADC who states Sir John Dill has received this letter and who believes but is checking that letter of 26 Nov was in reply to it. J.E.R." Cdn Liaison stamp, 28 Nov 41.]

[Copy of a carbon copy; made by C.P. Stacey, 30 Jan 42.]

[C83]

SECRET

24/SOURCES/1 (S.D.2)

CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

10 Feb 42

Dear Major Anderson,

I return herewith General McNaughton's file PA 6-9-C4, containing correspondence with the C.I.G.S. and C.-in-C. Home Forces, 1940-42.

In his letter to me dated 21 Jan 42 (a copy of which has been attached to the file) General McNaughton authorized me to remove any letters of historical importance, replacing them with copies. The file as now returned contains the originals of all the documents which were upon it when received at C.M.H.Q., with the exception of eleven documents of which photographs have been substituted.

It is proposed to send similar photographs of these eleven documents to the Director, Historical Section, General Staff, N.D.H.Q., immediately. The original documents will be retained at C.M.H.Q., in the custody of the Historical Officer (S.D.2), until completely safe means of forwarding them to Ottawa become available. The photographic negatives will also be retained by the Historical Officer.

In addition, several documents which are not known to be on any War Diary have been copied, and copies will be despatched to the Historical Section for preservation. Others, relating to the French campaign of 1940, of which copies exist on the "G" War Diaries of 1 Cdn Div or 7 Corps, have nevertheless been copied with a view to availability at C.M.H.Q. in the event of it becoming possible to undertake the compilation of a comprehensive historical narrative of the Canadian aspect of that campaign. All these documents will be kept under lock and key.

It is hoped that these arrangements will be satisfactory. It is believed that they provide for the preservation of all documents of great historical interest placed upon this file down to the present date, independent of the ultimate disposition of the file itself.

May the file be replaced in General McNaughton's filing cabinet, as requested in his letter, please.

Yours sincerely,

C.B.S.

(C.P. Stacey) Major,
Historical Officer (S.D.2),
CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS.

Major W.A.B. Anderson, R.C.A.,
Personal Assistant to the Corps Commander,
Advanced H.Q., Cdn Corps.