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Directorate of History  
National Defence Headquarters  
Ottawa, Canada  
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1 DUPLICATE

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Date: 31 JUL 1986

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18 Mar 42

Passing-Out Ceremony, Eighth Course,  
Canadian Officer Cadet Training  
Unit, 7 Mar 42.

Transfer of Canadian O.C.T.U. to Canada.

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 Closing Exercises of the eighth and last Course of the Canadian Officer Cadet Training Unit in this country, which took place on 7 Mar 42. Some notes are appended on the recent history and general record of the O.C.T.U., and the reasons which have motivated the decision to transfer its activities from England to Canada. A brief note on the Canadian Training School generally is also included.

2. The writer was present during the Closing Exercises referred to, having driven to BORDON with Brigadier M.H.S.PENHALE, who has recently taken up the appointment of B.G.S., C.M.H.Q.

#### O.C.T.U. CLOSING EXERCISES.

3. The Passing-Out parade was held on the Parade Ground of HAVANNAH BARRACKS, BORDON, where the Canadian Training School, of which the O.C.T.U. is a wing, is located. Unfortunately the weather was dull and cold. The salute was taken by Lieut.-General H.D.G.CRERAR, at present acting as Commander, Canadian Corps, during the absence of Lieut.-General McNAUGHTON in Canada. Among the other officers present were Major-General P.J.MONTAGUE (Senior Officer, C.M.H.Q.), Major-General C.B.PRICE (Commanding 3 Cdn Div), Major-General E.W.SANSOM (Commanding 5 Cdn (Armd.) Div) and Brigadier J.H.ROBERTS (at present acting in command of 2 Cdn Div).

4. As usual, the Cadets made an extremely smart appearance on parade. One of the Canadian Reinforcement Units' Bands was in attendance. General CRERAR inspected the parade and the Cadets marched past in quick time and advanced in review order.

5. GENERAL CRERAR'S ADDRESS. Subsequently in an adjacent classroom General Crerar briefly addressed the

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newly commissioned officers. He mentioned that this was a special occasion in that it was the final parade of the Canadian O.C.T.U. in this country. He said, however, that he would not deal at length with the reasons for the change but would, instead, speak of the future of the new officers before him. He would not add to the large quantity of advice which they had, no doubt, already received; he would simply tell them what, in his opinion, were the fundamental requirements for an officer.

6. It was essential for an officer to have a real knowledge of the technique of his profession; but he would never be a good leader without vision, courage, purpose and tenacity. Of vision the General said that the scriptural comment "Where there is no vision the people perish" still "rings as true as steel today". Of courage he said that he denied the statement that a man is born with or without it: the most valuable form of courage is that found in a man who knows what fear is and controls it. Intelligent courage is essential to a good officer. Purpose is highly important since, without a plan, decisive co-ordinated action is impossible. Tenacity is the ability to hold firmly to a purpose, and this is the quality that can turn seeming defeat into victory.

7. General CRERAR observed that men could develop these four qualities in themselves, or extinguish them; it lay in their own hands.

8. In conclusion, General CRERAR said that he would give some advice after all. He offered "three simple guides of conduct" to assist young officers in their relations with their men: (1) the old rule, "Do as you would be done by"; (2) Do not expect more from your men than you take out of yourself; (3) Lead always, drive rarely; but when you do drive, drive hard. He wished the Cadets "Good luck and good hunting".

9. The Corps Commander then presented to the Cadets their Certificates of Qualification. A total of 58 Cadets received Certificates on this occasion. Except for one Cadet from the Canadian Forestry Corps, all were from Infantry or Machine Gun Units.

#### TRANSFER OF O.C.T.U. TO CANADA.

10. The organization of the Canadian O.C.T.U., the manner in which it began work in the summer of 1940, and the first courses which it conducted, were dealt with in Report No. 21, dated 24 Apr 41. This Report explained that the O.C.T.U. functioned as No. 3 Wing (more recently No. 1 Wing) of the Canadian Training School. The general description of the work of the O.C.T.U. given in Report No. 21 applies equally to more recent courses, except that the five weeks' "basic" course, and the full 16 weeks' Infantry and Machine Gun course, are now entirely separate. The course whose Closing Exercises are described in preceding paragraphs was a complete course for Infantry and Machine Gun candidates.

11. The decision to transfer the O.C.T.U. to Canada is in accordance with a general policy of concentrating all



possible training, especially that of an elementary nature, within Canada. This policy has been advocated especially at National Defence Headquarters, and while the senior officers of the Canadian Army Overseas have perhaps, broadly speaking, shown rather less enthusiasm for it under existing conditions, they have concurred in its increasingly general application. Attention is directed in this connection to Reports No. 14, dated 19 Mar 41, and 22, dated 24 Apr 41, in which reference is made to the transfer to Canada of the Canadian Junior War Staff Courses.

12. Lieut.-General CRERAR, on his arrival in the United Kingdom in December 1941, suggested that the Overseas O.C.T.U. should be transferred to Canada and merged with the Officer Training Centres there. This suggestion was discussed at a meeting at Lieut.-General McNAUGHTON'S house on 5 Jan 42. At this meeting General MONTAGUE pointed out certain disadvantages inherent in the suggested change.

12. General Crerar explained that his proposal was based on the fundamental principle that basic training should be carried out in Canada and that Cdn training establishments should be provided in the United Kingdom only for specialist types of training. Moreover, the fact that the Officer Training Centres in Canada had been designed for a yearly output of some 6,000 officers whereas the O.C.T.U. here would produce only approximately 300 officers per year indicated that it was uneconomical to maintain the latter as an independent organization. The probability that within a few months, the number of suitable candidates available from units in this country for such training will be seriously reduced by earlier selection was noted. Other subsidiary advantages mentioned were the value to the majority of the cadets of having among them others who had served in units in the United Kingdom; and the extension of the privilege of returning home for a period after service overseas.

(Extract from memorandum of meeting,  
C.M.H.Q. file 6/O.C.T.U./1.)

13. General McNAUGHTON decided that the substance of the discussion should be telegraphed to N.D.H.Q., and a copy of the telegram (G.S.115, dated 10 Jan 42) is attached as appendix "A".

14. The whole matter was discussed with General McNAUGHTON at N.D.H.Q. during his subsequent visit to Canada, where, at the moment of writing, he still remains. C.M.H.Q. was in due course informed by telegram G.S.T.192 (Defensor to Canmilitary, 11 Feb 42) that General McNAUGHTON had concurred in the policy of commencing no further Canadian O.C.T.U. courses in the United Kingdom. It was added that the Canadian Army Overseas would be allotted 100 vacancies monthly for courses in Canada.

15. This decision is now being implemented. More recently, however, authority has been received from N.D.H.Q. for the continuance in the United Kingdom of the short five weeks' "basic" course. This course has been accepted as qualification for Medical, Dental, Pay, C.M.S.C., Postal and Forestry Officers, and General List Officers employed on special

duties. General MONTAGUE, on 16 Feb 42, pointed out to General CRERAR the desirability of making special arrangements for such personnel "in order to avoid the loss of time in travelling", and remarked that it was probable that in any one year no more than two courses of 50 candidates each would be required.

16. General CRERAR recognized the force of the arguments presented and recommended that the matter should be considered and decided at N.D.H.Q. General MONTAGUE submitted it to the C.G.S. in telegram G.S.773 (2 Mar 42). After further discussion with General McNAUGHTON, the C.G.S. concurred in the proposal to retain in the United Kingdom the basic O.C.T.U. course, for qualification in the services just mentioned. This authority was subject to the proviso that courses would be held only if deemed necessary by the Senior Combatant Officer of the Canadian Army Overseas (telegram G.S.T.292, Defense to Canmilitary, 6 Mar 42).

17. It is now anticipated that the continuing basic course will be provided by a reorganization of No. 4 Wing, Canadian Training School. This wing was set up, with effect 1 Oct 41, to take over some of the functions of the Canadian Corps Junior Leaders School, and it has conducted courses for Company Commanders and Platoon Commanders (C.M.H.Q. Administrative Orders Nos. 139 (25 Sep 41) and 206 (9 Dec 41)). The wing is located, not with the rest of the School at HAVANNAH BARRACKS, but at SHILLINGLEE PARK, Sussex, near CHIDDINGFOLD, Surrey. Its Commandant (at present Major J.E. GANONG, 48 Highrs) has the powers of a Detachment Commander.

18. During its period of existence, the O.C.T.U. wing of the Canadian Training School has conducted a total of eight courses, of which four were complete Infantry and M.G. courses, the remainder being short basic courses for other arms and services. The following aggregate figures of results for these courses have been furnished by the Canadian Training School, and represent the situation as of 14 Mar 42 (C.M.H.Q. file 2/O.C.T.U./1).

Cadets commissioned after attending long course, C.T.S.	224.
Cadets commissioned after attending short course, C.T.S.	76.
Cadets commissioned after short course, C.T.S., and further courses at other units.	105.
Cadets returned to their units.	11.
Cadets who attended short course, C.T.S. and are now attending British O.C.T.U.s. or Training Centres (14 Mar 42).	70.
Cadets commissioned just prior to death while attached to O.C.T.U. (accidental)	2.
Total attending	488.



19. The Officer Commanding No. 1 (O.C.T.U.) Wing, C.T.S., is Lt.-Col. M.F.GREGG, V.C., WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGT, whose appointment to the command is noted in Report No. 36. It is now understood that this officer is returning to Canada to take command of the Officer Training Centre at BROCKVILLE, Ontario.

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#### CHANGES IN SYSTEM OF SELECTION.

20. With reference to paras. 28 - 32 of Report No. 21, it is of interest to note that a new edition of the pamphlet Officer Training - Men Serving in the Ranks was issued with Canadian Army Routine Order (Overseas) 891 (13 Aug 41). This contains the new provision that all candidates for officer training will write the Part I (General) O.C.T.U. Entrance Examination "which will be based on general knowledge, current events, intelligence, etc.," and that Artillery, Engineer and Signals candidates will in addition write the Part II (Mathematics) Examination. All candidates are also required to pass an Intelligence Test.

21. The Educational Services, Canadian Legion War Services (see Report No. 53) have co-operated in preparing and marking these examinations.

#### THE OVERSEAS CANADIAN TRAINING SCHOOL.

22. A brief mention of the organization of the Overseas Canadian Training School is in order at this point. The School operates under "F" Group, Canadian Reinforcement Units, but training policy and related matters are the direct responsibility of C.M.H.Q. Under the terms of its most recent establishment (Cdn. IV/1940/155/3) the school's organization is as follows :

- Headquarters.
- Administrative Company.
- No. 1 Wing
  - O.C.T.U. Course.
- No. 2 Wing
  - Gas Course
  - Driving and Maintenance Courses
  - Clerks' Course
- No. 3 Wing
  - Platoon Weapons Course
  - M.M.G. Course
  - 3" Mortar Course
  - N.C.Os. Course.
- No. 4 Wing.
  - Company Commanders Course.
  - Junior Officers Course.

It is understood that an additional Wing, for the purpose of teaching Battle Drill, is shortly to be organized.

23. The Commandant of the Canadian Training School is still Lt.-Col. C.W.DEVEY, L.S.M. (R.C.).

*C.P. Stacey*

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

C O P Y .

APPENDIX "A"

C.M.H.Q. 1000-12b  
40/P & S/57

## MESSAGE FORM

Serial No. 111

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TO DEFENSOR

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FROM CANMILITRY

Originator's Number  
GS 115Date  
10 Jan 42

In Reply to Number

Para I It has been recommended that the OCTU now established at Bordon for training cadets Cdn Army Overseas be transferred Canada and merged officer training centres.

Para II Above proposal based on fundamental principle that basic training should be carried out in Canada and that Cdn schools overseas should be only for instructor and specialist training. The fact that officer training centres in Canada designed yearly output 6000 officers, whereas OCTU here produces approximately only 300 officers per year, indicates uneconomical maintain latter as independent organization. Further possibility exists that within few months number suitable candidates available from units overseas will be considerably reduced by earlier selection. Another subsidiary advantage value to majority of cadets of having among them others who had served in units overseas. Further such a proposal would extend the privilege of returning home for a period after service overseas.

Para III Disadvantages above proposal may be summarised as better training facilities available in United Kingdom; loss of time and use of shipping space entailed in return to Canada of cadets and instructors; loss of contact with British OCTUs and personnel active service experience; climatic conditions United Kingdom more suitable over yearly period.

Para IV McNaughton asks that above proposal be considered by Defensor with view to discussing with him when in Ottawa.

E OF ORIGIN

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T.H.I

T.O.R. (CIPHER)

T.O.R. (SIGNALS)

MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS  
(EXCEPT)

( " ) WIRELESS

THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER IF LIABLE TO  
INTERCEPTION OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS.ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS  
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

Signed

J.C.Murchie, Brig.

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