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Directorate of History  
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Situation of the Canadian Military Forces  
in the United Kingdom, Spring, 1942 : I

Recent Changes in Commands and Staffs.

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1. A further Report, initiating a new series of periodical surveys, is submitted. This is a continuation of No. 55, dated 9 Dec last, and deals with changes in senior Commanders and Staffs since that date.
2. There have been a considerable number of important changes during the period dealt with. Some attention is given to the operation of the new regulations governing age limits which have lately been introduced and which have influenced, if not themselves occasioned, many changes in command.
3. The scope and form of this Report are similar to those of No. 36, the first periodical survey of this subject. References in parentheses are to the supplements to Canadian Army Overseas Routine Orders. These references are given by numbers; dates, unless otherwise specified, are those on which the change mentioned became effective.

#### HIGHER COMMANDS.

4. The Canadian Corps in Sussex continues to operate under Lt.-Gen. B.L. MONTGOMERY, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C., South-Eastern Command. It may be proper to remark that a relationship of mutual respect appears to have been established between General MONTGOMERY and the Canadian Forces serving under him. General MONTGOMERY is regarded as what is sometimes called a "tough" commander. He lays great stress on physical fitness among his troops; and the order which he gave at the Conference on Exercise "BEAVER", to the effect that in the event of invasion by the enemy no prisoners were to be taken by the forces which he commanded, was widely commented upon in Canadian Corps. (1) (On this matter see C.M.H.Q. file 3/EX.BEAVER/1, and Report No. 60, para. 2).

(1) The Army Commander's remarks, as circulated later, ran in part:

34. If the Germans elect to join battle with us in England, it will be ruthless war; it will be the most frightful battle the world has ever seen.  
There will be no quarter asked or given.
35. My order in the S.E. Army is this:-  
Every German fighting man that dares to set foot in England will be killed.

5. Since Report No. 55 was written there has been a temporary change in the command of Canadian Corps. It was noted in that Report (para. 7) that General CRERAR, formerly C.G.S., Canada, would be senior Canadian Major-General in the United Kingdom on his arrival here to assume command of 2 Cdn Div. In consequence of this fact, General CRERAR on his arrival was detailed temporarily to command Canadian Corps and granted the acting rank of Lieutenant-General whilst so employed. (C.A.O.R.O. 1423, 23 Dec 41). Major-General PEARKES ceased to command Canadian Corps in an acting capacity and returned to the command of 1 Cdn Div. General CRERAR was posted to command 2 Cdn Div (1423, 23 Dec 41); but while he acted as Corps Commander Brigadier J.H. ROBERTS continued to be detailed to command 2 Cdn Div in an acting capacity.

6. General CRERAR actually assumed command of the Canadian Corps District at 1200 hrs, 31 Dec 41 (General Report for Canadian Corps, week ending 3 Jan 42).

7. On his recovery from the illness which had caused him temporarily to relinquish his command (see Report No. 55, para. 8) General McNAUGHTON did not immediately return to Canadian Corps. On 23 Jan 42 he left LONDON on a visit to Canada. He returned in Troop Convoy N.A.6, and landed on 28 Mar 42. It may perhaps be assumed that on the formation of a Canadian Army in this country (as announced by the Prime Minister of Canada on 26 Jan 42) General McNAUGHTON will become Army Commander and General CRERAR Commander of one Corps.

8. For a letter by General McNAUGHTON on the subject of General CRERAR'S arrival in this country and his taking over command of Canadian Corps from General PEARKES, see Report No. 61, Appendix "B", item 3.

#### HEADQUARTERS, CANADIAN CORPS.

9. Certain changes at Headquarters, Canadian Corps, should be noted. Brigadier G.R. TURNER was finally gazetted as D.A. & Q.M.G. effective 16 Dec 41 (1450; cf. Report No. 55, para. 14). He had previously been shown as B.G.S., though he had not actually performed the duties of this appointment for a considerable number of months. (He served, it will be recalled, as "B.G.S. (Cdn)", in 7 Corps).

10. Major N.E. RODGER, R.C.E., who had held the appointment of G.S.O.2 (Canadian Liaison) (cf. Report No. 36), was appointed Personal Assistant to Lt.-Gen. McNAUGHTON, and promoted acting Lieut.-Col., with the grading of G.S.O.1, effective 5 Dec 41 (1381). During Lt.-Col. RODGER'S absence in Canada with General McNAUGHTON, Major W.A.B. ANDERSON, R.C.A., has acted temporarily as Personal Assistant to General CRERAR (1648, 13 Jan 42).

11. Another appointment of interest is that of Lieut.-Col. W. McNEILL, E.D., Gen. List, to be Assistant Military Secretary at H.Q. Cdn Corps (1615, 21 Oct 41). Such an appointment is not usual at Headquarters of British Corps, but H.Q. Cdn Corps has considerably larger responsibilities than is the case with the average British Corps. This appointment did not exist before Lieut.-Col. McNEILL was given it.

12. A less important appointment, but one of some interest, is that of Lieut. (Acting Captain) Kim BEATTIE, 48 HIGHRS, to be Public Relations Officer at H.Q.Cdn Corps (1668, 14 Feb 42).

13. Other appointments at H.Q., Cdn Corps, remain in the same hands as noted in Report No. 55.

#### FIRST CANADIAN DIVISION.

14. As noted above, General PEARKES resumed command of 1 Cdn Div at the end of 1941, and Brigadier A.E. POTTS, who had temporarily commanded the Division, returned to 2 Cdn Inf Bde.

15. On 19 Jan 42 Major (A/Lt.-Col.) A.C. GOSTLING (WINNIPEG GRENADIERS) vacated the appointment of A.A. & Q.M.G., 1 Cdn Div, on assuming command of the QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA (1571). On 27 Jan 42 Lieut.-Col. W.N. BOSTOCK, R.C.E., became A.A. and Q.M.G. (1615).

#### SECOND CANADIAN DIVISION.

16. On the command of 2 Cdn Div, see para.5 above. At the time of writing Brigadier ROBERTS continues in command.

17. On 16 Jan 42 Lieut.-Col. W.W. SOUTHAM, formerly commanding the 48th HIGHLANDERS (and see Report 55, paras.18 and 19), took command of 6 Cdn Inf Bde, vice Brigadier J.P. MACKENZIE, who was promoted Major-General and proceeded to Canada to assume the appointment of Quartermaster-General at N.D.H.Q. (1571). On 28 Feb 42 Brigadier C.B. TOPP, D.S.O., M.C., vacated the command of 4 Cdn Inf Bde as the result of ill-health. (See telegram GS 769 to DEFENSOR from General CRERAR, 1 Mar 42, stating that he had been pronounced category "E" and was being returned to Canada.) He was replaced in the command by Lieut.-Col. S. LETT, M.C., E.D., (appointment and promotion to Brigadier, 1726, 1 Mar 42).

18. On 1 Feb 42 Lt.-Col. P.C. TEES, M.M. E.D., was appointed to be C.R.A., 2 Cdn Div, and promoted Brigadier, (1615). Lieut.-Col. TEES had been in command of 6 Cdn Fd Regt and had lately been acting as C.R.A., 3 Cdn Div. He succeeded Brig. R.A. FRASER, V.D., who had asked for compassionate leave in Canada and had received it subject to the proviso that it was impossible to hold his appointment open for him (G.S. 150, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 13 Jan 42). On 1 Dec 41 Lieut.-Col. C.C. MANN replaced Major (Acting Lieut.-Col.) S. LETT, who had held the appointment temporarily, as G.S.O.1, 2 Cdn Div (1381). During the interval between leaving H.Q. 2 Cdn Div and assuming the command of 4 Cdn Inf Bde, Lieut.-Col. LETT commanded the SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIMENT. Lieut.-Col. MANN formerly commanded 8 Cdn Recce Bn (2 Cdn Div).

#### THIRD CANADIAN DIVISION

19. Changes have also taken place in 3 Cdn Div. On 20 Jan 42 Lt.-Col. K.G. BLACKADER took command of 8 Cdn Inf Bde with the rank of Brigadier (1571), vice Brig. J.P. U. ARCHAMBAULT (see below). Lt.-Col. BLACKADER had formerly commanded the BLACK WATCH (ROYAL HIGHLANDERS) OF CANADA.

20. Lt.-Col. C. FOULKES continues to serve as G.S.O.1, 3 Cdn Div, but from 15 Dec 41 until 1 Feb 41 he acted in

command of The REGINA RIFLE REGIMENT (1514, 1747). This, he told the writer, was because General CRERAR felt he should have some additional experience in command of troops. Major W.S. RUTHERFORD, TOR. SCOT. R. (M.G.) acted as G.S.O.1 during part of this period (1514).

21. Lt.-Col. E.C. PLOW was detailed to perform the duties of C.R.A., 3 Cdn Div, in an acting capacity, in succession to Lt.-Col. TEES (above, para.18). The permanent C.R.A., Brigadier BROWNFIELD, continues to serve as C.C.R.A., Cdn Corps, while Brigadier ROBERTS remains in command of 2 Cdn Div. (cf. Report No. 55, para.15).

#### FIFTH CANADIAN (ARMoured) DIVISION.

22. Although 5 Cdn (Armd) Div is not yet in the Order of Battle of Cdn Corps, and is under command of C.M.H.Q., it is dealt with in this place, as in Report No. 55, for reasons of convenience. There have been a number of important changes in this formation.

23. As of 1 Feb 42, Lt.-Col. C.R.S. STEIN, R.C.E., took command of 2 Cdn Armd Bde, vice Brig A.C. SPENCER (1571). Lt.-Col. STEIN had formerly held the appointment of A.A. & C.M.G. In this he was succeeded by Major (A/Lt.-Col.) W.P. GILBRIDE, R.C.A.S.C. (1648, 1 Feb 42).

24. Brigadier R.A. WYMAN, on vacating command of the Support Group, 5 Cdn (Armd) Div, was succeeded by Lt.-Col. R.O.G. MORTON, R.C.A., who had previously been G.S.O.1 at H.Q., C.R.U. (appointment and promotion to Brigadier 1615, 2 Feb 42).

25. It was noted in Report No. 55 (para.28) that none of the three Brigadiers of 5 Cdn (Armd) Div was an officer of the Permanent Force. Two of these Brigadiers have now been replaced by Permanent Force officers.

26. The appointment of Lt.-Col. H.A. YOUNG to be G.S.O.1, 5 Cdn (Armd) Div, was gazetted in C.A.O.R.C. 1381, effective 7 Dec 41 (cf. Report No. 55, para.27).

#### FIRST CANADIAN ARMY TANK BRIGADE.

27. Brigadier R.A. WYMAN (see above, para.24) was appointed to command 1 Cdn Army Tk Bde as of 2 Feb 42 (1615). He replaced Brigadier F.F. WORTHINGTON, who was promoted Major-General and returned to Canada to assume command of 4 Cdn Div, which is in process of conversion to an Armoured Division.

#### CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AND UNITS UNDER ITS COMMAND.

28. General MONTAGUE continues as Senior Officer, Canadian Military Headquarters. Brigadier J.C. MURCHIE has, however, returned to Canada, to assume the appointment of V.C.G.S. with the rank of Major-General. He travelled to Canada with General McNAUGHTON, and was succeeded in the appointment of B.G.S., C.M.H.Q., by Brigadier M.H.S. PENHALE (1747, 8 Feb 42). Brigadier PENHALE had recently been in command of the Camp at PETAWAWA, Ont., but had served at C.M.H.Q. earlier in the War.

30. In "A" Branch, notice should be taken of the organization of a Military Secretary's Section. This Section had, in fact, been operating as such since 4 Jun 41, but the appointment of Lt.-Col. M. NOEL, E.D. (REGIMENT DE CHATEAUGUAY (MIT.)) to be A.A.G. (M.S.) was published only in C.A.O.R.O. 1395 of 17 Dec 41 (effective 1 Sep 41).

31. On 12 Dec 41 Lt.-Col. A.M. BROWN vacated the appointment of Officer i/c Records, C.M.H.Q., and was detailed for employment as Officer i/c Cdn Section, G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon (1528). After an interim during which Major H.M. JACKSON acted as O. i/c Records, Lt.-Col. R.T.E. HICKS-LYNE (formerly commanding S.D. & G. HIGHERS) was temporarily detailed for this appointment (1571, 10 Jan 42).

32. In "Q" Branch, Lt.-Col. (A/Col.) N.B. MACDONALD has returned to C.M.H.Q. to perform the duties of A.Q.M.G. (S.T.) in an acting capacity (1648, 9 Feb 42). A recent development has been the appointment of a Director of Ordnance Services at C.M.H.Q. This appointment has recently been taken up in an acting capacity by Col H.B. KEENLEYSIDE, who, however, has not yet been gazetted to it. The senior Ordnance officer at C.M.H.Q. was formerly the A.Q.M.G. (O.S.) This appointment was held by Lt.-Col. J.A.W. BENNETT.

#### REINFORCEMENT UNITS.

33. Brigadier PHELAN (see Report No. 55, para. 34) continues in command at Headquarters, Canadian Reinforcement Units. Major (A/Lt.-Col.) R.M. CROWE, R.C.R., has succeeded Brig. MORTON (above, para. 24) as G.S.O.1 (1686, 28 Feb 42), and Major (A/Lt.-Col.) W.G.H. ROAF, SEAFORTH of C., has succeeded Lt.-Col. BOSTOCK (above, para. 15) as A.A. & Q.M.G. upon that officer's going to 1 Cdn Div in the same appointment (1615, 27 Jan 42).

34. Group Commands remain in the same hands as noted in Report No. 55 (paras. 35-6), with the addition that Brig. J.P.U. ARCHAMBAULT, D.S.O., M.C. (from 8 Cdn Inf Bde) has taken command of the newly organized "F" Group (which includes 1 Cdn Ordnance Reinforcement Unit, Canadian Training School, and a number of static units) (1615, 20 Jan 42). H.Q. "E" Group (Armoured Corps) has not yet been organized.

#### AGE LIMITS AND SUITABILITY FOR FIELD COMMAND.

35. Since Report No. 55 was written, Canadian Army Routine Order No. 1492 (10 Dec 41) has been published, received in the United Kingdom, and re-published as C.A.O.R.O. No. 1560 (30 Jan 42). This order establishes the following age limits for the appointment and retirement of officers "in command of active field formations and field units" of the Canadian Active Army.

| Rank.          | Appointments.<br>Age at last<br>birthday to be<br>less than: | Retirements.<br>To be effective<br>at the age of: |
|----------------|--|---|
| -----          | -----  | -----   |
| Major-General. | 53   | 57  |
| Brigadier      | 49   | 54  |
| Colonel        | 49   | 54  |
| Lieut.-Colonel | 45   | 51  |



36. Since the appearance of this order, but not necessarily in consequence of it, a very large number of changes in command have taken place, notably in Lieutenant-Colonel commands. Supplements to Routine Orders for January and February, 1942, contain the details of these changes, which in the aggregate must constitute the most extensive "shuffle" that has taken place in the Canadian Army Overseas since the arrival of 1 Cdn Div in the United Kingdom. A relatively hasty glance at the Supplements indicates that during these two months alone there were changes of command in Cdn Corps in at least nine Artillery Regiments, nine Infantry Battalions, one Divisional Signals, and one Engineer Battalion. This is almost certainly not a complete list; and other changes have taken place more recently or are still in progress.

37. Consultation with M.S.(A), C.M.H.Q., indicates that the new age limits are by no means the only factor in these changes, and indeed the writer was told that there have been very few clear instances of changes of command stemming solely and directly from these limits. A large proportion of the officers transferred from field command were in fact well under the prescribed age. The limits have been only one of many factors in producing the result above described. The attempt has presumably been to ensure that, quite apart from the question of age, the commands of field units are in the most generally suitable hands possible. In fact, some such commands are believed to be still in the hands of over-age officers who have shown their competence, though such retention now requires the sanction of N.D.H.Q. For other such officers alternative employment has been found (frequently in the Reinforcement Units) and they have been replaced by younger (or otherwise more suitable) men. There have been instances of changes of command in the Reinforcement Units as well as in field units. It has been suggested that the new age-limit provisions may in fact bear more heavily upon seconds-in-command of field units than upon commanders, since under their terms a Major over the age of 44 has no hope of promotion in such a unit.

38. It is scarcely necessary to point out that a transfer from field command does not imply a stigma. Many of the officers so transferred are admitted to be men of uncommon abilities. There are high and important responsibilities in the Canadian Army Overseas quite apart from field commands, in the Reinforcement Units and elsewhere; and these officers will find plenty of scope for their talents in their new appointments.

39. There has been considerable official discussion of the extension of the age-limit principle to the ranks of Major, Captain and Lieutenant. So far, however, nothing final has been done. At the present time a survey is being conducted of all officers below the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Canadian Army Overseas who are 45 years of age or over. An interim report, dated 23 Mar 42, indicated that the total number of such officers was 492, or 6.98% of the total of Majors, Captains and Lieutenants. By 23 Mar 42, reports by their superiors had been received on 204 of these officers; of these, 146 were recommended for their present employment, 43 for employment in less strenuous duties, and 15 for consideration for disposal on account of age (C.M.H.Q. file 9/AGE LIMITS/1). Further

action will await completion of the survey and consideration by General McNAUGHTON.

40. One difficulty arising in connection with this matter is that, if officers are to be retired at a certain age, an issue is raised concerning other ranks who may be compelled to serve beyond that age. This difficulty may have influenced the omission of the British Government, up to the present time, to promulgate a policy on age-limits for officers of rank below Lieutenant-Colonel (see Report No. 55). Following the approval in Canada of limits for officers of lower rank for 4 Cdn (Armd) Div and 2 Cdn Army Tk Bde (AG 199, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 18 Feb 42) - on the basis of Majors, appointment 42, retirement 47; Captains, 35 and 45; Lieutenants, 30 and 35, - there was an exchange of cables between N.D.H.Q. and C.M.H.Q. on this aspect of the matter. N.D.H.Q. mentioned that the limits stated had been approved by General McNAUGHTON (9/AGE LIMITS/1). In the course of his visit to Canada, General McNAUGHTON has been quoted in the press as stating that a further lowering of age limits, beyond those already published, might be expected.

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