

NOTE

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Directorate of History
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REPORT NO. 66,
 HISTORICAL OFFICER,
 Canadian Military Headquarters.

Further Material on Educational Programme
 of the Canadian Army Overseas.

1. This report presents material on the development of the Educational Programme of the Canadian Army Overseas, additional to that collected in Report No. 53, dated 30 Nov 41.
 2. The present Report consists basically of a copy of a Memorandum on the Educational Programme dated 31 Dec 41. This Memorandum, though signed by Dr. A.E. CHATWIN, Director of Education, is, in fact, almost entirely the work of Mr. J.B. BICKERSTETH, Personal Adviser and Assistant to the Corps Commander (Education) (information from Mr. Bickersteth). It was prepared previous to General McNAUGHTON's recent visit to Canada, in order that he might have the educational situation at his fingertips during his discussions at N.D.H.Q. Mr. Bickersteth, however, also had the needs of historical record in mind in compiling it.
- REMARKS ON THE MEMORANDUM
3. The Memorandum, which will be found at Appendix "A", constitutes, in fact, a brief historical account of the development of the Educational Programme. It therefore necessarily covers some of the same ground as Report No. 53, to which three earlier memoranda by Mr. Bickersteth were attached as Appendices "A", "B" and "C".
 4. It will be noted that the Financial Statement has been omitted, as Mr. Bickersteth, who furnished the writer with the copy of the Memorandum from which the present copy was taken, felt that this section would be of no great historical interest.
 5. Mr. Bickersteth points out that this memorandum is already to some extent out of date, "the personnel, for instance, as given in para 3 has been increased and there are one or two changes in it". In conjunction with the documents attached to Report No. 53, however, it may be taken that this memorandum provides a fairly complete account of the development of the programme to the end of 1941. For the reasons stated in the previous Report it is considered that these documents compiled by Mr. Bickersteth will have a special importance for the Official Historian.

6. The writer has been cautioned against attaching too much importance to some of the statistics given in Section 4, sub-para 1 and 2. As noted in Report No. 53, there has been considerable disappointment over the small number of exercises completed and returned in connection with Canadian Legion courses by comparison with the number of text-booklets issued. It will be noted that it is stated in Appendix "A" that 19767 Legion courses were issued up to 31 Dec 41, while up to 30 Sep 41 instructors had been paid for the correction of only 4820 exercises. As each text-booklet contains several Exercises (for example, text-booklet No. 1 on "Introductory English" contains five), it will be gathered that the number of exercises returned is really very small in comparison with the number of courses sent out.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

7. The writer has kept fairly closely in touch with a number of individuals concerned with the Educational programme, and on the basis of his conversations with them the following remarks, additional to those in Report No. 53, may be set down.

8. The general comments made in the previous Report still apply, and there appears to have been no very fundamental change in the situation. It will be gathered from Appendix "A" that the accomplishment has been very considerable, but that those engaged in the work are still conscious of many difficulties and imperfections. The various "stresses and strains" noted in the previous Report are still present, as perhaps they must always be in such a programme, but it is probably safe to say that the general effectiveness of the educational organization has steadily improved.

9. The greatest obstacle to the more effective prosecution of the work has been from the beginning the inadequacy of the personnel available. Although the number has steadily grown, it is still considered inadequate, and some delays and difficulties in satisfying the demands of the Canadian troops for educational services have unavoidably resulted. At the same time it is fair to say that only a minority of the permanent staff are people of genuine distinction in academic life. This, perhaps, was to some extent inevitable in view of the improvised manner in which the staff was built up, as described in Appendix "A".

10. The Forces Exhibition referred to in Appendix "A", Section 4, sub-para 4, has now taken place, and some account of it is given in Report No. 64. The Exhibition finally closed in LONDON on 7 Apr 42, but the Canadian Section is now being moved to the area occupied by 1 Cdn Corps, where it will be shown in HAYWARDS HEATH, and subsequently, perhaps, in EASTBOURNE and BRIGHTON. The Canadian exhibits, like the rest, were very mixed in quality, but the Exhibition, no doubt, played its part in the maintenance of morale, in the existing static conditions, by catering to men's hobbies and encouraging them to cultivate arts and handicrafts.

11. Some notes on the C.C.T.U. examinations referred

to in Appendix "A", Section 4, sub-para. 2(c), will be found in Report No. 63.

12. Authority for the payment of the N.C.O. assistants mentioned in Appendix "A", Section 3, sub-para. (b), has not yet been issued; but it is understood that the details of this matter are being worked out at the present time.

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MEMORANDUM

Educational Programme Canadian Forces (Overseas)
31 Dec 41

1. INTRODUCTORY.

On the outbreak of war the Canadian Legion War Services Inc. undertook by arrangement with the Federal Government the responsibility for educational work in the Canadian Army, both in the Dominion and, when the necessity should arise, overseas. Mr. Robert England, having been appointed Director of Educational Services for the Canadian Forces overseas, arrived in England in the early spring. Though some preliminary work was accomplished, Mr. England found it impossible to put any comprehensive educational plan into operation owing to the fact that throughout the summer of 1940 the troops were constantly on the move. Mr. England returned to Canada in July 1940.

In Sep 40, General McNaughton, realizing that the men under his command were almost certainly faced with a long winter in England when presumably they would have a certain amount of leisure, especially in the evenings, asked Mr. J.B. Bickersteth, Warden of Hart House, who was in England at that time, to visit Corps Headquarters and make a survey of what could best be done to help Canadian soldiers use their spare time to advantage during the coming winter months. The Corps Commander had two main purposes in mind: (1) to make the soldier more efficient as a fighting man here and now, and (2) to assist him in procuring employment after the war. Mr. Bickersteth presented his report to General McNaughton early in October 40, one of the main recommendations of which was that the Corps Commander should cable to H.D.H.Q. requesting that the Canadian Legion be asked to appoint and send to England immediately a civilian director of education and four civilian assistants, one each for Corps Troops, 1st Cdn Div., 2nd Cdn Div., and C.B.U.

2. BEGINNING OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME.

On the 12 Nov 41, Dr. A.R. Chatwin, having been appointed Director, Educational Services Canadian Army Overseas, reported at Corps Headquarters, but was not accompanied by any assistants. It was decided by General McNaughton that H.Q. Educational Services should be established at Guildford, which at that time, was very central to the troops whom it was desired to serve. This was done and a civilian staff engaged. During the early weeks of Dec 40 preparatory work was put in hand but Christmas and the New Year intervened and it was not until Jan 41 that the programme really got under way. As early as Dec 40 the need for a permanent educational staff had become obvious. General McNaughton had from the first ruled that the personnel should be civilian, but endless delays ensued in the despatch of suitable men from Canada owing to uncertainties about pension and hospitalization protection. In order to tide over this difficult situation General McNaughton permitted the temporary appointment of four serving officers. These reported for duty early in Dec and were posted respectively to Corps Troops, 1st Div., 2nd Div., and C.B.U. Subsequently, a further officer was posted to the Canadian Forestry Corps. Mr. Bickersteth was at this time asked by the Corps Commander to remain on as his Personal Adviser and Assistant

(Education) and by arrangement with the University of Toronto his services were made available for as long as desired. In March 41 Mr. J.H. Sturdy arrived from Canada and took over the educational work in the 1st Div., and later Mr. Morris Wilson accompanied the 3rd Div from Canada in a similar capacity. As, however, it seemed unlikely that they would be immediately followed by other civilians, the policy was adopted, with the Corps Commander's full approval, of finding suitable men serving in the Army overseas. These were withdrawn from the Army, became civilians and joined the educational staff. Recently, the necessity for providing an adequate number of educational advisers to supervise the new formations coming from Canada became so insistent, that the Corps Commander permitted three other serving officers to be added temporarily to the staff and these are now actively engaged in their new duties.

As the area occupied by Canadian formations became more extensive, it was found advisable to move H.Q. Educational Services from Guildford to Waybridge, and this was done in June 40.

3. EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL.

(a) Full-time staff.

Director of Educational Services.

Dr. A.E. Chatwin.

Personal Adviser and Asst. to Corps Comd.

Mr. J.B. Bickersteth

Educational Advisers.

Corps Tps. and Hospitals (Less No.

15 & No. 1 Neur)

1 Cdn Div.

Lt C.H.A. Mair.

2 Cdn Div.

Mr. J.H. Sturdy.

3rd Cdn Div.

Mr. M.L. Berlyn.

5 Cdn. Armd. Div.

Mr. H. Wilson.

1 Cdn. Army Tank Bde.

Lt. S.M. Hawreliak

1 Cdn. A.A. Bde., R.C.A.

Mr. P.R.M. Farrell.

'A' Group C.B.U.

Capt. W.G. White.

'B' Group C.B.U. (and Hospitals No.

Mr. W.C. England.

15 & No. 1 Neur).

'C' Group C.B.U.

Mr. W.C. Hodgkinson

Cdn Forestry Corps

Mr. T.C. Mulvihill

C.M.H.Q. (London Units) & R.C.A.F.

Major E.W. Matthews.

H.Q. Office.

Mr. M. Freedman

H.Q. Office.

Lt. R.C.N. Cummings.

Mr. D.V. LePan.

(b) Unit Educational Officers and N.C.O. Assistants.

An essential part of the Educational personnel is the Unit Educational Officer. These officers, though much occupied with urgent military duties, have made a valuable contribution, especially where they have enjoyed the genuine support of their C.O.'s. Unit Commanders, however, cannot avoid changing their Unit Educational Officers from time to time and experience has proved that the whole programme in a unit receives an immense impetus where an N.C.O. assistant has been made available to provide the necessary continuity in that unit. This N.C.O. who need not be changed provides a continuous contact with the men and is accessible to them at any time of the day when they are free. He is also responsible for the day-to-day routine of the educational office and keeps the records which, as the work develops, necessarily become large. Above all he assures the effective follow-up of men who have embarked on a correspondence course or a class.

The request for such N.C.O. assistants at the rate of 2 per 1000 was approved at a conference held in June 41 at which General McNaughton and the divisional commanders were present. The Canadian Legion War Services, Inc., by an agreement with the Federal Government, undertook to meet all expenses of the educational programme which means a very considerable outlay, involving as it does salaries of the full-time staff, supplies, text-booklets, transportation, remuneration of teachers and general administration. The Legion, however, hesitated to assume the additional cost of some 200 N.C.O. assistants. Authority was therefore sought from N.D.H.Q. for their appointment and payment with the rank of corporal. A cable received from N.D.H.Q. at the end of Dec 41 stated that there was no objection to two other ranks per 1000 being detailed for educational duties provided no expense to the public was involved and if these men were not already of that rank, the acting rank of corporal without pay might be conferred.

Though this ruling constitutes a real concession inasmuch as two hundred men are thereby put at the disposal of Educational Services without cost to the Canadian Legion, it is none the less respectfully submitted that they should be paid and not acting corporals. It is true that acting rank which is not allowed gives some status but paid rank gives infinitely more, and would seem almost essential if men possessing the right qualifications for what is admittedly a highly specialized job are to be secured. Without question these N.C.O.'s are urgently needed for the balance of the winter and also for the summer months when (as experience shows) the work does not fall off. Moreover as soon as the time comes for transferring the troops back into civilian life the services of an experienced body of educational N.C.O.'s will be valuable.

4. THE PRESENT SITUATION.

The educational programme in its broad outlines falls under the following headings :- Correspondence Courses, Classes, Directed Reading, Music and Art, Libraries, and Lectures.

1. Correspondence Courses.

(a) Canadian Legion Courses.

Canadian Legion courses are by far the most widely used covering as they do work both of elementary and secondary level (up to and including Junior Matriculation) as well as technical and commercial subjects. For the thirteen months (1 Dec 40 to 31 Dec 41) 19767 Canadian Legion courses have been issued and 4980 are active, as indicated by one or more exercises submitted within a reasonable time. Up till 30 Sep 41 Educational Services have paid civilian instructors for the correction of 4820 exercises and this total will be considerably increased when figures are available for the last three months. In addition to this, many correspondence courses which are now being studied by soldiers in connection with classes are being corrected by the instructors in charge, but the total of these cannot be given until the classes are finished and the certificates granted. At first sight the number of men actually sending in their work regularly for correction is disappointing when compared with the very large number of courses issued, but several points should be borne in mind:- (1) It is known that many soldiers with the sole purpose of improving their military efficiency are studying their booklets quite systematically but do not

send in papers. (2) There are many soldiers enrolled in classes (both academic and technical) which are supplementary to their correspondence courses and make the instruction that they receive in these classes their primary concern rather than the test papers in the booklet. (3) There is always a danger in counting heads. It is impossible to gauge the influence which these courses which lie about in the billets may exercise on those who have received them and others who may pick them up even though spasmodically studied.

(b) Courses offered by commercial schools.

It was soon discovered that there was a need for many courses not on the Canadian Legion list, and arrangements were therefore made with various firms, who enjoy a long-standing and enviable reputation in this type of work, to supply correspondence courses to Canadian soldiers at a specially reduced rate. Foremost among these is the British Institute of Engineering Technology, and 799 men are taking the following subjects by correspondence with the B.I.E.T.:— Civil and Constructional Engineering Courses 56, Surveying and Building Engineering Courses, 53, Mechanical Engineering 124, Commercial Engineering and Administration 21, Electrical Engineering 70, Radio Engineering 56, General Engineering 16, General Education 14, special courses in Mathematics 177. To date 811 exercises have been received.

Owing to the use of the decimal system in the Dominion it was necessary to find a Canadian accountancy course, and arrangements were made with the International Accountants and Executives Corporation of Canada and the University of Toronto to provide accountancy courses which up to 31 Dec 41 were being taken by 46 men. The War Office accountancy courses have appealed to 20 soldiers and 14 have preferred a course offered by the English firm of Foulks Lynch.

(c) War Office courses.

Besides the twenty Accountancy courses mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, 8 soldiers are taking Law, 1 Electrical Engineering and 1 Hydraulics.

(d) University courses.

The total of Officers and O.R. taking courses by correspondence in Canadian Universities is 279 made up as follows:— Queen's 139, Toronto 117, Saskatchewan 15, Alberta 6, Manitoba 1 and British Columbia 1. The student pays the fee required by the university concerned, the contribution of Educational Services being the provision of texts and the supervision of the examination at the end of the course.

2. Classes.

(a) Voluntary.

Canadian soldiers attend classes of three types:—

(a) classes already operating in civilian schools, (b) classes specially organized by Educational Services in such schools, and (c) classes within units. It is impossible to give an accurate figure of the number of men attending classes as some attend more than one class, and others join in different classes when changing from one unit to another. A conservative figure would be 7000. It is possible, however, to make an accurate statement of attendance at these classes coming under (b) and (c) for which the Legion pays the teachers because attendance reports are submitted by the teachers and certified by the Educational Adviser

concerned. Records up to 31 Dec. 41 give 115981 pupil hours attendance at classes. For these classes auditors' statements show a total expenditure of £3598 or approximately 14¢ (fourteen cents) a pupil hour. With increased attendances during Nov and Dec the cost per pupil hour was slightly over 8¢ (eight cents) and this rate should be maintained during the winter months. The following classes have been in operation:- mathematics, English, English (for French speaking), French German, chemistry, St. John's Ambulance (first aid), barbering, diesel, welding, fitting, electricity, woodworking, plastering, bricklaying, tin-smithing, English for illiterates, journalism, shorthand, conversational French, military clerks, battery building, D. & M., auto mechanics, mechanical drawing, Photography, commercial art, typewriting. A total of 786 certificates have been issued to soldiers on the completion of classes. These were granted on the authority of the principal or competent teacher in charge.

(b) Compulsory.

Mention should be made of two types of military schools namely D. & M. (Drivers and Mechanics) and Military Clerks which, with the approval of General McNaughton, Educational Services on the request of formation commanders agreed to organize. Such schools are now in operation in 1st Cdn Div., C.B.U. and C.M.H.Q.

(c) Special Pre-O.C.T.U. Classes.

Some months ago the Corps Commander decided that all O.C.T.U. candidates should be required to pass a test in mathematics and general knowledge. Educational Services were asked to set and correct the papers. The result of this test showed that many soldiers needed the opportunity to review their knowledge in these subjects, and with this purpose in view Educational Services have organized during the past few weeks a series of classes for men in all formations who are presenting themselves for O.C.T.U. The whole idea grew with the demand and the classes had to be improvised at very short notice to meet the need. Several hundreds of men have been brought together at suitable centres and given instruction by competent teachers while others have been supplied with material and also with instruction in their units.

3. Directed Reading.

The system of directed reading was devised to meet the needs of officers and men who did not wish to study any specific course but merely to cultivate their hobby or work individually at subjects connected with their past or future civilian occupation. The subjects for which books have been requested and provided under this system cover an astonishingly wide range as the following list indicates.

Advertising.	25.	Ballistics	4
Agriculture (all branches)	96	Bee culture	2
Air Condition & Refrigeration.	46	Biology	23
Architecture	23	Blue Print Reading	10
Arithmetic	17	Bookkeeping & Accounts	131
Art (all branches)	18	Bookbinding	3
Astronomy	1	Building Construction	57
Aviation (general)	131		

Business Correspondence	24	Mechanical Drawing	14
" Management	6	Medical, Surgical, First Aid	204
Calculus	31	Military	143
Carpentry & Joinery	29	Meteorology	8
Cartooning	9	Miscellaneous	421
Chemistry	36	Metallurgy	3
Catering	14	Music	46
Chiropody	1	Navigation	12
Criminology	6	Ornithology	1
Dentistry	1	Oxford Pamphlets	47
Dietetics	2	Paper Making	2
Economics	59	Pattern making	2
Electricity	28	Petrology	3
Encyclopedics	4	Pharmacy	17
Engineering (Auto, Diesel, Mining, Steam)	64	Philosophy	1
Finance	1	Photography (Motion and still)	133
Forestry	12	Physics	18
Foundry Practice	1	Psychology	39
Geography	53	Poetry	3
Geology	22	Plumbing	18
Geometry	6	Poisons	1
Handwriting	50	Police work	1
History	41	Printing	16
Hotel Management	1	Public Speaking	8
Insurance	4	Reading (Elementary)	5
Journalism	201	Reference Books	162
Languages:		Radio	51
English	101	Salesmanship	51
Dutch	1	Science (general)	2
French	437	Sheet Metal Work	7
German	220	Shorthand & Typewriting	350
Greek	1	Social Studies	51
Italian	26	Spelling	70
L'Anglais	280	Surveying	8
Latin	43	Tailoring	3
Norwegian	2	Telephony	8
Spanish	73	Theology	5
Swedish	2	Trigonometry	127
Russian	27	Watch making	2
Leather work	5	Welding	61
Legal	11	Woodcarving	5
Lithography	3	Zoology	1
Machine shop practice	24	Total requests met	4943
Map Reading	2		
Maths	159		
Meat & Food Inspection	3		

In all cases where Educational Services purchase the books these remain the property of Educational Services, being only lent to the soldier who is asked to return the book or books, when finished with, to Headquarters, Weybridge.

4. Music & Art.

The E.W.S.A. type of concert fills an undoubted need, but it soon became clear that there were many officers and men who would welcome the opportunity of hearing music of a better type. Experiments were therefore carried out with the warm approval of the Corps Commander. The co-operation of CEMA (Council for the encouragement of Music and the Arts) was secured and concerts at which outstanding artists performed the lighter works of classical composers were successfully held in 1st Cdn. Div., 2nd Cdn. Div., Corps Troops and C.B.U. A further experiment

is being made in Mar 42 when an exhibition of paintings and drawings and other work by officers and men of the Canadian Forces overseas is to be held at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

5. LIBRARIES.

Although some libraries had been provided from the first by Auxiliary Services there was no regular library service and General McNaughton asked Educational Services to undertake this task. A van was accordingly purchased and fitted with shelves to provide space for some five thousand volumes. In the spring a systematic tour of all formations was begun. Unit libraries were set up and arrangements made to change the books from time to time as required. The following libraries have been established:- Corps Troops 55, 1st Div. 36, 2nd Div. 24, 3rd Div. 18, 5th Armd. Div. 3, Army Tank Bde. 12, A.A. Bde. 16, C.B.U. 34, Forestry Corps 22, C.M.H.Q. 3, R.C.A.F. 2 and R.C.N. 1, Total 226. In order to avoid overlapping steps are now being taken to clarify the position of this library service in relation to that of the Auxiliary Services.

Sixteen special libraries were established at selected centres to meet a request from Major J.R.G. Sutherland G.S.O.2 (M.T.). The following recommended books were secured :-

Commandos	Blitz Krieg
Occupied Territory	Dynamic Defence
The Art of Guerilla Fighting	Return via Dunkirk
Battle Dress	The Invasion of Britain
The Defence of Britain	Can Britain Attack
The Battle of Flanders	Bomber Command
Mr. Churchill	I Paid Hitler
Russia on the March	Belgique 1939/40
The Secret Service	The Far Eastern War Politics
The Battle of the Seas	Libyan Sands
Memoirs of an Infantry Officer	The Palestine Campaigns
Ranks and Uniforms of the German Army	Army, Navy and Air Force
Panic	What Have I to Lose
British Life and Thought	

One special technical library was established at Taplow and books provided to the D.D.S. for a circulating library for dental officers and technicians.

6. Lectures.

Lectures have proved a problem. Lists of outstanding speakers who are prepared to address the troops on a wide variety of subjects have been issued but units hesitate to bring a speaker from a distance when the attendance at the lecture is voluntary and the restricted nature of the billeting area and the blackout make the size of the audiences unpredictable. Moreover in some areas there is a lack of suitable halls, even if a large attendance was assured. In one division the view is definitely taken that lectures should not be held at all unless attendance is compulsory. In another formation it has been found best to arrange lectures by local speakers who do not object to addressing small audiences. Another plan now being tried is to organize a programme whereby a lecturer remains in a formation area for a week and gives a series of lectures there. Educational Services pay the fee (usually one guinea) and the travelling expenses of the lecturer.

5. FINANCE.

(Omitted)

6. THE FUTURE.

It is difficult to forecast in exact terms the future of the educational experiment in the Canadian Army, obviously much will depend on the development of the war, but it is safe to say that what has already been done, though in many ways inadequate, is an encouraging beginning. What is now needed is the creation of a larger staff, the training of the U.E.O's and N.C.O. assistants, the formation of plans designed to help the considerable number of men who begin, but do not finish, courses - in short, the building-up of the entire educational fabric on foundations which have been laid as securely as circumstances permitted. The essential condition for whatever has been accomplished by Educational Services up to the present has been the wholehearted support they received, not only from the military authorities at Corps H.Q. and at C.M.H.Q., but also from Unit Commanders and Officers. They have come to rely on that support. In the certainty that it will continue they find their chief grounds for confidence about the future.

Dr. A.E. Chatwin,
Director of Education.