

NOTE

This is a preliminary narrative and should not be regarded as authoritative. It has not been checked for accuracy in all aspects, and its interpretations are not necessarily those of the Historical Section as a whole.

Ce texte est préliminaire et n'a aucun caractère officiel. On n'a pas vérifié son exactitude et les interprétations qu'il contient ne sont pas nécessairement celles du Service historique.

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

July 1986

**CANCELLED**

SECRET

COPY

DECLASSIFIED

Authority PHD 3-3  
by RA for DHist NDHQ

Date NOV 9 1979

9  
31 Jan 41

Canadian Auxiliary Services in the  
United Kingdom

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

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

Sir,

I have the honour to submit a further report.

2. This report attempts to provide a brief general outline of the work now being done in this country by the Canadian Auxiliary Services. At a later time I may be able to supplement it after actual observation in the field; the present survey is based upon interviews with the Senior Officer, Auxiliary Services, at his office in London, and with members of his staff.

GENERAL: FUNCTIONS OF THE AUXILIARY  
SERVICES

3. The primary task of the organization directed by the Senior Officer, Auxiliary Services, is that of co-ordinating the various activities undertaken by voluntary patriotic organizations in Canada and in this country for the benefit of the Canadian armed forces now serving in and around the United Kingdom. A great many such organizations are at work in the interest of Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen, dispensing comforts and hospitality in various forms; and the desirability of providing a central agency for the co-ordination of their public-spirited efforts, to ensure the greatest possible advantage to the men of the forces and the least possible duplication and waste, is obvious, as is the fact that the work of such an agency will be difficult and exacting.

4. The Auxiliary Services serve the naval and air forces of Canada as well as the Army.

ORGANIZATION

5. The Senior Officer, Auxiliary Services, is Major J.M. HUMPHREY, M.C. (THE CANADIAN GRENADIER GUARDS). His branch is a section (A.G. 7) of the Adjutant-General's Branch of Canadian Military Headquarters. I called on him on 25 Jan. in his office on the third floor of 17 Cockspur Street, on the opposite side from the Sun Life Building and a little further west. Major Humphrey was called away to confer with the Deputy Adjutant-General, but I talked at length with two members of his staff, Capt. F. BOUCHER (LE REGIMENT DE QUEBEC)



(MITRAILLEUSES), and Lieut. H.M. TRAVERS (THE DUFFERIN AND HALDIMAND RIFLES OF CANADA).

6. The officers of the branch (unlike the supervisors supplied by the voluntary organizations which it co-ordinates) are combatant officers. Among them are four Staff Captains (Auxiliary Services), one at Corps Headquarters, one for each Division, one for the Base Units, who are responsible for local supervision.

#### WORK WITH THE TROOPS IN THE FIELD

7. The basic activity with which the S.O.A.S. is concerned is the supply of comforts and entertainment for the forces in the field. This is handled mainly through four "National Voluntary Organizations": The Canadian Y.M.C.A. Overseas; the Salvation Army Canadian War Services; The Knights of Columbus Canadian Army Huts; and The Canadian Legion War Services, Inc.

8. Each of these organizations has an executive officer of its own with an office in the same Building as Major Humphrey's, and a number of supervisors working among the troops. These supervisors receive from the Dominion Government the pay and allowances of captains; they are not, however, eligible for military pension benefits, and Capt. Boucher said that several of them had given up their appointments on account of this. The number of supervisors in this country on 25 Jan. 41 was as follows:

Salvation Army ...	17
Y.M.C.A. ...	15
Canadian Legion ...	14
Knights of Columbus	<u>13</u>

Total 59

An establishment is now being presented to the Minister of National Defence for consideration. If accepted, it will extend pension benefits to the supervisors and will provide for each supervisor a number of helpers also eligible for pension. At the moment, the procurement of helpers is something of a problem, but in many cases, I gather, men are detailed for the work from the units which are served.

9. It is considered, I was told, that supervisors should be provided on the scale of roughly one for every 1,000 men.

10. The co-ordination of the four organizations involved has not always been easy. The aim of the S.O.A.S. is to place all four on an equal basis, so that a supervisor from one can do any particular task just as well as a man from another; but so far this has not been wholly achieved - mainly because the Knights of Columbus and the Canadian Legion are not so well equipped as the other two, but partly also because the organizations have not been in full agreement on the services they wish to render; e.g., they do not all like to manage canteens where the men pay for what they receive. I gathered however that steady progress has been made in the direction desired by the S.O.A.S..

#### LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS

11. In addition to co-ordinating this work in the field, the S.O.A.S. also has the task of co-ordinating many activities under the heading of "leave arrangements". The majority of these activities appear to centre in London. Three of the four organizations referred to above maintain clubs in London for the benefit of "other ranks": The Y.M.C.A. operates the Beaver Club in Spring Gardens (close to C.M.H.Q.); the Salvation Army, the



West Central Hotel in Southampton Row; and the Canadian Legion War Services, Inc., the Canadian Legion Club in Gower Street. Other organizations, English or Canadian, maintain somewhat similar institutions; the British Columbia Services Club at British Columbia House in Regent Street is reported to be very popular, and a group of English ladies operate a Canadian Officers' Club in Cockspur Street which is a great boon to officers at C.M.H.Q. and others. English organizations work in part at least through the Empire Societies' War Hospitality Committee. There are various arrangements for offering private hospitality both to officers and other ranks. For all these activities, so far as they affect Canadians, the S.O.A.S. provides a sort of co-ordinating clearing-house. I hope to be able to report on some of these activities individually at a later time.

#### MISCELLANEOUS TASKS

12. Among his other activities, the S.O.A.S. supervises the distribution of the comforts provided for the forces by the Canadian Red Cross Society, arranging for warehousing and taking the responsibility for the scale of distribution - making sure, incidentally, that these gifts are used to supplement, and in no case to replace, army issues.

13. He is also charged with liaison with the N.A.A.F.I. (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes) and with the E.N.S.A. (Entertainments National Service Association), both British organizations caring primarily for the welfare of British forces; this matter I gather is sometimes a trifle complicated, the presence of British troops and British welfare agencies in areas where Canadian troops are quartered providing problems which never arise in Canada.

14. A minor but heavy responsibility is that of providing for verification, for customs purposes, of the Canadian origin of Canadian personnel serving in the British naval or air forces. Such men are permitted to receive gift parcels from Canada duty-free; but the name on every such parcel must be verified, and the parcel stamped, by an Auxiliary Services officer. The form of the stamp is as follows:

PASSED FOR CDN PERSONNEL  
SERVING WITH UNITED KINGDOM  
AND ALLIED FORCES

Date.....

(Stamp of signature)  
(J.M.Humphrey) Major  
S.O.A.S., C.M.H.Q.

15. Another organization with which the S.O.A.S. maintains liaison is the Canadian Forces Book Service, set up by interested persons and organizations in London to provide reading matter for Canadian service men.

16. In addition, the Army educational programme, sponsored by the Canadian Legion War Services, falls under the S.O.A.S., and the Director of Education (Dr. A.E. CHATWIN), who has his office at Guildford, is at least theoretically responsible to him. In practice, I gather Major Humphrey's office does not concern itself very much with this activity, on which, again I hope to report separately at a later time.



EFFECTIVENESS OF AUXILIARY SERVICES WORK  
WITH TROOPS

17. I have not yet been in a position to form any personal opinion of the value of the work done by the supervisors of the various organizations which are working for the troops in the field. I have recently had, however, a conversation with Major J.M. ANDERSON, R.C.A., who is temporarily employed at C.M.H.Q., on this subject. He has seen supervisors from more than one organization at work at various stations (two successive Y.M.C.A. workers shared a room with him) and he has a high opinion of their industry and considers in general that excellent work is being done. He mentioned, among other activities, the organization of sports; the provision of note-paper, games, etc., in indoor recreation rooms; the provision of cinema shows (one supervisor whom he knew sometimes ran three performances in an evening, operating the machine himself); and the supplying of hot tea from mobile canteens at times when it was very welcome, such as when the troops had just returned from a hard day's training in bad weather.

18. I can myself speak highly of the work of the Auxiliary Services supervisors who travelled in the "Capetown Castle" with the Eighth Flight; they undoubtedly contributed considerably to the maintenance of morale.

REMARKS

19. I gather that there are a certain number of military officers who are dubious about the value of the Auxiliary Services and tend to be hostile to them. Captain Boucher suggested that this might be due in part to the fact that the Canadian services are organized on a more generous scale than in the British forces, and the consequent absence of the War Office precedents which naturally influence Canadian military thinking.

20. Development has been somewhat hampered by the priorities difficulty; for example, it is hard to get delivery of a mobile canteen at a time when motor vehicles for combatant purposes are urgently required.

21. The offices of the S.O.A.S. were rather cramped at the time of my visit, but I gathered that additional space was being procured shortly.

22. The work of the branch is obviously exacting, and I was told that there has been a great deal of night work in the office. The worst period of difficulty, however, is probably over now: the period when the various organizations concerned were being "broken in" to the system of co-ordinated effort.

23. A considerable amount of information, apparently accurate, on the various activities of the Auxiliary Services, is to be found in the Christmas number of Canada's Weekly (London) (20 Dec. 1940) which also presents an illustrated survey of the history of the Canadian forces in this country during the past year. This publication will have some value to the future historian of the forces, and a file of it is being preserved in the Record Office at Acton. The number referred to contains an article by Major Humphrey on the work of his branch, supplemented by accounts of the work of the various voluntary organizations.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Copied in Historical Section,  
Jul 43.)

(C.P. Stacey) Major,  
Historical Officer, C.M.H.Q.