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General Activities, Canadian Army Overseas, June 1942 - April 1943

1. This Report consists basically of the text of an article entitled "The Canadian Army In Britain, 1942 - 1943", prepared for publication in the Canadian Geographical Journal. A copy of this article is attached as Appendix "A".
2. This article is forwarded as a Report in accordance with the procedure followed previously in similar cases. While necessarily incomplete, it summarizes the general activities of the Canadian Army Overseas during the past ten months in brief and simple form, and in this way may have some value as a "finger-post" for the Official Historian.
3. In the nature of things, many details of interest could not be published at the present time, and are accordingly referred to in this article only in very general terms. Attached as Appendix "B" is a group of notes designed to serve as a supplement to the article and afford additional historical information, chiefly of a sort which could not at present be given to the public.

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thrilling the display had been for those who had been concerned in "building the show up" from its small beginning. THE CANADIAN ARMY IN BRITAIN, 1942-1943: whereas in 1939 Canada had no war industry, now nearly all the remarkable variety of vehicles and weapons demonstrated in this parade were Canadian in manufacture, while some were Canadian in design.

(1) On the 17th of December, 1942, a distinguished company assembled on a roadside "somewhere in Southern England" to watch a military demonstration which had some significance in Canadian history. Little contact with the enemy, have nevertheless been years of intense activity and remarkable. For more than two hours units and sub-units representing the arms and services of the Canadian Army Overseas poured rapidly past. Leading the parade was a squadron of one of the divisional Reconnaissance Regiments which have replaced the divisional cavalry of earlier times, equipped with armoured reconnaissance cars and fast-moving carriers filled with soldiers highly trained for the task of "skirmishing" (as our grandfathers would have called it) in the forefront of the advance. Next came a squadron of an Armoured Car Regiment, a unit famous in Canadian annals as horsed cavalry, but which now has for mounts fast and formidable armoured vehicles giving it such a far-ranging mobility and a power of fire as the mounted troops of previous wars never possessed. A squadron of another celebrated cavalry regiment followed. This is now an Armoured Regiment; and its Ram cruiser tanks, Canadian-designed and Canadian-built, rolled past the saluting base at high speed, impressive symbols of the transformation which mechanization has wrought in modern war. In 1939, the growth of the Canadian Army in the

United Kingdom has gone steadily on. Month after month, transports Behind came detachments of all the other arms and services. Troops of Artillery - Field, Anti-Tank, Light and Heavy Anti-Aircraft, Medium - moved past, each with its own formidable weapons. The Corps of Engineers and the Corps of Signals were represented. An Infantry rifle company passed in troop-carrying vehicles. Units of the Army Service Corps, the Ordnance Corps (including a Mobile Laundry), and the Medical, Dental, Provost and Postal Corps followed in order, each carried in the vehicles appropriate to its own essential function in the complex life of a modern army.

(2) All these units had passed on tires or tracks. Now, last of all, came a company of a marching infantry battalion, moving past at the double, that the spectators might be reminded that military success is still purchased by the endurance and determination of the individual soldier, qualities more important to-day than they ever were. The audience was told, "Canadian infantry battalions are trained to march at the rate of 10 miles in two hours, carrying their weapons and ammunition, and at the end of their march they must be, and are, fit to fight".

This parade took place on the third anniversary of the landing of the "first flight" of the 1st Canadian Division in the United Kingdom in 1939. To those who had witnessed the development of the Canadian military force in Britain from those early days, when it consisted of a single infantry division and a few ancillary troops, armed mainly with the weapons of the last war, into the powerful mechanized force of which a cross-section paraded on this winter day of 1942, the demonstration was a most heartening experience. General McNaughton spoke afterwards of how

(1) July, 1941; August, 1942; October, 1942.

thrilling the display had been for those who had been concerned in "building the show up" from its small beginnings. He pointed out one particular fact: whereas in 1939 Canada had possessed almost no war industry, now and nearly all the remarkable variety of vehicles and weapons demonstrated in this parade were Canadian in manufacture, while some were Canadian in design. Lieutenant-General H.D.G. Crerar, who, it will be recalled, was formerly Chief of the

The day's proceedings served to symbolize the fact that the three years since 1939, though they have brought the Canadian Army Overseas little contact with the enemy, have nevertheless been years of intense activity and remarkable expansion. The history of the Canadian military force in Britain down to the early summer of 1942 has already been outlined in articles in this journal. (1) The present article describes very briefly the events that have taken place during the months since June, 1942, with the Japanese invasion of the Aleutian Islands. About the same time these months have been eventful. They have seen important increases in the strength of the Canadian Army Overseas, as well as significant developments in its training and organization, and improvements in its equipment. More than this, they have witnessed, at Dieppe on 19 August last, the first large-scale clash between the new Canadian Army and the enemy whom it crossed the sea to encounter. Subsequently commanded the Dieppe raiding force, left the 2nd Canadian Division to take command of the large group of Canadian Reinforcement Units now organized in England.

THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE OVERSEAS ARMY

The commanders of the Canadian Divisions now in Britain. Since the arrival of the first Canadian troops late in 1939, the growth of the Canadian Army in the United Kingdom has gone steadily on. Month after month, the transports have brought into British ports new formations and units to swell its order of battle, and reinforcements to maintain at full strength the units already in the country. During 1942 and the early months of 1943 the process continued without interruption. On 19 April 1943, for the Prime Minister of Canada told a Toronto audience that there were 190,000 Canadian soldiers in Britain.

commands and staff appointments. In divisional commands, as in 1942, Mr. King had announced the intention of the Government to create overseas a Canadian Army of two Army Corps, and added that with this aim in view the 4th Canadian Division was to be converted into an Armoured Division and sent overseas. This programme was carried out during the period under review. In the course of the summer and autumn of 1942, a succession of convoys brought the 4th Canadian Armoured Division into British ports. The Divisional Headquarters arrived at the beginning of September. This brought the total number of Canadian divisions in Britain to five, two of them armoured.

the shifting fortunes of the war, have been outlined. In the early part of the war, the First Canadian Army, commanded by Lieutenant-General A.G.L. McNughton, contains a great variety of Corps, Army and G.H.Q. troops, a catalogue of which would require many pages. Recent months have seen much development in these categories. The technical units have multiplied vastly, some arriving from Canada, others being organized from Canadian troops in the United Kingdom. There have been important changes in organization, as most affecting these and other units, which could not be rehearsed here without both wearying the reader and assisting the enemy. After the Dunkirk losses the Canadian force, likewise growing, continued to train for a role in the anticipated Battle of England. During 1941 and 1942,

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however, On 15 January 1943 the appointments to the strength additional Canadian Corps Headquarters, the establishment of which had been forecast by Mr. King, were announced. Major-General E.W. Sanson, who until this time had commanded one of the Armoured Divisions, became Corps Commander with the rank of Lieutenant-General. The Corps previously existing remained under the command of Lieutenant-General H.D.G. Crerar, who, it will be recalled, was formerly Chief of the General Staff at National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa.

During the year there were several changes in the command of divisions. In September, 1942, it was announced that Major-General G.R. Pearkes, V.C., an officer of wide experience in two wars, was relinquishing the command of the 1st Canadian Division to return to Canada and assume the appointment of General Officer Commanding in Chief, Pacific Command. This Command had assumed added importance with the Japanese invasion of the Aleutian Islands. About the same time it was announced that Major-General C.B. Price, who had served overseas since the beginning of the war and had latterly commanded the 3rd Canadian Division, had been seconded from the Canadian Army on appointment as Overseas Commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross Society. In April, 1943, Major-General J.H. Roberts, who had commanded the one Canadian field artillery regiment that reached France in 1940, and subsequently commanded the Dieppe raiding force, left the 2nd Canadian Division to take command of the large group of Canadian Reinforcement Units now organized in England.

Each other across the narrow ditch that is the English Channel. In these The commanders of the Canadian Divisions now in Britain are Major-General R.F.L. Keller, who formerly commanded an infantry brigade; Major-General H.L.N. Salmon, who fought in the last war and has served overseas since the beginning of the present one; Major-General P.F. Worthington, a leading exponent of armoured warfare, who came to England in command of the 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade; Major-General C.R.S. Stein, who commanded an armoured brigade before being appointed to the command of an armoured division; and Major-General G.G. Simonds, who came overseas as a staff officer of the 1st Division and has since held several important commands and staff appointments. In divisional commands, as in less senior ones, the trend has been increasingly towards the appointment of younger officers. At the time of their appointments, General Keller was 41 years of age, and General Simonds, the youngest general officer in the Canadian service, only 39.

THE RAID ON DIEPPE attack which would materialise when the time was ripe. In an earlier speech, on 8 September. In a previous article the successive changes in the role of the Canadian troops in Britain, reflecting the shifting fortunes of the war, have been outlined. In the earliest days the Canadian troops looked forward to taking their place in France beside the British Expeditionary Force; and in June, 1940, a few Canadian battalions actually landed in France, only to be withdrawn when the crumbling of French resistance made it clear that to commit further forces there would be a useless sacrifice. During the anxious months that followed, when Britain lay under the imminent threat of invasion, the Canadians formed a most important part of the defensive organization of the islands, and as the British forces grew in strength and improved in equipment after the Dunkirk losses the Canadian force, likewise growing, continued to train for a role in the anticipated Battle of England. During 1941 and 1942, it would have violently resented it had such an enterprise taken place without the participation of the Canadian force which

however, a change began to manifest itself. Allied strength was increasing; and the Canadian force came to be regarded, and to regard itself, less as a safeguard against a German invasion of Britain than as the potential spearhead of an anticipated Allied offensive against the Continent. Such an enterprise is what every man in the Canadian Army Overseas looks forward to; and in August of 1942, in the raid on Dieppe, formations of the Canadian Army took the leading part in an operation preliminary to the greater attack. In the United Kingdom since 1940 and was in a high state of training and general efficiency, but had been given no such opportunity. It is not proposed to describe the Dieppe enterprise at length in this place. The story was told in a statement issued by the Minister of National Defence in September, and much has been written on the subject by private persons possessing various degrees of information. Moreover, it is intended that a separate article on the subject shall be published shortly in this journal. For the moment it is enough to suggest the place of this operation in the strategy of 1942 and in the history of the Canadian Army Overseas.

(4) with such meticulous care. Every possible source of information. In the summer of 1942 the enemy was surging forward in Russia, constantly gaining further ground in the face of the gallant resistance of the Soviet armies. In the Middle East the British Eighth Army was standing at bay in front of Alexandria, awaiting the attack by Rommel which was duly delivered - and duly beaten back - at the end of August. In Western Europe powerful German and Allied forces faced each other across the narrow ditch that is the English Channel. In these conditions, as we now know, the chiefs of the United Nations, after balancing all the possibilities of offensive action, decided to strike their first heavy blow in North Africa. The possibility of a "heavy intervention" across the Channel during 1942 was ruled out because, as explained to Parliament by Mr. Churchill on 11 November, landing craft on the necessary scale were not yet available. In consultation with American military leaders, it was accordingly decided "to hold the enemy on the French shore and to strike at his southern flank in the Mediterranean through North Africa". The arrangements made for co-

(6) operation between sea, land and air forces proved extremely efficient. As Mr. Churchill pointed out, it was essential that the enemy should continue to fear and to provide against an Allied descent in the West. "Only in this way could we draw and keep the largest possible number of Germans pinned in the Pas de Calais, along the coast of France, and in the Low Countries." At the same time, it was essential to obtain as early as possible operational experience and information to assist in planning the western attack which would materialize when the time was ripe. In an earlier speech, on 8 September, Mr. Churchill had explained his own view of the Dieppe operation in the following terms: the forces engaged, and particularly the land forces, paid a very heavy "The raid must be considered a reconnaissance in force..... We had to get all the information necessary before launching operations on a much larger scale.....I personally regarded the Dieppe assault, to which I gave my sanction, as an indispensable preliminary to full-scale operations."

(5) which those concerned knew in advance to be one of exceptional danger. It is in the light of these explanations by the person best qualified to give them that the Dieppe operation must be interpreted. The skill of our men. The qualities displayed by the troops were recognized in the awards for gallantry. It was a perilous task, such as could be entrusted only to troops of the highest quality. Nothing is more certain than that the ordinary Canadian soldier in Britain would have violently resented it had such an enterprise taken place without the participation of the Canadian force which

had waited so long and so eagerly for action. When it was decided that the First Canadian Army should provide the main body of the assaulting force, it was also decided that the majority of the troops should come from the 2nd Canadian Division. This division, accordingly, supplied two infantry brigades for the operation. The 1st Division, while it had seen nothing like the amount of action it had desired, had nevertheless had minor opportunities of active employment in France in 1940 and at Spitsbergen in 1941. The 2nd Division had been in the United Kingdom since 1940 and was in a high state of training and general efficiency, but had been given no such opportunities. The same applied to the 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade, which provided a tank battalion for the assault. This formation had arrived in the United Kingdom in June, 1941.

This operation was prepared and planned with exceptional thoroughness. General McNaughton has said that in all his wide military experience he has never known an instance "in which matters were gone at so thoroughly and with such meticulous care". Every possible source of information concerning the terrain and the defences was laid under contribution; and the troops to be employed then underwent a programme of special training to fit them for this particular task.

This was the largest of the many combined operations that have been directed against the German-held coasts of Europe; and it was the first in which tanks were employed. Of the results obtained from it it is still impossible to speak at length without affording to the enemy intelligence which he would certainly turn to his advantage against our troops on subsequent occasions. That the information gained concerning the enemy's defences and the means of overcoming them was of great value is undoubted. The experience obtained was useful in the great North African combined operation carried out some weeks later, when Allied forces occupied French Morocco and Algeria and moved into Tunisia; and it will be still more useful in the European operations which still lie ahead. The arrangements made for co-operation between sea, land and air forces proved extremely efficient, and the Canadian soldiers, in the reports which were written by men of all ranks after the operation, were loud in their praise of the support received from both the Navy and the R.A.F. The Air Force was able, in the course of the day's work, to inflict upon the enemy losses which are now estimated to have run as high as 170 aircraft destroyed.

The losses suffered by the Canadian troops were heavy. In the words of Colonel Ralston's statement, "For the lessons learned and the advantages gained the forces engaged, and particularly the land forces, paid a very heavy price. The history of similar operations in the past serves to indicate that heavy losses are to be expected in amphibious operations of this type directed against a fortified coast-line held by a determined and alert enemy". The sorrow occasioned by these losses, incurred in a service which those concerned knew in advance to be one of exceptional danger, was however somewhat moderated by the pride felt (to quote General McNaughton again) "in the performance and the courage and the skill of our men". The qualities displayed by the troops were recognized in the awards for gallantry announced in October, headed by that of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant-Colonel G.C.I. Merritt of the South Saskatchewan Regiment, the first Canadian to receive the Cross in this war. Faced with a task as difficult as any assigned to troops in the last war, the Canadian units

concerned acquitted themselves in a manner which holds out the highest promise for the day when they meet the enemy upon a larger battlefield.

TRAINING FOR ATTACK

(4) Before and after the Dieppe raid, preparations for the future offensive continued at high pressure. Units continued to practise the strenuous "battle drill" which since its inception has done so much for the toughness, the morale and the skill of the British armies. The training in the technique of combined operations - so essential to any army whose offensive must begin with a sea crossing - which, as previously explained, was engaged in by the First Canadian Army on a large scale in 1942, continued, until it might almost be said that the Canadian force in Britain now constitutes an amphibious army which finds itself thoroughly at home on board ship or in the small craft which are used to set troops ashore on coasts held by the enemy. The gaps in the ranks of the units which fought at Dieppe were filled with new men; and the formations and units newly arrived from Canada were given additional intensive training to fit them for their places in the great operations to come.

(4) In the scheme of training, of the Canadians as of all troops in Britain, large-scale field manoeuvres play an important part. In March of 1943 a particularly large and significant exercise took place, lasting for a fortnight and covering a large part of the surface of England. This was Exercise "Spartan", which was accurately described by The Times (London) as "the greatest offensive exercise ever staged in the military history of these islands". In this exercise General McNaughton commanded a large mixed Army of Canadian and British troops.

(9) Be it noted that, unlike the exercises of earlier years, this was an invasion rather than an anti-invasion "scheme". The assumption was that the "British" Army under General McNaughton had crossed the Channel from Britain to the Continent and was advancing from an already established bridgehead to meet and destroy German forces. From the forward edge of their bridgehead in three Southern counties the "British" Army, which included the Guards Armoured Division as well as Canadian armoured formations, went forward to encounter the "enemy", commanded by Lieutenant-General J.A.H. Gammell, who rushed to meet them in a manner which Rommel in his palmy days could not have bettered. The battle which followed raged over hundreds of square miles of Central England, including in its scope the Chiltern Hills and the outskirts of London on the east and the Cotswolds on the west. General McNaughton's armour was mainly on his left flank, where it carried out a wide outflanking march through the area about Cirencester and Towcester. The heaviest actual fighting, however, fell to the infantry in his centre, where the ancient university city of Oxford found itself the focus of the battle.

(10) Two features of the exercise call for special note. One was the work of the Engineers. The enemy, as he fell back before the advancing British forces, carried out enormous theoretical demolitions, including the destruction of something like 200 bridges across the Thames and lesser streams. If the "British" army was to come to grips with the enemy, all the most important of these had to be

replaced; and through successive days and nights, as the advance continued, the sappers toiled at the task of bridging one river after another, sometimes in the face of enemy air attack which now and then was adjudged to have set the work back. The Engineers have occasionally complained of not being sufficiently employed in exercises. This complaint was not heard during Exercise "Spartan". The other striking feature was the employment on both sides of very powerful air forces, organized in composite groups including bombers, fighters, fighter-bombers and reconnaissance aircraft. The work of these forces fundamentally affected the action at almost every point. Co-operation between the Army and the R.A.F. was organized on the lines laid down by experience in Libya, and was highly satisfactory. When "Cease Fire" sounded, the "British" Army had advanced deeply into enemy territory, and was in position on a line running north-west from London towards Rugby, ready to go forward for the killing blow.

This was a highly strenuous exercise, constituting a most searching test of the morale and endurance of the troops employed. They passed it with flying colours. Every observer bore witness to the spirit of the Canadian units, who at the end of many days of an experience as gruelling as any likely to be encountered short of the actual battlefield, were more than ready to go on until they had pushed the "enemy" back into the North Sea.

CANADIANS IN NORTH AFRICA.

The Canadian Army Overseas is to-day a very highly trained army; the best-trained army, perhaps, that the Dominion has ever possessed. The best preparation for battle, however, is battle itself; and of this the Canadians, to their very great regret, have had little experience. To obtain for as many officers and men as possible actual experience of battle conditions has been an aim of the Canadian authorities; and at the end of 1942 the Anglo-American enterprise in North Africa offered the best opportunity that had yet arisen in this respect.

The most was made of it. In December arrangements were made with the War Office for the attachment of a group of Canadian officers and soldiers to General Anderson's First British Army in Tunisia. This first group numbered about 150 all ranks. They left for the theatre of war at once, and were followed, month by month, by further groups of varying strength. In the course of the fighting in this theatre, in consequence, several hundred selected Canadians have had opportunities of practising their military tasks under fire and acquiring those final elements of military knowledge which can best be learned under such conditions.

(9) The arrival of the first body of Canadians in North Africa was announced on 5 January 1943. The group included officers and men of all the arms and services. They were absorbed into appropriate units of the First Army and proceeded to perform the tasks before them precisely as though they had been reinforcements supplied to these units from British sources in the normal way. Thus a Canadian infantry captain or major might (and often did) find himself commanding a company in a famous English regiment; a Canadian medical officer would find himself in charge of a section of a field ambulance of the R.A.M.C. and superintend-

(10) Canadian record of aircraft destroyed mounts steadily month

ing the treatment and evacuation of casualties under fire; while a sergeant of the Royal Canadian Signals might find himself doing the responsible work of his rank in a brigade signal section. This procedure ensured for the Canadians concerned the largest possible practical experience of warfare during their time in Tunisia. That they were often in the front of the battle was attested by the first Canadian casualty list from Tunisia, published on 5 April. It listed thirteen casualties, including two officers and one N.C.O. killed. By April men of the first group to go to North Africa were returning to their units in England. They brought with them many warm recommendations from those with whom they had served in the theatre of war; and they themselves spoke in terms of admiration of the spirit and skill of the British troops among whom they had found themselves, and declared that the experience had been valuable beyond words. At the time of writing, attachments to North Africa are still being arranged in the largest numbers that the British authorities can accommodate.

While some Canadians were going out to the Mediterranean for their first experience of active operations, others, who had long served in that area, were returning from it. At Christmas of 1942 the tunnellers who had been employed on the fortifications of Gibraltar, many of them since 1940, were brought back to join the main body of their comrades in England. Before their departure they received the thanks of General Mason MacFarlane, the Governor of Gibraltar, for the contribution which they had made to the security of the fortress.

The women of the C.W.A.C. are already performing a great variety of duties. They serve as clerks and stenographers.

FIGHTING THE GERMAN AIR FORCE. Types of military motor vehicles, maintaining their own machines as male drivers do.

Dieppe and North Africa do not quite exhaust the story of Canadian contact with the enemy during the past year. There are now many Canadian anti-aircraft units in England, and these have been repeatedly in action against the "sneak raiders" who still slip across the Channel to bomb the little towns and villages of Southern England. There were few Canadian anti-aircraft troops in Britain in the days of the really heavy enemy air attacks; nowadays the batteries complain bitterly that the Luftwaffe comes too seldom and in too small numbers to give them proper employment. Bringing down these hit-and-run raiders, who are often visible from a gunsite only for half a dozen seconds, is a task calling for the greatest skill and alertness. In spite of these conditions, the units - the light batteries with their 40-millimetre Bofors, and the heavy with their big 3.7's - have inflicted increasing losses on the enemy.

The candidates for commissions attend special courses held at the Officer Cadet Training Unit, Wing of the Canadian Training Centre.

Occasionally a larger opportunity presents itself. One such was on the day of Dieppe, when a Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment which had sent a considerable detachment to take part in the raid deployed guns on the English coast as a protection against Luftwaffe interference with the returning raiders. German aircraft duly appeared and "A good deal of enthusiastic and useful shooting was produced from detachments consisting of drivers and cooks, etc., in absence of gun crews on raid". The unit computed the bag as three enemy aircraft shot down into the sea and two damaged. More recently, another A.A. unit got an unusual opportunity, when a formation of 18 enemy aircraft incautiously ventured within its range. One was shot down and three damaged before the enemy got out of range again. Thanks to such episodes, the Canadian record of aircraft destroyed mounts steadily month

Montague from Canadian Military Headquarters cannot even be fully for many months can be readily imagined.

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by month. Nor is the work of the artillery the whole story, for a considerable number of enemy planes have been brought down by machine-gun fire. Other casualties; a group of highly efficient hospitals, necessarily increasing in number as the Canadian force grows; technical establishments, among them a Base Ordnance THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS Depot; and units performing dozens of other essential services. Merely as an

example. Late in 1942 the first detachments of a new corps of the Canadian Army arrived in the United Kingdom. This was the Canadian Women's Army Corps, established with a view to making it possible for women to undertake a large variety of clerical and other duties in static military establishments, thereby freeing men for service in the field.

The first contingent of the C.W.A.C. reached London on 4 November. The young women composing it found awaiting them comfortable quarters which had been prepared against their arrival. Within a few days a large number of them had been taken into employment in the various branches of Canadian Military Headquarters and were learning the duties which they were to take over from soldier clerks who have since gone out to units in the field.

The first contingent was followed by others, and approximately 450 members of the C.W.A.C. are on the strength of the Canadian Army Overseas at the time of writing. The number will increase, for while C.W.A.C. personnel cannot be employed with field units, it is intended to use them not only at Canadian Military Headquarters but also in the important establishments in the area occupied by the Canadian Reinforcement Units. The women of the C.W.A.C. are already performing a great variety of duties. They serve as clerks and stenographers; they drive the lighter types of military motor vehicles, maintaining their own machines as male drivers do; they serve as switchboard operators and dental assistants; and they are to "man" (if the word is not inappropriate) a Base Laundry in the Reinforcement Units area. In every field which they have so far entered it may be said with sober truthfulness that their work has been invaluable.

The ranks of the C.W.A.C. overseas have been swelled by enlistments made in England. The women so enlisted have been Canadians resident in the United Kingdom, and in some cases the English wives of Canadian soldiers. On 19 February, 1943, Major-General P.J. Montague, Senior Officer, Canadian Military Headquarters, took the salute at the passing-out parade of the Training Detachment formed by the first group of recruits enlisted in Britain. The C.W.A.C., moreover, has begun to train its own officers overseas. The candidates for commissions attend special courses held at the Officer Cadet Training Unit, Wing of the Canadian Training School, which has long trained male officers. The first group of C.W.A.C. officer cadets received their certificates of graduation from General McNaughton on 2 April 1943. They were the first women to attend the Canadian Training School or any similar Canadian establishment in the United Kingdom.

This is due in great part to the soldier's appreciation of British hospitality, extended under conditions of scarcity which make hospitality an THE GREAT MACHINE the host. British civilians, and particularly ladies, have worked indefatigably in connection with the administration and maintenance of an army as large as the Canadian force in Britain is a task so complex as to defy description in brief compass. Something of what it entails has been suggested in earlier articles. The great variety of base establishments administered by General Montague from Canadian Military Headquarters cannot even be faintly for many months can be readily imagined.

listed here. It includes the Reinforcement Units which hold and train the men to fill the gaps in the ranks of the field army caused by battle or other casualties; a group of highly efficient hospitals, necessarily increasing in number as the Canadian force grows; technical establishments, among them a Base Ordnance Workshop and a Base Ordnance Depot; and units performing dozens of other essential services. Merely as an example of the work involved in meeting the needs of the army, the continued constructional labours of the Royal Canadian Engineers may be mentioned. This corps has built a large proportion of the accommodation occupied by the Canadian troops, in the form of hatted camps; it has erected buildings for hospitals and for other establishments without number; it has built roads in camp and hospital areas, and for the improvement of tactical communications; it has laboured constantly on defensive works; and it has performed a great variety of special tasks at the request of the British authorities. A particular triumph of speed and efficiency was the construction on an uncleared site of the great aerodrome which was begun in May, 1942, completed in three months to the point where it could have been used in operations, and formally handed over to the Royal Canadian Air Force on 16 October.

This is the material side of maintaining an army; the moral side is of even greater importance. Here the work of the Canadian Auxiliary Services, likewise mentioned in earlier articles, has continued to be of tremendous value. The comforts and services provided for the troops by the representatives of the Canadian Legion War Services, the Knights of Columbus Canadian Army Huts, the Salvation Army and the Young Men's Christian Association, and through the generosity of the Canadian Red Cross Society (which takes a special responsibility for men in hospital) have been an inestimable boon.

A word must be said in this connection of the work of the Canadian Chaplain Service. It is the business of the regimental padre to be the friend and adviser of the soldier, and the manner in which he has done this business has had more than a little to do with the maintenance of the morale of the army. An innovation of the past year has been the "Padre's hour", an arrangement by which the chaplain is given one hour of training time each week in which to meet the men of his unit by groups for discussion of problems of personal religion. The opportunity for these informal give-and-take talks has been welcomed by many of the troops. The fashion in which the chaplains have won the regard of the men by sharing the hardships and perils that fall to them was strikingly illustrated at Dieppe, where one chaplain was decorated and one mentioned in despatches for bravery in succouring the wounded under fire, and a third, after working for hours among the casualties on the fire-swept beach near the Casino, chose to remain with the wounded men and became a prisoner of war.

The work of Canadian official agencies for the benefit of the troops has been reinforced to an invaluable extent by the kindness - both organized and individual - of the people of Britain. The relationship between the Canadians and their British hosts, always friendly, is today warmer than ever; and this is due in great part to the soldier's appreciation of British hospitality, extended under conditions of scarcity which make hospitality an unusual burden to the host. British civilians, and particularly ladies, have worked indefatigably in canteens and other welfare establishments in the Canadian areas, and by their work have made life much pleasanter for the troops; and private hospitality has been most generous. Thousands of soldiers have found their way into English homes where they are treated as if they were members of the family; and what this means to a man who has not seen his own home and family for many months can be readily imagined.

AFTER THREE AND A HALF YEARS

The spring of 1943 found the First Canadian Army still in England, where many of its members had spent nearly three and a half years without that contact with the enemy which they had believed to be imminent when they left Canada. The great battles of the Canadian Army Overseas still lay in the future. pictures by Canadian War Artists, additional to the selection published in October of last year. These are Waiting for action is not an easy task, even when the time has been spent, as in this case, in active and essential preparation for the offensive. Such an experience is a very severe test for any army, and especially for young soldiers who have never been in battle. The people of Canada can take legitimate pride in the fact that in these difficult circumstances, and in spite of the inevitable sense of frustration resulting from the occasions when hopes of imminent action were disappointed, their troops in Britain have borne themselves as befits representatives of the Dominion, have made and kept themselves welcome among the British people, and have maintained their own efficiency and fighting spirit at the highest level. As these lines are written the morale of the Canadian troops is higher, and their general battle-worthiness greater, than ever before.

For this happy situation there are several explanations. One has been the rapid expansion which has taken place. In spite of the static role which has so far fallen to it, the Canadian Army has been a dynamic organization. It has been steadily growing outwards from its small initial nucleus; it has had the stimulus of constantly changing and improving equipment and organization; and there has been plenty of promotion for promising men. Much is due also to the active training policy that has been pursued, to battle drill and to combined operations training, which have appealed strongly to the Canadian soldier. And it must be added that of late the sense of great events impending has been stronger than ever; the troops are convinced that their long wait is nearly over.

(14) Nevertheless, the result which we have described is probably due less to these factors than to the fact which General McNaughton has summed up in the simple phrase, "Our men have good common sense". The Canadian troops in Britain are an intelligent body of men. They are not an army of adventurers or professional fighters; they are citizens turned soldier, who of their own free will have made great sacrifices to serve a cause in which they deeply believe. They regret the fact that they have so far been denied action; but they know that this has been the result of uncontrollable circumstances. They know that their presence in England and their fitness to fight have been a basic contribution to the security of the country and in this way to the winning of the war; and they know, moreover, that before the war is over they are certain to have their fill of battle, and to share the honour of striking the final blow that will liberate Europe and the world from the tyranny that has darkened the lives of our generation.

NOTE ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS

The photographs used to illustrate this article are Canadian Official Military Photographs. -1943

The illustrations also include reproductions of a group of pictures by Canadian War Artists, additional to the selection published in October of last year. These are representative of the pictorial record of the Canadian Army Overseas which has been created since October, 1941, when one artist was attached experimentally to the Historical Section of Canadian Military Headquarters. Under a comprehensive programme lately adopted by the Dominion Government, several officer-artists are now engaged in depicting the work of the Army in Britain.

The war and services of the Canadian Army moved rapidly past. Leading the parade was a squadron of one of the divisional Reconnaissance Regiments which have replaced the divisional cavalry of earlier times, equipped with armoured reconnaissance cars and fast-moving carriers filled with soldiers highly trained for the task of "skirmishing" (as our grandfathers would have called it) in the forefront of the advance. Next came a squadron of an Armoured Car Regiment, a unit famous in Canadian annals as horse cavalry, but which now has for mounts fast and formidable armoured vehicles giving it such a far-ranging mobility and a power of fire as the mounted troops of previous wars never possessed. A squadron of another celebrated cavalry regiment followed. This is now an Armoured Regiment; and its Ram cruiser tanks, Canadian-designed and Canadian-built, rolled past the saluting base at high speed, impressive symbols of the transformation which mechanization has wrought in modern war.

Behind came detachments of all the other arms and services. Troops of Artillery - Field, Anti-Tank, Light and Heavy Anti-Aircraft, Medium - moved past, each with its own formidable weapons. The Corps of Engineers and the Corps of Signals were represented. An Infantry rifle company passed in troop-carrying vehicles. Units of the Army Service Corps, the Ordnance Corps (including a Mobile Laundry), and the Medical, Dental, Provost and Postal Corps followed in order, each carried in the vehicles appropriate to its own essential function in the complex life of a modern army.

All these units had passed on tires or tracks. Now, last of all, came a company of a marching infantry battalion, moving past at the double, that the spectators might be reminded that military success is still purchased by the endurance and determination of the individual soldier, qualities more important to-day than they ever were. The audience was told, "Canadian Infantry battalions are trained to march at the rate of 10 miles in two hours, carrying their weapons and ammunition, and at the end of their march they must be, and are, fit to fight".

This parade took place on the third anniversary of the landing of the "first flight" of the 1st Canadian Division in the United Kingdom in 1939. To those who had witnessed the development of the Canadian military force in Britain from those early days, when it consisted of a single infantry division and a few auxiliary troops, armed mainly with the weapons of the last war, into the powerful mechanized force of which a cross-section paraded on this winter day of 1942, the demonstration was a most heartening experience. General McNaughton spoke afterwards of how

~~CANCELLED~~

APPENDIX "B"

NOTES TO ACCOMPANY ARTICLE "THE CANADIAN ARMY IN BRITAIN, 1942 - 1943"

1. The demonstration referred to is described at length in Report No.88.
2. The Times (London), 20 Apr 43.
3. These Generals' commands are as follows:
General Keller, 3 Cdn Div;
General Salmon, 1 Cdn Div;
General Worthington, 4 Cdn Armd Div;
General Stein, 5 Cdn Armd Div;
General Simonds, 2 Cdn Div.
4. The Times (London), 12 Nov 42.
5. The Times (London), 9 Sep 42.
6. Statement of Air Marshal Sir T. Leigh-Mallory, The Times, (London), 26 Feb 43.
7. This combined training programme is the subject of a Report now in preparation.
8. The Times (London), 23 Mar 43.
9. As of 10 Apr 43, the total number of Canadian officers and soldiers who had been sent for attachment to First British Army was 162 officers and 136 other ranks. These figures included a few from the Army in Canada. Following the first batch of 78 officers and 63 other ranks, arrangements were made for further attachments of a total of 50 all ranks per month, and three further batches were sent under this arrangement. In April, 1943, General McNaughton obtained permission for an increase in the quota from 50 to 150 per month. This arrangement, however, could not be implemented, at least immediately; and the fifth batch, to proceed in May, will again number only 50 all ranks. The great majority of the first group to go to Tunisia disembarked in the United Kingdom, on their return, on 6 Apr 43. (C.M.H.Q. files 1/Attach Ops/1 and 8/Attach Ops/1.)
10. See War Diary, 3 Cdn L.A.A.Reg't., August, 1942. Although the claims of success appear to be well authenticated, no official credit was obtained for them, due to failure to submit them in time to H.Q., A.A.Command.
11. The unit concerned was 1 Cdn L.A.A.Reg't., and the date 3 Apr 43: see First Cdn Army weekly Report to Canada for week ending 9 Apr 43 (C.M.H.Q. file 4/Progress/11).
12. The reference is to the aerodrome at DUNSFOLD, south of GUILDFORD. Weekly Report from First Cdn Army for week ending 4 Jul 42 notes, "This work was started 11 May, an aircraft was landed on aerodrome on 20 Jun." The units concerned in the work were 2 Bn., 2 Rd. Constr. Coy. and 6 Constr. Coy., R.C.E; 62 Gen. Tpt. Coy., R.C.A.S.C.; and detachment, C.F.C.
13. The chaplains mentioned were respectively H/Capt. J.P. Browne (Cameron of C.), who received the M.C.; H/Capt. J.A. Sabourin (Fus.M.R.); and H/Capt. J.W.Foote (R.H.L.I.).
14. General McNaughton used this phrase in his press conference on 17 Dec 42.