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CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

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Situation of the Canadian Military Forces
in the United Kingdom, Spring, 1943 : I.

Recent Changes in Commands and Staffs.

1. This Report deals with changes in commands and staffs in the Canadian Army Overseas subsequent to 21 Nov 42, the date of Report No. 87, the last dealing with this subject.
2. There have been several important developments during this period, including the organization of 2 Cdn Corps and changes in three divisional commands.
3. In scope and form this Report follows the pattern of earlier ones dealing with the same subject, beginning with No. 36. References in parentheses are to supplements to Canadian Army Overseas Routine Orders; dates, unless otherwise specified, are those on which the changes mentioned became effective.

HIGHER COMMANDS

4. Lieut.-General A.G.L. McNaughton remains in command of First Cdn Army, and Lieut.-General H.D.G. Crerar in command of 1 Cdn Corps. The organization of H.Q., 2 Cdn Corps, took place in January 1943, Major-General E.W. Sansom, D.S.O., formerly commanding 5 Cdn Armd Div, being appointed G.O.C. with the rank of Lieut.-General (3035, 15 Jan 43). It will be recalled that Lieut.-General Sansom came to England in 1939 as A.A. & Q.M.G. 1 Cdn Div; that he was chosen by General McNaughton to command the Canadian force detailed for action in NORWAY in April 1940, which however never sailed (see Report No. 15); and that he commanded 3 Cdn Div for a time before being appointed to command 5 Cdn Armd Div. He brought this latter formation to the United Kingdom from Canada in the autumn of 1941 (see Report No. 54).
5. There have been further changes in divisional commands, one having been brought about by a melancholy accident which deprived the Canadian Army of an able General Officer. Major-General H.L.N. Salmon, M.C., G.O.C. 1 Cdn Div, was killed in an aeroplane accident on 29 Apr 43 (The Times, London, 1 May 43). Some brief notes on the career of the late General Salmon are given in Report No. 87, para.5. He was a Permanent Force Officer (R.C.R.), who was decorated for services in the last war and at the outbreak of the present war was serving on exchange at the War Office. References in the "G" War Diary, 1 Cdn Div, during his brief period of command suggest the very careful manner in which he gave his personal attention to the training of his Division, and the thoroughness with which he investigated and tested the efficiency of its individual units.
6. As of 13 Apr 43, Major-General J.H. Roberts, B.C., M.C., relinquished the command of 2 Cdn Div and assumed the command of the Canadian Reinforcement Units, which thus became a Major-General's command. General Roberts, it will be recalled, came to England with 1 Cdn Div, in command of 1 Cdn

Fd Regt (R.C.H.A.). He took this unit to France in June 1940 and distinguished himself by bringing back his guns at the subsequent withdrawal. As G.O.C. 2 Cdn Div, he acted as Military Force Commander in the raid on DIEPPE, and was subsequently awarded the D.S.O.

7. General Roberts was succeeded as G.O.C., 2 Cdn Div, by Brigadier G.G. Simonds, C.B.E. (formerly Commander of 1 Cdn Inf Bde and more recently B.G.S., First Cdn Army), with the rank of Major-General (3362, 13 Apr 43). General Simonds replaces General Keller (see Report No. 87, note to para.6) as the youngest General Officer in the Canadian Army. He was born on 24 Apr 03, and thus was only 39 years of age at the time of his appointment. General Simonds came to the United Kingdom as G.S.O. II, 1 Cdn Div in 1939, and has since held a variety of the most important Canadian staff appointments overseas, in addition to commanding 1 Cdn Inf Bde as noted. He was in charge of the first Canadian Junior War Staff Course, the only such course conducted in this country (see Reports Nos. 14 and 22). Immediately before assuming the command of 2 Cdn Div General Simonds paid a visit to the theatre of war in TUNISIA and was present with the Eighth Army during the Battle of the WADI AKARIT (see Report No. 95).

8. On the death of General Salmon, General Simonds, who had held the command of 2 Cdn Div for a very brief period, was transferred to 1 Cdn Div (3407, 29 Apr 43). He was succeeded as G.O.C., 2 Cdn Div, by Brigadier E.L.M. Burns, O.B.E., M.C., (formerly commanding 4 Cdn Armd Bde of 5 Cdn Armd Div), who was promoted to the rank of Major-General (3434, 6 May 43). General Burns, like General Salmon, was in England (at the Imperial Defence College) at the outbreak of the present war, and served at C.M.H.Q. and in the field before returning for a time to N.D.H.Q. He came back to the United Kingdom as B.G.S. Cdn Corps, again returned to Canada, and was subsequently appointed to the command of the armoured brigade which he brought to England in 1942 as part of 4 Cdn Armd Div.

9. General Sansom was succeeded as G.O.C. 5 Cdn Armd Div by Major-General C.R.S. Stein, formerly B.G.S. First Cdn Army (see Report No. 87, para.9) (3035, 15 Jan 43).

10. 1 Cdn Corps remains in Sussex, under the operational control of South Eastern Command. The G.O.C.-in-C. this Command is still Lieut.-General J.G. des R. Swayne (Report No. 87, para.8).

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST CANADIAN ARMY

11. Major-General Stein (para.9, above) was succeeded as B.G.S., First Cdn Army, by Brigadier G.G. Simonds (3035, 15 Jan 43). Upon the latter's promotion (para. 7, above), he was replaced as B.G.S. by Brigadier C. Foulkes (3340, 4 Apr 43), who had formerly commanded 3 Cdn Inf Bde.

12. Lt.-Col. G.E. Beament, R.C.A., replaces Lt.-Col. T.G. Gibson as G.S.O.I (Ops.) upon the latter's promotion (below) (3340, 8 Apr 43). Lt.-Col. The Lord Tweedsmuir relinquished the appointment of G.S.O.I (Int.) and was replaced by Lt.-Col. G.P. Henderson, R.H.C. (3090, 28 Jan 43).

13. Major-General G.R. Turner, C.B., M.C., D.C.M., who had been in poor health, relinquished the appointment

of D.A. & Q.M.G., and was succeeded by Brigadier A.E. Walford, M.M., E.D., formerly D.A. & Q.M.G. at H.Q., 1 Cdn Corps (3340, 7 Apr 43). General Turner came to the United Kingdom in 1939 as G.S.O.I, 1 Cdn Div, and has held a succession of important staff appointments since that time. It was understood that he was to return to Canada, possibly to the post of Commandant of the Royal Military College. At the time of writing, however, he remains in England, and is performing important liaison duties in London.

14. Lt.-Col. W.A. Bean, H.L.I. of C., has succeeded Lt.-Col. C. Lloyd, R.A. (British Army) as A.A.G. (3362, 13 Apr 43). As noted in Report No. 95, Lt.-Col. Bean was in charge of the first group of Canadians sent to North Africa for attachment to the British Army, and has only recently returned from this duty. Lt.-Col. J.R.R. Gough, Gen. List, has succeeded Lt.-Col. W.A. Gilbride, R.C.A.S.C., as A.Q.M.G. (3407, 3 May 43).

15. Consequent upon the adoption of a new establishment for the Public Relations Section, Major C.S. Wallace, P.R.O., became D.D.P.R. with the rank of Lt.-Col. (3407, 29 Apr 43).

16. Note should be taken of new arrangements relating to the Canadian Planning Staff. In Report No. 87 (para.17) reference is made to the creation of an Increment to H.Q. 1 Cdn Corps which constituted, in fact, a Canadian Planning Staff. This Increment was subsequently liquidated and replaced by a Canadian Planning Staff forming part of H.Q., First Cdn Army, though working in LONDON. This new and smaller Planning Staff was headed by Lt.-Col. C.F.J. Finlay, R.C.A.S.C., as A.A. & Q.M.G. (3103, 28 Jan 43). Lt.-Col. Finlay had previously been A.Q.M.G. (Ops.) to the Increment constituting the former Planning Staff. This brilliant young officer (only 29 years of age) was killed in the same aeroplane accident as General Salmon (para.5, above). Lt.-Col. Finlay was shown in Routine Orders (3407) as relinquishing his appointment at the Planning Staff and becoming A.A. & Q.M.G., 1 Cdn Div, as of 27 Apr 43, a few days before his death. He has now been succeeded as A.A. & Q.M.G., Canadian Planning Staff, by Lt.-Col. C.M. Harding, R.C.A. (3407, 3 May 43).

HEADQUARTERS, 1st CANADIAN CORPS

17. Upon Brigadier Walford's move to Army he was succeeded as D.A. & Q.M.G., 1 Cdn Corps by Brigadier J.F.A. Lister, who, with the rank of Colonel, had formerly held the appointment of A.D.Q.M.G. at C.M.H.Q. (3340, 8 Apr 43).

18. Lt.-Col. D.G. Cunningham, D.S.O., Camerons of C., was appointed G.S.O.I (Ops.) (3035, 18 Jan 43). Lt.-Col. Cunningham had formerly commanded the Camerons of Canada, and had distinguished himself in the DIEPPE operation as B.M., 6 Cdn Inf Bde. The appointment of G.S.O.I (Ops.) had not previously been filled.

19. Brigadier G.A. McCarter relinquished the appointment of C.C.R.A. to take command of an infantry brigade and was succeeded by Brigadier E.C. Plow, formerly C.R.A., 3 Cdn Div (3035, 15 Jan 43). Colonel W.L. Laurie relinquished the appointment of C.S.O. upon returning to Canada to become Director of Signals at N.D.H.Q., and was replaced by Lt.-Col. C.S. McKee, E.D. (appointment and promotion to Colonel, 3013, 10 Jan 43). Brigadier J.A. Linton, M.C., vacated the appointment of D.D.M.S. upon returning to Canada, and was replaced by Col. E.A. McCusker, formerly A.D.M.S., 1 Cdn Div (appointment, and promotion to Brigadier, 3340, 8 Apr 43).

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd CANADIAN CORPS

20. As already noted, H.Q., 2 Cdn Corps was organized as of 15 Jan 43. The following appointments were made at these Headquarters. Brigadier H.A. Young was appointed B.G.S., from the command of 6 Cdn Inf Bde (3035, 15 Jan 43). Brigadier Young had served at an earlier time as B.G.S., C.M.H.Q., and has held other important staff appointments overseas. Lt.-Col. M.P. Bogert, West N.S.R. (late R.C.R.), was appointed G.S.O.I (Ops.) (3035, 18 Jan 43). He was subsequently succeeded in this appointment by Lt.-Col. W.C. Murphy, C.A.C. (3258, 25 Mar 43), and this officer in turn was succeeded by Lt.-Col. J.S.H. Lind, formerly commanding the Perth Regiment (3434, 6 May 43). Brigadier H.V.D. Laing, whose last appointment had been A.A.G., C.M.H.Q. (Special Increment), became D.A. & Q.M.G. (appointment, and promotion to Brigadier, 3035, 15 Jan 43). Lt.-Col. D.K. Tow, Tor. Scot. R. (MG) was appointed A.Q.M.G. (3056, 23 Jan 43). Lt.-Col. Tow came to this appointment from command of his regiment.

21. The appointment of C.C.R.A. went to Brigadier A.E.D. Tremain, E.D., formerly C.R.A., 1 Cdn Div (3035, 15 Jan 43), and that of C.E. to Col. A.T. MacLean, M.C., V.D., formerly C.R.E., First Cdn Army Tps (appointment, and promotion to Brigadier, 3035, 15 Jan 43). Col. C.P. Fenwick, M.C., V.D., formerly A.D.M.S., 2 Cdn Div, became D.D.M.S. with the rank of Brigadier (3035, 15 Jan 43).

1st CANADIAN DIVISION

22. At H.Q., 1 Cdn Div, Lt.-Col. G. Kitching (R.C.R.; formerly commanding the Edmonton Regiment) has replaced Lt.-Col. H.W. Foster, C.A.C., as G.S.O.I (2876, 14 Dec 42). Lt.-Col. W.J. Moogk, R.Wpg.Rif. (late R.C.R.), formerly A.A. & Q.M.G., was gazetted as A.A. & Q.M.G. to an increment to H.Q., 1 Cdn Div, upon the notification of the appointment of Lt.-Col. Finley as A.A. & Q.M.G. (3407, 27 Apr 43) (above, para.16). Lt.-Col. W.R. Gilbride, R.C.A.S.C., was appointed A.A. & Q.M.G., 1 Cdn Div, as of 29 Apr 43 (3407).

23. Brigadier Simonds was succeeded in the command of 1 Cdn Inf Bde by Brigadier H.D. Graham, E.D., formerly commanding 7 Cdn Inf Bde (3035, 15 Jan 43). Brigadier Foulkes (above, para. 11) was succeeded in the command of 3 Cdn Inf Bde by Brigadier M.H.S. Penhale, formerly commanding 4 Cdn Inf Bde (3340, 8 Apr 43).

2nd CANADIAN DIVISION

24. At H.Q., 2 Cdn Div, Lt.-Col. G.S.N. Gostling, Tor. Scot. R. (MG), was succeeded as A.A. & Q.M.G. by Lt.-Col. E.B. Wilson, Edmonton Regt. (3434, 6 May 43).

25. Upon Brigadier Penhale's being transferred to a brigade of 1 Cdn Div he was succeeded in the command of 4 Cdn Inf Bde by Brigadier J.E. Sager, E.D., formerly commanding the Westminster Regiment (Motor) (3340, 8 Apr 43). Brigadier G.A. McCarter, formerly C.C.R.A., 1 Cdn Corps, succeeded Brigadier Young (above, para.20) in the command of 6 Cdn Inf Bde (3035, 15 Jan 43).

3rd CANADIAN DIVISION

26. There have been no changes in first-grade appointments at H.Q. 3 Cdn Div.

27. Upon Brigadier Graham's moving to 1 Cdn Div, he was succeeded in the command of 7 Cdn Inf Bde by Brigadier H.W. Foster, previously commanding the H.L.I. of C. (3151, 15 Feb 43). Brigadier E.W. Haldenby, M.C., V.D., relinquished the command of 9 Cdn Inf Bde and was succeeded by Brigadier

T.G. Gibson, formerly G.S.O.I (Ops.), First Cdn Army (appointment, and promotion from Lt.-Col., 3340, 8 Apr 43).

4th CANADIAN ARMoured DIVISION

28. At H.Q., 4 Cdn Armd Div, Lt.-Col. G.E. Beament was replaced as G.S.O.I by Lt.-Col. C.M. Harding (3340, 8 Apr 43). Subsequently, when the latter officer moved to the Canadian Planning Staff (para.16, above) he was replaced in his turn by Lt.-Col. J.E. Ganong, E.D., who formerly commanded the 48th Highlanders of Canada (3407, 7 May 43).

29. Consequent upon the adoption of the new organization for armoured divisions, 3 Cdn Armd Bde has been removed from this Division and converted into an army tank brigade. General Burns (para.8, above) has been succeeded in the command of 4 Cdn Armd Bde by Brigadier J.D.B. Smith, O.B.E., formerly G.S.O.I, 5 Cdn Armd Div (appointment, and promotion to Brigadier, 3434, 6 May 43). Brigadier Smith, a Permanent Force officer (R.C.D.), was born on 7 Oct 11, and is the youngest Brigadier in the Canadian Army. He was a Lieutenant at the time of the outbreak of war (Defence Forces List, Canada, Part I, November 1939, p.82).

30. As a new formation for inclusion in 4 Cdn Armd Div under the revised organization, 10 Cdn Inf Bde has been organized in the United Kingdom, and is commanded by Brigadier G.S.N. Gostling, E.D., formerly A.A. & Q.M.G., 2 Cdn Div (3434, 6 May 43). This officer formerly commanded the Toronto Scottish Regiment, and was present at DIEPPE.

5th CANADIAN ARMoured DIVISION

31. At H.Q., 5 Cdn Armd Div, Brigadier Smith has been succeeded as G.S.O.I by Lt.-Col. W.C. Murphy, C.A.C., formerly G.S.O.I, 2 Cdn Corps (3434, 6 May 43). Lt.-Col. J.R.R. Gough, Gen. List, has been replaced as A.A. & Q.M.G. by Lt.-Col. F.B. Matthews, 48 Highrs, formerly an A.A.G. at C.M.H.Q. (3407, 7 May 43).

32. Under the new organization 2 Cdn Armd Bde has been redesignated 5 Cdn Armd Bde. It remains under the command of Brigadier G.R. Bradbrooke, M.C. 1 Cdn Armd Bde has been converted into 11 Cdn Inf Bde and is commanded by Brigadier H. Sharp, D.C.M., formerly commanding the Regina Rifle Regiment (3340, 8 Apr 43). Brigadier Sharp succeeded Brigadier T.J. Rutherford, E.D., who was transferred to command a Group at C.R.U. (3295, 8 Apr 43).

OTHER FORMATIONS

33. 1 Cdn Army Tk Bde is still commanded by Brigadier Wyman. 3 Cdn Army Tk Bde has been organized in the United Kingdom since Report No. 87 was written, by conversion from 3 Cdn Armd Bde, and is still commanded by Brigadier A.M. Thomas, M.B.E., V.D., who commanded it under the former designation. 1 Cdn A.A. Bde remains under the command of Brigadier Agnew.

CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

34. At Canadian Military Headquarters, General Montague remains as Senior Officer, and the three branches of the staff are still headed by Brigadiers Rodger, Beament and MacQueen as B.G.S., D.A.G. and D.Q.M.G. respectively.

35. In "G" Branch, Lt.-Col. W.A.B. Anderson, R.C.A., has replaced Colonel S.F. Clark as G.S.O.I (S.D.) (3035, 16

Jan 43). Lt.-Col. M.P. Bogert has been appointed G.S.O.I (Trg.) in succession to Lt.-Col. R.M. Crowe, R.C.R., consequent upon the latter's being appointed to command his Regiment (3258, 25 Mar 43). As a result of a change in establishment, the Staff Duties (Technical) Section has been much enlarged. It is headed by Colonel F.F. Fulton, O.B.E. (formerly G.S.O.I) as Colonel, G.S. (3258, 25 Mar 43). Three first-grade appointments are provided in this Section, and two have been filled, by the appointments of Lt.-Col. J.T. Wilson, R.C.E., (3258, 25 Mar 43), and Lt.-Col. H.R. Varcoe, R.C.Sigs. (3407, 3 May 43). Establishment changes have also resulted in a large expansion of the Public Relations Section, where Major W.G. Abel, C.A.C., formerly P.R.O., has become D.D.P.R. with the rank of Lt.-Col. (3340, 8 Apr 43).

36. There has been considerable expansion in "A" Branch also. Colonel Bostock has returned to Canada to become B.G.S., Pacific Command, and has been replaced as A.D.A.G.(A) by Colonel C. Lloyd, O.B.E. (R.A.), (3362, 12 Apr 43). Colonel C.S. Booth, E.D., was promoted to Brigadier and retains the appointment of A.D.A.G.(B), (3340, 22 Mar 43).

37. There are now six A.A.Gs. provided for C.M.H.Q. proper, without taking account of two at G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon. The appointments made, apart from those already noted in Report No. 87, para.27, are: A.A.G. (Selection of Personnel), Lt.-Col. J.W. Howard, Gen. List (3258, 25 Mar 43); A.A.G. (Discipline), Lt.-Col. C.H. Walker, Gen. List (3258, 25 Mar 43); A.A.G. (Personal Services), Lt.-Col. D.A. Clarke, M.C., Gen. List (3258, 25 Mar 43); and A.A.G. (Claims), Lt.-Col. G.S. Clark (3295, 22 Mar 43).

38. Certain other changes in "A" Branch may be noted. Consequent upon the decision to place the educational organization on a more exclusively military footing, Major John Grace, Gen. List, has been appointed Acting Director of Educational Services Overseas (3258, 29 Mar 43). Major Grace, while born in England, has lived in Canada since childhood. He is a graduate of the University of British Columbia and has recently been Director of Studies, Magdalene College, CAMBRIDGE, and has commanded a Home Guard battalion in that area (C.M.H.Q. file 10/GRACE J./1). The two senior chaplains overseas (H/Lt.-Cols. W.T.R. Flemington (P.) and M.C. O'Neill, M.M. (R.C.)) were promoted to the rank of H/Colonel (3056, 1 Jan 43), and are now designated Principal Chaplains Overseas.

39. In "Q" Branch, Colonel Lister (para.17, above) has been succeeded as A.D.Q.M.G. by Brigadier N.B. MacDonald (3407, 3 May 43). Brigadier MacDonald has lately been employed at N.D.H.Q., but earlier in the war served for a long period at C.M.H.Q. As a Major, he was one of the group of officers who came to the United Kingdom in November, 1939, to establish a Canadian Headquarters in LONDON. Colonel G.E.R. Smith has been succeeded as Director of Q.M.G. Services by Colonel D. Douglas, O.B.E., (formerly C.R.A.S.C., 4 Cdn Armd Div) (2911, 15 Dec 42).

CANADIAN REINFORCEMENT UNITS

40. As already noted, the Canadian Reinforcement Units have become a Major-General's command with the return of Brigadier F.R. Phelan, D.S.O., M.C., V.D., to Canada, and his replacement by Major-General Roberts (3340, 13 Apr 43). There have been no changes in first-grade appointments at H.Q., C.R.U.

41. There have been some changes in Group Commands. "A" Group is now commanded by Colonel G.H. Basher, O.B.E., E.D. (3340, 8 Apr 43), who previously commanded "D" Group after relinquishing command of the Royal Regiment of Canada. "B" Group is still commanded by Colonel P.R. Shields, M.C., E.D., but with the rank of Brigadier. "D" Group is now commanded by Brigadier E.W. Haldenby, M.C., V.D., formerly commanding 9 Cdn Inf Bde (3340, 8 Apr 43). "E" Group is commanded by Brigadier T.J. Rutherford, E.D., who, as already noted, formerly commanded 11 Cdn Inf Bde (3295, 8 Apr 43). Command of this Group was vacated by Colonel S.A. Lee, M.C., on 12 Mar 43 (3252), and he was succeeded for a time by Colonel J.H. Perry, M.C. (3252, 13 Mar 43). On the appointment of Brigadier Rutherford, Colonel Perry assumed command of No.2 C.A.C.R.U. (3295, 8 Apr 43). "F" Group is now commanded by Colonel L. Keene, E.D., who formerly commanded No.1 Non-Effective Transit Depot (3162, 22 Feb 43). "G" Group has been organized, and is commanded by Brigadier J.R.S. Lough, D.S.O., M.C., V.D., formerly commanding "A" Group (3295, 3 Apr 43).

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