

ARMS OF CANADA
LES ARMOIRIES DU CANADA

1 CANADIAN SPECIAL WIRELESS GROUP
ROYAL CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS

SOUVENIR BOOKLET, 1944-45

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Souvenir Booklet



Compiled by the Editorial staff of the
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1 Canadian Special Wireless Group,
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Lt.-Colonel H.D.W. Wethey

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Our Unit has now finished the task for which it was created. Before long you who belong to it will be returning to civil life or to other duties. It is a privilege for me to be able to express to you here my thanks for your loyalty and support during the time we have served together.

Despite the relatively short time the Unit has been in existence a very great deal has been accomplished. Not only has the operational role of the Unit been performed in a manner which has received due recognition, but your industry and perseverance in the prosecution of tasks not normally required of a Unit such as ours have enabled us to play our part in the defeat of Japan much earlier than might otherwise have been expected.

To those who spent long months in training without having an opportunity to use their newly earned skill, I offer my sympathy. I am sure the defeat of Japan has more than compensated for any disappointment.

It is fitting here to pay tribute to the co-operation and help of all Australian Forces with whom we have worked, in particular, those who have been attached to the Unit and lived with us.

To every Officer, non-commissioned officer, and man of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps, and Canadian Intelligence Corps, who have served together under me, I offer congratulations for a job well done and my earnest wish that each of you may enjoy the best of good fortune in the years to come.

Editorial

Peace has come at last! This means that our days together will soon be numbered. A hundred or more little things which have characterized our life together will fade and take their proper place in the moulding of our characters and of our personalities.

In later years we will look back on our life in this unit. We will have forgotten to a great degree the unpleasant moments and we shall cherish the memories of the pleasant moments.

We shall remember the great east-west softball classics and the spirited cheering crowd. We shall remember how we sang when we landed at Seattle and at Brisbane. We shall remember how we felt when we saw the last glimpse of North America on our trip across the wide Pacific, or how we felt when we returned to see it for good. We shall remember the spirit we had when we put up with the dreary and trying life in the jungles of Northern Australia. We shall remember many many little things. But above all else, we shall remember the friends we have made in this unit. These friends or pals with whom we lived, worked, played and travelled will be rich in our memories — we shall never forget.

It is as a souvenir of our life together that this book has been compiled; it is for the members of the 1 Canadian Special Wireless Group that this book is hereby respectfully dedicated.

NO. 1 SPECIAL WIRELESS GROUP - A BRIEF HISTORY

In June of 1944, the Minister of National Defence authorized the formation of:
Serial-1657 - No. 1 Special Wireless Group, R.C. Signals.
Serial 1798 - No. 1 Special Wireless Group Intelligence Section, C. Int. C.

Staff work in connection with the formation and equipping of the group had been going on in Ottawa for some months, and as soon as the formation was approved action was taken by the Director of Signals and the Director of Military Intelligence to post Officers and men to the two Units.

The first four members of the group were Capt. H.L. Hall, Capt. R.E. March, Lt. J.H. Legere, and Lt. J.D. Miller, who were posted to it on July first.

It had been decided that the unit should be formed and trained at Gordon Head Camp, Vancouver Island, and on July thirteenth Capt. Hall, who was then the acting C.O., and Capt. March, the Adjutant, arrived in Victoria and commenced work. The first N.C.O. to reach Victoria was C.Q.M.S. H.S. Carleton, and the first O.R.'s, five former members of No. 10 Area Signal Company, Vancouver. They arrived at Gordon Head on July fifteenth.

Throughout the balance of July, officers, N.C.O.'s, and men continued to arrive, some of the vehicles were received, and equipment and stores reached the Victoria dock in an ever-increasing flow.

On August first when Lt-Col. H.D.W. Wethey arrived in Victoria to take command of the unit, its strength was 5 officers and 49 men. It shortly became apparent that Gordon Head Camp could not hold both our unit and the Casualty Re-training Centre which was beginning to move in. On August eleventh, the unit moved in its own transport to Mills Road Camp, Patricia Bay.

The unit rapidly began to take shape. Personnel continued to come into the unit until, by the end of August, the strength was up to 253. The first task was to set up the station and the necessary aerial masts and to prepare the training huts. Also, there was the well-known general clean-up of the camp.

On August twenty-first Cpl. Kurtz of the Kent Regt. and two other N.C.O.'s commenced instruction in basic subjects. On the same date the first classes were held for the training of Operators Monitor Sigs. By this time sections were forming up and new men were being posted for training and duty.

The Glee Club has the honor of being the first club formed in the unit. A group of interested personnel met in Hut 11 on August thirty-first and a Glee Club was formed having as its immediate aim the presentation of an "amateur night" in conjunction with the Legion movie. This day was also marked by the first opening of the Wet Canteen.

On September twenty-fifth Maj-General G.R. Pearkes, V.C. G.O.C. of Pacific Command visited the camp. After inspecting the troops on the M.T. compound parade square he continued a visit of the unit in training.

During the month of October the unit was well entertained with a Variety Show presented by the Glee Club which followed a movie program. Also a Concert Party and a Variety Show were presented by the Canadian Legion.

NO. 1 SPECIAL WIRELESS GROUP - A BRIEF HISTORY

Packing of equipment began at the end of October. A packing expert from the United States had come to instruct in the packing following the arrival of most of the equipment during the month of September.

The good news regarding furloughs was received on November fourth following Lt-Col Wethey's return from a trip to N.D.H.Q. Embarkation leave together with seven days furlough was to be granted. The following week the radio station closed, training classes ended, and all available personnel were engaged in the task of completing the packing.

The first weeks of December saw the camp practically empty with the members being away on leave. The final packing was completed and the equipment moved to the docks at Ogden Point.

Christmas day was marked by a light-fall of snow giving the much deserved "White Christmas." In the morning a parade of all personnel was held and the C.O. gave a talk outlining future plans. The unit, he said, would be moving to Australia. Christmas dinner with all the trimmings was served by the Officers and Sergeants. The two mess halls were well decorated for the occasion with fir boughs, a Christmas tree in the centre of the hall, and red and green table decorations.

New Year's was spent waiting for departure. In the first week of the New Year the unit was inspected by Maj-Gen. G.R. Pearkes and by Col. W.L. Laurie, Director of Signals. Maj-Gen. Pearkes gave a farewell message.

On January thirteenth a convoy of motor vehicles moved the unit out of Mills Road Camp. Embarking on the CPR Princess Charlotte the unit sailed to Seattle from where it proceeded to Camp Stoneman, California. Here followed five days of perfect relaxation and enjoyment. Approximately two hundred members of the unit visited San Francisco and the remainder enjoyed entertainment in Pittsburg and Camp Stoneman itself. While at Camp Stoneman, Col. Guy Gurney, Canadian Military Attache to Washington inspected the unit and took the salute on the march past.

Too soon the stay at Camp Stoneman ended. By river boat the unit was transported to San Francisco where the USAT Monterey was boarded and at six o'clock on the evening of January twentieth the unit sailed out under the Golden Gate. During the first few days many of the members suffered from "mal de mer" but in a few days the sea calmed down and they gained their sea legs.

The trip was made with personnel of several other countries. Members of the USO provided entertainment and a fairly comprehensive library of fiction was placed at our disposal. This helped immeasurably in passing the time. In addition there was a "GI" show held with personnel of the unit taking part. On January twenty-eighth the Equator was crossed. King Neptune and his party boarded the ship and all personnel were subjected to his court until proven "Shellbacks". The following day we had the experience of crossing the International Date Line and losing a day.

Early on the morning of February fourth, we put into our first port, Finschafen, in that tropical paradise of New Guinea. Two days were spent here taking on water and supplies and unloading mail. From here we continued on up to Hollandia where American units were disembarked and our unit changed over

NO. 1 SPECIAL WIRELESS GROUP - A BRIEF HISTORY

to the ill-famed USAT Shawnee. After sitting under an equatorial sun awaiting the pleasure of "This is Major Johnson the Transport Commander," troops were finally allowed aboard to find the bunks already occupied by lice, bed-bugs and cockroaches. The remainder of the afternoon and the following morning were taken up with the job of disinfecting and cleaning the ship's quarters. From Hollandia we sailed on February tenth, proceeding down the New Guinea coast and stopping at Oro Bay (where American troops and casualties embarked) and at Milne Bay for oil.

The very welcome sensation of again feeling solid ground underfoot was experienced on February sixteenth when we docked at Brisbane. Lt. Legere, who with Lt. Larkin had travelled to Australia earlier by air, met the unit and directed us to Cherm-side Camp. The stay in Brisbane was marked by the overwhelming hospitality of the Australians. The Australian Comforts Fund arranged week-ends to interesting districts in the suburbs of Brisbane. All was not play while the unit was at Brisbane. M.T. prepared their vehicles for future use, the operators worked with the No. 1 Australian Special Wireless Group, and members of Intercom took classes in operating and procedure. In addition to this routine work, the equipment had to be moved and various fatigues carried out in the camp. On March fifth the unit was inspected by General Sir Thomas Blamey, Commander of Allied Forces in the South-West Pacific Area.

A sad event for all in the unit was the death of Sgmn. D.J. Green on March third. He was drowned at Maroochy-dore while surf bathing. Services for the late Sgmn Green were held on March fifth at St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Nambour, and burial was at Woombye-Palmwoods Military Cemetery.

On April fourth the unit departed from Camp Cherm-side to Exhibition Station where it boarded a train. The three day train trip to Mt. Isa was one which will not soon be forgotten. Attempts to sleep in crowded day coaches, eating mutton three times a day and a detour at Home Hill because a railway bridge had been washed out were interesting details in Queensland's mode of travel.

At Mt. Isa a two and a half day stop was spent unloading the equipment from the train onto trucks. In the evenings Mt. Isa was visited and although some had difficulty in making the return journey to camp, all agreed that they had a good time. From Mt. Isa the trip to Darwin was made by motor vehicles, stopping each evening at staging camps. Upon arrival at McMillan's Road Camp in Darwin on April eighteenth the unit was played into camp by the N.T. Force Band.

Work commenced immediately preparing the camp for use. Antennae were laid out, trenches were dug for cable, the station was set up and numerous other necessary tasks were completed. On April thirtieth the first regular shift went on duty at the station. As the unit commenced its work it was found necessary to re-organize the sections in order to form a more efficient working organization.

On May eighth the news came of the cessation of hostilities in Europe. The unit heard Prime-Minister Winston Churchill's broadcast on the BBC through station 5DR. The following day a Thanksgiving Service was held. Major Pick gave a short address and also read a Special Order of the Day by Maj-Gen. J.J. Murray, G.O.C. N.T. Force. The remainder of the day was declared a holiday.

NO. 1 SPECIAL WIRELESS GROUP - A BRIEF HISTORY

The unit was now prepared to take over the complete job formerly done by the Australian Special Wireless Group. On May eighteenth, although Australians were still maintained, the Canadian Special Wireless Group became responsible for the working of the station. On May fourteenth classes were resumed for the instruction of partially trained operators. The Rear Party arrived on May thirty-first providing additional personnel for the work.

With the unit running smoothly, personnel were able to devote more time to sports and activities. All the clubs began to function. The "Static Press" started weekly publications on June fourth. The Glee Club was active preparing for the recital by the Darwin Choral Society and for a variety show put on in the camp on August twentieth in conjunction with the "Canuck" orchestra. Besides this the quartette "Harmony Four" appeared weekly on 5DR. The Camera Club commenced building a dark room where members could work. The first unit dance in Australia was held on July sixteenth with the "Canuck" orchestra supplying the music. A regular feature of the camp's entertainment was the movies which were shown three times a week through the kindness of the U.S. Signal Corps. In addition a sports program was arranged including the favorite camp sports of softball, volleyball, swimming and boxing.

On August second, Col. Moore Cosgrave, Canadian Military Attache to Australia, visited the unit. In the afternoon he inspected the unit on parade and took the salute on the march past. After the parade Col. Cosgrave congratulated all ranks on parade for the splendid turn out and the general conduct of the unit since coming to Australia.

The news of Japan's acceptance of the Allied surrender terms laid down at the Potsdam conference came on August fifteenth. A Thanksgiving Service was held with 85th Wing R.A.A.F. led by Chaplain Clayden of the above Wing. The remainder of the day and the day following was declared a holiday for all troops not on duty.

Within the short span of a year the gigantic tasks of organizing, training, moving overseas, and going into operation had been accomplished. The job assigned to this unit has been carried out, and in such a manner as to win the praise of those under whom it worked. The history of the unit will not be complete until it has arrived back in Canada and has been disbanded. However, regardless of what follows, members of the unit can stand with those of other Canadian Units, proud of their record.

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HEADQUARTERS SECTION

The majority of the members of this Section were among the original personnel posted to the unit when it was first organized at Gordon Head. All were experienced tradesmen, some having worked at least four years at their trade before coming to the unit. For five months we laboured days (and many nights) with documents, inoculations, optometrists reports, leaves and furloughs and the many administrative tasks necessary to prepare the Unit for overseas service.

Proceeding overseas involved an adventurous trip which was at times, both exciting and dull. A little over a month and a half of travelling found us set up in a "fresh air" camp near Brisbane. It was at a seaside resort near here that a popular member of H.Q., D.J. Green, met with an unfortunate accident and was drowned in the surf. After a period of two short months which we spent accustoming ourselves to Australian life and enjoying the generous hospitality of the citizens of Brisbane and the surrounding country, we were given orders to march on Darwin. It is noted at this time, that none of the numerous eligible bachelors of H.Q. succumbed to the blandishments of the Australian female and all were able to proceed with a clear conscience (I wonder) on the rail and road trip to that Nemesis, Darwin, anathema to all Australian diggers.

Arriving at Darwin, we lost a number of our clerks to Intercomm Section. The following is the remains of H.Q. section:- CSM Addy, who was acquired from Vimy. We realize his presence most every Wednesday afternoon especially when he says "March On". Our Pay Office crew, S/Sgt. Ross, Sgt. Whaley ("Thank God I'll be too old for the next war") and then of course, our Orderly Room Staff, who think they have had many troubles but seem no worse for wear. Sgt. Flynn, in this day of accommodation shortage can always tell you where to get a hotel reservation. Ask him about the time he secured one in the Officers Annex to the Crosby Hotel. Cpl. Riley, hut gardening arranged at your convenience. Cpl. Simpson, shorthand artist. Sigm. Fox, a gentleman and a scholar, who can swim farther, dive deeper, come up higher and drier than any man that ever lived, a sport and can't help it, too good for this world and heaven's bound to be his home (his own words). Sigm. Scott, the boy from Newfoundland, who was with us in the Orderly Room until one month ago when he took over the management of the men's Rec. Hut, where he has done a swell job. Cpl. Mills, as Officers Mess steward, has mothered the officers and made the Mess a home away from home. Sigm. Fin, originally our postal orderly and now Men's Canteen steward is doing nicely as a bartender. Sigm. Mizzi, our ex-Orderly Room runner is at present helping the cooks in the kitchen. Sgt. Markham (the Digger) who looks after our ailments and Cpl. Faulds, who minds the Post Office, are our two representatives from the Australian Army.

Last, but not least are our officers. Lt-Col. Wethey, our C.O. has given a considerable boost to the sale of that Canadian product, Buckleys "Canadiol", in this country. Great interest is being taken in our C.O. at present, a smile means we get out of here in two weeks, a frown, two months. It is rumoured that our 2 ic, Major Pick, has his eye on a certain cement mixer to take back to Canada as a souvenir. Major Rowland, who has always ensured an adequate water supply for the Admin. Bldg. has never been found wanting at the pay parades twice monthly. Captain Reid ("Oh, balderdash"), is our present adjutant.

In summing up, your writer would like to report that the Section, as always, is ready at a moments notice to pack up and move, in the direction of Canada this time we hope.

QUARTERMASTER SECTION

"Q" Section is composed of three different groups--Q.M. stores staff, the cooking staff and a sanitation Corporal. This is the section which keeps everyone in the unit clothed, fed and happy.

Cpl. Frank Pizzuto who hails from Edmonton, is an old and faithful member of the Q.M. staff. His favourite pastime is softball in which he excels on the mound. During the softball season he was a member of T.M. Section's team. Cpl. Bill Clark from Toronto is also an old faithful of the Q.M. establishment. Enjoys softball behind the plate and during the season was catching Pizzuto's slants for T.M. Johnny Toole from the "herring choker's country" of St Johns, N.B., is a new member of the staff, having previously been engaged as a driver batman. He is not a ball player but never misses a game if given the chance to see one. These three, and C.Q.M.S. "Stan" Carleton have done a fine job in the stores. Their motto is "If its in a box, we will move it."

The cooks arrived at Pat Bay from all over Canada. Jim Crosland and George Stott came from Chilliwack, B.C. Lou Gamache and Casey Underhill from Borden, Hugh Fletcher Stan Treron and Ken Hewitt from Red Deer, Alberta, Ernie Podjan from Work Point barracks in Victoria and Sgt McAleece and Johnny Comanic from Calwood, Vancouver Island. As they say themselves they "Have slung hash all over Canada and know all the tricks."

The cooks look back on their trip to Australia as a complete holiday. They did some cooking on the Shawnee but their only comment on that experience is "Thank God we are not in the navy." Upon arrival in Australia they were faced with the task of adjusting their work to Australian kitchens and rations which they will assure you was no small task.

Despite the well-known army beefs about food, the cooks are well liked by everyone in the unit. Kitchen fatigues, if nothing else, have made them all familiar to us--Johnny and Stan with their water fights, Casey's shaved head, Jim on the night shift, Stotty's and Lou's daily remark, "Why are you fellows always late", Fletch's good-willing cheerfulness to give second helpings and Sgt. McAleece's game of chance in the early morning hours are known to all.

Last but not least in "Q" Section is Cpl Crosby in charge of sanitation. "Bing" was originally in Training Section but took over sanitation when we arrived in Darwin and has done an excellent job.

The hours of work in "Q" Section have prevented us from extensive participation in many of the activities of the unit. In spite of this we have enjoyed our life and work here. We will recall with pleasure the many card games, the sports, and the evening firesides which have made camp life interesting.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE

T.M. Section was, for a long period a mystery to other members of the unit. There was some doubt in their minds as to which letter came first. However, we no longer have to suffer being mistaken for a certain Section that gets trimmed nearly every night at volleyball. Today everyone realizes the multiplicity of our duties, for it was T.M. that gave them that pretty station and kept it running. It was T.M. that was responsible for most of the improvements in the camp.

It might be well to mention a few of the unsung heroes of T.M. We have Moffat, Shera and Sampson our linemen deluxe--the boss, the brains and the brawn behind our camp power system. Cooper too is a lineman. Sid is the inside man at the exchange and, incidentally, is considering settling in Darwin and growing peanuts.

We often wonder if Chartrand will say the same things when he is awakened at home as he does when Bell does the job? Gord is our industrious "wood butcher" and Al is our machinist.

Holm and Trottier are the long and short of it. Slim is our literary genius who should be writing this. Jean-Paul and Ted Loney make up 50% of the now famous "Harmony Four". They also get entangled in the queerest arguments heard this side of the Pacific.

Sgt. Cook is our radio expert and the only one in the shop that can put a recordograph together and have nothing left over. There is also Jim Davis, the Ontario cowboy. We used to wonder why he went outside to practice but now that he has moved inside we know. Wright comes to work at weird hours and hides behind an array of meters. We haven't discovered yet what he does--they say it is top secret. Dave Porteous is reported to be working on a weapon to counteract the Atomic bomb. When questioned about this he mumbled something about north and south poles and why wouldn't it. Pegg was sorely missed on third base in the softball finals. Ray is our advance party in the south. Morris is the man with the voice--well it's loud anyway. Ernie is a one man cheering section. "Doc Blast Em" Sherman is the guardian of Technical Stores and section canteen "Rep". Then there is Len Reid, T.M.'s softball coach and local mastermind. Our Lloyd Maywood knew the exact distance to the moon to the surprise of 5DR.

Rhodes is our new screen star. Watch for him in the newsreels carrying a typewriter. Dowling helps Dusty on typewriters, but at present Gord is supervisor of imported labour. Trudeau took over the indirect lighting business from Dusty and is also "G.O.C." mobile workshop. All complaints regarding this article should be sent to the "ladies" of the T.M. bridge club who railroaded McEachern into the job in his absence.

Finally we have "Staff" Roy, Jackson and Potts. Although they are not actually in T.M. we still have to put up with them. "Handle Bar Harry" is the one and only holder of the "Tropo Star". Potts spends his time walking in circles. We hear that "Staff" Roy, our aimable "F of S", is considering staying in the rabbit business.

So that's T.M. Section. We have had many good times together and now look forward to the days when we shall meet again in civvies.

MOTOR TRANSPORT

M.T. was first combined with Technical Maintenance under the command of Capt. J.H. Radfield who returned to Ottawa before the unit moved overseas. Subsequently the section officers have been Capt. March, Lt. Legere, and presently Lt. Rutherglen. This section when it left Canada was composed of thirty-six all ranks. It included fitters, drivers mechanic, drivers I.C., and diesel power plant operators.

A great deal of credit is due the members of the section for the efficient manner in which their vehicles were prepared for the trip overseas. Aside from minor scratches the vehicles arrived overseas in excellent condition. Upon arrival in Australia no little trouble was experienced in the sudden change from right to left hand driving. Many amusing incidents occurred but in short order the drivers became accustomed to the new methods.

The pleasant but short stay in Brisbane was spent unpacking and readying the M.T. equipment for the next move. There was, however, ample time to develop an exceptionally good section softball team and to partake of the fine Australian hospitality.

In conjunction with the Australian Army which transported the M.T. equipment by rail to Mt. Isa, a group from the section safeguarded the vehicles on the journey. From Mt. Isa the overland highway to Darwin presents an unparalleled test both to the stamina and physical training of drivers and to the maintenance and quality required of motor vehicles. With these qualities the drivers withstood the grueling test with little more than a few sore backs!

With a large complement of vehicles the M.T. Section was confronted with a great deal of work upon arrival in Darwin. In a matter of eight weeks, however, everything was well under control. Under the supervision of Cpl. Wagers a grease ramp (which became the show-piece of the M.T. Compound) was constructed, impregnable to everything but Australia's white ants.

Aside from the normal activities of an M.T. section many other important obligations have been fulfilled. Bill Fraser undertook the responsibility of supplying the unit with wood. The diesel operators demonstrated their worth in providing the unit with a never ending supply of electricity. Eight others proved their trust and capabilities serving as driver batmen for the unit officers.

On the lighter side we look back on the volleyball contests held with T.M. Although there was often more argument than ball playing we claim to have come out the victors. The games were further enlivened by Paul "The Kingston Kid" Murray who insisted upon kicking the ball with his feet. As a morale builder we believe Benny Black takes the championship with Cpl. Wagers running him a close second. We salute Benny for his daily rumors hot off the press which kept us believing that we would be leaving for home the very next day. Cpl. Wagers kept us happy by continually renewing our hopes of receiving campaign pay. For morale busters, Ken Walker and Gordie Wilson both tried their best. Ken "The Little Boy from Bracebridge" who had to be kicked out of bed each morning and Wilson who consistently held five aces in the hut card games caused headaches.

The Section as a whole has shown willingness to do their job and do it well. In doing so we have helped to better the efficiency of this unit.

NO. 1 OPERATING (STATION) SECTION

Along with the other elements of the Group, the Ops. were mustered at Gordon Head and Patricia Bay, B.C. from August, 1944 to January, 1945. The personnel from this section were recruited mainly from the Canadian Special Wireless stations and later augmented by partially trained members from all parts of the Dominion.

Throughout their stay in Canada they all went through the various stages of Basic Training, endless fatigues, operated a Special Wireless station and still found time for recreation together. Then came the trip to Australia and we shared the doubtful beauties of the Islands and New Guinea, along with the other forms of torture necessary to a long ocean voyage on a troopship. Upon arriving in Australia we immediately began to adapt ourselves to the different Australian way of life and adjusted ourselves in matters pertaining to their recreation, work and customs.

Then came the never-to-be-forgotten trip north to Darwin and our subsequent endeavours in trying to make our camp livable according to our standards. Such words as "improvise" became the order of the day until we settled down to the everyday run of camp life and made the best of what we found.

During our stay here the Ops. have done a marvelous job in their army profession and have acquitted themselves to the best Canadian tradition. We have held a major role in winning for this unit the highest commendation from those whose job it has been to make use of our labors.

During all the hard work we have found time for sport and recreation. Although the "Trained Ops" have not won any major competitions in the sport line, they have held the top spot in the softball league and only lost out in the finals to the hard hitting kids of No. 2 Operating Section.

There are many of us who will look back on our stay here with mixed feelings. Many strong friendships have been built around our everyday life together. Many incidents, both humorous and tragic, have taken place in the section but most of us will only remember the humorous side. Incidents will be talked and laughed over for years to come whenever a few of us get together, and the friendships formed here will be a source of enjoyment throughout our civilian life in years to come.

We came overseas to do a job as trained operators. We have done that job to the best of our ability in spite of numerous difficulties. Not one of us will fail to be able to look back on these days with justifiable pride knowing that we accomplished what we set out to do.

NO. 2 OPERATING SECTION

No. 2 Operating Section or Training Section came to Pat Bay from camps all across the Dominion. We were drawn from various units--Armoured Corps, R.C.A., Infantry, etc. After the initial task of cleaning up Pat Bay camp we began training under WO 1 Halliday and his group of instructors. In the next three and a half months we recall our efforts to ensure a week-end pass to Vancouver, the many arguments which occurred in theory class, and Sgt-Major Halliday looking over the rims of his glasses and beginning one of his many tirades with, "You boys think..."

Leaving Pat Bay we took in the night life of San Francisco and "enjoyed" our cruise on the luxury liner SS Monterey. At Chermiside we shared the camp fatigues and enjoyed the social life of Brisbane. In Darwin after a period as common laborers, No. 2 returned to training classes under Lt. Legere. Sgt Vaughan-Smith and Sgt Balcom were the instructors. After guiding us through the intricacies of procedure classes Sgt Vaughan-Smith left us to enter the station and we received two instructors from the Rear Party--L/Cpl "Andy" Anderson and L/Cpl "Rhythm Jim" Vernon. One of the high-lights of the Training Ops stay in Darwin was the section Anniversary party held at the beach. Supper rations, beer and lolly water were taken to the beach and the evening was spent in singing and spinning yarns about the past year.

Our section carried out its own extensive program of sports. In softball, the section had a three team league which operated twice a week. It was an exciting schedule and Jessiman's hard-fought Bludgers came out on top over the Last-hopes and the Sluggers. The players on the winning Bludger team were: Jessiman, Boileau, Murphy, Roberts, Hunter, Palmer, Wilhelm, Wilkinson, Grant, Clark, Kensett, and Vernon. The six team volleyball league provided all of us with plenty of fun and excitement. Tommy Middleton's Winners came out on top after playing great ball to defeat Corbett's Dodgers in the semi-finals and Campbell's Didahdits in the finals. The Winners lineup was as follows: Middleton (Capt), Clark, Rousseau, Murphy, McNicol, Hutchison, Lawton, Bodman, Lindon, and Scott. In track and field, we visited 3 W.U. for a sports day which included not only track and field events, but also softball, volleyball, and badminton. We won over the Aussies by a narrow margin. Training Section's sports were a complete success. The main idea behind the extensive program was to get everyone "in the act". This certainly was achieved. To Lt. Legere goes much of the credit for organizing this program and for its successful completion.

The year together has brought a lot of laughs for No. 2 Op. and we hope we have not caused too many headaches for the other members of the unit. We have been well represented in the unit activities with members in all four camp clubs. In sports we have more than held our own, winning all three unit championships, including the coveted softball league, table tennis and horseshoes.

In looking back over the past year we can see ourselves in future years remembering such instances as: "Hutch's" feeble cry at 7.30, "Time to get up?"; D'Avignon's adventures at Mt. Isa; Tommy Middleton's "Come on bones, roll for daddy"; Bill Murray's parcels; Oscar's grin; "Major" Bartholomew's "Two and six, please"; Kensett's love affairs; Jim Groome's great midnight fight; Clark's thoughtful endeavors to make us all better men; Art Johnson's many escapades which he took with a smile; Trumpour's and Montrieul's moustaches; "Boombaw's" record player; Boileau with Clark's guitar; Marshall's celebration on V-J Day and the many other instances in our life together.

THE REAR PARTY

Last March a draft of twenty men was made up in Vimy and after spending a furlough at home assembled in Vancouver. Here we were joined by twelve men from the Intelligence Corps, five men from the Victoria Station, our Sergeant-Major, and four officers. This group of men comprised the Rear Party which left Vancouver on April 9, 1945. Sailing from Los Angeles, we arrived in Melbourne on May 4, and began the trip northward. We stopped in Brisbane for a four-day leave before continuing. Then on to Mount Isa where we proceeded by convoy up the Defence Highway to Larrimah. From here we travelled aboard the "Spirit of Protest", that infamous train of the North. We joined the unit in Darwin, May 31, after a trip which lasted fifty-three days.

Immediately we began to adapt ourselves for life in the great Australian "out-back." The first few days our complexions darkened and we could no longer be called "white men" by those who had come before us. After three weeks of hardening-in by such things as laying water pipe, hauling rocks, mixing cement and erecting a building, we commenced our work.

In our spare time we have added a few conveniences to our hut to make it more comfortable. Those two rustic benches around our fire-place have been a source of enjoyment for every one of us. Here we gather in the evenings to talk of days gone by and plan for days ahead while the flames rise upward to the night and shadows play across the ruddy faces of the boys. Visitors from all over the camp come to enjoy our fireside. Thanks to "Moe" Guennette and "Gumba" Gamberg, there is always tea and sometimes even more than that.

The boys of the Rear Party quickly fused in with the rest of the unit and have taken an active part in camp activities. Photography has been the most popular hobby and we have some really good pictures which we will appreciate later on in life. Then we have swimming, volley-ball, softball, and hiking to keep us in shape, and Lou Savlov ingeniously constructed a set of dumb-bells for the manly art of weight-lifting. In such ways we have created considerable variety in our camp life.

Now the war is over and everyone's chief interest is to get home. Nevertheless, another great interest has arisen and that is to get these large documents from King Neptune autographed. The way we have been going about it has made one wonder whether or not the fellows are movie stars. Surely long after we have been re-established in civilian life, we will glance at our elaborate document with all the names inscribed and smile, recalling fond friendships reminiscent of travels and experiences shared with the comrades of the Rear Party.

INTERCOMN SECTION

Intercommunication in modern warfare stands with complete justification alongside every other device born of the science of Mars. Perhaps not as exciting as some branches of Signals, it nevertheless calls for a more exacting application of communication sciences in the all-important task of placing the correct information in the right hands at the right time. The Intercomn Section of this unit was called upon to do that task--did it well--and has every right to be proud of its achievements.

Formed as an integral part of Canadian Special Wireless Group, Intercom has proven itself sufficiently flexible and adaptable to meet the contingencies in service often unforeseen in even the most capable long-range planning. Originally the section was composed of Operators Line and Wireless, Despatch Riders, Linesmen, Exchange Operators and clerks. Many of these forsook their trades to enter the teletype branch when it became evident that this service would require the bulk of Intercom's energies. In re-organization shuffles we lost our linemen to Technical Maintenance Section but appreciate the spirit that brings them back to our hut in the evening hours to "scuttlebutt" and exchange rumours in the best tradition.

We did have a radio link for a while, but its span was brief. Our despatch riders have "jeeped" their devious paths with the required amounts of "Vigilans", "Versutus", and oftentimes, more than the necessary amount of "Velox". The exchange operators have worked quietly and smoothly keeping their circuits in operation. All hands pitched in to make the teletype section an organization that drew rich praise from high quarters. Stated simply,--we did our job.

And we left our mark in other unit activities. Our softball team made an impression in the league, but were displaced in the play-offs by a hard working, capable No 2 Operating nine. The Glee Club and Quartette enjoyed our best talent--we have been active in the Camera Club--and, oh yes!--regimental duties.

But we haven't been too busy to have fun. 'Member the "Atomic Cocktail" which raised our Christmas spirits at Pat Bay? Some of you may remember how it pole-axed you right off that rosy cloud--others prefer to forget. Steak and eggs at Sydney--cocktail bars at 'Frisco--Yankee hospitality, and the penalty we paid when the Monterey did a few bumps and grinds just off the Golden Gate. We weren't exactly down-hearted in Brisbane either, when Aussie hospitality made itself felt. Shhhh! We don't mention Mt. Isa except after lights out! Let's see the scars you picked up when you tried to pulverize their cement sidewalks with your head!

We all have our own private stock of memories to recount and some highly technical lies to tell the folks back home. But we carry the important fact deep within ourselves. We were of Intercom Section. We were an instrument of Victory and Peace.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

In the Spring of 1944 the laborious work of D.U., under the capable leadership of Lt-Col E.M. Drake and Capt J.R. Mackay was given a recognition it had long sought. The men who had been selected from units all over Canada were offered an opportunity to serve overseas as Intelligence personnel with a Canadian Signal unit then forming. First positive information came in May of 1944. Capt Woodsworth was to take charge of the draft. Lt. Larkin and Lt. Burns were named to officer the party with Capt Woodsworth. On the 29th of August the group proceeded on leave before joining the No.1 Special Wireless Group at Victoria.

After completing basic training at the end of September, it was found that the Japanese language classes required instructional aids that could best be obtained at the Japanese Language School in Vancouver. Accordingly the group moved to Seaforth Barracks for a few weeks followed by a similar period on subsistence while attending classes at Seaview School. At the school the group divided in two, one group devoting their time to Japanese language under Capt Woodsworth's direction, the other concentrating on general Intelligence under Sgt Yolleck. At the middle of November our recall to Pat Bay preceded embarkation leave.

The record of the journey from Victoria to Brisbane is dealt with elsewhere. At Brisbane after a short period in Chermiside Camp where Lt. Larkin rejoined us, the group moved to Camp Ascot for duty at Central Bureau. The Canadians fitted into this many-sided organization. Let it be said to their credit that they were sought by all departments. On April 7th the major portion of the group left Ascot to rejoin their parent unit, the #1 C.S.W.G.

On Monday, 23 April, a special warning order was distributed to a few personnel in MacMillan's Road Camp. A party of R.C. Signals and Canadian Intelligence personnel were to visit 51 Australian S.W.G. to observe the general operation of an Australian camp at first hand. In addition some excellent parties were given the Canadians by their hosts. In a few days, on return to MacMillan's the combined Australian-Canadian unit was functioning to produce Intelligence. On May 31, Sgt. Handforth flew from Brisbane to join this unit at Darwin. About July 1st Corporal Gardner and Gilmore likewise flew from Brisbane to take up their work with the unit.

Meanwhile, in Canada a second party of Intelligence personnel had been formed. Capt Mackay was able to obtain his release from H.Q. to O.C. this group. Accompanying officers were Lts. Carrington and Holmes. There were thirteen corporals in this rear party group.

In Brisbane, Lt. Carrington, S/Sgt Ralph, Sgts Boivin and Moore, and Cpl Book have carried on with the remains of the Australian Rear Echelon. In Manila, Capt Woodsworth, Lt. Burns, S/Sgt Van Ert, Sgts Olmstead and Bourne, Cpls Dennis, Rogers, Veale and Ewing, and Pte Hartwell maintained the good name of this group.

It is unfortunate that the security regulations of Intelligence work prohibit the story of the interesting details of day to day duty in the climactic stages of the war. The contribution of the Intelligence section must likewise be bypassed. However, it is to their credit and to the ability of the operators and staff of the 1 C.S.W.G. that within the narrow limits of Allied Intelligence circles the name of the Canadians invokes considerable respect.

THE DARWIN AREA

The Darwin Area is a land of rich tropical scenery, fascinating Nature wonders, vast tracts of wasteland and aboriginal lore. The area was first settled because of the excellent cattle raising country and the discovery of gold and pearls. Fortune seekers and adventurers the world over flocked to Darwin. A population sprung up of the most fantastic conglomeration of races; British, Russian, Greek, Japanese, Chinese, Swedes, Siamese and Maltese. These races intermingled to produce almost every kind of half-caste--black and white, black and yellow, yellow and white.

Early in 1942, Japanese dive bombers screamed down from the sky, reigning destruction on the almost undefended city. The population disappeared, evacuating to the south. Much of the rubble has not been removed. The Bank of New South Wales, the Post Office, Hotels, restaurants and private homes still stand in shambles. The civilian grave yard and the graves of unidentified Japanese airmen bear the grim realities. From then on life in Darwin took on a new aspect. As fighting raged in the Islands to the north, the city became a forward base.

The vegetation around Darwin consists mostly of the sturdy Gum or Eucalypt trees and various types of cycads give the landscape a very tropical appearance. During the rainy season the growth is very dense and twining reeds and grass thicken in the jungle. Along the coastline are excellent beaches which provides enjoyment in swimming for troops in the area. Along the rivers the growth is considerably heavier than elsewhere and has every feature of jungle terrain. There are large cattle stations in the region but the climate will not permit the growing of crops.

Weather conditions are exceedingly dry from April until October with very little rain, if any. During this period the temperature continues between 85 and 90 degrees. In the latter part of August and September the temperature rises to as high as 110 degrees. The humidity increases and discomfort through the days and restless nights must be endured. October, November, March and April are the rainy months and life becomes almost intolerable. Depression slows down ones activities and ambition fails.

No less attractive than the tropical scenery is the wild life in this region. There is an outstanding variety from gaudy cockatoos and parrots down to inconspicuous stick insects. The White Cockatoo with its sulfur-yellow crest is probably the most attractive and graceful of the birds, quite in contrast to its brother the Black Palm Cockatoo. This bird is very large and almost awkward in appearance. Its rasping call can always be heard in the jungles. The parakeets are gaudily colored, bright green, orange and blue plumage, and are much smaller than the cockatoos. These flamboyant birds clamour from their haunts in the evening at sundown and revel hilariously in the tall gum trees until well after dark. Early in the morning they are back again, but as the first rays of sunlight appear on the horizon, they make their retreat.

Another nocturnal inhabitant is the Flying Fox which can be seen flying about in the darkness; a silent watcher of the night. It attains a wing spread of four feet and hangs downward from the branches of trees. Feeding on fruit and blossoms, it has been a menace to fruit growers. Wallabies are numerous throughout the jungle

SCATTERED SHOTS



Work Gang



Tram



West Supporters



Percy Takes a Drink



A Meal Enroute



Mike the Lizard



Training Classes



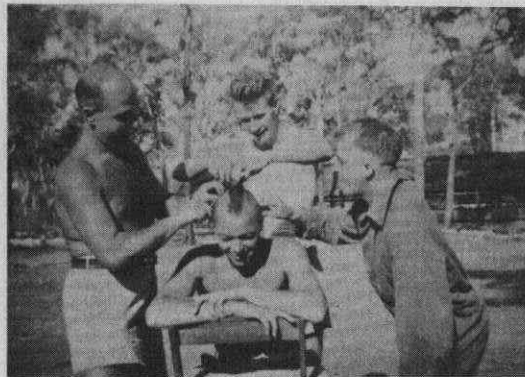
Washing Dishes



A Meal



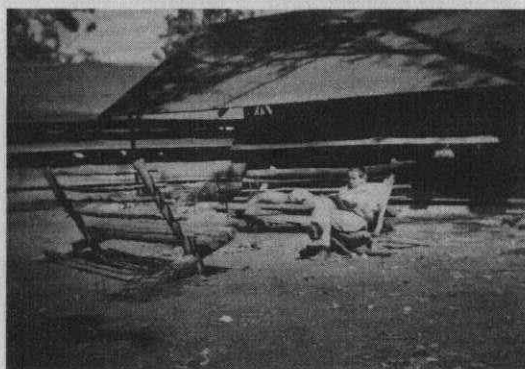
The Kick



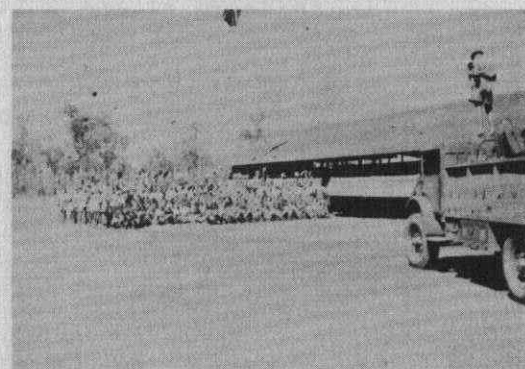
Hair Cut



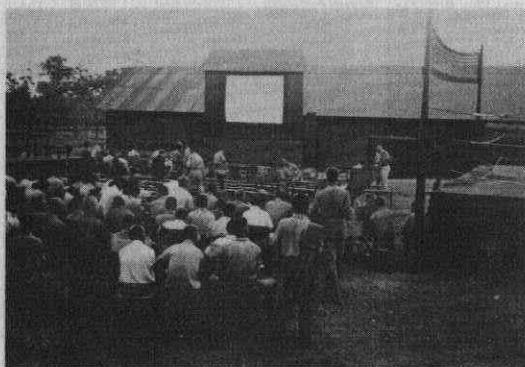
Argument



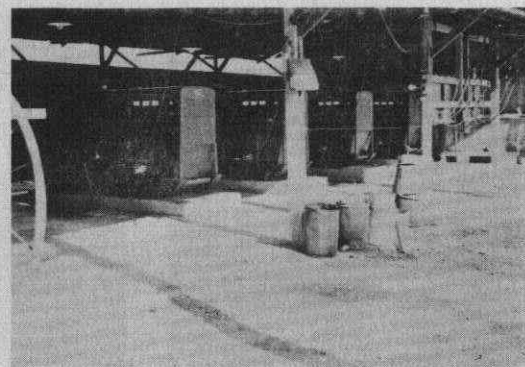
Solid Comfort



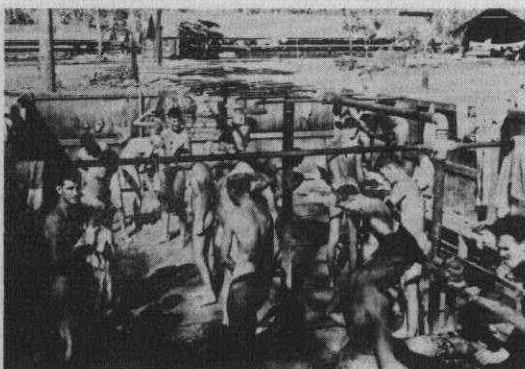
Victory Cheer



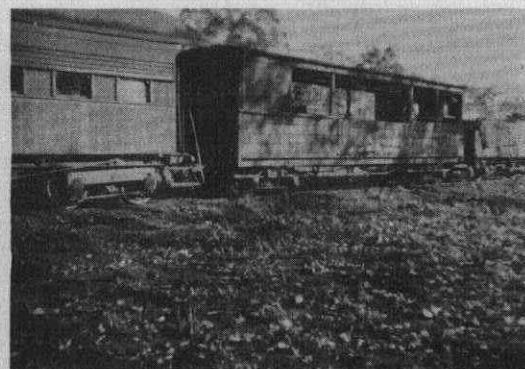
The Evening Movie



The Electricity Supply



The Shower Room



Troop Train Deluxe



Hard at Work in the Station



The Men's Quarters



Churchill's Head



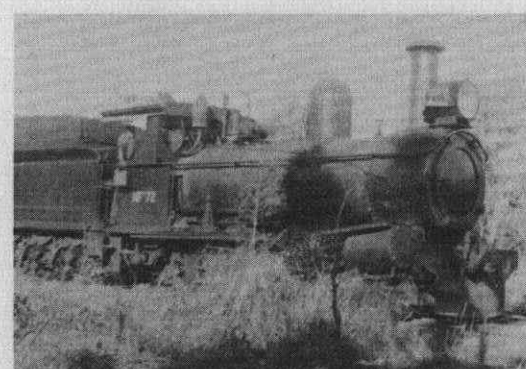
Table Rock



Larrimah



Home While in Convoy



Spirit of Protest



First Class Coach



Percy the Possum



The Plantation



Cheerleader



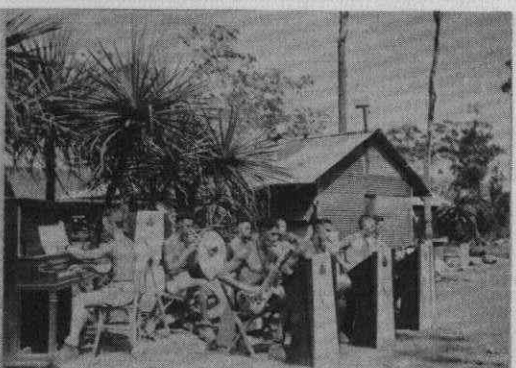
The Station



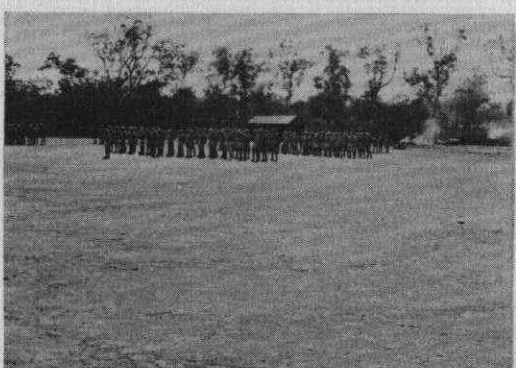
A Night Feast



The C.Z.'s



The Band



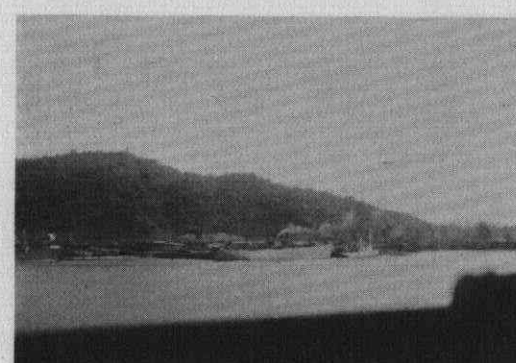
On Parade



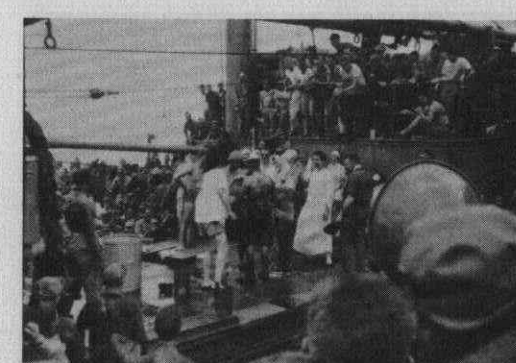
Overland Convoy



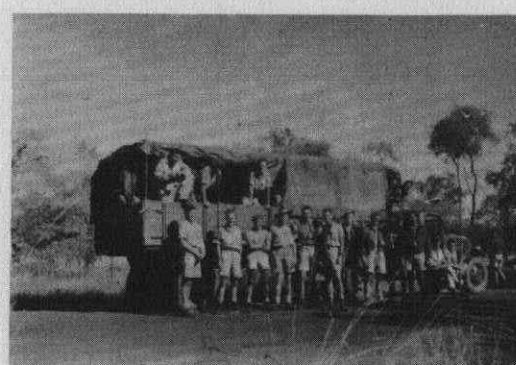
L.C.T. Oro Bay



Ships in Milne Bay



Crossing the Equator



Rest Period while Enroute



Camp Chermside



Loading Docks Milne Bay



S.S. Monterey in Hollandia



Tug-of-War



Badminton



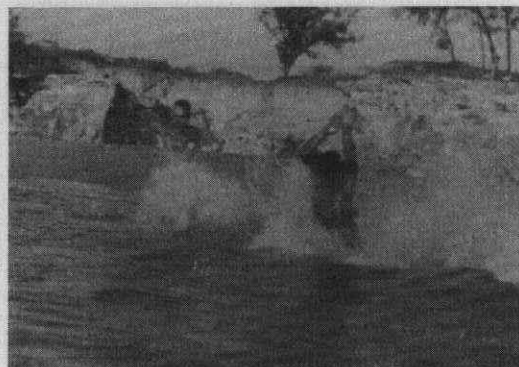
Baby Wallaby



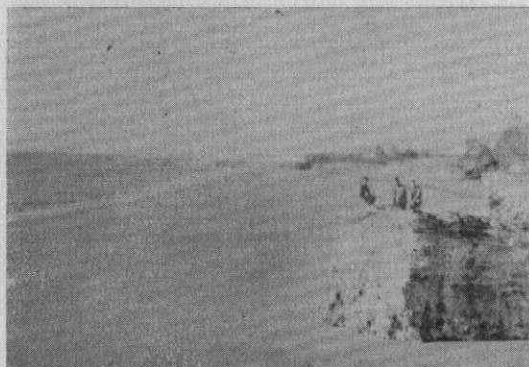
Broadjump held at # 3
Wireless Unit



A Cold Drink



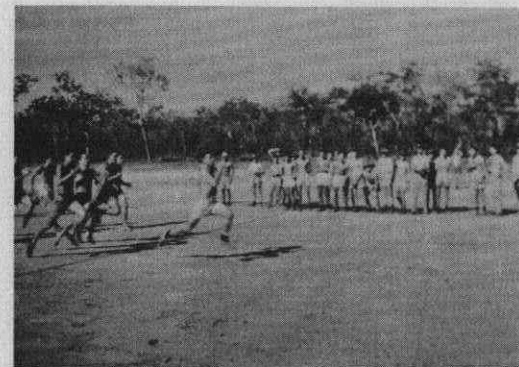
Sea Bathing



Casuarina Beach



Making Friends



Hundred Yard Dash held at # 3
Wireless Unit



Volleyball Game



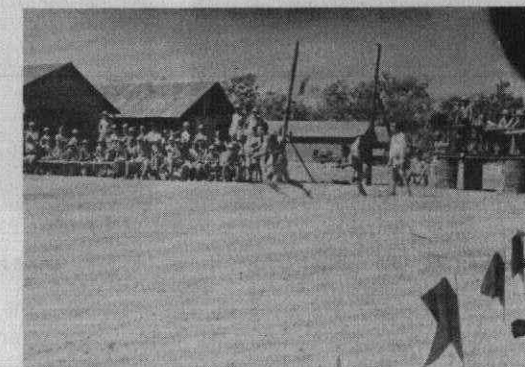
The Mess Hall



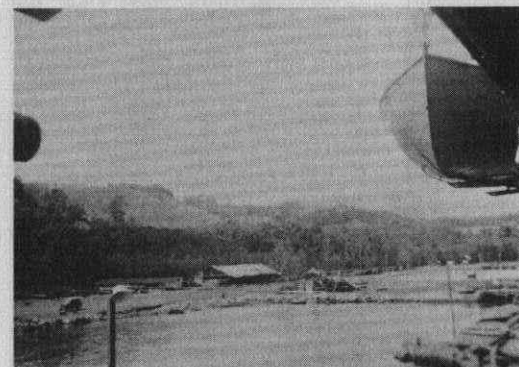
Ellsey Falls



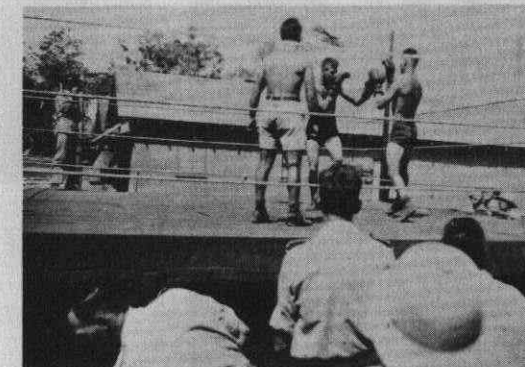
MacMillan Road Camp



East vs West Softball Game



Milne Bay seen from the Shawnee



Boxing

SCATTERED SHOTS



Evening Pastime



Wash Day



Australian Skyscraper



End of the Day



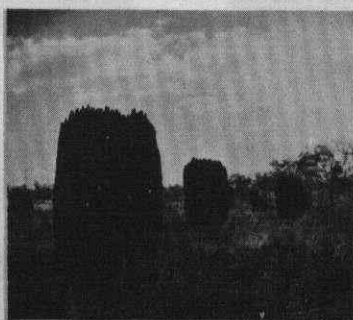
Guess What?



The Kick



Hard at Work



Ant Hills



Hungry

THE DARWIN AREA

undergrowth and further south giant kangaroos attain a height of seven or eight feet. In the same region we find very prolific the Brolga (those graceful legendary "dancing birds") and Emus, both of which are six feet high.

Various lesser creatures but no less fascinating, are the inconspicuous stick insects, poisonous centipedes, anopheles mosquitos, praying mantis, subterranean ant lions and countless species of ants and termites. Of these the most interesting is the Meridional Termite or white ant, builders of the mysterious Magnetic Hills which stand like ancient tombs in Cemetery Plains. The mounds are wedge-shaped and range from eight to fifteen feet high. They are invariably oriented with the ends facing north and south. This accounts for their name. Strangely, no one has yet found the reason for this amazing and consistent trait of these tiny builders. The Great Mound Termite builds a home as large but differs in shape, being constructed in a lobular or dome fashion and lacking the orientation feature. All over the north land these mounds are numerous and in some areas actually obstruct one's view of the landscape.

The north also has several types of reptiles. The Frilled Lizard presents an interesting example, having a large membraneous frill around the neck in which captured insects are stored. Poisonous snakes such as the Tiger, Death Adder and Copperhead are now rare, but rock pythons are frequently seen. Along the muddy banks of the Daly River, one hundred miles southwest of Darwin, crocodiles are in abundance, preying on wallabies, water buffalo, and even the wily aborigine hunter has fallen to them.

This brings us to the Australian Aborigine who is a subject of great interest in these areas and presents a national problem. In most regions they have remained uncivilized living in a prehistoric state bounded by superstitions and fantastic traditions. They roam about the country in tribes feeding on raw meat, wild fruit and honey ants which are a delicacy. As in so many prehistoric societies, the women do most of the work, providing food and caring for the young under harsh discipline of the master.

Most everyone has heard of the Boomerang, the famous aborigine weapon. It is a curved piece of wood which, when thrown into the air, returns to the place from which it started. It is shaped to employ the same principles as the wings of an airplane. Not all the natives are still uncivilized, however. During the war years with the consequent opening up of hitherto unknown regions, the blacks have come more frequently in contact with the white man. They have worked on the cattle stations and on construction jobs. Women have been used as helpers in white homes. For their services they are seldom given more than a bit of tobacco and some clothing.

The government has made attempts to educate them but has failed to understand their prehistoric traditions, their coroborees, their language, and their religion. Likewise the black has failed to understand the white man and the complexities of modern society. And now the aborigine is fast on the road to extinction and before long they will have been left to the ages.

Now that the Australians have emerged victorious from the war, workmen are already clearing away the rubble from Darwin, removing military equipment and installations preparatory to the return of the civilians. Much has been learned about the Northern Territory during the war years, and with vastly improved communications, post-war Darwin may be a flourishing and prosperous city.

In the course of history, many men have chosen to blow themselves to fame and immortality. Included among these are Benny Goodman, world's premier clarinetist, Herman Glutz, blow-football champion of East Carrot Creek, and Alfred Nobel, the Swedish baron of blast.

But in all pride and humility we may point, (even if it is rude) to one of our very own family of technical geniuses and nominate him to join the aforementioned honoured ranks. Cpl "Bing" Crosby made his meteoric bid for fame while serving as "special service" engineer to this unit.

With due regard for all the rules governing the explosion of combustible gases in confined space, "Bing" painstakingly primed all 12 barrels of a special and secret device which is referred to only as "Crosby's No. 1." Working under his direction, a picked crew of technicians responded like automatons as each individual command and order snapped through the morning air. Then it happened--someone had blundered! A blinding flash was trampled under by a series of earth shocking explosions--for a split second the universe seemed to rock. The silence that followed was denied unchallenged reign by the crackle of burning timber as fire continued to ravage "No.1".

When the flames had been subdued and camp spine-bashers were once again firmly entrenched in their "wind-sacks", Cpl Crosby was induced to reveal the inner workings of his weapon.

"It was planned," he began speaking with difficulty through cracked and fire-parched lips, "to aim all 12 barrels at the heart of Tokio and by utilizing the explosion force of high octane gasses, hurl a missile so terrible at the Mikado's inner fortress, that victory could have been a matter of hours."

"The method of propulsion," he continued, "was elementary. The missile itself was without a doubt the most diabolic ever manufactured by man. It must remain forever a dark brown secret."

When the final summary of destruction is recorded, the V-2 and the Atomic bomb will be noted and alongside these two may be entered the "Crosby Cocktail."

.....

The "New Standard Australian-English Dictionary and Guide to Aboriginal Jive" defines cement as "something which shouldn't happen to a dog." The more scholarly definition by Dr. Hedgepot Bunk in his "Guide to the Pitfalls of Life" refers to the new book soon to be published by Major R.H. Pick under the title "The Hardsurfaced Road to Tokio".

Perhaps this latter reference should be chosen for all around us stands mute evidence to the almost unbelievable accomplishments of cement--all conceived and constructed under the guidance of Major Pick. No ordinary accomplishments these, but pure expressions of art and utility such as the island continent has never seen before.

In such mundane efforts as cement floors and antennae anchor blocks, the work of a genuine craftsman is readily apparent, but picturesque chimney bases, oil tank stands and truck ramps radiate the spirit of the inspired artist at work. This artistry moved one of our camp "poet laureates" to verse which we quote below.

SUPERODE TO CEMENT

I met a soldier from the Aussie land
Who said: I saw some things of great renown
Made from cement on Major Pick's command.
Some were low and flat, while others round;
Still others rose half way to heav'n
Enveiling all in majesty. 'Tis said
That none the birds not even hawk or rav'n
Can fly to perch on top of chimneys laid
With firm and oriental risqué base.
The Major architect shall e'er recall
The labour and the broken backs to bring
This monumental thing above the work of all;
Even the works of countless nation's kings
Can n'er compare the wondrous works of Pick
And shovel, and cement and stone and stick.
Look on our works ye Abos and relent.
Nothing of us remains to show time spent
On these colossal wrecks where once we trod.
We'll n'er be back again so help us God.

CONTRIBUTORS

The editors of this booklet could not have accomplished their task without the co-operation which they received from others. This co-operation was given whole-heartedly by all and was much appreciated. We would like to acknowledge some of the contributors.

The gathering of photographs was done by "Snooks" Palmer. These photos came from members of the Camera Club and we thank the members of that club for their aid. In addition, Palmer took on the responsibility of taking section photographs, of printing photos to the correct size and of preparing the photograph pages for printing.

The cover of the magazine which we believe to be absolutely "tops" was done by Johnny Melanson. Johnny also did the cartoons at the top of the unit activities page. This work was all done in his own time.

The section write-ups were mainly written by members of the respective sections. We thank those persons who did the write-ups for their splendid jobs and for the prompt manner in which they turned their work in.

The printing was done by Bill Murrav. Bill was busy with numerous other jobs but he worked over time in order to do the work. We thank him for his help and for a fine job.

It is impossible to record all the contributors. At one time or another we bothered practically everyone in camp. Assistance was given willingly by all persons. The success of the booklet will be due in a large extent to these contributors. So to all who helped, the editors say "Thank You".



THE STATIC PRESS

The newspaper club was first started by our Editor-in-chief Mel Howey. It was proposed that a camp newspaper be published which was to have as its prime function the bringing of Canadian news to the members of the unit. In order to choose a name for the paper a contest was held. Tommy Marshall came through with the prize winning name — Static Press.

The four page Static Press, which was published weekly, was edited by a staff of Mel Howey, Cliff Williamson, Alex McDougall, Bruce Jessiman and Bud Powell. The paper included such notable columns as Weekly Canadian news, unit and world sports news and the last but not least Q.R.M. Q.R.M. was dedicated to camp scandal. In a world completely devoid of the fairer sex this presented quite a problem. Nevertheless, it was turned out to the amusement (and also the annoyance) of many.

There were many persons who helped by their co-operation and contributions. In fact so many that it is difficult to recall each one individually. Notable contributions however, were Art Shilling's title page complete with bamboo letters, aerial masts and the wireless static flashes, also Vic Waters' contributions to Q.R.M. with special reference to his article on the bake oven and chimney.

It would be wrong to say that everything was smooth sailing. There was the hectic first week entailing all the problems of starting a new project, there was the difficulty of receiving Canadian news, there was the apparently hopeless task of removing errors from the copy, and scores of other worries. But all the worries were more than overcome by the enjoyment of the work and the appreciation of the paper by the members of the unit. The editors of the Static Press look back on their efforts on the paper as an enjoyable and valuable experience.

THE GLEE CLUB

The Glee Club was formed in Pat Bay on September 15, 1944, and started with a group of eight members. A small half hour variety show commenced. Working hours and shifts proved a problem but the show was finally presented on Nov. 8. It was the club's first appearance and a success. Finally another bigger show was started with a Quartette consisting of Brown, Taylor, Loney and Trottier. The choir membership jumped to twenty-five.

Rehearsals continued with the object of putting on a show for the troops aboard ship. For a time it seemed that this idea would have to be abandoned due to the abundance of USO stage shows aboard the liner S.S. Monterey. Then someone hit upon an idea which provided a show far superior to any of the entertainments put on by professional entertainers. It was a "G.I." concert put on by troops from The United States, Australia, the East Indies and Canada. This concert was overwhelmingly successful and staged three days to several thousands. The glories of the land of the Maple Leaf were well upheld by our Glee Club and individual soloists.

No other opportunity was afforded the group to appear before an audience until the unit arrived in Darwin, when it was found musical interests were very high. Here rehearsals were resumed with George Brown taking over the duties of conductor, with a unit variety show in mind. It took many weeks of untiring effort on the part of the members as work within the unit interfered with regular and consistent practice.

The male Quartette which had been formed back in Pat Bay has become well known in the Darwin Area. In spite of a library of only two or three songs, the "Maple Leaf Quartette" began to make appearances in various camps, and their popularity was such that they found their way to radio. They have occupied a spot on the Saturday evening broadcast of "Best We Laugh" over 5DR, Darwin, for a period of twelve weeks. They were known as the "Harmony Four" due to security regulations forbidding the mention of any Canadian personnel in the area.

Voicing tenor in the club are Maynard Taylor, Herb Wilks, Ted Loney, Arnold Mest, Don Scott and Lieut. Rutherglen. Baritones and Bases are Ernie Morris, Ron O'Reilly, Art Coirini, Johnny Fradette, Lloyd Flemming, Paul Trottier and Mac MacAnany. The quartette comprises Maynard Taylor, first tenor; Ted Loney, second tenor; George Brown, baritone, and Paul Trottier, bass. This group was invited to sing at the special entertainment for the Duke of Gloucester during his proposed tour of the area.

The members of the Glee Club have thoroughly enjoyed their periods of rehearsing which are always climaxed by the satisfaction of public appearance. Their efforts have provided a source of entertainment to every member of the unit and countless other troops. They have created just another high light in the history of our unit.

THE CAMERA CLUB

The Camera Club was organized in Pat Bay and is one of the oldest clubs in the unit. On September 25th, 1944, a meeting was called and an executive council was drawn up with Lt-Col. Wethey as Honorary President, Don Vaughan-Smith as President, Bill Scaldwell as Vice-President, Sgt Robinson as Secretary Treasurer, and a Committee of Bud Powell, Bob Proctor, "Snooks" Palmer, Don Scott, Ron O'Reilly and George Reid. A dark room was prepared and an efficient photographic organization developed with all necessary equipment such as driers, enlarger, developing tanks, chemicals and all other accessories. The equipment alone was valued at two hundred dollars.

The committee assembled regularly to outline plans for future work and improvements. Before the unit moved overseas, the Camera Club secured a four hundred dollar supply of contact paper, projection paper and films for its members. With these, and other added supplies, the club was assured a successful future.

Upon arriving at Darwin many new problems faced the club, the greatest one being that there was no suitable place to work. But a new committee got things rolling again. This council includes "Snooks" Palmer as President, Louis Rousseau as Secretary Treasurer, and a committee of Maywood, Gunning and Murray. Plans were made for the construction of a photographic room and enthusiastic members went to work. After several weeks of work during spare hours an elaborate place for developing was constructed. Everyone calls it the "Camera Club". It contains a projection room built for two enlargers, a printing room for two contact boxes, a developing room all complete with plumbing, electricity and coke water cooler. A membership fee of five dollars was charged each individual entering the club for the purpose of purchasing supplies. There are now approximately fifty members in the club.

The Camera Club has proved very useful, besides providing an excellent past-time. Over five hundred rolls of film have been developed, and a great number of enlargements have been made. Sgt. Robinson has done official work photographing parts of equipment for technical purposes and fifty of his negatives have been sent back to Canada for Public Relations purposes. He has also improved film developing under tropical conditions. The majority of members knew very little about photography before coming to the unit and much of the work turned out now compares favourable with professional photography. Lately the club has become more popular than ever, and at present a picture diary is being prepared of all interesting aspects of life in Darwin. The pictures are being displayed and when the final photos are chosen the group will be sold to club members.

What better souvenir of travels and experiences can one bring home than a selection of photos? What better remembrances of friends? The Camera Club has given us these. So we salute those members by whose untiring efforts the club has become an efficient and beneficial organization as well as an interesting hobby for all our camera enthusiasts.

THE ORCHESTRA

At Patricia Bay some of the boys who enjoyed music practised together, which resulted in the official organization of the orchestra at Chermside. Then with Bert Scott as Chairman, Stan Hunter as Secretary, and Ronny O'Reilly as Librarian, the orchestra began a period of practice, which was to give it a popular place in the unit and proved a source of enjoyment for everyone in the camp.

Since coming to Darwin there have been nine members. Leader, and playing 1st Trombone, is Bob Campbell; 1st Trumpet, Capt. Reid; 2nd Trumpet, Stan Hunter; 1st Alto Saxophone, Ted Lowe; 2nd Tenor Saxophone, "Mac" McAnany; 3rd Alto Saxophone, Jim Groome; Piano, Sgt. Handforth; Drums, Bert Scott; Guitar and Vocalist, Maynard Taylor. Most of the instruments are privately owned and many of them were purchased new in Vancouver before the unit left Canada. The bass drum was bought with the proceeds of a Bingo Party held at Chermside. The music has been donated by Bert Scott. Recently the boys have joined the Chappell Music Club, which sends them four new selections each week. Sgt. Handforth does the arranging for each orchestration.

The members of the orchestra even built a place to practice; that inconspicuous edifice behind the kitchen, known as Albert Hall. Here they have rehearsed together regularly two and three times a week. They have made several appearances in public. Their first dance in Australia was held on July 16 in the Men's Mess. Then came a concert at 12th Squadron R.A.A.F. Next they supplied the music for 51 Squadron's farewell party. The night the war ended they led the rejoicing in the Men's Canteen, in the Officer's Mess, and led a snake dance through the camp. Some of the members from Western Canada even brought forth their instruments to the great east-west ball classic to support their comrades.

Now that we are hoping to start soon on our journey home, the boys of the orchestra have one great hope — that is to play aboard ship when we sail. They are also hoping that there will be some ladies aboard for dancing partners. After we get back home, some will lay their instruments away, but some may continue to practice. The unit will not forget Albert Hall and the orchestra in helping to pass many pleasant hours in our camp life.

SPORTS IN GENERAL

Sports have become an integral part of our daily life in this unit. For your fond recollection we are presenting a survey of sports in general around our camps.

The first highlight in the field of camp sports was the table tennis tournament to determine the unit champion of this great indoor sport. Guy D'Avignon was crowned champion after winning the finals in grand style.

The second highlight of our sports was the horseshoe pitching duel which took place at Brisbane. Mel Howey became unit champion by suffering no defeats.

Shortly after our arrival in Darwin we were invited to take part in an Allied Works Council sports program at Cassarina Beach. Although we didn't take all the prize money we certainly had our share of entries in all the events, and came home with several top honors.

Then too, no record would be complete without mention of that epic struggle of the century, the famous East vs West game. Lin Green from Saskatchewan picked an all star western team who lost to Jessiman's eastern nine. The game, from a softball standpoint was a washout but as a morale builder and good fun it took the cake with all the trimmings. Bleachers were set up and even the band turned out. The G.O.C. of the area was the guest of honor and judging from what we saw he enjoyed it as much as those with a more personal interest. George Brown did a beautiful job of commenting on the game over the P.A. system. Feeling around camp was kept at fever pitch for a good many days after the game was all over.

Volleyball also became an important item in our daily diet. Several minor leagues among the sections were going continuously and even the staid sergeants had their daily constitutional after "tea" each evening.

Then there is our crop of pug-uglies. That name should not really be applied to our students of the famous art of self defense because they really are a fine looking bunch of athletes. Under the able supervision of Battling Bob Proctor many of our men entered the golden gloves competition and came out with a good share of the honors. Sgt. Bob himself, Stan Hunter, Ray Henderson, Bob Stone and Oscar Redenbach even went into the more advanced branch of the game at Spitfire Stadium in Darwin. All put up very good fights with Hunter and Proctor winning decisions.

Our officers had several clashes with local RAAF lads at softball and from what we could gather they always lost track of the score after the third inning. No, we didn't say who won because for some unknown reason we were never able to get an interview when the game was over.

Our sports have taken a great deal out of the monotony of our camp life and have helped us to build good solid friendships. Also, we have received great health value from the exercise. We may be sure that in years to come you will see mention on the sports pages of some of the athletes of this unit, and when you do you will look back with pride on the time when you played with that bloke back in '45.

SOFTBALL LEAGUE

While the unit was stationed in Chermerside Camp at Brisbane the makings of a softball league among the various sections was formed. The league itself did not really get started until our arrival in Darwin when a comprehensive fifteen game schedule was drawn up calling for each team to play one game a week. The league was made up of six teams as follows: T.M. (with two star players from "Q" section), M.T., Intercom, Intelligence (with two Hqts. players), and No. 1 and No. 2 Operating sections.

The season opened on the R.A.A.F. field and saw No.1 Operating jump into an early league lead followed by Intercom, T.M., and No.2 Op. Intelligence and M.T. trailed the rest of the field. As the season progressed and the scene shifted to our own "Shag Stadium", Intercom took over the lead from No.1 and held till the No.1 lads rallied in the stretch and took over top spot again. Meanwhile No.2 Op. and T.M. were battling it out for third and fourth spots, and Intelligence, with some late replacements, were vainly trying to sneak into the fourth playoff spot. M.T. got off to a bad start and were in the cellar all season. The final stage of the schedule saw No.2 move into second and almost displace the leading No.1 nine. T.M. took third and Intercom slipped to fourth. Lin Green wound up as the batting champion of the league with a neat .568 average. George Reid led with the best pitching record. "Paddy" Paterson turned in the best individual pitching performance of the season when he fanned twelve men in a seven inning game.

The playoffs saw No.1 Op. knock off T.M. in two straight, hard-fought games, and No.2 disposed of Intercom in a similar fashion. The finals brought together the two operating sections in what appeared to be an easy go for the powerful No.1 boys. However the youngsters from No.2 put on a terrific exhibition to win the league in two straight games from the league leading No.1 nine. Large crowds attended the playoffs to witness the best ball of the season. The climax to the finals came a few nights later when a postmortem was held in the wet canteen between the two finalists. The winning No.2 lads did the honours, by buying the beer for the losing team.

The playoff lineups were as follows:

<u>No.2 OPS.</u>		<u>No.1 OPS.</u>	
C	Hutchison		Powell
P	Cole		Reid, G.W.
1	Holland		Anderson, J.C.
2	Laut		Shilling
SS	Lawton		Williams, J.
3	McNicol and Palmer		Green and Lidster
LF	Schriner and Flemming		Williams, G. and Jordan
CF	Henderson		Boyd
RF	Kerfoot		Williams, E.

All in all the season was an excellent one. The crowds early in the season were small but as the season progressed they grew larger as interest in the league mounted. When playoff time came the games were all witnessed by overflow crowds. We think everyone will agree that things would have been pretty dull around camp if it had not been for our softball games every other day. And right here we would like to vote a word of thanks to all those who were responsible for the League and its successful operation.

N O M I N A L R O L L

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Major ROWLAND, Fraser Hugh
Capt. HALL, Harold Leslie
Capt. MARCH, Ralph Edgar
Capt. PURTELL, John Joseph
Capt. REID, James Ruston
Capt. WARDROP, William Leslie
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Lieut. LEGERE, James Hance
Lieut. MILLER, John David
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 Haney, B.C.
 Bernice Ave., Sub.82, Kingsway,
 Toronto, Ont.
 236 N. Dewhurst Blvd., Toronto.
 Cranbrook, B.C.

No. 2. OPERATING

MIDDLETON, Thomas Patterson
 MONTREUIL, Rodolphe Euclide
 MURPHY, Kenneth Arthur
 MURRAY, Frederick William
 MURRAY, Gilbert Speirs
 OFFICER, Richard Grant
 O'REILLY, Ronald Francis
 PALMER, Elmer Byrne
 PUSEY, Bertram Benjamin
 REDENBACH, Oscar Phillip
 ROBERTS, Joseph Sydney
 ROUSSEAU, Louis
 SCHREINER, Paul James Francis
 SCOTT, Donald Gilchrist
 TAYLOR, John Spiers
 TERRY, Stanley James
 TRUMPOUR, Maurice Paul
 Dorland
 VERNON, James Melville (L-Cpl)
 WILHELM, Edward James
 WILKINSON, Henry Junior
 WILLIAMSON, Clifford James
 WOLFE, John Keith
 ZAISER, Franklin Dave
 5340 Elgin St., Vancouver, B.C.
 42 Parkview Rd., St. Catharines,
 Ontario.
 Kelwood, Manitoba.
 220 Carlton St., St. Thomas, Ont.
 83 William St., Brantford, Ont.
 612-24th Ave. West, Calgary.
 Shelburne, Ont.
 36 Southampton St. Guelph, Ont.
 270 Bright St., Sarnia, Ont.
 Melville, Sask.
 196 West 18th Ave., Vancouver.
 10945-32nd St., Edmonton, Alta.
 200 Lauder Ave., Toronto, Ont.
 44 Queenston St., Winnipeg, Man.
 515 Roslyn Ave., Westmount, Que.
 Box 460, Trenton, Ont.
 6050 Chancellor Boulevard,
 Vancouver, B.C.
 R.R.#2 Port Credit, Ont.
 Box 261, Swift Current, Sask.
 628 Nicol St., Nanaimo, B.C.
 3 Queensdale Ave., East York,
 Ontario.
 386 Brandon Ave., Winnipeg, Man.
 Box 63, Peace River, Alberta.

INTERCOMM SECTION

BEAUCHEMIN, Georges Etienne
 BOUCHER, Harris Theodore
 BOUCKOCK, Ernest Edward
 BROWN, George Alexander
 BROWN, Walter Charles (L-Cpl)
 CHAMBERS, Edward Lionel
 CHAPMAN, Edward Daniel
 COLLINS, Louis
 COOPER, Ernest
 CORNBOROUGH, Jack Noel
 COX, Howard Ferguson
 CRAIG, Hillary Alexander
 DARLINGTON, Thomas
 DAVIS, Gordon Henry
 DONALD, Robert Haig
 DUFF, John McPherson
 EADIE, John Sylvester
 ELSE, Leonard James
 FERGUSON, Stanley Dugald
 GOODMAN, Allan Richard John
 GRADY, Allan Joseph
 JENSEN, Harvey
 KILLEN, Raymond Eugene
 KURTZ, Alfred Oscar
 MACEACHERON, Royce Linton
 MCNEIL, Michael Charles
 Philip
 MCVICAR, Joseph Carl
 MARRIAGE, Robert Frederick
 MUISE, Joseph Douglas (L-Cpl)
 St. Aime Conte, Richelieu, Que.
 9831-100 St., Edmonton, Alta.
 8 Ball Ave., West, Merritton,
 Ontario.
 1002-13th St. South, Lethbridge,
 Alberta.
 4659 Sophia St., Vancouver, B.C.
 125 South West Marine Drive,
 Vancouver, B.C.
 63 Quebec St., Sherbrooke, Que.
 Box 41, Parent, Lavolette, Que.
 466 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg, Man.
 Abbotsford, B.C.
 356 York Rd., Guelph, Ont.
 Washigami, Ont.
 226 Micola St., Kamloops, B.C.
 Box 536, Bracebridge, Ont.
 2066 Claremont Ave., Apt. 63,
 Montreal, Quebec.
 Zelma, Sask.
 Antigonish, N.S.
 R.R.#2, St. Thomas, Ont.
 Box 74, R.R.#4, Edmonton, Alta.
 37 Jackman Ave., Toronto, Ont.
 42 undas St., Dartmouth, N.S.
 2289 West 36th Ave., Vancouver.
 227 Main St., St. John, N.B.
 General Delivery, Kelowna, B.C.
 Harcourt, Kent Co., N.B.
 122-6th St., New Aberdeen,
 Glace Bay, N.S.
 145 International St., Glace
 Bay, N.S.
 Box 871, Kelowna, . C.
 Tooker St., Yarmouth, N.S.

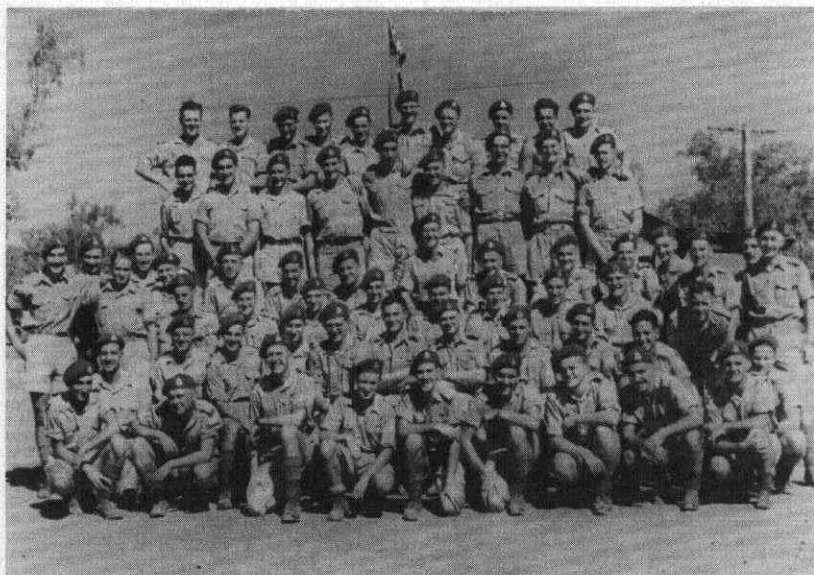
INTERCOMM SECTION

MUNRO, James	57 Enterprise St., Moncton, N.B.
NAUGHTON, Thomas James	1240 East 19th Ave., Vancouver.
PARRISH, Merlin Leslie	R.R.4, Hamilton, Ont.
REID, Alexander Pratt	544 Banning St., Winnipeg, Man.
SADLER, Edward John	122 Bertmouth Ave., Toronto.
SADLO, Donald Edward (L-Cpl)	199 King St. East, Hamilton, Ont.
SOMMERS, Irving	220 Fairmount Ave., West, Montreal, Quebec.
STONE, Robert Edwin	292 Roxborough Ave., Hamilton.
SUNDERLAND, Marvan William	Forest Lawn, Calgary, Alta.
TANGUAY, Joseph Gerard	200 St. Peters St., St.
Jacques	Lambert, Montreal, Quebec.
WATERS, Charles Victor (Cpl)	1617 East 10 Ave., Vancouver.
WATSON, Gordon Robert	1950 Robson St., Vancouver, B.C.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

BARRETT, Gerald Douglas (Cpl)	440 Prince St. Truro, N.S.
BOOK, Grover Samuel (Cpl)	64 Whitmore Ave., Toronto.
BROAD, William Leighton (Cpl)	405 3rd Ave., Ottawa, Ont.
CROUSE, Arthur John (Cpl)	Lunenburg, N.S.
DENNIS, Clark Machon (Cpl)	90 Leuty Ave., Toronto, Ont.
EGILSON, John William	Swan River, R.R.#1, Manitoba.
EWING, Russell Maurice (Cpl)	256 Carmarthen St. St. John, New Brunswick.
FORSTER, Arthur Oswin (Cpl)	Nakina, Ontario.
FREEMAN, Donald Henderson (Cpl)	Brock St. S. Whitby, Ont.
GARDNER, Olin Prestwood (Cpl)	16 York St. Halifax, N.S.
GILMORE, Bruce Robertson (Cpl)	185 Clendenan Ave., Toronto.
HARTWELL, Orlando Kenneth	19 Queens St., St. Thomas, Ont.
HOOPER, James John (Cpl)	75 Fentiman Ave., Ottawa, Ont.
MACDONALD, Lauchlin	66 Lyman St., Truro, N.S.
William (Cpl)	
MOFFATT, William Joseph (Cpl)	11435-80 St., Edmonton, Alta.
MILLER, Andrew David (Cpl)	326 Fairmont Ave., Ottawa.
PAGE, George Franklin	Box 91, Oakville, Manitoba.
PATERSON, William Thompson	495 Northcliffe Blvd. Toronto, Ontario.
(Cpl)	
ROGERS, Dean MacPhail (Cpl)	322 Maple Ave., Pembroke, Ont.
SEABOYER, Gerald David (Cpl)	R.R.#1, Dartmouth, N.S.
TAYLOR, Maynard Francis (Cpl)	R.R.#2, Shubenacadie, Hants Co, Nova Scotia.
VEALE, William Stuart (Cpl)	Port Hill, P.E.I.
WALTON, William Howard (Cpl)	2721-17th St.E. Calgary, Alta.
WILKES, Herbert Edgar (Cpl)	59 Clark Ave., Burlington, Ont.
WILLIS, Douglas Edgar (Cpl)	660 Windermere Ave., Toronto.
YATES, Morris Alonzo (Cpl)	17 Gledhill Ave., Toronto, Ont.

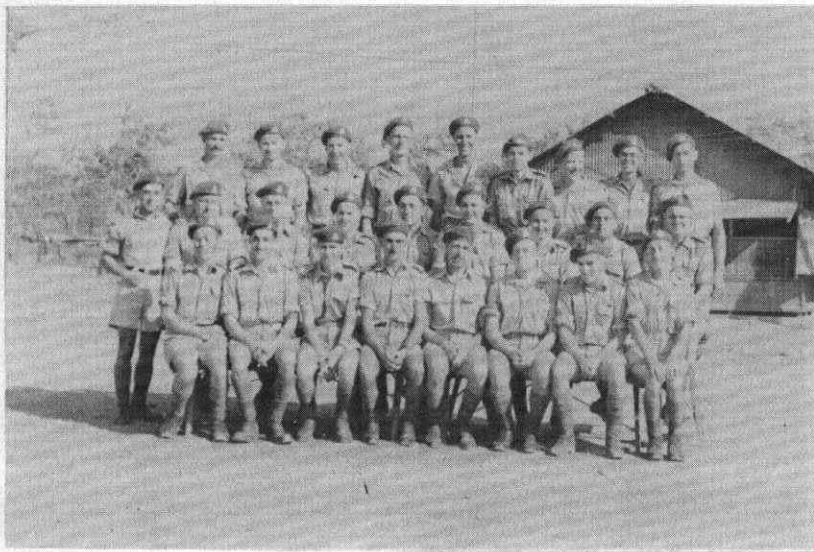
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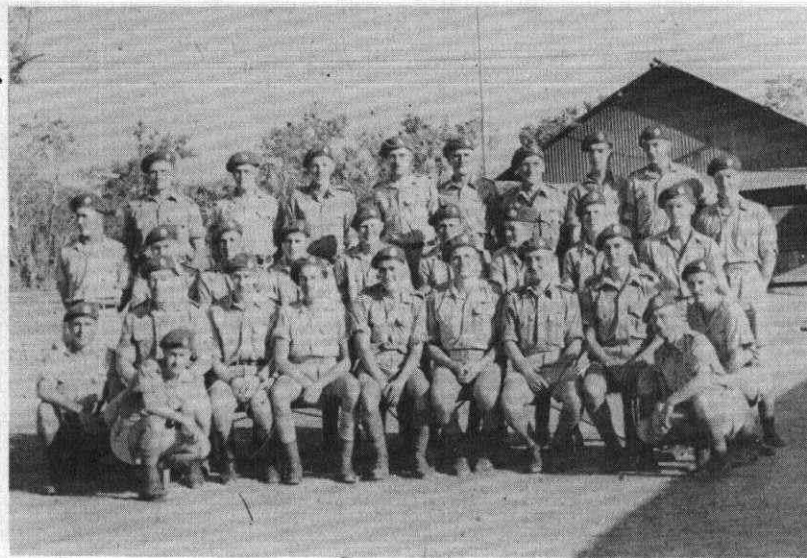
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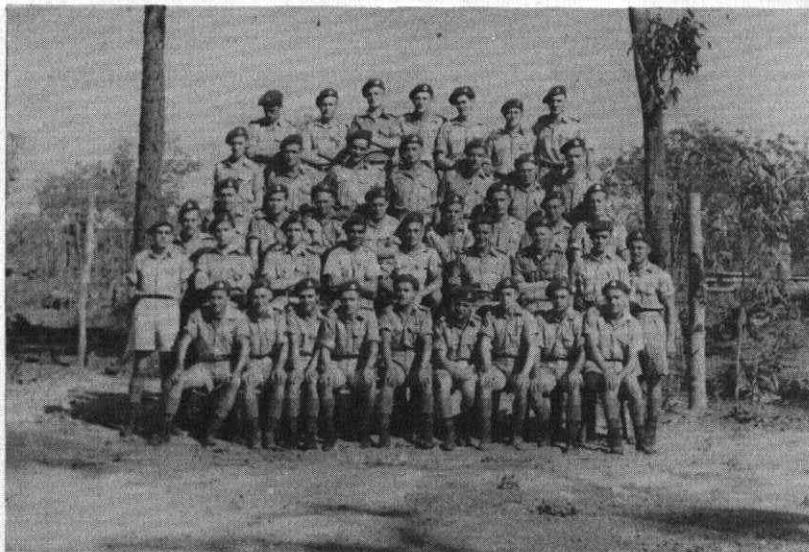
T.M.



INTELL.



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NO. 1



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H.Q.

