

Versutus

A History Of The
Signal Regiment

1914 - 1994



SWETCH
94

Versutus

A History Of The
Signal Regiment

1914 - 1994

By
Ed (Sketch) Sketcher

FOREWORD

"Velox, Versutus, Vigilans" (the accepted translation of which is "Swift, Accurate, Watchful") is the motto of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals and subsequently the Communications and Electronics Branch.

Master Corporal E.A. Sketcher, CD has taken the word "Versutus" and, indeed, accurately portrayed the history of the 1st Canadian Signal Regiment from its formation in 1914 up to the present. In addition to being accurate, it is presented in a manner that is easy to follow and provides the reader with an in-depth account of this proud Regiment and its soldiers.

Not since the writing of the Signal Corps history in 1962 has such a complete record of Signals, in war and peace, been produced. The Regiment's good times, hard times and most of all the ability of its people to get the message through, are all very eloquently depicted.

It will be obvious to the reader that the production of this history required an extensive amount of research and very hard work on the part of its author. It is a fine tribute to the Regiment and to Master Corporal Sketcher who has successfully and appropriately brought it to fruition on this the 80th Anniversary of the Regiment. V.V.V.

June 1994

D. Banks
Brigadier-General
Colonel of the Regiment

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Ed Sketcher, CD (retired), joined the RCN in 1956 and the RCCS in 1962. Posted to the Signal Regiment in 1969, served time in 1 Squadron with Alpha Troop and Systems Control, went to Egypt after the Yom Kippur War. Was then posted to RHQ in 1975 and made head of the Historical Section. While in this section created the Regimental Kit Shop, designed the Regimental Crest, Flag, Branch Flag, originated the Regimental magazine BLUE & WHITE. Also designed the Regimental coin, initiated the Regimental Prayer and the yearly ceremony at Major Bruce Carruthers' gravesite. Painting, drawing and wood-carving were also very much of a requirement in the job, making gifts from the Regiment to other units, senior Officers up to and including the Colonel-in-Chief. Remaining with the Signal Regiment for 23 years in the Regular Force and a following 2 in the Reserves.

Other books: Regimental Standing Orders
 We Still Call Him Bruce

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank MCpl Ron Maggiacomo (now retired) for his invaluable assistance with his computer for the many, many hours he put in typing. BGen M.H.F. Webber, CD (retired) for his personal account of the Spitzbergen incident.



1

Regimental Birthday

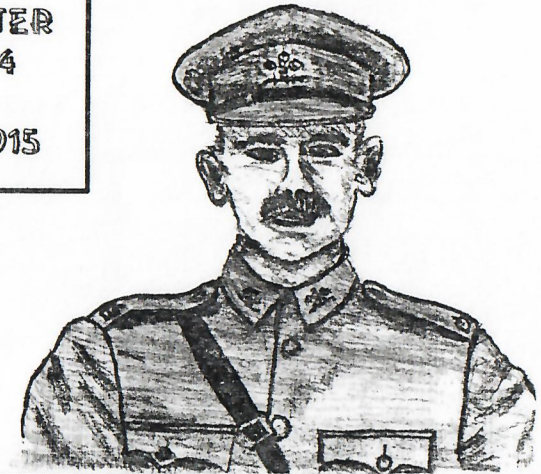
THE HISTORY OF THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT, AS IT IS KNOWN TODAY, BEGAN ON THE 6th OF AUGUST, 1914, WHEN "GENERAL ORDER 142" MOBILIZED THE 1st DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY AS PART OF CANADA'S RESPONSE TO THE CALL TO WAR.

CERTAIN BRIGADE SECTIONS OF THE CSC (CANADIAN SIGNAL CORPS) REPORTED AT VALCARTIER QUEBEC, INTACT, AROUND THE 12th OF AUGUST, 1914, NOTABLY NO. 4 SECTION, TORONTO, (M.D.2) UNDER CAPTAIN E. FORDE, NO.2 SECTION, ST. JOHN, NB. (MD.7) UNDER CAPTAIN T.E. POWERS. WHILE NO.2 SECTION LONDON. (M.D 1) UNDER CAPTAIN J.T. HENNESEY AND OTHER SECTIONS REPORTED IN MID AUGUST AT A VERY FAIR STRENGTH. THESE SECTIONS FORMED THE 1st DIV SIG COY, FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE.

2

First Commanding Officer

MAJOR F.A. LISTER
6 AUGUST 1914
TO
6 DECEMBER 1915



3

BY AUGUST 20th, MANY TROOPS HAD BEGUN TO GATHER AT VALCARTIER. FROM A NUCLEUS OF PERMANENT FORCE SIGNAL PERSONNEL IT WAS BROUGHT UP TO STRENGTH BY DRAFTS FROM THE 2nd, 3rd AND 6th SIGNAL COMPANIES AND MEN FROM NON-PERMANENT MILITIA UNITS OF THE ENGINEERS.

SPECIALISTS FROM CANADIAN TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE COMPANIES AND RAILWAY TELEGRAPHERS WERE ALSO RECRUITED.

THE CAMP AT VALCARTIER WAS ON THE EAST BANK OF THE JACQUES CARTIER RIVER WHERE, FOR THE REMAINDER OF AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, THE TROOPS WERE KEPT BUSY DOING DRILL, LONG ROUTE MARCHES, RIFLE TRAINING, COMPLETING ADMINISTRATION AND EQUIPPING FOR WAR.

4

1st OF OCTOBER, 31 TRANSPORT SHIPS SAILED DOWN THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER AND ANCHORED IN CASPE HARBOUR TO AWAIT THEIR ESCORT SHIPS. AFTER A SHORT DELAY THE CONVOY SAILED ON OCTOBER 3rd.



5

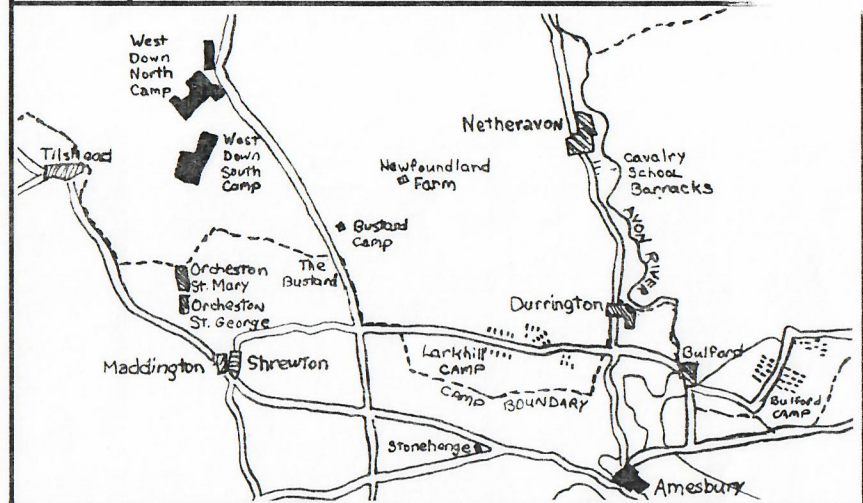
THE 12 DAY CROSSING PROVED UNEVENTFUL AND THE TROOPS WERE KEPT OCCUPIED BY ROUTINE CLEANING TASKS ON BOARD, WITH CONCERTS IN THE EVENINGS AND CHURCH SERVICE ON SUNDAY.

THE TRANSPORT SHIP "ADANIA" ARRIVED AT PLYMOUTH AT 4 P.M., OCTOBER 14th AND ANCHORED FOR THE NIGHT.

ON OCTOBER 18th, THE COMPANY DISEMBARKED AND BOARDED A TRAIN WHICH TOOK THEM TO AMESBURY ON THE SALISBURY PLAIN.

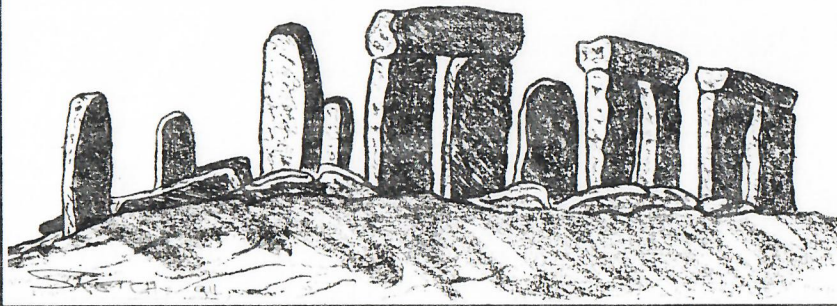
THEY ARRIVED AT 1:30 A.M. ON THE WEST DOWN SOUTH CAMP ARRIVING AT 6 A.M., 177 ALL RANKS WITHOUT TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT OR HORSES.

6



7

A Familiar Landmark to the entire First Canadian Division.



8

AN OFFICER OF THE ADVANCE PARTY REPORTED THAT THE CAMPSITES WERE BEAUTIFULLY SITUATED AND THE "TURF EXCELLENT".

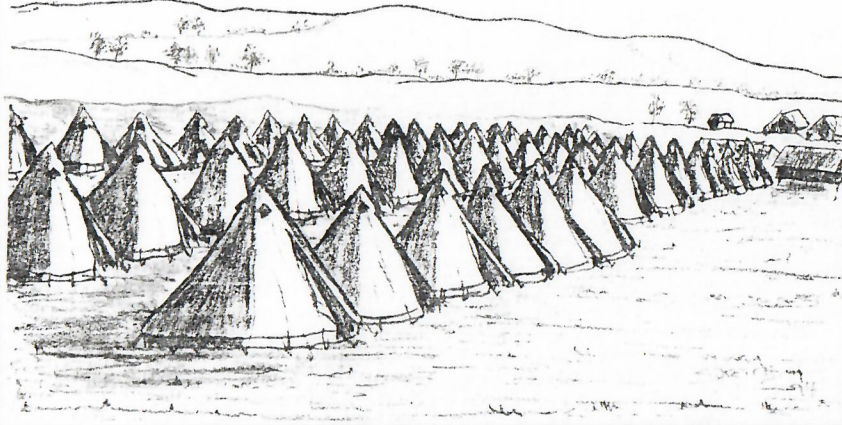
ON OCTOBER 25th THE SS CORINTHIAN ARRIVED WITH 55 HORSES AND 14 MEN AND, ON THE 29th THE SS MONMOUTH BROUGHT 22 MORE HORSES. THE COMPANY, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT WAS INSPECTED BY THE KING AND QUEEN ON THE 4th OF NOVEMBER.

THE WEATHER BROKE AND BEFORE THE LAST OF THE DISEMBARKING, IT BEGAN TO RAIN. AN ABNORMALLY HEAVY PERIOD OF PRECIPITATION BEGAN WHICH BROUGHT RAIN 89 OF 123 DAYS.

CONDITIONS STEADILY DECLINED, AND

9

British Engineers had set up thousands of Bell Tents, Marquees, Kitchen Shelters in preparation for the arrival of the Canadians



10

TEMPERATURES DROPPED BELOW FREEZING, WIND PIERCED THE LIGHT FABRIC OF THE UNHEATED TENTS AND TWICE IN 3 WEEKS GALE FORCE WINDS FLATTENED MOST OF THE DIVISIONS CANVAS. MUD WAS EVERYWHERE.

AN IMPERVIOUS LAYER OF CHALK BELOW THE GROUND HELD THE RAIN WATER AT THE SURFACE AND EVERYWHERE WHEELS ROLLED OR MEN MARCHED THE "EXCELLENT TURF" BECAME THICK SOUPY MUD.

EFFORTS WERE MADE TO BUILD HUTS AND HAVE THE CANADIAN TROOPS MOVED IN BY NOVEMBER BUT VERY FEW WERE COMPLETED AND 11,000 CANADIANS WERE STILL UNDER CANVAS BY CHRISTMAS.

11

AS THE WEATHER THREATENED THE HEALTH OF THE CANADIANS, BILLETS WERE REQUISITIONED IN PRIVATE HOUSES IN THE NEARBY VILLAGE.

THE TRAINING WHICH BEGAN IN VALCARTIER WAS RESUMED, THE MISERABLE WEATHER TURNED TRAINING INTO DRUDGERY.

THE FALL OF 23.9 INCHES BETWEEN MID-OCTOBER AND MID-FEBRUARY ALMOST DOUBLED THE 32 YEAR AVERAGE.

12

Terrace Houses



13

Before the Unit was scheduled to leave for France, the Divisional Commander authorized the CSC (Canadian Signal Corps) Badge for wear by his Signal Company. Very few CSC Badges survived.



14

ON LEAVING ENGLAND THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPANY HAD BEEN REDUCED TO 6 OFFICERS AND 204 OTHER RANKS, SURPLUS PERSONNEL WERE POSTED TO SHORNCLIFFE WHERE THEY JOINED THE CANADIAN ENGINEER TRAINING DEPOT.

THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY LANDED AT ST. NAZAIRE ON THE 12th OF FEBRUARY, 1915, AND MOVED FORWARD WITH DIV HEADQUARTERS. THE 1st DIVISION HAD REACHED THE WESTERN FRONT AND, AFTER A PERIOD OF INDOCTRINATION TOOK OVER A SECTOR OF THE YPRES SALIENT FORM THE FRENCH, ON THE 3rd OF MARCH AT FLEURBAIX. ON 8th OF MARCH THE 1st DIVISION CAME UNDER COMMAND OF THE 1st ARMY (BRITISH).

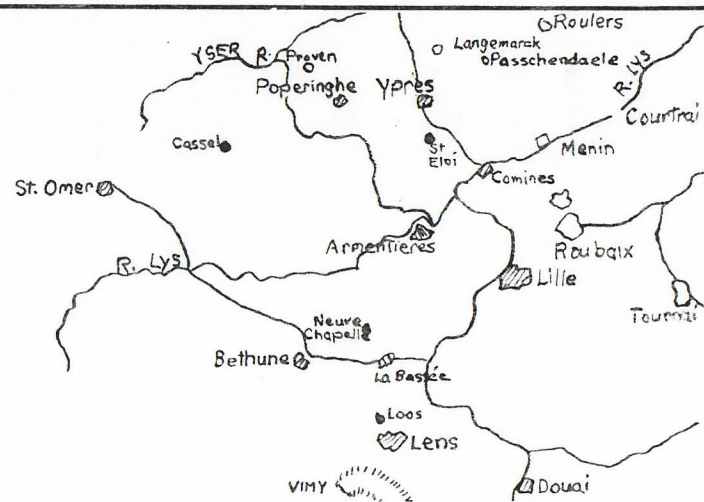
15

THE UNIT SOON BECAME INVOLVED IN TYING ITSELF INTO THE EXTENSIVE SIGNALS SERVICE WHICH CONNECTED THE BRITISH FRONT WITH OTHER FORMATIONS, COASTAL PORTS AND THE WAR OFFICE.

IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THE SIGNAL COMPANY BROUGHT NO WIRELESS EQUIPMENT WITH THEM SO, NOTHING WAS DONE IN THE WIRELESS FIELD DURING THE UNITS FIRST YEAR IN ACTION.

LINE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE BACKBONE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM DURING THIS PERIOD. THE LINE SYSTEM BECAME VERY ELABORATE AND WAS DEVELOPED ON A "GRID" PATTERN SO THAT BREAKS COULD BE BYPASSED WITHOUT WAITING FOR

16



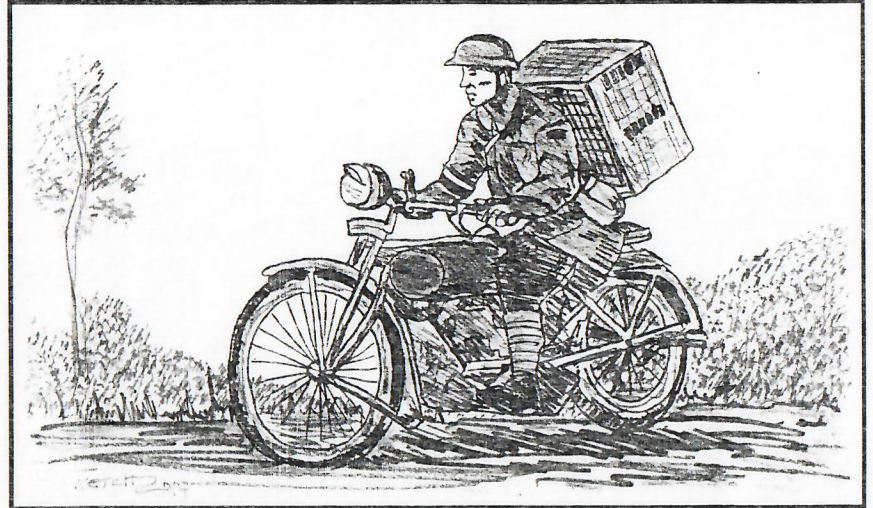
17

REPAIRS TO BE MADE. IN PHILOSOPHY IT WAS AN INTERESTING FORERUNNER OF THE "AREA COMMUNICATION SYSTEM" WHICH HAS BEEN ENGAGING THE EFFORTS OF TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS PLANNERS FOR THE PAST FEW DECADES. VISUAL SIGNALLING WAS ALSO A VITAL METHOD OF COMMUNICATION WHICH COULD NEVER BE DISPENSED WITH BUT, ALTERNATIVES DID EXIST.

DISPATCH RIDERS WHOSE WORK IN THE FORWARD AREAS OVER CROWDED ROADS AND THROUGH HEAVY SHELLFIRE, WAS EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS, PROVED THEIR WORTH.

DURING 1914 AND THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 1915, ALL WIRELESS IN THE BRITISH FORCES IN FRANCE WAS CONTROLLED AND OPERATED BY THE ARMY WIRELESS COMPANIES OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS.

18



19

BY 2 MARCH 1915 THE DIVISION RECEIVED ORDERS TO MARCH TO SAILLY, ARRIVED ON THE 3rd AND SET TO WORK PUTTING LINES INTO THE SURROUNDING AREA TO THE ARTILLERY AND BRIGADES, THEN MOVING AGAIN TO ESTAIRES TO CASSEL TO BRELEN.

THE 1st DIVISION MET ITS FIRST REAL TEST AFTER TAKING OVER THE YPRES SALIENT IN APRIL. AT 5 O'CLOCK, APRIL 22nd THE GERMANS OPENED THE VALVES OF CHLORINE GAS CYLINDERS ON A WIDE FRONT AND ATTACKED. THE CANADIANS STOOD THEIR GROUND WHILE THE FRENCH TROOPS, UNABLE TO ENDURE THE GAS, BROKE AND RAN.

THE GERMANS WERE STOPPED WITH SUSTAINED COUNTER-ATTACKS AND THE CANADIANS SUCCESSFULLY WITHSTOOD FURTHER ASSAULTS UNTIL THEY RETIRE TO SUPPORTING POSITIONS ON THE 26th.

20

THEY WERE FINALLY RELIEVED ON MAY 4th.

ON MAY 16th THE DIVISION WAS AGAIN ENGAGED IN THE BATTLE OF FESTUBERT, WHICH LASTED FOR 10 DAYS. SEVERE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE AT GIVENCHY WHERE GERMAN RUSHES WERE ONCE MORE STEMMED FROM THE 15 TO 22 OF JUNE.

THE DIVISION MOVED TO THE PLOEGSTEERT SECTOR AT THE END OF JUNE, WITH DIVISION SIGNALS AT NIEPPE. WHEN THE 2nd DIVISION ARRIVED IN FRANCE, A CANADIAN CORPS WAS FORMED ON SEPTEMBER 13th.

IN NOVEMBER 1915, WIRELESS SCHOOLS WERE STARTED AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS AND 17 MEN FROM THE 1st DIVISION SIGNALS WERE SENT TO 2nd ARMY HEADQUARTERS

21

IN CASSEL FOR THE COURSE, WHICH WAS NOT CONFINED TO RADIO BUT OTHER SIGNALLING METHODS ALSO. IT WAS IN CASSEL THAT THE "GRAND PIANO" AMPLIFIER MADE ITS APPEARANCE.

THIS WAS A THREE-VALVE FRENCH AMPLIFIER, SO NAMED FROM THE SIZE AND APPEARANCE. IT WAS INTENDED FOR USE IN INTERCEPTING ENEMY TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATIONS.

A STATION WAS ERECTED IN THE POIGSTEERT AND THE REPORT CENTRE FOR THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION AT WESTHOFF FARM GOT A STERLING TRANSMITTER AND A MARK II RECEIVER AND THE GREATEST DIFFICULTY TO OVERCOME WAS THE SUPPLY AND RECHARGING OF BATTERIES. ONLY TWO ACCUMULATORS WERE SUPPLIED

22

FOR EACH STATION: ONE TO BE ON THE SET AND THE OTHER ON CHARGE. THE 1st DIVISION HAD THEIR CHARGING DONE BY THE MT COMPANY AT BAILLEUL.

THE DISTANCES WERE SO GREAT AND TRANSPORT SO LIMITED THAT STATIONS WERE OFTEN OUT OF COMMISSION DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF CHARGED ACCUMULATORS. THERE WAS LITTLE REAL WORK DONE BY ANY OF THE STATIONS DURING THE EARLY MONTHS. SIGNALS WERE EXCHANGED WITH ALL OTHER STATIONS DAILY AND A FEW MESSAGES WERE SENT CONCERNING RATIONS AND SUPPLIES BUT THAT WAS ALL. HOWEVER, THIS STATION, WHICH WAS LOCATED IN AN ARMSTRONG HUT ON THE CROSSROAD NORTH-EAST OF WESTHOFF FARM, HAD ONE OR TWO RATHER INTERESTING EXPERIENCES.

23

ONE DAY PRIVATE ADAMS DECIDED TO RAISE THE AERIAL BY SHOOTING A GRENADE OVER A PARTICULARLY TALL TREE NEAR THE HUT. THE GRENADE LANDED IN THE TOP BRANCHES AND PRIVATE ADAMS WAS FORCED TO CLIMB THE TREE TO CLEAR THE TROUBLE. WHILE HE WAS UP IN THE TREE THE HUN BEGAN DROPPING A FEW PIP-SQUEAKS (SHELL FROM SMALL TRENCH GUN) IN THE VICINITY.

ADAMS STUCK TO IT UNTIL ONE LANDED PARTICULARLY CLOSE, WHEREUPON HE BEGAN TO DESCEND RAPIDLY. WHEN ALMOST IN SAFETY A SECOND BURST, RIGHT UNDER THE TREE, SENT HIM SCURRYING TO THE TOP AGAIN.

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CREW WATCHED THE PERFORMANCE FROM THE SAFETY OF A NEARBY DUGOUT AND IT WAS THEIR OPINION THAT ADAMS DID AT LEAST TWO

24

MILES OF TREE-CLIMBING THAT AFTERNOON BEFORE THE ENEMY BATTERY TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO OTHER TARGETS.



25

SHORTLY AFTER THIS STATION WAS ERECTED SOME ENEMY H.E. (HIGH EXPLOSIVE) SHELLS FELL VERY CLOSE TO THE BUILDING, GIVING RISE TO THE IDEA THAT THE HUN WAS LOCATING HEADQUARTERS BY WIRELESS. THE SET WAS MOVED TO AN OPEN FIELD NEAR NEUVE EGLISE AND OPERATED FOR SEVERAL HOURS, BUT FORTUNATELY THE EXPERIMENT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.

ON DECEMBER 6th, 1815, MAJOR F.A. LISTER TURNED OVER COMMAND OF THE SIGNAL COMPANY TO CAPTAIN E. FORDE (ROUTINE ORDER 1905 DATED 4 APRIL 1916 PROMOTED CAPTAIN FORDE TO MAJOR TO DATE FROM 6 DECEMBER 1915).

ON 4 APRIL 1916 CANADIAN TROOPS WORE STEEL HELMETS IN BATTLE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

26

MAJOR E. FORDE,
OBE, DSO, VD
6 DECEMBER 1915
TO
26 FEBRUARY 1917



27

FROM 6 TO 13 JUNE THE BATTLE OF HOOGE TOOK PLACE. SHORTLY AFTER THIS THE CANADIANS FOUGHT A HARD ACTION IN THE YPRES SALIENT, SOMETIMES KNOWN AS THE THIRD BATTLE OF YPRES.

THEIR COUNTER ATTACKS GAINED GROUND LOST DURING THE FIGHTING NEAR HOOGE AND GENERALLY RESTORED THE SITUATION.

WHILE OUT OF THE LINE, DURING REST PERIODS OUR WIRELESS OPERATORS WERE USED AS INSTRUCTORS ON POWER-BUZZER-AMPLIFIER COURSES RUN FOR THE BATTALION SIGNAL SECTIONS. BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE BATTALION SIGNAL OFFICERS CONCERNED, SIGNALLERS WHO DID WELL ON THESE COURSES WERE GIVEN A CHANCE TO GET SOME PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

28



29

ON THE WIRELESS SET WHEN THE BRIGADE WENT INTO THE LINE AGAIN. THIS PROVED TO BE A VERY WISE MOVE. NOT ONLY DID THE BRIGADE BENEFIT, BUT SOME EXCELLENT W/T OPERATORS WERE SECURED FOR THE DIVISIONAL SECTIONS IN THIS WAY.

WHEN IN THE LINE A SUITABLE DUGOUT WAS ALWAYS SECURED FOR THE RADIO SET AND A SPECIAL FULLERPHONE OR TELEPHONE LINE PROVIDED BETWEEN THE DUGOUT AND THE SIGNAL OFFICE.

WHENEVER THE RADIO STATION WAS TOO FAR AWAY FOR AN ORDERLY TO EASILY HANDLE THE MESSAGES, THE FULLERPHONE LINE WAS USED. ON 16 SEPTEMBER THE CANADIANS CAPTURED COURCELETTE, WHERE RESULTED SOME OF THE HEAVIEST CASUALTIES SUFFERED UP TO THEN.

30

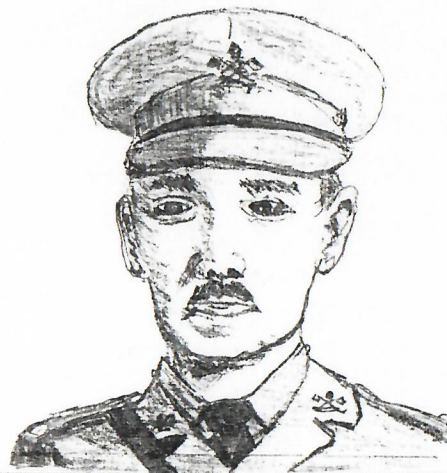
THE CANADIANS FOLLOWED THIS UP WITH A TWO MILE ADVANCE ON A FOUR MILE FRONT TOWARDS BAPAUME, THE BATTLE OF MOUQUET FARM TOOK PLACE 16 AND 17 SEPTEMBER. BY NOVEMBER 1916 WIRELESS WAS IN COMMON USE, THE LUCAS LAMP REPLACED THE EARLIER ALDIS AND HUCKS LAMPS AND THE TELEPHONE HAD BECOME THE MAIN COMMUNICATIONS MEDIUM.

UNTIL NOW THE SIGNAL COMPANY HAS LOST NINE MEN: LT G. NORTON, SIGNALMEN N.H. COUTTS, H.T. EDWARDS, T. GRAHAM, G.R. GRIEVE, E. KELLETT, F.A. SWALE, LT GIBSON AND CAPT MARKHAM.

MID OCTOBER 1916 THE RED PATCH OF THE 1st DIVISION WAS ISSUED FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT IS CALLED THE "SOMME PATCH" BECAUSE OF ITS ISSUE AT THE "BATTLE OF THE SOMME".

31

MAJ G.A. CLINE
DSO VD
26 FEBRUARY 1917
TO
18 JANUARY 1918



32

IT WAS NOT UNTIL JANUARY 1917 THAT A NEW SYSTEM KNOWN AS "CONTINUOUS WAVE" WIRELESS WAS TO BE GIVEN A PRACTICAL TEST IN THE FIELD, AFTER WHICH AN EXTENSIVE COURSE OF THREE WEEKS DURATION WAS TO BE RUN FOR STAFF SERGEANTS IN CHARGE OF WIRELESS SECTIONS.

THE COURSE WAS INTENDED TO PRODUCE SUFFICIENT INSTRUCTORS FOR COURSES TO BE HELD ON OTHER PARTS OF THE FRONT.

THE WOOLWICH SET WAS THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL MODEL OF A CW TRANSMITTER USED IN FRANCE. THE STANLEY SET WAS FIRST INTRODUCED BUT THE FIRST MODEL WAS NOT A SUCCESS AND WAS CONDEMNED BY ITS INVENTOR. MAJOR G.A. CLINE TOOK OVER AS COMMANDING OFFICER ON 26 FEBRUARY 1917

33

IN 1917 MESSENGER DOGS BECAME PART OF THE PIGEON SERVICE. BOTH DOGS AND HORSES WERE FITTED WITH AND WORE GAS MASKS SO THEY COULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION IN A CHEMICAL ENVIRONMENT.

APRIL 6th TO 9th THE CANADIANS ATTACKED VIMY RIDGE AND FINALLY CAPTURED IT ON THE 12th. ON MAY 3rd CANADIANS STOPPED THE ATTACK AT FRESNOY AND CONTINUED TO EXERT STRONG PRESSURE ON A 12 MILE FRONT SOUTH OF LOOS TO SOUTHWEST OF LENS.

IN JUNE THE CANADIANS FOUGHT A NUMBER OF ACTIONS IN THE LENS AREA. BY JULY, WIRELESS WAS IN PLACE BETWEEN CORPS AND DIVISIONS. RADIO TRANSMITTERS WERE FIRST MOUNTED AND USED IN AIRCRAFT. AN OBSERVER WOULD

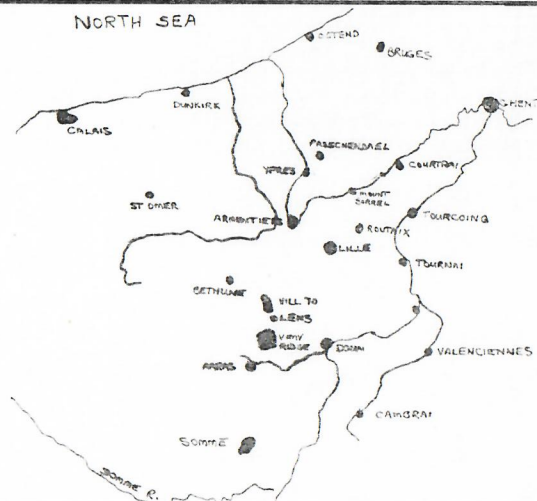
34

TRANSMIT HIS ORDERS TO THE GROUND STATION BLINDLY AS NO RECEIVER WAS MOUNTED IN THE AIRCRAFT. SIGNALS IN FRANCE BY THIS TIME HAD GROWN TO FOUR DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANIES, TWO ARTILLERY SIGNAL COMPANIES AND ONE CORPS SIGNAL COMPANY.

THAT YEAR THEY CONSTRUCTED A LINE GRID SYSTEM INVOLVING SOME 7,000 MILES OF FORWARD AREA BURIED CABLE AND 43,00 MILES OF OVERHEAD CABLE. DURING THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME THIS WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY RUNNERS, VISUAL SIGNALLING AND PIGEONS.

AUGUST 2nd, AFTER CAREFUL PREPARATION LASTING FOR SEVERAL DAYS, THE CANADIANS CAPTURED HILL 70. CANADIANS PARTICIPATED IN THE FLANDERS OFFENSIVE, 25th OF OCTOBER CAPTURING PASSCHENDAELE, SUSTAINING HEAVY LOSSES.

35



36

BY NOVEMBER 10th THEY RETURNED TO THEIR OLD POSITIONS NEAR LENS FOR THE WINTER CAMPAIGN. FOR THE PREVIOUS ATTACKS, EACH BATTALION HAD 8 PIGEONS, THE BIRDS BEING DIVIDED AMONGST THE COMPANIES AND BATTALION HEADQUARTERS.

A TOTAL OF 15 MESSAGES WERE SENT. THE INFORMATION ON THE MESSAGES WAS NOT OF MUCH VALUE AS THE BIRDS TOOK ABOUT AN HOUR TO HOME.

SEVERAL ATTEMPTS WERE MADE AT VISUAL SIGNALLING BUT OWING TO THE SMALL AMOUNT OF PERSONNEL AT BRIGADE SIGNAL SECTIONS, NOT MUCH ATTENTION COULD BE PAID TO THIS METHOD. THE LAMP AT BRIGADE ADVANCE REPORT CENTRE WAS BLOWN UP BEFORE VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS COULD BE ESTABLISHED.

37

THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION THE RUNNERS DID EXCELLENT WORK, DELIVERING MESSAGES THROUGH HEAVY SHELL FIRE AND GUIDING PARTIES TO THE FORWARD AREA. THE WORK OF LINEMEN WAS MAGNIFICENT.

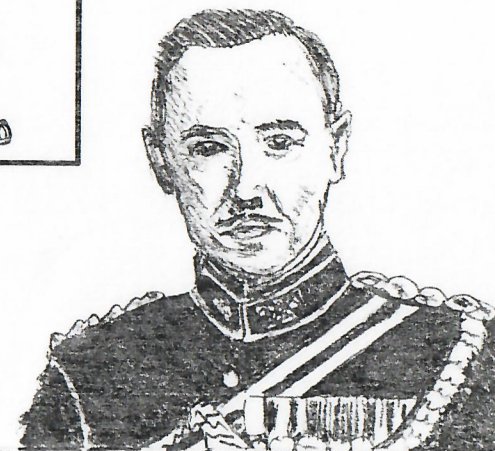
THEY CONTINUALLY REPAIRED AND REPLACED LINES UNDER INTENSE ENEMY FIRE. THE WORK OF OPERATORS AT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS DESERVES SPECIAL MENTION.

OWING TO THE GREAT PRESSURE OF BUSINESS AND LARGE NUMBER OF CALLS, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THEM TO BE CONTINUALLY ON DUTY FOR AT LEAST 18 HOURS PER DAY.

ON 18 JANUARY, 1918, MAJOR G.A. CLINE HANDED THE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY'S COMMAND TO MAJOR P. EARNSHAW

38

MAJOR P. EARNSHAW,
DSO, MC
18 JANUARY 1918
TO
15 NOVEMBER 1920



39

FROM MID-MAY TO MID-JULY 1918, THE DIVISIONAL W/T SECTIONS WERE GIVEN SPECIAL TRAINING, SCHOOLS WERE ORGANIZED AT EACH DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR ALL WIRELESS MEN IN THE DIVISIONAL SECTIONS. THESE MEN RECEIVED INSTRUCTION IN TRENCH AND WILSON SETS, POWER BUZZERS AND AMPLIFIERS AND ON THE NEW SHORT WAVE LOOP SETS WHICH HAD JUST MADE THEIR APPEARANCE IN FRANCE.

THE LOOP SET WAS A FIXED WAVELENGTH TRANSMITTER, USING A FOUR FOOT ROD LOOP AS AN AERIAL. IT WAS A DAMPED WAVE OR SPARK TYPE TRANSMITTER AND TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF SETS WERE AVAILABLE, ONE SENDING ON 65 METERS AND THE OTHER ON 80 METERS. A CANADIAN CORPS SCHOOL FOR WIRELESS TRAINING WAS IN OPERATION AT AUBIN ST. VAAST, FRANCE.

40

AUGUST 8th THE CANADIANS MOVED SOUTH TO THE AMIENS FRONT UNNOTICED BY THE GERMANS AND ON THE 9th FORMED THE SPEARHEAD OF THE ATTACK. THEY ADVANCED A TOTAL DEPTH OF 15 MILES TAKING 21 PICARDY VILLAGES. ON AUGUST 10th THEY RESUMED THEIR ATTACK, CAPTURING 5 MORE FRENCH VILLAGES CLOSE TO THE TRENCHES OF 1914.

AUGUST 30th THE 1st DIVISION WHILE RELIEVING THE 2nd DIVISION CAPTURED THE VIS EN ARTOIS SWITCH, UPTON WOOD AND THE FRESNES - ROUVROY LINE TO THE SOUTH.

ON SEPTEMBER 2nd THE DIVISION LAUNCHED A MAJOR ATTACK AGAINST THE DROCOURT - QUEANT SWITCH LINE, THE MAIN HINDEBURG LINE DEFENCES AND FOUGHT THEIR WAY THROUGH AND BEYOND THESE POWERFUL POSITIONS.

41

IT IS CLAIMED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION CONVINCED VON LUDENDORFF THAT THE GERMAN ARMY COULD NOT WINTER ON THE HINDENBURG LINE.

THE CANADIANS TOOK 5000 PRISONERS AND DEFEATED SEVEN GERMAN DIVISIONS WITH ONLY TWO OF THEIR OWN. ON SEPTEMBER 27th, ALL THE HIGH GROUND NORTH OF BOURLON WOOD WAS CAPTURED, PROTECTING THE LEFT FLANK OF THE 3rd BRITISH ARMY AND PERMITTING IT TO ADVANCE.

ON THE 28th, AFTER REPULSING A POWERFUL GERMAN COUNTER-ATTACK THE CANADIANS CAPTURED FONTAINE-NOTRE DAME, PENETRATED MARCOING LINE, REACH ST OLLE, CARRY RAILLENCOURT AND SAILLY. PUSHED FORWARD ON THE 29th, AGAINST HEAVY OPPOSITION, ADVANCED TO THE JUNCTION OF

42

THE ARRAS - BAPAUME AND THE DOUAI - CAMBRAI ROADS, CUT THE DOUAI - CAMBRAI RAILWAY AND BEGAN THE ENVELOPMENT OF CAMBRAI.

NOVEMBER 8th THE CANADIANS CROSS THE CONDE - MONS CANAL DEFEATING THE GERMAN REAR GUARDS.

NOVEMBER 11th, MONS WAS OCCUPIED AND THUS ON ARMISTICE DAY THEY FINISHED THE HOSTILITIES AT THE POINT WHERE THE ACTUAL HOSTILITIES AGAINST THE BRITISH ARMY BEGAN. IN THE PERIOD JANUARY 1917 TO NOVEMBER 1918 THE FOLLOWING WERE KILLED IN ACTION:

HON/CAPT J.R. ALLAN, S/SGT E.R. MACLELLAN, A/SGT J. CUNNINGHAM, CPLS T.R. CRAVEN, H. SHILL, LCPL R. LEAUITT, SIGNAMEN H.S. DOWSON, J.H. GRANDIN,

43

SIGNALMEN G.J. HAMILTON, H.J. HAMMOND, . MANN, H.J. NICHOLSON, W.H. NORTH, W.D. SPEAR, H. STEWART, R. TAYLOR, H. WORTHINGTON AND A.D. WATTERSON.

AN INTERESTING NOTE:

ON 3 FEBRUARY 1918, AUTHORITY WAS GRANTED FOR NCO'S AND MEN WHO LEFT CANADA AND ARRIVED IN FRANCE AS PART OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION (NOT THOSE ON LATER DRAFTS TO 1st DIVISION) TO WEAR COLORED SHOULDER STRAPS. COLOR FOR SIGNAL SERVICE IS FRENCH GREY.

44

OUR DIVISION MOVED TO NIVELLES AND TROOPS MOVED INTO BILLETTS WHICH WERE QUITE GOOD. TIME WAS SPENT EXERCISING THE HORSES, CLEANING EQUIPMENT, TURNING IN ALL UNUSED AND UNNEEDED EQUIPMENT. COMMUNICATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED ON CIVIL TELEPHONE LINES.

MANY MOVES WERE MADE AND, IN EARLY DECEMBER, MOVES WERE MADE ACROSS THE GERMAN FRONTIER TO VARIOUS PLACES, RECHT, AMEL, BULLINGEN, RUPPERSHEID AND BRUHL. THE BRIGADES SPENT ONLY A FEW DAYS IN EACH TOWN OR CITY. FROM MID - DECEMBER TO MID - JANUARY 1919 MARIENBURG - KOLN BECAME HOME WHERE THE MEN AND HORSES WERE QUARTERED IN ARTILLERY BARRACKS.

45

REGULAR PARADES AND A QUIET CHRISTMAS, A DINNER IN A RESTAURANT ON NEW YEARS EVE, AND A CONCERT WOUND UP THE OLD YEAR.

ON JANUARY 10th THE 41st DIVISION SIGNALS ARRIVED TO RELIEVE 1 DIV SIGNALS SO THEY COULD MOVE BACK TO BELGIUM. THE MOVE TO HUY WAS MADE ON THE 13th WHERE ALL EQUIPMENT WAS RETURNED AND MEN BEGAN TO ENTRAIN FOR THE RETURN TRIP HOME.

EVERYTHING WAS TURNED OVER TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ON FEBRUARY 28th AND THE LAST 38 PERSONNEL ENTRAINED FOR BRUSSELS.

ON 15 NOVEMBER 1920, GENERAL ORDER 210 DEMOBILIZED THE UNIT.

46

21 MAY 1921, ALL SIGNAL UNITS FORMED IN NPAM (NON PERMANENT ACTIVE MILITIA) WILL BE KNOWN AS CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS.

15 JUNE, GENERAL ORDER 174 OF 1921 GRANTED THE TITLE ROYAL TO THE PERMANENT FORCE.

15 JULY, GENERAL ORDER 217 OF 1921 RE-ORGANIZED THE OLD SIGNAL COMPANY AS 1 SIGNAL BATTALION, NPAM.

1 MAY 1922, DRESS REGULATIONS UNDER GENERAL ORDER 71, PC824 DATED 15/4/22 DESCRIBES THE NEW CORPS BADGE OF THE CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS (CC OF S)

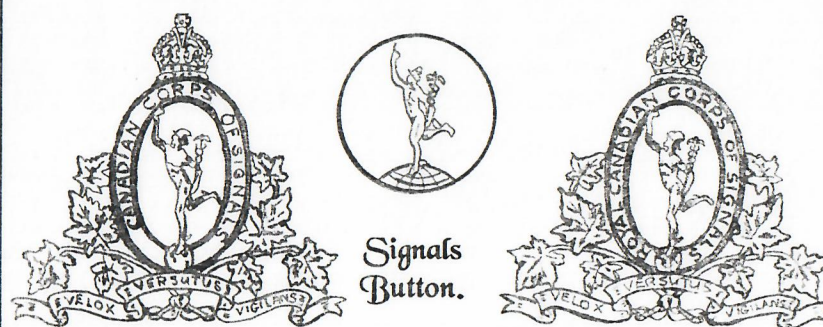
47

15 JUNE 1922, GENERAL ORDER 104 PC1128 DATED 5/6/22 DRESS REGULATIONS DESCRIBES THE NEW CORPS WITH THE TILE ROYAL ADDED.

IN JANUARY 1923 THE FRENCH GREY, DARK BLUE AND DARK GREEN OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS WERE ADOPTED AS THE OFFICIAL COLOURS OF THE RCCS REPLACING THE FRENCH GREY (SINGLE COLOUR) USED BY THE CORPS SINCE THE EARLY YEARS.

1 MAY 1923 BUTTONS FOR THE CORPS WERE AUTHORIZED BY GENERAL ORDER 68, 1923, AND DESCRIBED AS A PLAIN GILT BUTTON WITH THE FIGURE OF MERCURY AND A PORTION OF THE GLOBE SUPERIMPOSED THEREIN.

48



Canadian Corps of
Signals

Royal Canadian
Corps Of Signals

49

GENERAL ORDER 85 DATED 1 JUNE 1923 DEALT WITH THE REGIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT.

GENERAL ORDER 122 DATED 15 SEPTEMBER 1924 WAS THE LOCALIZATION OF CC OF S NO. 1 SIGNAL BATTALION. HEADQUARTERS, WIRELESS AND CABLE SECTIONS WERE LOCATED IN LONDON WHILE NO. 1, 2 AND 4 SECTIONS WERE IN CHATHAM AND NO. 3 IN INGERSOL.

GENERAL ORDER 59 DATED 15 JUNE 1926 REORGANIZED AND RELOCATED 1 SIGNAL BATTALION TO LONDON, CHATHAM, INGERSOL AND WALLACEBURG.

15 JUN 1929 G/O 82 REORGANIZED 1 SIGNAL BATTALION TO 1st DIVISION SIGNALS CC OF S.

50

Re-Mobilization

29 APRIL 1936 THE TITLE "ROYAL" WAS GRANTED TO NPAM ELEMENTS OF THE CORPS. THIS WAS UNDER GENERAL ORDER 75 DATED 1 JUNE 1936.

GENERAL ORDER 135 DATED 1 SEPTEMBER 1939 CALLED OUT THE TROOPS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

THE UNIT WAS REMOBILIZED AS 1 CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNALS (1 CIDSR) CASF (CANADIAN ACTIVE SERVICE FORCE), QUARTERED IN BARRIEFIELD CAMP. LIEUTENANT COLONEL J.E. GENET ASSUMED THE DUTIES OF ACTING COMMANDANT OF BARRIFIELD CAMP ON 17 SEPTEMBER AND ON THE 5th OF OCTOBER CAPTAIN J.D. McBETH WITH HEADQUARTERS AND NUMBER 3 COMPANY ARRIVED FROM LANDSDOWNE PARK, OTTAWA.

51

LCOL J.E. GENET,
CBE, MC, CD
10 OCTOBER 1939
TO
18 JULY 1940



52

THE STRENGTH OF THIS DETACHMENT WAS 5 OFFICERS, 3 WO'S, 7 CQMS, S/SGTS, SGTS AND 127 OTHER RANKS.

ON THE 7th OF OCTOBER COLONEL P. EARNSHAW, DIRECTOR OF SIGNALS PRESENTED TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL GENET THE SIGNAL FLAG OF THE OLD 1st CANADIAN DIVISION SIGNALS WHICH WENT OVERSEAS IN OCTOBER 1914.

ON OCTOBER 10th LIEUTENANT COLONEL GENET WAS OFFICIALLY APPOINTED COMMANDING OFFICER OF 1st DIVISION SIGNALS. CAPTAIN W.B. ROWETT (ROYAL SIGNALS) WAS APPOINTED ADJUTANT.

MAJOR J.L. WILLIS ARRIVED FROM CARLING HEIGHTS, LONDON WITH 6 OFFICERS, 2 WO'S AND S/SGTS, 4 SGTS

53

AND 201 OTHER RANKS ON THE 18th OF OCTOBER. NOVEMBER, THE ADVANCE PARTY OF NUMBER 2 COMPANY ARRIVED FROM TORONTO WITH 91 ALL RANKS. INOCULATIONS, MEDICALS AND CLEARANCES AND SHORT PERIODS OF LEAVE WERE CARRIED OUT AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE TROOPS.

COMPETITION FOR POSTING TO THE UNIT WAS VERY KEEN, APPLICANTS REQUESTED TO JOIN BASING THEIR CLAIMS ON MILITARY OR CIVILIAN EXPERIENCE, NPAM SERVICE, DATE OF ENLISTMENT AND OTHER VARIOUS REASONS.

SO EAGER WERE MANY NCO'S THAT THEY VOLUNTARILY RELINQUISHED THEIR RANKS TO JOIN. AS A SOURCE OF NCO AND OFFICER MATERIAL, 1 DIV SIGS WAS TAPPED FREQUENTLY UNTIL, EVENTUALLY, ORIGINALS

54

OF THE 1st DIVISIONAL SIGNALS WERE TO BE FOUND IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SIGNALS ORGANIZATION OVERSEAS. WHEN RANKS OF THE UNIT WERE FINALLY FILLED, IT CONTAINED A CROSS SECTION OF CANADA'S MANHOOD AT THE START OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

THERE WERE PERMANENT FORCE SOLDIERS WHO HAD SPENT YEARS IN THE NORTH, BOYS JUST OUT OF SCHOOL, MEN WHO WERE STILL SUFFERING THE UNEMPLOYMENT OF THE DEPRESSION, MANY WHO HAD ABANDONED GOOD JOBS, A FEW FIRST WORLD WAR VETERANS, AT LEAST SOME WHO WERE UNDER-AGE AND SOME WHO WOULD NEVER HAVE PASSED A MEDICAL WHEN THE MEDICAL SERVICE BECAME BETTER ORGANIZED; AND, INEVITABLY, A FEW TROUBLE MAKERS.

55

WHATEVER THEIR BACKGROUND THE MEN OF THIS UNIT SOON DEVELOPED A "FAMILY" SPIRIT THAT STAYED WITH THEM THROUGHOUT THE WAR. WITH ENVY, THEIR RIVALS WOULD CALL IT "CONCEIT" OR SOMETHING EVEN LESS COMPLIMENTARY; IF THEY EVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE MEN OF 1 DIV SIGS WOULD HAVE CALLED IT "PRIDE".

ON THE 6th OF DECEMBER 1939, THE UNIT PARADED VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING, MARCHING TO THE FORT FRONTENAC MILITARY SIDING, LED BY THE COMBINED SIGNAL UNITS DRUM AND BUGLE BAND.

ONE OF THE TUNES PLAYED WAS "ROLL OUT THE BARREL" AS THE TROOPS ENTRAINED AMID

56

GREAT THROGS OF FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. SPECIAL TRAIN NUMBER 6 FINALLY PULLED OUT OF KINGSTON AT 06:45, BOUND FOR HALIFAX WITH A STRENGTH OF 501. TRAIN STOPS AT BROCKVILLE, ST HENRY, MONTREAL, RIVIERE DE LOUP, MONCTON, TRURO AND FINALLY HALIFAX THE NEXT MORNING.

THE TRAIN STRENGTH WAS CHECKED IN MONTREAL AND 502 WERE REPORTED, ONE OVER ENTRAINMENT.

ONE MAN WHO MADE THE TRIP THROUGH HIS OWN INITIATIVE WAS SIGNALMAN GERRY BURKE WHO WAS UNDERAGE AND AN ABSENTEE FROM 2nd DIVISION SIGNALS. USING HIS BROTHERS INITIALS AND REGIMENTAL NUMBER, MANAGED TO SMUGGLE HIS WAY ONTO THE TROOP TRAIN WHERE THE FACT THAT THERE WAS AN

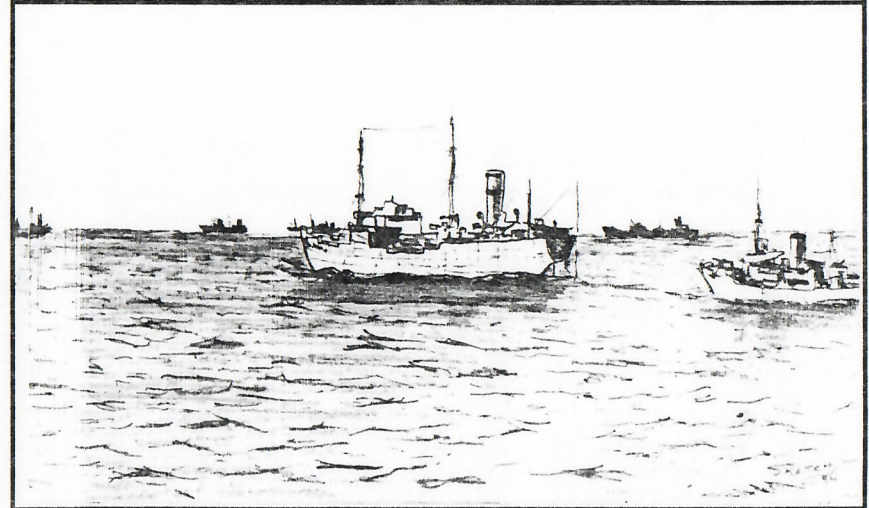
57

EXTRA MAN BECAME KNOWN. HOWEVER, DESPITE SEVERAL CHECKS, THE IDENTITY WAS NOT DISCOVERED. WHEN THE SECOND-IN-COMMAND MAJOR C. SANDFORD, PERSONALLY CHECKED EVERY SOLDIER ON THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE TRAIN, SIGNALMAN BURKE CLEVERLY OFFERED TO CARRY THE LENGTHY DRAFT LISTS FOR HIM TO ASSIST IN THE CHECKING.

MAJOR SANDFORD NEVER THOUGHT TO QUESTION THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO CARRIED THE LISTS.

WHEN THE TRAIN ARRIVED IN HALIFAX THE TROOPS EMBARKED ON SHIP B4 (HMT AQUITANIA) AT 16:30 HOURS DECEMBER 7th. ON DECEMBER 10th CONVOY TC - 1 WAS ON ITS WAY WITH 7400 MEN OF THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION.

58



59

THE SEAS WERE CALM AND THE MEN WERE KEPT FAIRLY BUSY WITH LIFEBOAT DRILLS AND MORE DOCUMENTATION. DURING THE LAST NIGHT AT SEA ANOTHER SHIP TRAVELLING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION SIDESWIPE THE ESCORT CARRIER THEN GLANCED OFF B4'S PORT SIDE AFT, TEARING OFF AND SMASHING THE LIFEBOATS AND CAUSED ONE OF THE SHIPS DERRICKS TO COLLAPSE ON THE DIVISION COMMANDERS STAFF CAR.

ON DECEMBER 19th, THE WEATHER WAS BITTERLY COLD WHEN THE UNIT DISEMBARKED AND ENTRAINED FOR SOUTHERN ENGLAND FROM GREENWICH, SCOTLAND.

THERE WAS NO HEAT IN THE TROOP TRAIN WHICH CAUSED EXTREME DISCOMFORT. WHEN THE TRAIN STOPPED IN

60

EDINBURGH FOR A "TEA AND BUN" BREAKFAST, COLONEL GENET FLATLY REFUSED TO ALLOW THE TROOPS TO BOARD THE TRAIN AGAIN UNTIL SOMETHING WAS DONE ABOUT THE TEMPERATURE. THE RAILWAY AUTHORITIES SAID IT WAS AN IRREPAIRABLE BREAKDOWN AND THAT THE TRAIN MUST MOVE, THE MOVEMENT CONTROL STAFF FUMED IN RAGE, BUT COLONEL GENET WAS IMMOVABLE.

EVENUALLY AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, THE REPAIRS WERE MADE AND THE UNIT MOVED OFF AGAIN. THE INCIDENT IS A GOOD ILLUSTRATION OF COLONEL GENET'S PHILOSOPHY WHICH HE OFTEN REPEATED - "ANY DAMN FOOL CAN BE UNCOMFORTABLE". IT ALSO ILLUSTRATED HIS KEEN INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF HIS TROOPS; HE DEMANDED MUCH OF THE UNIT BUT HE WAS PREPARED

61

TO DO EVERYTHING HE COULD FOR THE UNIT'S WELFARE. WHEN THE FORCE GREW TO A CORPS, LCOL GENET BECAME CSO (CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER) 1st CANADIAN CORPS, WHEN IT GREW TO AN ARMY, HE BECAME CSO 1st CANADIAN ARMY. SIGNALS WAS THE ONLY BRANCH OF THE ARMY WHICH HAD AS ITS SENIOR OFFICER, THE SAME INDIVIDUAL FROM THE START TO THE FINISH OF THE WAR.

THE DIVISION ARRIVED ON DECEMBER 20th AND ESTABLISHED A "HOME" IN MONS BARRACKS, FARNBOROUGH.

THEY HAD NO TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT WHATSOEVER, IT WAS DEFICIENT IN CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT (ONE MAN WAS STILL WEARING RUNNING SHOES OF HIS OWN). THE UNIT HAD ONLY BEEN IN MONS BARRACKS A FEW

62

HOURS WHEN A SENIOR OFFICER FROM THE WAR OFFICE VISITED AND GREETED COLONEL GENET WITH "NOW, WHAT DO YOU NEED". HE WAS THE SAME MAN WHO HAD GREETED COLONEL GENET WITH PRECISELY THE SAME WORDS WHEN HE HAD TAKEN OVER A SECTOR OF FRONT LINE COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

AT THIS TIME AN INFANTRY DIVISION SIGNALS CONSISTED OF REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, NUMBERS 1, 2, AND 3 COMPANIES.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS INCLUDED THE COMMANDING OFFICER, SECOND IN COMMAND, ADJUTANT, PAYMASTER, QUARTERMASTER, RSM, RQMS, CLERKS, DRAFTSMEN, DRIVERS, A LIGHT AID DETACHMENT AND SECURITY SECTION.

63

1 COMPANY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DIVISIONAL STAFF FORWARD TO THE BRIGADES AND LATERALLY TO ITS NEIGHBORING DIVISIONS, AND CONSISTED OF:

- A SECTION - WIRELESS
- B SECTION - CABLE CREW
- C SECTION - COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE DIVISIONAL RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT.
- D SECTION - SIGNAL OFFICE AND DESPATCH RIDERS
- M SECTION - WORKSHOP SECTION

2 COMPANY WAS THE ARTILLERY COMPANY WHOSE DUTY IT WAS TO KEEP THE COMMANDING OFFICER, REGIMENTAL COMMAND POST AND REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS OF A FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT IN COMMUNICATION WITH

64

THE BATTERIES. IT CONSISTED OF E, F, AND G SECTIONS ATTACHED TO FIELD REGIMENTS AND H SECTION WITH THE DIVISIONAL ANTI-TANK REGIMENT.

3 COMPANY WAS THE INFANTRY COMPANY. EACH OF THE THREE INFANTRY BRIGADES HAD A SIGNAL SECTION ATTACHED TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN BRIGADE AND BATTALION HEADQUARTERS. AT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS THEY OPERATED THE BRIGADE SIGNAL OFFICE, MANNED WIRELESS SETS, SWITCHBOARDS, TELEGRAPH INSTRUMENTS, SUPPLIED DESPATCH RIDERS AND DELIVERED MESSAGES AND ALSO PROVIDED THE BRIGADE COMMANDER WITH EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH HIS FORWARD TROOPS.

THE COMPANY CONSISTED OF J, K AND L SECTIONS,

65

IDENTICAL IN FORM, HIGHLY MOBILE AND ENTIRELY SELF SUFFICIENT.

NONE OF THE BRIGADE AND FIELD REGIMENT SECTIONS JOINED THEIR RESPECTIVE INFANTRY OF ARTILLERY FORMATIONS UNTIL THE SPRING, SO THE ENTIRE UNIT RECEIVED ITS INITIAL TRAINING IN OR ABOUT ALDERSHOT.

ON THE 3rd OF APRIL, 1940, THE SOON TO BECOME COLONEL-IN-CHIEF, HRH, THE PRINCESS ROYAL, SPENT A DAY AT MONS BARRACKS AFTER WHICH HER ROYAL HIGHNESS AND THE GOC (GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING) SENT HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY TELEGRAMS TO NATIONAL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS IN OTTAWA.

ON THE 29th OF MAY, MARY, THE PRINCESS ROYAL BECAME THE FIRST COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE RCCS.

66

Colonel - In - Chief

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE PRINCESS ROYAL
CI, GCVO, CBE,
RRC, TD, CD,
LLD.



67

ON THE 12th OF JUNE, JUST AFTER THE EVACUATION OF DUNKIRK, "J" SECTION, ALONG WITH AN ADVANCE PARTY OF DRIVERS, FITTERS AND 110 VEHICLES FROM HEADQUARTERS AND NUMBER 1 COMPANY, WITH THE ENTIRE "E" SECTION, LEFT FOR BRITTANY AS PART OF THE 2nd BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, IN A FUTILE ELEVENTH HOUR MOVE TO TRY TO STIFFEN THE CRUMBLING FRENCH ARMY AND PREVENT THE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

DURING THIS EXCURSION, C3084 SERGEANT DONALD GEORGE HUTT OF "J" SECTION WAS THE FIRST CANADIAN SOLDIER TO LOSE HIS LIFE IN FRANCE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

HE DIED JUNE 13, 1940 AT MORLAIX, FRANCE.

68

THE HASTY EVACUATION OF THIS GROUP THROUGH THE PORT OF BREST MEANT THAT THEY HAD TO ABANDON ALL OF THEIR UNIT AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT.

WHAT HURT "E" SECTION MOST OF ALL HOWEVER WAS THE LOSS OF A PET TALKING CROW WHICH THEY HAD ACQUIRED DURING THE WINTER. THEY RETURNED TO ENGLAND ON THE 18th OF JUNE, 1940.

DURING THE PERIOD OF THE "BLITZ" THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION WAS ONE OF BUT THREE OR FOUR ABLE TO TAKE TO THE FIELD IN THE EVENT OF AN INVASION, BUT IT COULD NOT BE CALLED "ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED". THE DIVISION MOVED FREQUENTLY AS PART OF A GIANT DECEPTIVE OPERATION, IN FACT, IT MOVED SO OFTEN AND WITH SUCH MIXED TRANSPORT

69

THAT IT BECAME KNOWN AS "McNAUGHTONS FLYING CIRCUS"

9 JUNE 1940 - UNIT SERIAL II ON BLACK SQUARE, DIVISIONAL SIGN AND OVERSEAS SERIAL 20120 WAS PAINTED ON ALL VEHICLES.

THE DIVISION MOVED ON JUNE 22nd TO OXFORD, WITH THE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL OFFICE IN WHEATLEY. ON JULY 2nd THEY MOVED AGAIN, TO AN AREA CONTROLLED BY SOUTHEASTERN COMMAND AND WERE LOCATED IN SURREY IN THE VICINITY OF REDHILL. THE ROLL ALLOTTED TO THE DIVISION WAS TO COUNTER-ATTACK SHOULD THE GERMANS LAND IN THAT AREA.

SIGNAL HEADQUARTERS WAS AT GATTON PARK, MERSTHAM.

70

THE ARTILLERY SECTIONS WERE DEPLOYED WITH THEIR REGIMENTS IN THE CROYDON - BECKENHAM- BROMLEY TRIANGLE. THE DIVISION WENT ON MANY SCHEMES FROM THIS AREA ALL OVER THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BUT THE MOST INTERESTING FOR SIGNALMEN AND GUNNERS WERE THOSE TO SALISBURY.

"F" SECTION TOOK OVER THE COMMUNICAITONS AT THE FAMOUS STAR FISH AIRPORT. LOCATED BETWEEN KENLEY AND BEACON HILL AERODROMES, STARFISH WAS A "DUMMY".

"F" SECTIONS TASK WAS TO KEEP THE AIRPORT IN LINE COMMUNICATION AND TO PROVIDE A STANDBY FOR THE METROPOLITAN POLICE, WHOSE THREE EXCHANGES IN THAT VICINITY WERE VULNERABLE TO AIR ATTACK.

71

AS GERMAN PLANES APPROACHED STARFISH ON THEIR WAY TO LONDON, DIM FLOODLIGHTS WOULD THROW A SUSPICIOUS GLOW OVER THE FIELD WITH THE RESULT THAT BOMBS INTENDED FOR VITAL TARGETS WOULD BE WASTED ON THE DUMMY AIRPORT.

TO ADD A TOUCH OF REALITY, FIRES WERE LIT BY THE STATION CREW. THIS SCHEME HAS BEEN ESTIMATED TO HAVE DRAWN THREE OR FOUR THOUSAND TON OF BOMBS IN THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THE SIGNAL SECTION SERVED IT.

ON THE 19th OF JULY 1940, LIEUTENANT COLONEL C, SANFORD TOOK OVER COMMAND OF THE UNIT FROM LIEUTENANT COLONEL J.E. GENET.

72

LCOL C. SANFORD
19 JULY 1940
TO
26 APRIL 1941



73

WITH AUTUMN APPROACHING THE DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS SETTLED INTO WINTER QUARTERS AT NUTFIELD.

HEADQUARTERS AND NUMBER 1 COMPANY WERE LOCATED AT BLETCHINGLY, "M" SECTION WAS WORKING IN A GARAGE IN REDHILL, "E" SECTION WAS AT BECKINGHAM, "G" SECTION IN WEST WICKHAM, "H" SECTION AT SHIRLEY PARK AND THE BRIGADE SECTIONS IN THE AREA BETWEEN LING FIELD AND CATERHAM.

THIS PART OF SURREY, WHERE THE 1st DIVISIONAL SIGNALS SPENT 13 MONTHS IS CONSIDERED BY MOST MEN OF THE UNIT AS THEIR ENGLISH HOME. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, THE PEOPLE WERE GENEROUSLY HOSPITABLE, AND,

74

WHEN NOT ON SCHEMES, THE MEN LIVED IN BILLETTS.

REHEARSALS IN SETTING UP AND TEARING DOWN SIGNAL OFFICES, DIGGING SLIT TRENCHES AND CAMOUFLAGING LORRIES WERE FREQUENT.

WITH THE SPRING OF 1941 CAME LARGE MANOEUVRES ON A UNIT, DIVISIONAL, CORPS AND FINALLY AN ARMY BASIS.

THE 1st DIVISIONAL SIGNALS HAD FIRST TO LEARN ITS ROLE IN A DIVISIONAL MOVE.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE STAFF, NO OTHER BRANCH OF THE SERVICE HELD GREATER RESPONSIBILITY WHEN THE TROOPS MOVED.

75

LCOL C.S. McKEE,
CBE, ED, CD
27 APRIL 1941
TO
9 JANUARY 1943



76

ON THE 2nd OF APRIL 1941, MAJOR C.S. McKEE BECAME ACTING COMMANDING OFFICER. IN MAY MAJOR McKEE WAS PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL AND ASSUMED THE POSITION OF CO.

MAY WAS SPENT ON INSPECTIONS, REGIMENTAL SPORTS DAYS AND COURSES. THE COURSE INCLUDED SIGNAL PROCEDURE, MORTAR DEMONSTRATIONS, METHODS OF DEALING WITH INCENDIARY BOMBS, FIRE FIGHTING BY MEANS OF A STIRRUP PUMP AND THE SENDING AND RECEIVING OF PRACTICE MESSAGES.

A LARGE EXERCISE "BRENDA" AT THE END OF MAY AND EARLY JUNE "WATERLOO" WITH "MAPLE" "BROLLY" AND "BLUENOSE" KEPT EVERYONE BUSY FOR THE SUMMER. MANY MORE EXERCISES FOLLOWED.

77

Force III - Raid on Spitzbergen

25 Aug - 4 Sep 1941

6 AUG 1941, A/CAPT WILSON AND LT WEBBER ALONG WITH "K" SECTION LEFT FOR EXERCISE "HEATHER" (EXTRACT FROM WAR DIARY). THE EXERCISE, "OPERATION GAUNTLET." THE BRITISH LANDING ON SPITZBERGEN ARCHIPELAGO, WHICH LIES 370 MILES FROM THE NORTHERN MOST POINT OF NORWAY TO WHICH IT BELONGS.



78

THE SECTION SAILED FIRST FROM SCOTLAND TO REYKJAVIK, ICELAND ABOARD A LARGE PASSENGER LINER, THERE. LT WEBBER WITH A SMALL PARTY (CPL A.T. DAVIS, SIGNALMEN JHM DEHLER, R DAVIDSON AND RJ BROUSSEAU) TRANSFERRED TO THE ROYAL NAVY DESTROYER HMS ICARUS TO MAKE AN ADVANCED LANDING AT A RADIO STATION WHICH COMMANDED THE ENTRANCE TO ISFJORD.

THE RADIO STATION, MANNED BY A NORWEGIAN CREW, WAS USED FOR TRANSMITTING WEATHER INFORMATION TO THE NORWEGIAN TERMINAL AT TRODHEIM WHICH WAS UNDER GERMAN CONTROL AND IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHERE THE SYMPATHIES OF THE SPITZBERGEN END LAY. IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAIN BODY OF THE FORCE NOT BE ANNOUNCED TO THE GERMANS, FOR THE GERMAN BATTLESHIP TIRPITZ WAS KNOWN TO BE OPERATIONAL.

79

INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THIS PART OF THE OPERATION WAS SKETCHY AND LT WEBBER'S BRIEFING ASSUMED THAT THE NORWEGIANS WERE AT LEAST ACTING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GERMAN FORCES. IT WAS PLANNED THAT THE FIVE CANADIANS, TOGETHER WITH A NORWEGIAN SECOND LIEUTENANT AND THREE NORWEGIAN SOLDIERS WOULD SEIZE THE RADIO STATION BY SURPRISE, WHILE THE DESTROYER LISTENED FOR ANY TRANSMISSIONS AND WAS PREPARED TO DEMOLISH IT WITH ITS HEAVY WEAPONS IF ANY OCCURRED.

THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF LIFE AT THE RADIO STATION AS THE SMALL PARTY WAS TOWED ASHORE BY NAVY CUTTER. COMING IN BELOW THE CLIFF TO A SMALL JETTY THE PARTY LOST SIGHT OF THE STATION AND DEVOTED MOST OF THEIR ATTENTION TO MAKING A LANDING WITHOUT BEING SWAMPED.

80



81

LANDFALL WAS MADE SUCCESSFULLY AND THE RAIDERS JUMPED FROM THEIR CRAFT READY TO RUSH UP THE PATHWAY TO THE STATION, WITH ALL WEAPONS LOADED AND READY TO FIRE. HOWEVER, THEY WERE SOMEWHAT STARTLED TO HEAR A VOICE FROM ABOVE SAY "GOOD MORNING, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE?" IT WAS THE RADIO STATION COOK WHO HAD COME DOWN TO WELCOME THE "ASSAULTING TROOPS".

FEELING SOME WHAT SHEEPISH, THE PARTY UNLOADED THEIR EQUIPMENT AND JOINED THE OPERATORS FOR BREAKFAST. FAR FROM BEING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ENEMY, THE NORWEGIANS WERE DELIGHTED TO FIND THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE THEIR POST AND JOIN THE FREE NORWEGIAN FORCES IN ENGLAND.

82



83

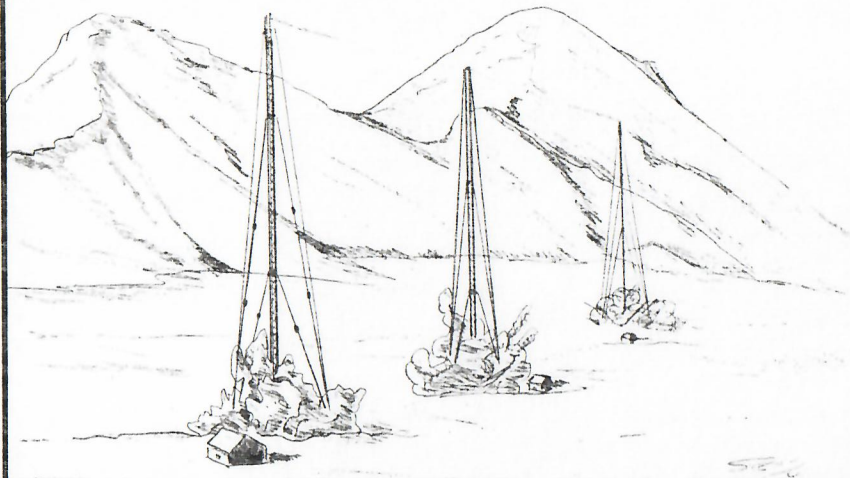
ACCORDING TO PLAN, THE STATION CONTINUED TO SEND WEATHER REPORTS TO NORWAY SO THERE WOULD BE NO SUSPICIONS OF THE SITUATION ON THE ISLAND. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SIGNALS PERSONNEL SET UP A RADIO STATION IN A TENT (NO. 11 SET) TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE MAIN FORCE AT BARENTSBURG, BUT REMAINED ON RADIO SILENCE. THE MAIN FORCE, WITH THE BALANCE OF "K" SECTION, MOVED UP THE ISFJORD TO BARENTSBURG LATER THE SAME DAY. THERE WERE SERIOUS PROBLEMS THERE WITH THE RUSSIANS WHOSE COMMISSAR CLAIMED NOT TO HAVE BEEN WARNED OF THE IMPENDING EVACUATION OF THE TOWN. EVENTUALLY BRIGADIER A.E. POTTS OVERCAME THE COMMISSAR'S OBJECTIONS AND THE ENTIRE RUSSIAN POPULATION WAS EVACUATED ON THE SHIP WHICH HAD BROUGHT THE FORCE TO THE ISLAND, LEAVING IT THERE TO

84

CARRY ON THE DEMOLITION OF THE INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES. THE DEMOLITION PARTIES DESTROYED ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THE MINING MACHINERY AND THE OVERHEAD CONVEYER WHICH BROUGHT COAL TO THE DOCKSIDE. THE SIGNALS PERSONNEL DID LIKEWISE TO SEVERAL GERMAN WIRELESS STATIONS. ABOUT 540,000 TONS OF COAL WERE SET ON FIRE AS WELL AS 275,000 GALLONS OF FUEL OIL, PETROL AND GREASE. WHILE THIS WAS HAPPENING,

THE TROOPS OF "K" SECTION HAD THE UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF LIVING IN SOME OF THE ABANDONED HOUSES IN BARENTSBURG. NONE OF THE HOMES HAD KITCHENS IN THEM AND EVERYONE HAD TO EAT IN A COMMUNAL DINING ROOM. EVERY ROOM IN THE HOUSE HAD A LOUDSPEAKER WHICH WAS PERMANENTLY WIRED TO CENTRAL BROADCAST STUDIO.

85



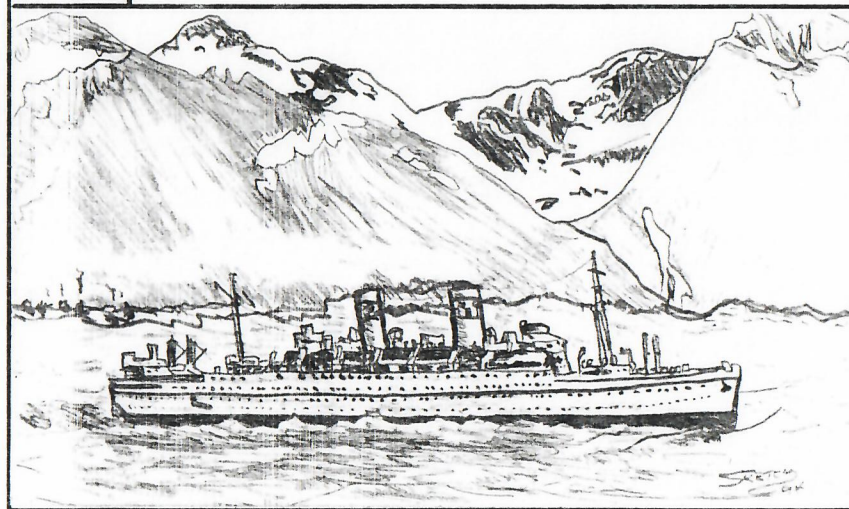
86

THE WHOLE AREA WAS LITTERED WITH THE LONG TUBULAR BUTTS OF RUSSIAN CIGARETTES, AND IN EVERY BUILDING THERE WAS A DOMINATING SMELL OF CHEAP PERFUME.. ONCE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE TOWN HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, "K" SECTION WAS NOT FULLY OCCUPIED ON ITS NORMAL DUTIES AND IT ASSISTED THE ENGINEERS AND OTHERS ON A VARIETY OF TASKS PREPARATORY TO WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ISLAND. ONE OF THESE TASKS WAS THE SLAUGHTERING OF CATTLE AND, PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY WHEN SOLDIERS WERE LITERALLY FED UP WITH LIVING ON FILET MIGNON. IN THE MEANTIME, LIEUTENANT WEBBER, AT KAP LINE WAS ASTONISHED TO LEARN, FROM A CASUAL REMARK OF ONE OF THE NORWEGIAN OPERATORS, THAT THE GERMANS REGULARLY FLEW RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OVER THE ISLAND ON FRIDAYS.

87

AT LIEUTENANT WEBBER'S REQUEST, THE NORWEGIANS AGREED TO FAKE THE WEATHER READINGS TO INDICATE THE ONSET OF FOUL WEATHER. THERE WAS LITTLE TIME TO DEVELOP THE DECEPTION, THE OPERATORS WARNED THAT THE ANOMALY WOULD BECOME OBVIOUS TO THE GERMAN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE. THE DETACHMENT DISMANTLED ITS UNUSED WIRELESS STATION AND OBLITERATED ANY EXTERNAL TRACES OF ITS OCCUPATION OF THE STATION. HOWEVER, THE FORTUNES OF WAR WERE WITH THE FORCE: WEATHER CONDITIONS BEGAN TO DETERIORATE TWELVE HOURS AFTER THE DECEPTION OPERATION STARTED, THE GERMANS APPARENTLY SUSPECTED NOTHING. IN ANY EVENT, THE VISIT FROM THE LUFTWAFFE NEVER MATERIALIZED. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS THE "EMPRESS OF CANADA" RETURNED FROM RUSSIA TO EVACUATE THE FORCE AND NORWEGIAN POPULATION TO BRITAIN.

88



89

AT KAP LINNE AN AUTOMATIC KEYING DEVICE WAS SET UP AND THE STATION CLOSED DOWN WITH SUFFICIENT DESTRUCTION DONE TO ENSURE THAT IT COULD NOT EASILY BE REHABILITATED. LIEUTENANT WEBBER BROUGHT IN AN OLD GERMAN TRAPPER WHO LIVED ABOUT TWO MILES AWAY AND THE PARTY REJOINED THE MAIN FORCE FOR THE RETURN TO SCOTLAND.

THE AUTOMATIC KEYER CAME ON THE AIR AS THE EXPEDITION LEFT THE ISLAND AND THE TRONDHEIM TERMINAL COULD BE HEARD CALLING, OBVIOUSLY MYSTIFIED, FOR SEVERAL DAYS AS THE PARTY STEAMED SOUTH. THE MEMBERS OF "K" SECTION WERE THE ENVY OF THE UNIT. IT HAD BEEN A YEAR SINCE THE EXCITEMENT OF THE BLITZ AND, FOR TROOPS WHO HAD BEEN AMONG THE FIRST TO JOIN UP, INACTION WAS PROVING TO BE FRUSTRATING.

90

THE UNIT WAS TO SPEND ALMOST TWO MORE YEARS IN ENGLAND "GUARDING THE HOME GUARDS HOME", AS THEY SAID BITTERLY, BEFORE IT FOUND ITSELF IN ACTION. THESE WERE BUSY YEARS, THOUGH. THERE WERE NUMEROUS BRIGADE AND DIVISION LEVEL EXERCISES, UNIT TRAINING, CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT OF THE MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK AROUND THE SOUTH-EAST COAST OF ENGLAND, ANTI-INVASION ALERTS AND, FROM TIME TO TIME, HIGH LEVEL EXERCISES INVOLVING THOUSANDS OF CANADIAN AND BRITISH TROOPS. THE LIFE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UNIT WAS A FAR CRY FROM WHAT THEY HAD BEEN LED TO EXPECT WHEN THEY FIRST JOINED UP. LIVING CONDITIONS WERE FAR FROM IDEAL BUT, IN GENERAL, LIFE WAS RELATIVELY EASY. WHILE BATTLES RAGED ELSEWHERE AND THE NAVY AND THE AIRFORCE WERE IN THE THICK OF IT.

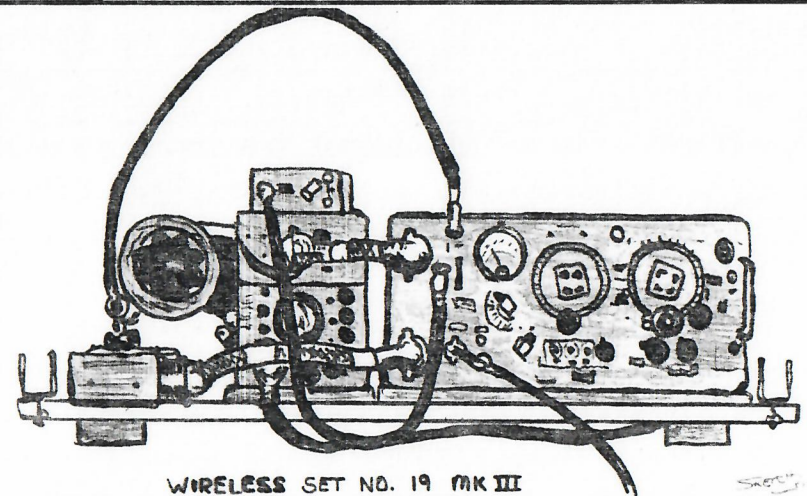
91

THE ARMY SEEMED LEFT OUT EXCEPT FOR THE DISASTERS OF HONG KONG AND DIEPPE. AS THE THREAT OF ENEMY INVASION RECEDED AND IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF AN EARLY COMMITMENT TO ACTION, MOST OF THE EARLY ARRIVALS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM BEGAN TO FEEL A SECRET AND GROWING SENSE OF EMBARRASSMENT AND FUTILITY.

IT WAS WITH A SENSE OF RELIEF, THEN, THAT THE UNIT FACED ITS COMMITMENT TO COMBINED OPERATIONS TRAINING EARLY IN 1943.

COMBINED OPERATIONS TRAINING WAS TOUGH, EXHAUSTING AND SOMETIMES DANGEROUS BUT IT WAS JUST WHAT WAS NEEDED TO GIVE THE UNIT THE REVIVAL OF ITS OLD SPIRIT.

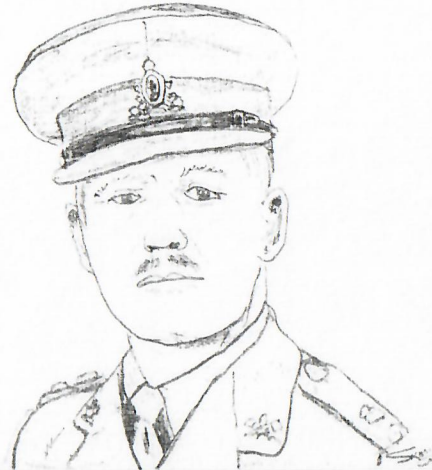
92



WIRELESS SET NO. 19 MK III

93

LCOL J.H. EAMAN
COMMANDING
OFFICER
18 JANUARY 1943



94

ON 22 MARCH 43 AN ORDER ON VEHICLE MARKINGS WAS ISSUED AS FOLLOWS:

THE UNIT SERIAL NUMBER FOR ALL DIV VEHICLES WILL IN FUTURE BE 40 INSTEAD OF THE EXISTING 52.

SECTIONS WILL TAKE ACTION TO SEE THAT THE MARKINGS ON ALL VEHICLES ARE CHANGED ACCORDINGLY.

STENCILS FOR THE FIGURES 40 WILL BE PREPARED BY M SECTION.

THIS APPLIES ONLY TO HQ, NO. 1 COY AND H SECTION.



95

NEVER WAS THE SAYING "WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH THE TOUGH GET GOING" MORE VIVIDLY DISPLAYED THAN IN THE EXERCISES WHICH TOOK PLACE IN SCOTLAND AT THAT TIME. THE UNIT WAS CONSTANTLY COMMITTED TO THE NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS OF A DIVISION SPREAD OVER A LARGE AREA OF SCOTLAND.

IT PARTICIPATED IN FREQUENT RIGOROUS EXERCISES AND, SIMULTANEOUSLY, RECEIVED NEW VEHICLES AND NEW EQUIPMENT, ALL OF WHICH REQUIRED TO BE FITTED AND WATERPROOFED.

FINALLY IN LATE JUNE OF 1943, THE UNIT EMBARKED IN SCOTLAND FOR THE LAST TIME. THE TIME HAD COME FOR THE UNIT'S FIRST COMPLETE OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT WHEN THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION JOINED THE BRITISH 8th ARMY FOR "OPERATION HUSKY" THE INVASION OF SICILY.

96

Operation Husky

SICILY IS AN ISLAND OFF THE TOE OF ITALY COVERING AN AREA OF 9,927 SQUARE MILES.

SICILY WAS FOUGHT OVER BY THE GREEKS AND CARTHAGINIANS IN THE CENTURIES BEFORE CHRIST. IT THEN BELONGED TO THE ROMANS, THE VANDALS, THE SARACENS, THE NORMANS AND MANY OTHER CONQUERORS. IT WAS NOW BEING INVADDED BY THE ALLIED FORCES IN THE 20th CENTURY.

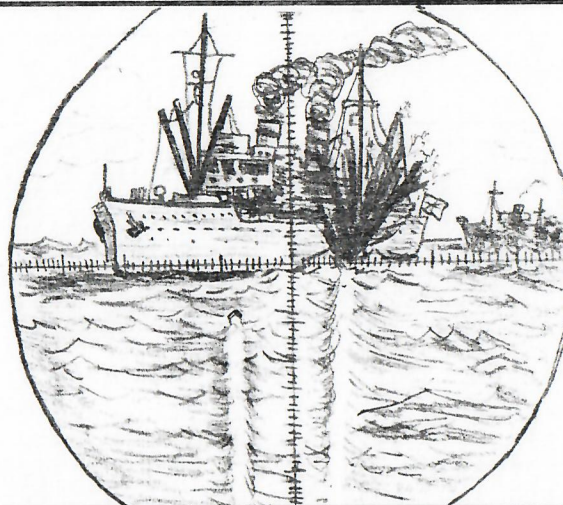


97

ON THE 24th OF JUNE 1943, A SLOW CONVOY CARRYING MOST OF THE SIGNALS TRANSPORT SET SAIL. FOUR DAYS LATER, IT WAS FOLLOWED BY A FASTER CONVOY, HMS HILARY, CARRYING A DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS, HMS CIRCASSIA WITH A STANDBY ORGANIZATION AND OTHER TRANSPORTS AND ESCORT SHIPS. THE TRIP WAS UNEVENTFUL FOR THE SLOW CONVOY UNTIL, BETWEEN ORAN AND ALGIERS, DISASTER STRUCK ON THE 4th AND 5th OF JULY.

WITHIN 24 HOURS, THREE TRANSPORT SHIPS FELL PREY TO U BOATS. IN ALL THREE, THERE WERE PERSONNEL AND VEHICLES FROM THE SIGNAL UNIT AND OUR LOSSES INCLUDED TEN MEN: L/SGT HA. GLOVER, L/CPL BG STILES, SIGNALMEN H.A. BALL, J.C. HALL, E. JANTZI, W. MOORE, W.H. SEMPLE, D. SMITH, M.A. TAYLOR AND F.C. THOMPSON.

98



99

ABOARD THE SHIP CARRYING THE 12th CANADIAN ARMORED REGIMENT (THREE RIVERS REGIMENT) SIGNALS WERE MANNING THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS WHEN IT WENT DOWN.

DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS LOST MOST OF ITS VEHICLES AND SIGNALS EQUIPMENT, RESULTING IN THE INABILITY OF THE SIGNAL OFFICE AT DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS TO FUNCTION (EXCEPT FOR DR'S) UNTIL D + 3.

AS THE CONVOY MOVED THROUGH THE MEDITERRANEAN IT WAS JOINED BY OTHERS CARRYING THE ASSAULT DIVISIONS OF THE 8th ARMY UNTIL THERE SEEMED TO BE SHIPS AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE IN EVERY DIRECTION. FINAL BRIEFINGS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN PREPARATION FOR THE ASSAULT LANDING TO TAKE PLACE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF 10 JULY.

100

ON THE 9th OF JULY, THE WEATHER TOOK A DRAMATIC TURN FOR THE WORSE. ALTHOUGH THE SKIES REMAINED CLEAR THE WIND BUILT UP TO GALE FORCE AND CREATED SEA CONDITIONS WHICH APPEARED TO MAKE THE SURVIVAL OF A LANDING CRAFT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE. BY NIGHTFALL, AS THE OLD NAVY HANDS HAD PREDICTED,

THE WIND DROPPED BUT THE SEAS WERE STILL VERY ROUGH. DESPITE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS STILL PREVAILING AT LAST LIGHT, THE ASSAULT TOOK PLACE AS PLANNED ALTHOUGH THE EXTREME DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED IN LOADING THE MEN INTO THE LANDING CRAFT DELAYED THE MOVEMENT OF THE CRAFT TO THE SHORE. FORTUNATELY, THE ITALIAN DEFENCES AT THE PACHINO BEACHES WERE RELATIVELY LIGHT AND WERE TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE.

101

THERE WERE FEW CASUALTIES ON THE BEACHES AND THE TROOPS MOVED INLAND WITH ONLY THE LIGHTEST OF OPPOSITION INITIALLY.

FOR SIGNALS, THERE WERE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES. A BEACH LANDING OPERATION IS EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND COMMUNICATIONS ARE DOUBLE-BANKED AND SOMETIMES TRIPLE-BANKED. EVEN SO, EQUIPMENT FAILURES LED TO SERIOUS BREAKDOWNS IN COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE EARLY ASSAULT STAGES.

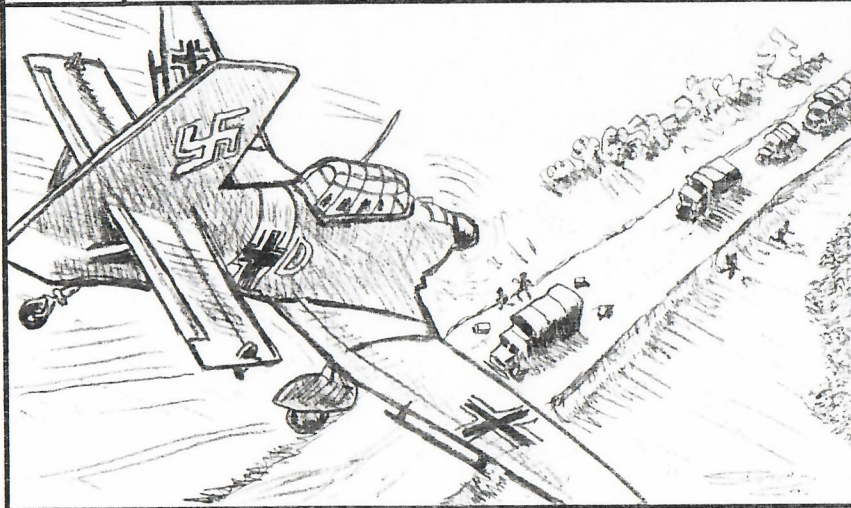
THE STATE OF THE ELECTRICAL ARTS OF THE DAY WAS SIMPLY NOT UP TO PROVIDING RADIO EQUIPMENT WITH A STABILITY THAT COULD BE TUNED IN SCOTLAND A MONTH EARLIER AND EXPECTED TO FUNCTION INSTANTLY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AFTER BEING LEFT UNATTENDED IN THE HOLDS OF SHIPS IN THE INTERVENING TIME.

102

IN 2 BRIGADE, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE THREE WIRELESS NETS DURING THE ASSAULT PHASE. NONE WORKED INITIALLY: SUNRISE FOUND CPL DAVIS, THE ELECTRICIAN, SQUATTED ON THE DECK OF THE HEADQUARTERS SHIP IN FULL BATTLE ORDER WITH THREE RADIOS IN PIECES AROUND HIM TRYING DESPERATELY TO GET ONE TO FUNCTION.

ON THE MORNING OF THE 13th, THE DIVISIONAL SIGNALS CONVOY WAS MOVING UP TO ESTABLISH A FORMAL HEADQUARTERS WHEN A DOZEN GERMAN PLANES STRAFED THE COLUMN, COSTING THE UNIT FIVE KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED. AT THIS STAGE, SIGNALS HAD SUSTAINED MORE CASUALTIES THAN ANY OTHER CANADIAN UNIT IN SICILY. THOSE LOST WERE: SGT C.G. BROWN, SIGNALMEN HW JINNSSEN, MS QUICK, R.A. QUINN, SGT TBBH KROON.

103

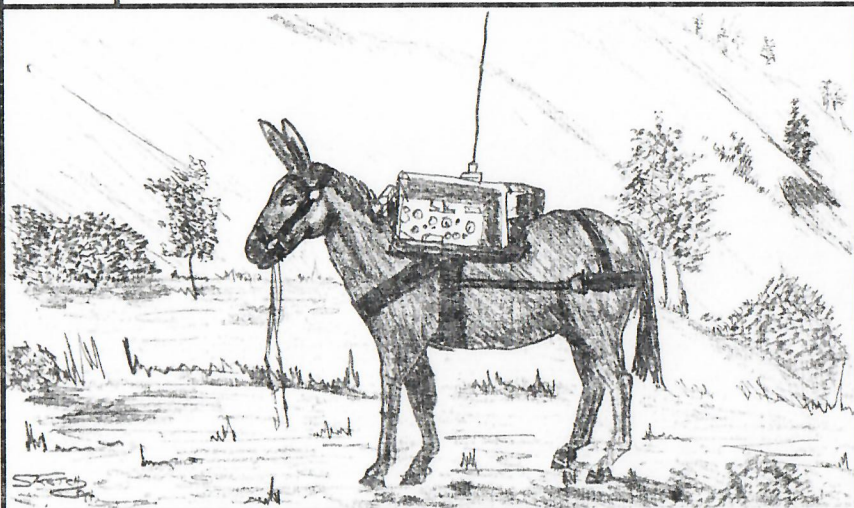


104

DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE CAMPAIGN, "K" SECTION LAID ITS FIRST LINE, SIX MILES OF IT, AT LEONFORTE, AND THE BRIGADE STAFF USED IT FOR EXACTLY ONE HOUR BEFORE MOVING FORWARD AGAIN. THREE WEEKS LATER THE VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT COMPLEMENT HAD ALMOST BEEN MADE UP AND COMMUNICATIONS WERE IN TO MOST UNITS.

THE HEAVY MOUNTAINOUS REGION NEAR NISSORIA, WHERE VEHICLE TRAVEL WAS IMPOSSIBLE, THE MULE BECAME THE BEST METHOD OF TRANSPORTING WIRELESS SETS. THE PACK WOULD HAVE A 22 SET ON ONE SIDE, THE BATTERIES ON THE OTHER. THE OPERATOR WOULD WALK ALONGSIDE WITH HIS MICROPHONE AND HEADSET PLUGGED IN. "F" SECTION HAD A TEMPERAMENTAL MULE BY THE NAME OF "MAUDE THE MULE" WHO ...

105



106

WHEN MORTAR BOMBS BEGAN TO FALL, WOULD LIE DOWN, BUT NOT ON THE BATTERY SIDE, IT WAS ALWAYS THE SIDE WITH THE SET UNDERNEATH. IT THEN BECAME NECESSARY TO GRASP HER FRONT AND HIND LEGS, ROLL HER OVER, THEN PROCEED TO SEND THE MESSAGE.

ONE MULE DECIDED TO RETREAT WHEN TRACERS BEGAN FLYING. HE DID THIS UNANNOUNCED LEAVING THE OPERATOR HOLDING THE MICROPHONE AND EARPHONES. ANOTHER OPERATOR SAW THREE MULES CARRYING HIS SETS SHOT WITHIN 36 HOURS. THE ANIMALS CARRIED RADIOS ALL THROUGH SICILY AND ITALY ON THE TREACHEROUS MOUNTAIN TRAILS.

OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORT ACQUIRED OUT OF NECESSITY

107

BY "SCROUNGING" DURING THOSE FIRST WEEKS INCLUDED SO MANY SICILIAN BUSES, CARS AND TRUCKS THAT THE VEHICLE STATE OF SIGNALS BORE LITTLE RESEMBLANCE TO TEXTBOOK ESTABLISHMENTS. REPLACEMENTS OF ALL MAJOR ITEMS (VEHICLES, WIRELESS SETS, SPARE PARTS, BATTERIES, ETC.) WENT ENTIRELY THROUGH SIGNALS CHANNELS, FROM DIV CSO (DIVISION CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER TO CORPS CSO TO ARMY CSO.

THE CANADIANS FOUGHT FLEAS, BUGS, SCORPIONS, MOSQUITOES, THE BLAZING SUN, MALARIA AND DUST, QUICKLY TAKING ON THE GRIMY LOOK OF THE 8th ARMY'S DESERT RATS.

GUNS, TANKS, VEHICLES AND MEN ALL WORE THE SAME DUSTY WHITE AS THEY ADVANCED FROM ONE HILLTOP TO ANOTHER.

108



109

MONTGOMERY HAD PERMITTED HIS ARMY TO DRESS COMFORTABLY, BUT WITHIN REASON. ONE DAY AS HE WAS BEING DRIVEN ON A HOT DUSTY ROAD THROUGH A SICILIAN VALLEY, HE PASSED A TRUCK IN WHICH A SOLDIER STOOD, CLAD ONLY IN SHORTS AND A TOP HAT. THE SOLDIER, TRYING TO OBSERVE MILITARY COURTESY, SALUTED BY RAISING HIS TOP HAT SMARTLY. CONSIDERING THE DRESS THE GESTURE WAS SUITABLE, BUT THE DRESS ITSELF ??? -

MONTGOMERY THOUGHT NOT - HE BANNED TOP HATS. THE CANADIANS WERE VERY FIERCE FIGHTERS AND ADVANCED FROM TOWN TO TOWN THROUGH 120 MILES OF MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS UNTIL THEY REACHED THE FOOT OF MOUNT ETNA, THE GERMANS STRONGHOLD. THIS WAS SOON TAKEN.

THE 1st DIVISION HAD WON THE RESPECT OF THE

110

ENEMY WHO CALLED THEM THE "RED PATCH DEVILS" BECAUSE OF THE BRIGHT RED BATTLE PATCH THEY WORE ON THE ARMS.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR OLIVER LEESE OF 30 CORPS CONGRATULATED GENERAL SIMONDS AND THE 1st DIVISION FOR MAGNIFICENT FIGHTING. GENERAL MONTGOMERY CALLED THEM MAGNIFICENT AND ADDED, "I REGARD YOU NOW AS ONE OF THE VETERAN DIVISIONS OF THE 8th ARMY; JUST AS GOOD AS ANY, IF NOT BETTER".

ON THE 7th OF AUGUST, THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION CAMPED AT THE FOOT OF MOUNT ETNA AND WENT INTO RESERVE. THEY PITCHED THEIR TENTS AMONG THE GRAPEVINES AND RELAXED. BESIDES GRAPES, THEY HAD A VARIETY OF ORANGES AND FIGS AND LIQUID REFRESHMENTS

111



112

WHICH THEY TRADED AND BOUGHT FROM THE TOWNSPEOPLE. SIGNALS HAD SUFFERED HEAVILY FROM MALARIA, JAUNDICE, DESERT SORES AND INSECTS AND WITH THIS NEW PERIOD OF WAITING, RECUPERATED.

AUGUST 17th MARKED THE FINAL VICTORY IN SICILY, A CAMPAIGN IN WHICH COMMUNICATIONS PLAYED A VITAL PART. SIGNALS OPERATIONS DURING THE 38 DAY CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT UNDER A MOST FRUSTRATING SHORTAGE OF SPARE PARTS. THE REAR PARTY DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL THE CAMPAIGN WAS NEARLY OVER. ONE OF THEIR 3-TON STORES LORRIES, LOADED WITH BADLY NEEDED SPARE PARTS, DISAPPEARED FROM THE DOCK AREA, NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, THE CORPS COMMANDER

113

Italy - 3 September 1943

AND HIS STAFF HAD PERSONALLY COMPLIMENTED LIEUTENANT COLONEL EAMAN AND HIS OPERATORS ON THEIR GOOD PROCEDURE, ABILITY AND GENERAL HELPFULNESS. BRIGADIER H.D. GRAHAM SAID HE FELT HE "OWED SIGNALS SPECIAL MENTION FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS". A FITTING TRIBUTE TO CONCLUDE A CAMPAIGN.

FROM JULY 15th TO AUG 7th, FIVE MORE MEN OF THE DIVISION HAD BEEN KILLED IN ACTION: CPL J.G.B. HENRY, A/CPL R.W. DEVLIN, AND SIGNALMEN N.A. WALKER, P. MASSON, T.W. SIMPSON.

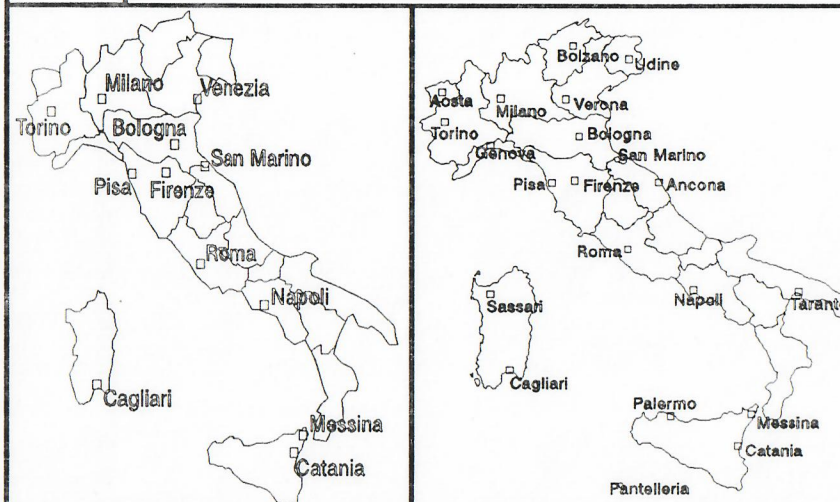
FOR A SECOND TIME FATE WAS GOOD TO THE CANADIANS AS THEY MADE ANOTHER UNOPPOSED LANDING ON THE UNMINED BEACH AT REGGIO, ITALY, ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 3rd.

115

AT 05:26 HRS A SUCCESSFUL SIGNAL WAS SENT FROM FOX BEACH. THE WIRELESS WAS NOT WORKING WELL DUE TO INTERFERENCE FROM R.D.F. BUT SOON CLEARED UP. THE FIRST SIXTEEN VEHICLES FROM HEADQUARTERS 1CIB WENT ACROSS AT 11:10 HRS. AT 16:30 HRS THE NEXT SIXTEEN WERE EMBARKED BUT SPENT THE NIGHT ON BOARD SHIP AND LANDED AT FIRST LIGHT.

ON SEPTEMBER 4th AT 11:00 HRS, THE FIRST SIGNAL OFFICE WAS SET UP USING LOCALS ONLY, THE GRIGADES MOVING FORWARD. OWING TO HEAVY TRAFFIC, BAD BENDS AND HILLS, A BRIDGE BEING REPLACED BY THE ENGINEERS, THE CONVOYS MADE SLOW TIME AND DARKNESS OVERTOOK THEM. THE ROADS BECAME NARROWER, HILLS MORE STEEP AND HAIRPIN TURNS MORE NUMEROUS MADE THE ROADS EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS TO VEHICLES RUNNING WITHOUT LIGHTS.

114

Cities and Regions of Italy

116

THE WEATHER CLOUDED UP AND HEAVY RAIN HAMPERED ALL MOVEMENT. THE AREA WHERE DIV SET UP WAS THOUGHT BY MOST AS SIMILAR TO NORTERN ONTARIO, WITH HUGE GROVES OF PINE, CHESTNUT AND OAK TREES. DELIANUOVA WAS REACHED ON THE THIRD DAY AND THE FORWARD BRIGADES KEPT PUSHING NORTH.

ON D+5 THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SURRENDERED LEAVING THE CANADIANS WITH ONLY A SINGLE ENEMY TO FIGHT. UNITS MOVED FORWARD SO RAPIDLY THAT WITHIN A WEEK DESPATCH RIDERS WERE TRAVELLING IN EXCESS OF 100 MILES TO DELIVER MESSAGES TO 13 CORPS. THESE RAPID THRUSTS IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTED TO SOME VERY UNUSUAL DIFFICULTIES. A BRIGADE COMMANDER WITH HIS JEEP FITTED WITH A 19 SET, TRAVELLED THROUGH THE HILLS FOR

117

65 MILES BEFORE HE MADE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY NEAR MOTTA MONTECORVINO THEN ASKED THE OPERATOR TO CALL HEADQUARTERS. COULD THE SET WITH A BOOSTER CARRY THE MESSAGE OVER 65 HILLY MILES? THE MESSAGE WAS PASSED BY VOICE AT STRENGTH 4. ANOTHER SUCH OCCURRENCE HAPPENED IN THE FOGGIA PLAIN, WHEN TACTICAL HEADQUARTERS WAS 220 MILES AHEAD OF DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

ON THE 15th OF SEPTEMBER SIGNALMAN A. GIBSON, DIED OF WOUNDS AFTER A JEEP HE WAS RIDING IN WENT OVER A STEEP CLIFF. SIGNALMAN G. MEILLEUR DIED OF WOUNDS ON THE 16th. THE CONVOYS OF THE BRIGADES MOVED STEADILY NORTH THROUGH CATANZARO, NICASTRO, CROTONE, COZENZA, CORIGLIANO, CORLETTO, AND MOVING INTO POTENZA. ENEMY DEMOLITION SQUADS WERE SAID TO BE IMMEDIATELY

118

AHEAD OF THEM BLOWING BRIDGES. TO FOGGIA, LUCERA AND TO THEIR NEXT BIG OBJECTIVE - CAMPOBASSO. DURING THIS PERIOD THE WEATHER HAD CHANGED. VEHICLES HAD TO BE WINCHED OUT OF THE MUD BY ARTILLERY TRACTORS. THE MUD FINALLY DRIED OUT AND ROADS FAIRLY PASSABLE AND THE INFANTRY WERE ADVANCING RAPIDLY WITH LIGHT OPPOSITION. ON OCTOBER 12th A/CPL I.R. FRY WAS KILLED IN ACTION. ON THE 13th, 1 BRIGADE WERE IN AND OUT OF CAMPOBASSO SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DAY AND FINALLY MOVED IN FOR GOOD ON THE NEXT DAY.

BY NIGHTFALL ON THE 15th PATROLS HAD PENETRATED AS FAR AS VINCHIATURO, AND BY THE 22nd THE FORWARD PATROLS WERE STILL CLASHING WITH THE ENEMY ON THE WEST BANK OF THE BIFERNO RIVER.

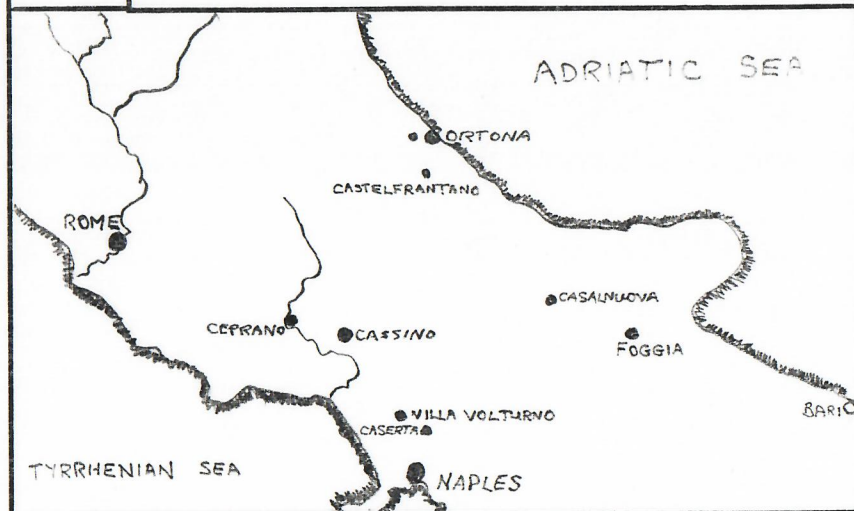
119

LCOL BWG GROVER
COMMANDING
OFFICER
28 OCTOBER 1943



120

Central Italy



121

WITH THE FALL OF THESE CITIES, K SECTION SIGNAL OFFICE SERVED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AS A VITAL LINK IN INTER-ARMY COMMUNICATIONS. THE FULLERPHONES WORKED 24 HOURS A DAY, AND OPERATORS CONSIDERED A 500 WORD MESSAGE A SHORT ONE.

THERE WERE 72 LINES ON THE SWITCHBOARD AND ALL WERE IN CONSTANT DEMAND. C SECTION MADE USE OF EXISTING POLED LINE TO SERVE THE THREE BRIGADES. AT ONE TIME THE LINE DIAGRAM SHOWED 85 MILES OF WIRE, ONLY 2 MILES OF WHICH WERE CONSTRUCTED BY THE SECTION.

AT THE END OF NOVEMBER 1943, ENEMY RESISTANCE, WHICH HAD BEEN STIFFENING PERCEPTIBLY FOR SOME TIME DEVELOPED INTO FULL-SCALE DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS ON THE ADRIATIC SIDE OF THE FRONT.

122

AFTER A PERIOD OF REST, THE DIVISION MOVED BACK TO THE LINE ON NOVEMBER 30th, THE WEATHER COLD AND WET WITH INTERMITTENT RAIN AND BECOMING MUDDY.

ALL WIRELESS TAKEN OVER BY 78 DIVISION - NO CANADIAN WAS ALLOWED TO SPEAK OVER THE WIRELESS. THE IDEA WAS TO COVER UP THE PRESENCE OF CANADIAN TROOPS ON THIS FRONT, UNTIL CONTACT BY THE INFANTRY SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. THE SANGRO RIVER WAS CROSSED THEN ON TO ROCCA AND S. VITO.

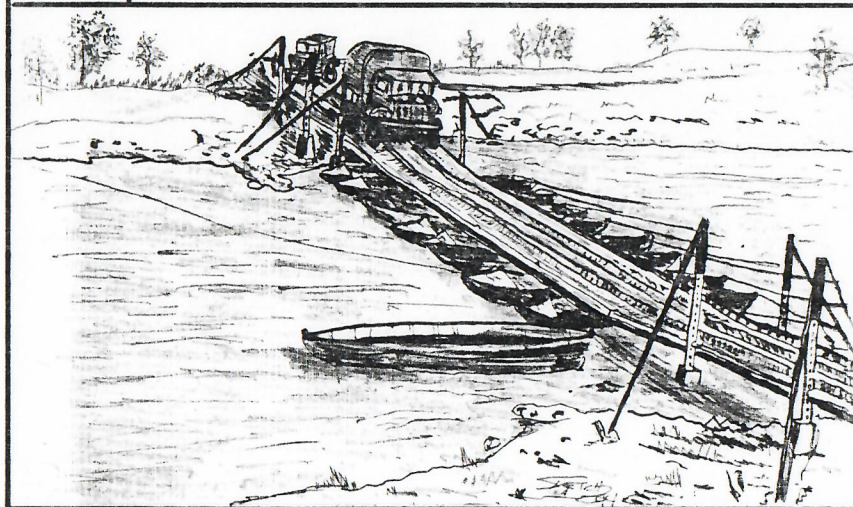
ON THE 5th OF DECEMBER THE SIGS BILLETS WERE ATTACKED BY AIR, ONE BOMB DROPPED, CASUALTIES WERE 21 WOUNDED AND CPL GR ELLIOTT WAS KILLED. ON THE 11th AND 12th SIGNALMEN RJ PAIN AND L. GRIFFIN DIED OF WOUNDS CAUSED BY THE BOMB INCIDENT OF THE 5th.

123

THE DIVISIONS NEXT OBJECTIVE WAS TO CROSS THE MORO RIVER AND INTO ORTONA. THE SITUATION GOT SERIOUS FOR ENGINEERS AND SIGNALS ALIKE. IT WAS NOW A CUSTOM FOR INFANTRY AND ARTILLERY CO'S TO DEMAND LINE COMMUNICATION WHENEVER THEY HALTED WHETHER THEY WERE ON ONE SIDE OF THE RIVER AND HEADQUARTERS ON THE OTHER OR NOT.

THREE SEPARATE CROSSINGS HAD TO BE MADE. A DIVERSION ON THE RIGHT BY THE HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD REGIMENT AND A DIVERSION ON THE LEFT BY THE PPCLI, WITH THE MAIN ATTACK ON SAN LEONARDO UP THE MIDDLE BY THE SEAFORTHS. AS ARTILLERY MOVED ACROSS THE MORO IN SUPPORT OF THE ATTACKS ON SAN LEONARDO, THE CRA (COMMANDER, ROYAL ARTILLERY) ESTABLISHED AN OBSERVATION

124



125

POST IN ADVANCE OF THE GUN LINES WITHIN THE AREA OF THE FORWARD BATTALIONS. THE LINE TO THIS POST WAS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE SINCE OVER IT THE FIRING OF THE ENTIRE DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY WAS TO BE CONTROLLED. IT'S LOCATION RENDERED IT VULNERABLE TO THE INCESSANT SHELLING THE AREA WAS UNDERGOING.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THIS LINE RESTED WITH "H" SECTION, AND A CORPORAL, WORKING ALONE, KEPT THE LINE OPEN THROUGH FIVE DAYS AND NIGHTS OF HEAVY SHELLING SO THAT THE CRA COULD MAKE ANY FIRE CORRECTION NECESSARY. WITH THE TOWN OF SAN LEONARDO IN CANADIAN HANDS BY THE 9th OF DECEMBER, PREPARATIONS WERE BEING MADE FOR THE ATTACK ON ORTONA BUT SUPPLIES WERE BEING HELD UP AT THE SANGRO RIVER CROSSING. MOST OF THE BRIDGES HAD BEEN WASHED AWAY BY RISING WATERS.

126

ON DECEMBER 11th, SIGNALMAN PAIN, RJ WAS KILLED IN ACTION AND SIGNALMAN GRIFFIN L DIED OF WOUNDS ON THE 12th. FORWARD TROOPS WERE MAKING SLOW PROGRESS ADVANCING FROM THE MORO RIVER TO THE ROAD SOUTHWEST OF ORTONA. THIS TYPE OF FIGHTING MEANT THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH CHANGE IN THE SIGNALS SERVICE ONCE THE LINE SITUATION WAS FULLY DEVELOPED. A FEW REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED, A SITUATION THAT WAS BECOMING SERIOUS, ESPECIALLY FOR THE INFANTRY UNITS. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT DIV ARTILLERY HAD FIRED 175,000 25 PDR ROUNDS SINCE CROSSING THE MORO. IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING SUPPLIES (ESPECIALLY PETROL) ACROSS THE SANGRO, THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION WAS EVIDENT.

SIGNALMAN PATTISON, JD DIED OF WOUNDS ON THE 15th OF DECEMBER.

127

A/CPL J.H. THOMPSON DIED OF WOUNDS ON THE 19th OF DECEMBER. THE ATTACK ON ORTONA WAS LAUNCHED DURING CHRISTMAS WEEK, DECEMBER 20th. AS THE EDMONTONS WERE FIGHTING ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN, CPL J. HAYLEY OF K SECTION KEPT THEM IN LINE COMMUNICATION WITH BRIGADE HQ BY ASSAULT CABLE WHICH HE DRAGGED FORWARD BY HAND, AT NIGHT, OVER TWO MILES OF ROUGH, MINE STREWN GROUND. FREQUENTLY DURING THE DAYS AND NIGHTS THAT FOLLOWED, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO RISK LIFE AND LIMB REPAIRING BREAKS IN THAT LINE, BUT HE NEVER ASKED TO BE RELIEVED.

CHRISTMAS 1943 WAS SPENT AT ORTONA IN THE FIERCEST ACTION TO DATE. THE SEAFORTHS IN ORTONA WERE RELIEVED COMPANY BY COMPANY TO EAT A CHRISTMAS DINNER

128



129

SING A FEW CAROLS ACCOMPANIED ON THE ORGAN BY THEIR SIGNAL OFFICER. THEY ATE THEIR DINNER IN THE BATTERED CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DE CONSTANTINOPOLI. ONE DETACHMENT OF "C" SECTION CELEBRATED IN A GARAGE IN SAN VITO CHIETINO; ANOTHER ATE A DELICIOUS MEAL, COMPLETE WITH WHITE TABLE LINEN IN AN ORTONA CULVERT.

"J" SECTION HAD THE COMPANY OF A DOZEN HEIFERS WHILE THEY SAT IN THE STRAW OF A BARN NEAR THEIR HEADQUARTERS. AT SIGNAL RHQ THE MEN LINED UP IN THE MUD TO BE SERVED A "REALLY EXCELLENT MEAL" BY THE OFFICERS.

THE E.F.I. (EXPEDITIONARY FORCE INSTITUTES) SUPPLIED 2 BOTTLES OF BEER PER MAN AND THE AUXILIARY SERVICES DONATED A CANADIAN CHOCOLATE BAR, ONE PACKAGE OF

130

LIFESAVERS, ONE APPLE, ONE ORANGE AND 75 CIGARETTES PER MAN. EXTRA RATIONS OF CANNED TURKEY AND CHRISTMAS PUDDING WERE ALSO DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE THAT COULD BE REACHED.

THE ADJUTANT SAW TO IT THAT EVERYONE HAD A SUFFICIENCY OF CREAMED CAULIFLOWER. CONSIDERING THE CONDITIONS, IT WAS FELT THAT CHRISTMAS DAY WAS QUITE A SUCCESS.

ON DECEMBER 27th, COLD, RAINY, HIGH WINDS BLOWING FROM THE SEA, THE GERMANS FINALLY WITHDREW FROM ORTONA. SIGNALS MOVED FORWARD OF SAN VITO AND INTO A NEARBY BILLET AREA OCCUPIED UNTIL AN HOUR BEFORE BY AN ARTILLERY REGIMENT WHICH HAD LEFT SEVERAL PILES OF AMMUNITION THERE. THE FOREBODINGS OF THE PESSIMISTS WERE BORNE OUT A FEW HOURS LATER

131

The Winter Line

WHEN THE AREA WAS SHELLED AND ONE OF THE PILES WAS HIT. SURPRISINGLY, THERE WAS ONLY ONE CASUALTY, A REINFORCEMENT CARPENTER WHO WAS KILLED; IRONICALLY HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO THE WRONG UNIT AND WOULD HAVE BEEN RETURNED THE NEXT MORNING.

THIS WAS THE LAST MOVE MADE BY THE UNIT FOR NEARLY TWO MONTHS, THE WAR HAD BOGGED DOWN. FIGHTING PATROLS WERE MAINTAINED TO KEEP AS MANY ENEMY TROOPS ENGAGED AS POSSIBLE. LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE FIELD DETERIORATED RAPIDLY AS WINTER SET IN. HEAVY RAINSTORMS HIT, FLOODING THEIR FOXHOLES, CARRYING TARPS AND PUP TENTS AWAY AND COLLAPSING THEIR KITCHENS, BUT EVERYONE BORE UP WELL AND SHOWED TWISTED GRINS AS THEY FISHED ARTICLES OF CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT OUT OF THEIR FLOODED BIVOUACS. WINTER CLOTHING WAS SLOW TO ARRIVE, THERE WAS A

132

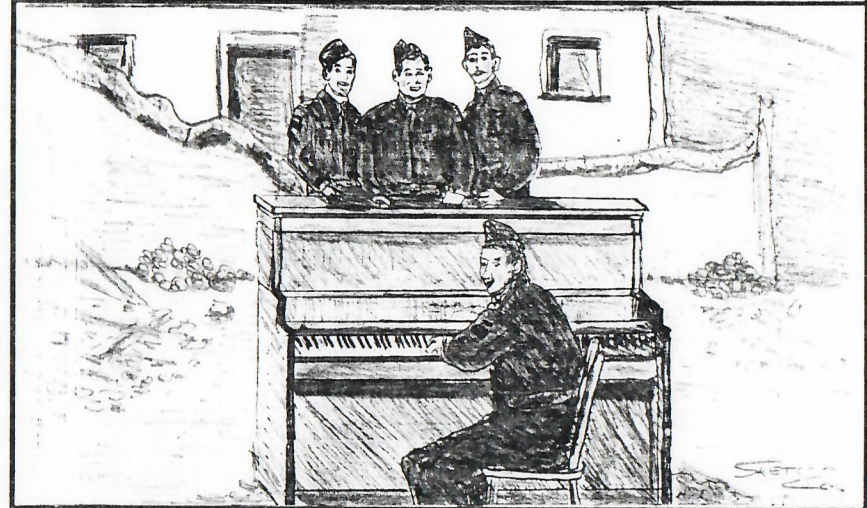


133

SHORTAGE OF CANVAS, HEATERS WERE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTANT EXCEPT IN MEDICAL FACILITES, AND WATERPROOF CLOTHING OF ANY KIND WAS AT A PREMIUM. DIVISION HEADQUARTERS WAS MOVED TO ROCCA, SIGNAL CENTRE WAS LEFT IN SAN VITO. APART FROM MAKING THE LIVING CONDITIONS MISERABLE, THE CONTINUING RAIN AND THE MUD MADE LIFE FOR THE LINEMEN AND DESPATCH RIDERS ALMOST INTOLLERABLE AT TIMES.

FOR THE BETTER PART OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY THE 1st DIVISION HELD THE EXTREME RIGHT FLANK OF THE 8th ARMY WINTER LINE. IN THE REALM OF ENTERTAINMENT, SIGNALS FILLED A VERY REAL NEED IN THE 1st DIVISION WHEN THEY ORGANIZED THEIR "BLACK AND WHITE SHOW". THE SHOW'S DIRECTOR ARRANGED A VARIETY OF NUMBERS OF GENERAL APPEAL INCLUDING A BUCOLIC MALE TRIO. AT THE END OF JANUARY THE SHOW HAD ITS PREMIERE IN

134



135

SAN VITO AND NOTWITHSTANDING, A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF SEATS. THE SHOW WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS AND DURING THE ENSUING WEEKS, THE COMPANY PLAYED TO MORE THAN THIRTY AUDIENCES IN NEIGHBORING AREAS.

AFTER ORTONA, THE CANADIANS HAD KNOWN THE WINTER WAR AT ITS WORST - - STATIC, BLOODY AND LONELY, BUT NOW OTHER CANADIAN FORMATIONS WERE ARRIVING FROM BRITAIN AND MOVING UP TO JOIN THE 1st DIVISION. SPRING HAD FINALLY ARRIVED IN MAY 1944, AND THE SUN WAS HIGH. ACCROSS THE NARROW LAND, 22 ALLIED DIVISIONS FACED 22 GERMAN DIVISIONS IN A RESTIVE QUIET THAT MASKED GREAT PLANS. IN SECRECY, AS PART OF A HUGE DECEPTION, THE CANADIANS PULLED OUT OF THE ADRIATIC FRONT IN MARCH, NO CANADIAN WAS ALLOWED TO TALK ON THE AIR AGAIN.

136

The Gustav and Hitler Lines

THE MOVE TOOK THE DIVISION INLAND UNTIL THEY LOOKED UPON THE 1415 FOOT MOUNTAINS THAT BECAME ONE OF THE LEGENDS OF THE WAR, MONTE CASSINO.

BELOW IT TO THE WEST LAY THE LONG, FLAT CORRIDOR OF THE LIRI VALLEY. TO GET TO IT, THE GUSTAV LINE HAD TO BE BREACHED. BEYOND THE LIRI, IN THE MOUNTAINS, A GREATER OBSTACLE, THE HITLER LINE. THE TIME OF ACTION HAD COME AGAIN FOR THE 1st DIVISION, THE VETERANS OF SICILY AND THE MORO, THEIR RANKS BUILT UP BY REINFORCEMENTS HAD BEEN HELD IN RESERVE.

NOW THEY CAME FORWARD TO APPROACH THIS MINATURE WALL OF STEEL AND CONCRETE AND MANY GUNS. 15 MAY 44 THE 1st CANADIAN CORPS TOOK COMMAND OF THE 1st AND 5th CANADIAN DIVISIONS. FOR THE CANADIANS THIS WAS

137

A HISTORIC MOMENT. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1918, A CANADIAN CORPS WAS TO ATTACK ON A EUROPEAN BATTLEFIELD. GENERAL CHRIS VOKES 1st DIVISION, WITH TANK SUPPORT WOULD ASSAULT AND BREAK THE LINE.

THE 5th ARMOURED DIVISION WOULD DRIVE THROUGH THE HOLE THEY MADE. FORWARD OF CORPS HEADQUARTERS, SIGNALS OF THE 1st DIVISION WERE OCCUPIED WITH COMMUNICATIONS TO THEIR BRIGADE AND ARTILLERY REGIMENTS. LINE SECTIONS, AUGMENTED BY COOKS, ORDERLIES AND BATMEN WORKED FOR SEVERAL DAYS WITHOUT REST. THE GOC MOVED HIS TACTICAL HEADQUARTERS TO A POSITION WELL FORWARD IN THE 2 BRIGADE AREA. IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONNECT THIS POSITION BY LINE WITH THE TACTICAL HEADQUARTERS OF EACH BRIGADE, AND TO BE PREPARED TO MOVE FORWARD

138

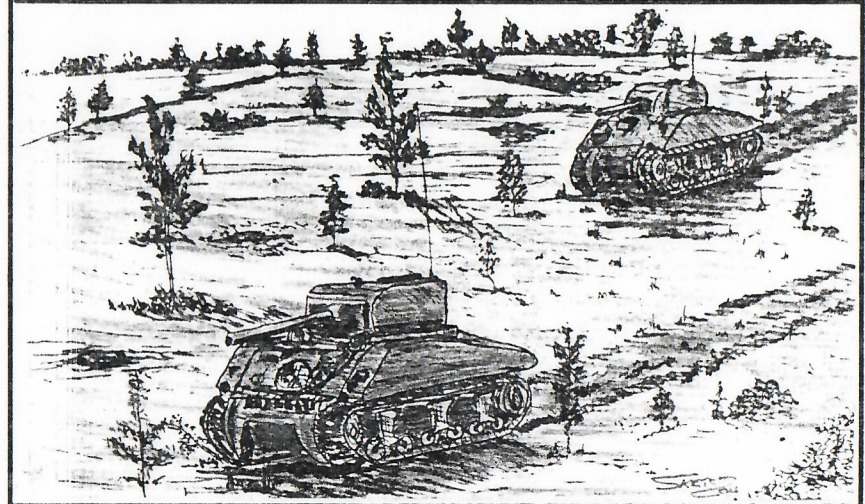
WITH LINE WHEN THE BRIGADE, THEMSELVES SHOULD MOVE. BRIGADE AND ARTILLERY SECTIONS IN TURN HAD TO ANTICIPATE THE MOVES OF THEIR BATTALIONS AND BATTERIES. THE SIGNAL PLAN FOR THE OPERATION WAS STAGGERING IN ITS COMPLEXITY, BUT IT WORKED ADMIRABLY. AT NO TIME DURING THAT MOMENTOUS DAY OF 23 MAY, WHEN THE HITLER LINE WAS UNHINGED, WAS ANY TELEPHONE LINE OUT LONGER THAN 30 MINUTES, AND THERE WAS AN ALTERNATE ROUTE AVAILABLE IN EVERY SUCH INSTANCE.

THE GOC 1st DIVISION WAS SO PLEASED WITH SIGNALS WORK THAT HE DECLARED PUBLICLY THAT "NOT ONCE DURING THE BATTLE DID HE FAIL TO REACH ANY OFFICER HE WANTED." INCIDENTS OF VALOUR AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WERE COMMON IN THE DIVISION IN THAT ACTION, AND WERE SHARED BY SIGNALS.

139

SGT N.A. WALKER WAS AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL FOR HIS VALLIANT EFFORTS IN KEEPING OPEN THE IMPORTANT CIRCUITS AT TACTICAL DIVISION HEADQUARTERS DESPITE CONSTANT SHELLING. ONE OPERATOR WHO HAD BEEN WITH THE HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD REGIMENT, IN ADDITION TO HIS MAIN TASK OF KEEPING THE REGIMENT IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE 1st BRIGADE, CALLED FOR FIRE SUPPORT WHEN NEEDED, ARRANGED FOR THE EVACUATION OF THE WOUNDED, REPAIRED A COMPANY LINE, ORDERED SUPPLIES OF AMMUNITION, AND AT ONE POINT, WHILE OPERATING HIS SET, KEPT AN EYE ON A DOZEN GERMAN PRISONERS WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN INTO HIS CHARGE. AT THE HEIGHT OF THE MAY 44 ATTACK ON THE HITLER LINE, THE TELEPHONE LINE BETWEEN 1st DIVISION AND TACTICAL HEADQUARTERS, 1st BRIGADE SUDDENLY WENT DEAD.

140



141

THIS LINE CROSSED A SHELL TORN AREA, BUT SIGNALMAN J. FORAN, A DRIVER, OFFERED TO TAKE A LINEMAN OUT TO FIND THE BREAK. HALFWAY OUT THE BATTLE WEARY LINEMAN SUFFERED SHOCK AMID THE BURSTING SHELLS AND FORAN DID SOME FAST THINKING, ADMINISTERED A STUNNING BLOW TO THE SHELL SHOCKED LINEMAN, STOWED HIM IN A CONVENIENT SLIT TRENCH, AND WENT AHEAD ALONE TO FIND AND MEND THE BREAK, DESPITE A LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRADE.

THE JOB DONE, HE RETURNED WITH HIS PATIENT AND TURNED HIM OVER TO THE MEDICAL ORDERLIES AND THE GOC WAS AGAIN IN CONTACT WITH HIS LEADING BRIGADE.

WITHIN AN HOUR AFTER THE BEGINING OF "OPERATION CHESTERFIELD" ON THE 23rd OF MAY, THE HITLER LINE HAD

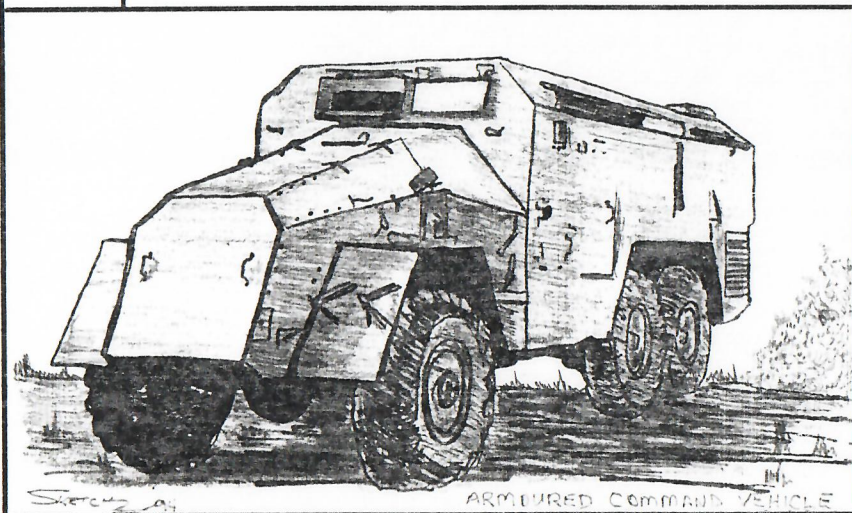
142

BEEN PIERCED AND BY NIGHTFALL THE ENEMY HAD BEEN ROUTED. PONTECORVO WAS CAPTURED THE FOLLOWING DAY SIGNALLING THE START OF A WILD SCRAMBLE UP THE LIRI VALLEY.

ON 25 MAY, A WIRELESS MESSAGE WAS RECIEVED AT DIVISION FROM THE RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT STATING THAT LINE CREWS WERE AHEAD OF THE TROOPS, BLOCKING THE ADVANCE AND REQUESTING THEY BE RECALLED.

GETTING FORWARD WAS A PROBLEM IN ITSELF AS THERE WERE NO MAJOR ROADS IN THE CANADIAN SECTOR BETWEEN PONTECORVO AND THE MELFA RIVER, AND TRAFFIC CRAWLED OVER SECONDARY ROADS MADE ALMOST IMPASSIBLE BY CRATERS, SIGNALS WERE CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE TRAFFIC CONTROL POINTS, LINKED BY WIRELESS.

143



144

BY THIS MEANS Q(MOVS) AND THE PROVOST MARSHALL KEPT ARMOUR INFORMED OF ROUTES AVAILABLE FOR BREAK-THROUGH. EIGHT 15CWT LORRIES WITH 19 SETS WERE PREPARED AS OUTSTATIONS WITH AN ACV (ARMoured COMMAND VEHICLE). SO SUCCESSFUL WAS THE TRAFFIC CONTROL IN THE LIRI VALLEY THAT IS WAS REPEATED IN OTHER ENGAGEMENTS, AND THE DIVISION ESTABLISHED A PERMANENT TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM.

IN THIS GENERAL PRESS TO MOVE FORWARD, ERRORS WERE BOUND TO HAPPEN. IT OCCURED DURING A TANK FIGHT, WHEN THROUGH A HEAVY PALL OF SMOKE AND AMID A DEAFENING THUNDER OF GUNS, F TROOP LINEMEN LOOKED UP IN CONSTERNATION TO SEE THEIR OWN SIGNAL OFFICE VEHICLE "BREEZING ALONG RIGHT UP FRONT WITH THE TANKS". THE OLD BUS RATTLED ALONG AS IF ON A LEAVE TRIP TO BRIGHTON.

145

THIS CARTOON WAS SENT TO ME IN 1984 BY EX-SIGNALMAN ARNOLD MACLEOD OF HOPEWELL N.S., WHEN HE WAS 70. IT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED AND FITS APPROPRIATELY IN THIS SPOT IN THE BOOK AND SHOULD BE SHARED WITH THE REST OF THE SIGNALS COMMUNITY.

THANKS ARNOLD
"SKETCH"



146

"GUYS WERE HANGING OUT FROM ALL SIDES, TRYING TO SEE THE SIGHTS. IT LOOKED LIKE THE TOONERVILLE TROLLEY. FIVE MINUTES LATER IT WAS ON ITS WAY BACK AT TWICE THE SPEED; BUT NOBODY WAS DOING ANY SIGHTSEEING." LINEMEN WORKED IN EXPOSED POSITIONS ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY FROM THE 24th TO 27th OF MAY.

27 MAY 1944 L/CPL E.W. MORRISON WAS KILLED IN ACTION. THE ABBREVIATION RCSigs REPLACES RCCS.

28 MAY 44 THE CANADIANS TOOK FROSINONE, WHICH WAS CAPTURED ON THE 31st. ONE OF THE INJUSTICES INEVITABLE IN WAR, AND EFFECTING SIGNALS IN PARTICULAR, IS THE FACT THAT WHILE SPECTACULAR EXPLOITS OF SUCH GROUPS AS LINEMEN AND DESPATCH RIDERS RECEIVED DUE CREDIT, BRAVERY OF ANOTHER TYPE,

147

ON THE PART OF OPERATORS AND SIGNAL OFFICE STAFFS, OFTEN WENT UNRECOGNIZED. IN THE LIRI VALLEY THE CANADIANS SHATTERED THE LAST GREAT BARRIER GUARDING ROME AND THEN WENT INTO RESERVE. ON JUNE 4th, THE ALLIED ARMIES ENTERED ROME.

THIS MEANT LITTLE RELIEF FOR SIGNALS WHO STILL HAD TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS WITH ALL OF THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE CANADIAN CORPS. THE CANADIANS OF THE CANADIAN CORPS WERE DISAPPOINTED; THEY HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO ENTERING ROME AS A LOGICAL FOLLOW-UP TO THEIR VICTORY IN THE LIRI VALLEY.

JUNE AND JULY WERE SPENT RESTING, CLEANING UP AND SMALL UNIT EXERCISES CALLED VULCAN, TIMEOUT, VULCAN II AND III, VERSUTUS, VITAL.

148

The Gothic Line

11 AUGUST 44, LT M.C. MCKINNON DIED IN AN ACCIDENT. A MOVE TO JESI ON THE ADRIATIC AND DIVISION HEADQUARTERS MOVED ON THE 17th. THE WEATHER WAS VERY HOT, COOLING OFF BY THE TIME THEY HIT THE COAST. THE LINE OFFICER WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED WHILE TRYING TO FIND A LATERAL ROAD BETWEEN SALTARA AND THE BOAT ROUTE, WHEN HE DROVE OVER A LAND MINE.

BY LATE AUGUST, THE ENEMY HAD BEEN DRIVEN OUT OF FLORENCE AND BACK TO THE GOTHIC LINE A FEW MILES NORTH WHERE HE CONCENTRATED HIS FORCES. OPERATION OLIVE (THE ATTACK ON THE GOTHIC LINE), BEGAN ON THE 25th OF AUGUST WITH A DECEPTIVELY EASY FORDING OF THE METAURO RIVER ABOUT SEVEN MILES FROM ITS MOUTH.

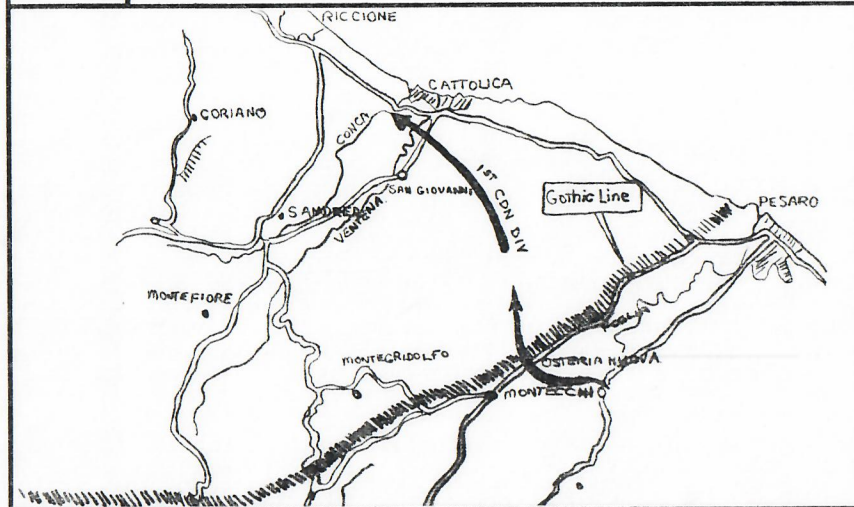
149

AT THE LAST MOMENT, CIRCUMSTANCES FORCED THE GOC TO CHANGE HIS PLANS TO THE EXTENT OF SHIFTING THE AXIS OF ADVANCE TO THE LEFT FLANK OF THE DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY. THIS BECAME A LINE PROBLEM FOR SIGNALS. THE CABLE WAS CARRIED ACROSS WHERE ORIGINALLY PLANNED AND THE DIVERSION TOOK PLACE ON THE FAR BANK. HERE, THROUGH GROUND THICKLY INFESTED WITH MINES, AND IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, CABLE WAS DRAGGED SOME FIVE MILES TO DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

BY SEPTEMBER 1st THE GOTHIC LINE WAS BREACHED. ALSO ON 1 SEPTEMBER, GENERAL ORDER 406 CHANGED 1st CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT'S TITLE TO 1st CANADIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNALS.

(1 CDN DIV SIGS) EFFECTIVE 1 JUNE 1944

150

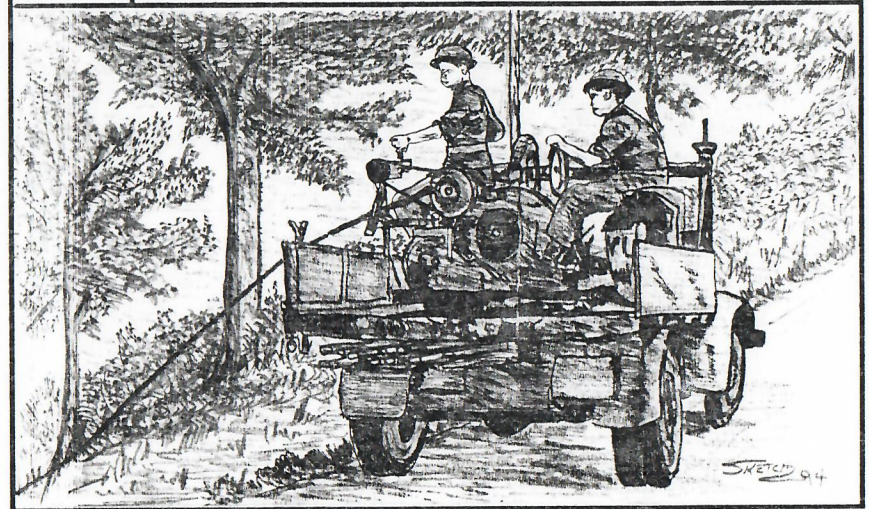


151

3 SEPT 44, SIGNALMEN P. McNEILL WAS KILLED IN ACTION. BY THE 21st OF SEPTEMBER THE DIVISION HAD REACHED THE MARECCHIA RIVER ABOVE RIMINI AFTER SEVERE FIGHTING FROM SAN MARTINO. THE DIVISION WENT INTO RESERVE AGAIN AND WITH THE GOTHIC LINE BATTLES BEHIND THEM, THEY FELT THAT THEY HAD ENCOUNTERED ALMOST EVERY COMBINATION OF FACTORS POSSIBLE, THE PROBLEM OF GETTING FORWARD WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST.

SOME NEW LESSONS WERE LEARNED AND MANY NEW GADGETS WERE INVENTED TO EASE THE WORKLOAD. ONE IMPROVISATION, THE RESULT OF "L" SECTIONS EXPERIENCE IN THE GOTHIC LINE, WAS A NOVEL CABLE LAYER. JEEPS WERE FITTED WITH HALF-TOPS AND IN THE REAR WERE MOUNTED TWO CABLE FRAMES.

152

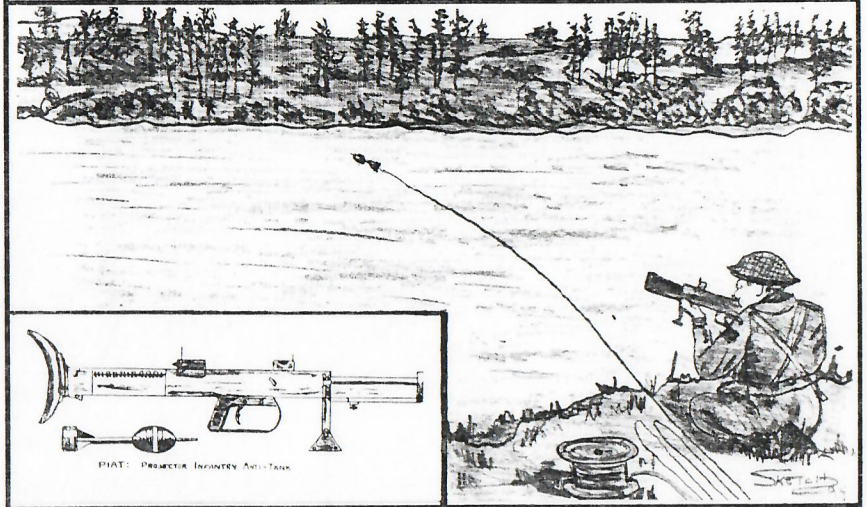


153

THE SPECIAL FEATURE WAS THAT THE FRAME COULD CARRY TWO DRUMS SO THAT TWO LINES COULD BE LAID SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM ONE VEHICLE. A STILL GREATER ADVANTAGE IN THE EYES OF THE MEN WHO USED THEM WAS THAT THE EQUIPMENT OPERATED SILENTLY --- A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN NO-MANS-LAND. IT WAS SO POPULAR THAT OTHER LINE DETACHMENTS WANTED TO "BUY" THE INVENTION FROM "L" SECTION.

THE STAFF WERE RELYING UPON TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS TO AN EVER INCREASING DEGREE. THIS WAS EVIDENT IN THE 1st DIVISIONAL SIGNAL OFFICE REGISTER, WHEREAS IN THE BATTLE OF THE HITLER LINE, THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF MESSAGES GROUPS PER DAY WAS 8,000 AND IN THE GOTHIC LINE THIS DROPPED TO 5,000 WHILE TELEPHONE CALLS INCREASED IN PROPORTION.

154



155

THE 1st DIVISION FOUGHT ITS WAY FROM FIUMICINO TO THE SAVIO RIVER WITHOUT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, BUT HERE THEY WERE CONFRONTED WITH ONE OF THE MOST FORMIDABLE RIVER BARRIERS IN ITALY. SIGNALMAN K.W. JESSHOPE WAS KILLED IN ACTION ON OCTOBER 16th.

CERVIS WAS TAKEN ON THE 22nd, BEFORE THE SAVIO WAS REACHED. THE SAVIO WAS A RIVER OF MANY MOODS, AND, AT THIS SEASON OF THE YEAR, THEY WERE ALL VIOLENT. NO BAILEY BRIDGE COULD BE ANCHORED TO ITS TREACHEROUS BANKS SO THE SAPPERS (ENGINEERS) HAD TO MAKE DO WITH A PONTOON BRIDGE.

A LINE DETACHMENT FROM "C" SECTION CROSSED BEHIND THE ASSAULTING EDMONTONS AND SEAFORTH'S JUST BEFORE THE BRIDGE WAS WASHED AWAY. FOR THE NEXT 24

156

HOURS, ALL CROSSINGS WERE DELAYED AND, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE PROMPTNESS OF THE CABLE CREW IN CROSSING ON THE FIRST DAY, LACK OF LINES MIGHT HAVE SERIOUSLY DELAYED THE ADVANCE WHEN IT WAS RESUMED.

SIGNALS OF BOTH 1st AND 5th DIVISIONS EXPERIMENTED EXTENSIVELY IN MEANS OF LAYING CABLE ACROSS THE SAVIO. ON OCTOBER 26th, WHEN THE SAVIO PONTOON BRIDGE WENT OUT AND THE SPREAD OF THE CURRENT WAS TOO GREAT TO CROSS BY ASSAULT BOAT, A PIAT WAS USED TO BRIDGE THE 275 FOOT WATER GAP.

IN NOVEMBER THE DIVISION RESTED, A FEW PEOPLE WENT ON LEAVE TO ROME AND FLORENCE. SPORTS AND LECTURES WERE ON THE AGENDA FOR THOSE WHO STAYED.

157

AHEAD LAY THE LOMBARD PLAIN, AND, CROSSING AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THEIR PATH, A SERIES OF WATER BARRIERS THE SCOLO VIA COPO, THE LAMONE RIVER, THE FASSO VECCHIO, THE CANALE NAVISLIO, THE FIUMI MUNIO AND THE SENIO RIVER --- THE HIGH DYKED BANKS OF EACH BEING HEAVILY FORTIFIED, MINED AND BARRICADED.

BY THE 4th OF DECEMBER, THE 3rd BRIGADE HAD FOUGHT ITS WAY TO THE LAMONE RIVER, BUT THE 1st DIVISION'S ATTEMPT TO CROSS WAS FRUSTRATED BY A DETERMINED ENEMY.

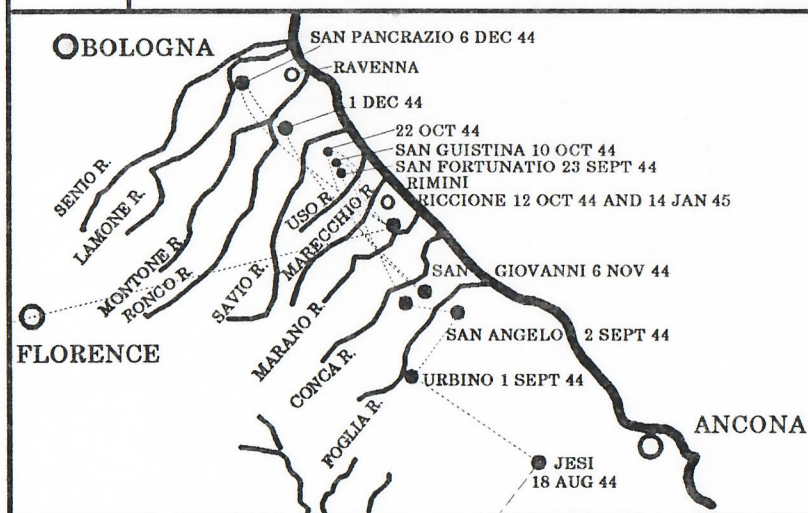
BOTH THE 1st AND 5th DIVISIONS WERE ACROSS ONE WEEK LATER, AND ON THE LEFT FLANK UP RIVER, THE 3rd BRIGADES BRIDGEHEAD WAS EXPANDED BY UNITS OF THE 1st AND 2nd BRIGADE.

158

A MAJOR SIGNALS PROBLEM HERE WAS THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH UNITS INTERCHANGED IN THE LINE. WHILE SOME MERELY PICKED UP THEIR MAPS, WEAPONS AND KIT AND MOVED, IT MEANT CONSIDERABLY MORE TO SIGNALS. 6 DECEMBER 44, LCPL L.J. MACDONALD WAS KILLED IN ACTION.

CHRISTMAS 1944 FOUND THE CANADIAN TROOPS ALONG THE REACHES OF THE SENIO ON WHAT WAS TO BE FOR THE MOST PART, THE WINTER LINE. ALL WIRELESS LINKS CLOSED DOWN FOR THE DAY. EVERYONE ENJOYED A GOOD CHRISTMAS DINNER AND THE ENTERTAINMENT --- A SIGNAL OFFICERS QUARTET SINGING CAROLS. ALTHOUGH THE DIVISION WAS HALTED THE LINES TO THE BRIGADES AND OTHER OUTSTATIONS WERE CONSTANTLY BEING TAKEN OUT BY ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE, THESE HAD TO BE REPAIRED ALMOST DAILY.

159



160

THE 1st DIVISION HAD TO STRAIGHTEN THE LINE AGAINST THE SENIO. THIS WAS RECTIFIED BY A 2nd BRIGADE BATTLE ON THE 3rd AND 4th OF JANUARY IN WHICH THE GROUND ABOUT GRANAROLO WAS CLEARED. THE ACTION WAS HOWEVER, OF SMALL SIGNIFICANCE FROM A SIGNALS STAND POINT. "K" SECTION IN FACT, REJOICED IN AN UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION IN WHICH THEIR LONGEST LINE WAS LESS THAN A MILE BY ROAD.

BY 5 JANUARY 45, THE WINTER LINE WAS STABILIZED AND THEY SETTLED DOWN IN THE MUD TO AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. 14 JANUARY --- A WELL PLACED SHELL LANDED OUTSIDE THE SIGNAL OFFICE IN MID AFTERNOON, CIRCUITS TO DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY AND REAR DIVISION PLUS LOCAL EXTENSIONS WERE CUT. A SHORT TIME LATER BOTH 1st AND 3rd BRIGADE LINES WERE CUT BY SHELLFIRE.

161

ALL THIS WAS PUT BACK IN ORDER WHEN THE LAMONE BRIDGE BLEW UP. LOCATED ON THE MAIN ARTERY BETWEEN RUSSI AND BAGNACAVALLO, IT CARRIED ALL TRAFFIC FOR THE 1st DIVISION AREA.

THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1945 WERE SPENT IN THE LINE WITH THE 1st DIVISION LOCATED AT RUSSI. THE 8th ARMY WAS PREPARING A SPRING OFFENSIVE, BUT NO CANADIAN REMAINED IN ITALY WHEN SPRING ARRIVED. ONLY THE MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN BY THE CANADIANS BEFORE THEY WERE WITHDRAWN TO JOIN THE 1st CANADIAN ARMY IN THE NETHERLANDS. 25th OF FEBRUARY, LEFT RUSSI FOR FERMO NEAR MACERATA, 7th OF MARCH, TO FOLIGNO. ON THE 8th A MOVE TO PONTESIEVE AND FINALLY REACHING HARRODS STAGING CAMP NEAR LEGHORN ITALY ON THE 9th.

163

LIEUTENANT W.W. FINLAY HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO CONTINUE HIS LINE ACROSS THE RIVER IN AN ASSAULT BOAT. THIS WAS KNOCKED OUT IN THE WATER. A FURTHER ASSAULT BOAT OBTAINED WAS KNOCKED OUT BEFORE IT COULD BE UNLOADED FROM THE TRUCK. A BUFFALO WAS OBTAINED AND FINLAY STARTED OFF WITH ONE QUAD AND ONE D3 TWISTED. THE QUAD WAS CUT BY SHELLFIRE HALF WAY ACROSS, AND THE BUFFALO WHICH COULD NOT MOUNT THE BANK ON THE OTHER SIDE, TURNED FOR ANOTHER RUN AND CUT THE D3 CABLE.

IT WAS DECIDED TO TRY AN ASSAULT BOAT AGAIN; THIS TIME THE ATTEMPT WAS SUCCESSFUL WITH THE CABLE ACROSS INTO THE BRIDGEHEAD AT APPROXIMATELY 1900 HRS. THE BRIDGING SITE WAS UNDER CONSTANT SHELLFIRE DURING THE CROSSING BUT THERE WERE NO SIGNALS CASUALTIES.

162

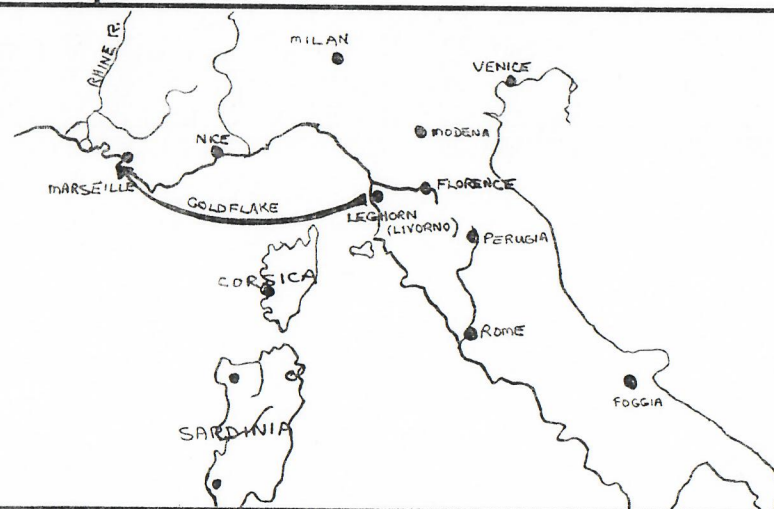
Operation Gold Flake

VEHICLES WERE BEING CLEANED AND LOADED, THE REST OF THE MEN ON SPORTS. AT 0500 HRS ON THE 15th THEY WERE UNDERWAY, ARRIVING AT MARSEILLE 1000 HRS AND THE TRANSIT CAMP AT 1415 HRS ON THE 16th.

THE DIVISION WORKED ITS WAY THROUGH FRANCE FROM MARSEILLE TO ST RAMBERT D'ALBON TO MACON TO LES LAUMES TO ROZAY EN BRIE TO CAMBRAI AND FINALLY ARRIVING AT ITEGHEM BELGIUM ON THE 24th OF MARCH.

THEY HAD FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH THE 1st CANADIAN ARMY MOVING TO THE REICHWALD FOREST 3 APR, MOVING INTO HOLLAND ON THE 7th. ON 11 APR THE DIVISION READIED ITSELF FOR THE IJssel RIVER CROSSING. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE TO TAKE TWO JEEPS ACROSS THE RIVER AT 1730 HRS IN BUFFALOES, ONE HOUR AFTER THE IJssel RIVER CROSSING BEGAN.

164



165

FLOATS, PAINTED WHITE AND BLUE WERE USED TO MARK THE CABLE CROSSINGS AND FOUR SIGNS ---- "CABLE CROSSING" --- TWO ON EACH BANK. DURING THIS OPERATION, FROM THE 3rd TO 13th OF APRIL THE DIVISION HAD BEEN UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE 2nd CANADIAN CORPS. ON THE 13th, COMMAND WAS PASSED BACK TO 1st CANADIAN CORPS AND THE DIVISION MOVED TO A POSITION A FEW MILES WEST OF APELDOORN.

THE 1st CANADIAN CORPS HAD ATTACKED ARNHEM ON THE 12th AND CAPTURED IT TWO DAYS LATER. "OPERATION CANNON SHOT" WAS THE NAME GIVEN TO THE ATTACK ON APELDOORN, WHICH FELL ON THE 17th OF APRIL.

IN A WEEKS FIGHTING THE ENEMY HAD BEEN PUSHED BACK NEARLY 30 MILES FROM HIS DEFENSES ALONG THE IJssel RIVER.

166



167

WHILE GERMAN SHELLS WERE FALLING, THE PEOPLE WOULD COME OUT TO WELCOME THE CANADIANS. REPORTS FROM RESISTANCE GROUPS BROUGHT A FLOW OF INFORMATION ABOUT GERMAN DISPOSITIONS AND PLANS. OFTEN A CRUEL PRICE HAD TO BE PAID FOR SUCH RESISTANCE. ON A ROAD BETWEEN ARNHEM AND APELDOORN, A SMALL DUTCH GROUP ATTACKED A GERMAN CAR, KILLING OR WOUNDING ITS PASSENGERS. AMONG THE WOUNDED WAS SS GENERAL HANS RAUTER, COMMANDANT OF GERMAN POLICE IN HOLLAND. SOON 117 DUTCH PRISONERS --- NONE OF WHOM HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT WERE TAKEN TO THE SITE OF THE ATTACK AND SHOT. THE GERMANS REVENGED THEMSELVES IN MANY PLACES. IN ZUTPHEN, ZWOLLE, APELDOORN AND DEVENTER, DUTCH PRISONERS WERE MURDERED JUST BEFORE THE CANADIANS ENTERED.

168

15 APRIL, 1945 SIGNALMAN R.L. WHYTE DIED IN AN ACCIDENT. BY APRIL 18th, THE GERMANS IN WESTERN HOLLAND HAD WITHDRAWN INTO WHAT THEY CALLED --FORTRESS HOLLAND-- A POCKET OF LAND, MUCH OF IT BELOW SEA LEVEL, BOUNDED ON THE SOUTH BY THE GREAT RIVERS AND ON THE EAST BY THE RIVER DEFENCE BARRIER CALLED THE GREBBE LINE. IN THIS POCKET WAS CONCENTRATED 40 PERCENT OF HOLLAND'S POPULATION, AMSTERDAM, ROTTERDAM AND THE HAGUE. THESE PEOPLE FACED THE THREAT OF THE GERMANS OPENING THE DYKES AND FLOODING THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND THE MORE OMINOUS THREAT OF DEATH BY STARVATION. ON APRIL 22nd, OPERATIONS IN WESTERN HOLLAND WERE HALTED. A REPORT HAD COME THROUGH THAT THE REICHKOMMISAR ARTHUR SEYSS-INQUART WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE.

169

25 APRIL, HEADQUARTERS 3rd CANADIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ACCEPTED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE AT 1100 HRS FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED STATION ----"HERE GERMAN MESSAGE TO COMMANDER IN CHIEF ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCES. HEARD MESSAGE OF SUPREME HQ REGARDING FOOD SUPPLIES FOR CIVIL POPULATION IN THE NETHERLANDS. WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO LET YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR SUPREME HQ THROUGH YOU. PLEASE REPLY BY FREQUENCY 2805. DER OBER FEHLSHABER DER DEUTCHEN TRUPPEN IN DER NEDERLANDS".

THIS WAS PASSED TO OPERATIONS AT DIV. A C53 WAS PUT ON 2805KCS AND CONTACT WAS ATTEMPTED BY VOICE, OPERATOR SWITCHED TO MORSE AND CONTACT WAS MADE WITH THE GERMAN STATION AT 1245HRS. SKEDS EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR WERE ARRANGED.

170

THE GERMAN STATION USES A VERY CLEAR PROCEDURE AND IS ADEPT WITH OPERATING SIGNALS USED BY THE BRITISH ARMY. THE GERMAN LINK REMAINED ON LISTENING WATCH, EXCHANGING SIGNAL STRENGTHS EVERY HOUR. NEGOTIATIONS WERE STARTED, A TEMPORARY CEASE-FIRE WAS AGREED ON AND A SECTION OF THE FRONT DEMILITARIZED TO ALLOW FOOD TO BE BROUGHT IN. THE FIRST AIRDROP OF SUPPLIES WAS MADE ON APRIL 29th, EVEN BEFORE THE TRUCE WAS FINAL. ON MAY 2nd, CANADIAN AND BRITISH TRUCK CONVOYS ROLLED INTO NO-MANS-LAND. A ROADSIDE DEPOT WAS SET UP BY DUTCH CIVILIANS AND 1,000 TONS OF FOOD AND FUEL BEGAN TO POUR DAILY THROUGH THE NARROW GAP IN THE BATTLEFRONT. THE SUPPLIES ARRIVED NONE TOO SOON. A CANADIAN ARMY REPORT SAID THAT ACUTE STARVATION HAD BEEN AVOIDED BY ONLY TWO OR THREE WEEKS.

171

VE DAY

ON THE 4th OF MAY, THE 1st DIVISIONAL SIGNALS CLEARED A MESSAGE OVER THE CANADIAN-GERMAN WIRELESS STATING THAT UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF GERMAN ARMIES IN THE NETHERLANDS, DENMARK AND NORTHWEST GERMANY WOULD BE TIMED FOR 8 A.M THE FOLLOWING DAY.

DURING THE PASSING OF SUCH MESSAGE TRAFFIC AND FOR SOME DAYS AFTER, THE GERMAN SIGNALS WERE PERMITTED TO KEEP SUCH WIRELESS NETS IN OPERATION AS WERE NEEDED FOR GERMAN ADMINISTRATION, BUT THESE NETS WERE CAREFULLY MONITORED. THE FORMAL SURRENDER TOOK PLACE ON MAY 5th, 1945.

VE DAY WAS 8 MAY 1945, THE WAR IN EUROPE WAS OVER.

172



173

THE MEN OF THE FIRST DIVISION ARRIVED IN ROTTERDAM WHEN THE FIELDS OF TULIPS WERE IN BLOOM. THIS WAS THE HOLLAND CANADIANS HAD IMAGINED.

THE JOYOUS RECEPTION WAS MORE THAN MOST VETERAN TROOPS HAD EVER DREAMED OF. FLAGS FLEW ON EVERY BUILDING, AND IN TOWN AND CITIES, THE STREETS WERE FULL OF SINGING, DANCING PEOPLE.

THE DIVISION ARRIVED AT 1800 HRS AND THE DESTINATION WAS THE QUEEREST OF ALL SIGNALS BILLETTS ---A MAIN THOROUGHFARE, THE HEEMRAADSINGEL. THE LIBERATION CELEBRATIONS WERE CLIMAXED BY A BIG PARADE OF CANADIAN AND NETHERLANDS TROOPS BEFORE QUEEN WILHEMINA IN AMSTERDAM. THE CANADIANS THEN SET TO WORK TO HELP HOLLAND GET BACK ON HER FEET.

174



175

UNLIKE MOST OTHER UNITS WHICH HAD LITTLE TO DO AFTER THE LAST SHOT WAS FIRED, MOST SIGNAL SECTIONS WERE AS BUSY AS EVER. ADMINISTRATION TRAFFIC INCREASED GREATLY, CIRCUITS WERE BUSY WITH SUCH THINGS AS POW EVACUATION, MILITARY GOVERNMENT TRAFFIC AND REPATRIATION. WEHRMACHT SIGNAL OFFICERS WERE HANDING OVER THEIR SIGNAL EQUIPMENT. THE DIVISIONAL SIGNALS STAYED IN ROTTERDAM UNTIL THE 20th OF JUNE THEN MOVED TO UTRECHT. THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION WAS TAKEN UNDER COMMAND OF 1st CANADIAN ARMY ON JULY 1st.

AT THE AIRPORT OUTSIDE ARNHEM, VEHICLES BY THE THOUSANDS WERE BEING ASSEMBLED FOR THEIR RETURN TO CANADA. MEN AND EQUIPMENT WERE BEING JUGGLED HERE AND THERE, GETTING READY FOR THE LONG TRIP HOME.

176

Disbandment

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS WERE BEING HANDED OVER TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES IN BELGIUM AND HOLLAND. JULY 7th, SIGNALMAN M.V. SHIELDS DIED OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH. THE HEADQUARTERS MOVED TO HILVERSUM ON JULY 20th, THIS WAS TO BE THEIR LAST MOVE. IN AUGUST A SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM WAS LAID ON TO OCCUPY THE TROOPS. THE 1st DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REST CAMP OPENED OFFICIALLY ON THE 13th OF AUGUST.

THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNALS OFFICIALLY DISBANDED AT HILVERSUM HOLLAND, SEPTEMBER 9, 1945 UNDER GENERAL ORDER 52. LIEUTENANT COLONEL B.W.G. GROVER ENDED HIS TENURE AS COMMANDING OFFICER, 12 SEPTEMBER, 1945.

SIGNALMEN R.G. SWEETING DIED IN AN ACCIDENT 13 SEPTEMBER, 1945

177

Re-Designation

7 OCTOBER, 1946, GENERAL ORDER 248 RE-DESIGNATION

--- RESERVE FORCE 1st DIVISION SIGNALS --- 1 INFANTRY DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT INCLUDING HEADQUARTERS,

1, 2 AND 3 SQUADRONS, HEADQUARTERS SECURITY , Q, M, A, B, C, D, O, E, F, G, H, J, K, L, N, AND R SECTIONS.

IN SEPTEMBER 1952 AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE ANNOUNCED THE AUTHORIZATION OF AN ACTIVE FORCE SIGNAL REGIMENT.

178

Re-Activation

ON THE 8th OF DECEMBER 1952, GENERAL ORDER 312/52 READS:

PURSUANT TO SECTION 18 OF THE NATIONAL DEFENCE ACT, FORMATION OF THE UNDERMENTIONED UNIT OF THE CANADIAN ARMY ACTIVE SERVICE FORCE IS AUTHORIZED.

1st CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT --- RCCS EFFECTIVE 9 OCTOBER 1952.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL M.H.F. WEBBER WAS APPOINTED COMMANDING OFFICER ON DECEMBER 22nd, 1952.

179

LCOL MHF WEBBER
CD
22 DECEMBER 1952
TO
6 JANUARY 1955



180

THE COMPONENTS OF THE NEW REGIMENT INCLUDED:

- A. NO.1 SQUADRON, RCCS (KINGSTON)
- B. "J" TROOP (WITH HQ 27 CIBG -- WEST GERMANY)
- C. "E" TROOP (WITH 79th FIELD REGIMENT -- WEST GERMANY)
- D. "G" TROOP (WITH 81st FIELD REGIMENT -- PETAWAWA)
- E. "F" TROOP (WITH 2nd FIELD REGIMENT RCHA -- WINNIPEG)

THE MAIN BODY OF THE UNIT WAS TO BE ASSEMBLED AT CAMP BORDEN. AFTER ITS FORMATION, THE UNIT SUPPLIED REPLACEMENTS FOR THE 25th CANADIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE (LATER -- 1st COMMONWEALTH DIVISION) IN KOREA, WHILE THE REMAINDER WENT ON LOCAL EXERCISES AND THE CONCENTRATIONS IN GAGETOWN, "J" AND "E" TROOPS IN GERMANY WENT ON THEIR OWN BRIGADE EXERCISES.

181

MARCH 18th, 1953 "J" TROOP PROVIDED A WIRELESS TRAFFIC CONTROL NET FOR THE HELICOPTER VISIT OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH. IN MAY THE BRIGADE WENT ON "EXERCISE COMMONWEALTH" WHICH TOOK THE BRIGADE OVER 20 MILES OF ROUGH, HEAVILY WOODED HILLS ON ALMOST IMPASSABLE TRAILS. EXTENSIVE DIGGING WAS DONE ON THE EXERCISE AND EVENTUALLY THE OPS ROOM, SIGNAL AND CIPHER OFFICE WIRELESS SETS WERE ALL UNDERGROUND.

ON 2 JUNE, 1953, TWO MEN FROM "J" TROOP TOOK PART IN THE CORONATION PROCESSION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II WHILE A THIRD WAS HONORED WITH THE JOB OF HORSE HOLDER AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

IN HANOVER, GERMANY, "J" TROOP WAS RESPONSIBLE

182

FOR AN EXTENSIVE TRAFFIC AND CONTROL NET ON CORONATION DAY, WHEN THE BRIGADE PARADED OVER 2500 STRONG ON THE WATERLOO PLATZ WITH THE RCD TANKS AND THE COMPLETE 79th FIELD REGIMENT PARTICIPATING BEFORE AN ESTIMATED CROWD OF 10,000 BRITISH AND GERMAN SPECTATORS. DURING THE SUMMER OF 1953, "J" TROOP TOOK PART IN "JAVELIN V", A LARGE SCALE CORPS DEFENSIVE EXERCISE, AND THEN IN THE ROYAL SIGNALS EXERCISE "QUICKSILVER VII" HELD IN THE SENNELAGER AREA WHILE "E" TROOP PARTICIPATED IN II CORPS ARTILLERY EXERCISES IN HOHNE. THE BRIGADE TOOK PART IN THE PRINCIPAL EXERCISE OF 1953, "GRAND REPULSE" FROM THE 18th TO 24th OF SEPTEMBER IN WHICH THE CANADIANS TEAMED WITH THE BRITISH AND NETHERLAND FORCES IN A MOBILE MOCK BATTLE AGAINST BRITISH

183

Re Designation

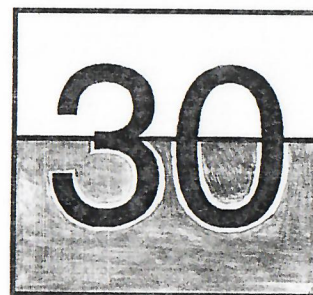
AND DANISH TROOPS IN THE OLDENBURG-BREMEN AREA WHERE THE 2nd CANADIAN CORPS FOUGHT IN 1945. THIS WAS THE LAST MAJOR ACTIVITY BEFORE PREPARATIONS BEGAN FOR THE ROTATION OF THE BRIGADE TO CANADA IN NOVEMBER 1953.

ON THE 16th OF DECEMBER 1953, THE 1st CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT WAS REDESIGNATED 1 CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT UNDER GENERAL ORDER 368/54 DATED 4 JANUARY 1954, WITH EFFECTIVE DATE 16 DECEMBER 1953.

EXERCISE "RED PATCH" WAS THE NAME GIVEN TO THE LARGEST SIGNALS EXERCISE HELD IN CANADA. THIS TOOK PLACE IN THE CAMP BORDEN AREA BETWEEN THE 1st AND 14th OF OCTOBER 1954.

184

IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME THAT THE UNIT VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION SIGN CAME INTO EFFECT. THE IDENTIFIER, WHICH WAS CHANGED FROM 52 TO 40 ON 22 MARCH 1943 WAS NOW CHANGED AGAIN. THIS WOULD BE A RED 30 ON A WHITE OVER BLUE SQUARE.



185

LCOL PE AMYOT MBE
CD
7 JANUARY 1955
TO
19 AUGUST 1956



186

ON THE 13th OF JUNE 1955, THE APPROVAL FOR THE NEW COLOURS OF THE RC SIGS FLAG WAS GIVEN "THE CORPS FLAG CONSISTS OF 3 HORIZONTAL DIVISIONS; UPPER LIGHT BLUE CENTRE DARK BLUE, LOWER DARK GREEN, DIVIDED IN RATIO OF 3 LIGHT BLUE, 1 DARK BLUE, 3 DARK GREEN. MOST SUITABLE PROPORTION FOR FLAG IS LENGTH TWICE THE BREADTH. DATED 131704Z JUNE 55 ----SIGS 12-1"

THE BASIC CHANGE WAS THAT THE FRENCH GREY OF THE OLD FLAG CHANGED TO LIGHT BLUE.

DURING JULY AND AUGUST 1955, THE REGIMENT TOOK PART IN EXERCISE "RISING STAR" AT GAGETOWN, N.B. 1 CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISION REPRESENTED 1 BLUELAND INFANTRY DIVISION. PHILISTINE FORCES WERE REPRESENTED BY A CONTROLLED ENEMY FORCE

187

CONSISTING OF AN INFANTRY BATTALION AND A SQUADRON OF TANKS WITH BOTH AIRFORCES REPRESENTED BY PLANES OF THE RCN. THIS WAS THE FIRST FIELD CONCENTRATION HELD BY THE 1st CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISION IN GAGETOWN SINCE IT WAS RE-ACTIVATED IN 1953 AND THE FIRST OF MANY MORE DIVISIONAL EXERCISES THAT WOULD BE HELD IN THE GAGETOWN AREA.

ON THE 11th OF OCTOBER 1955, THE REGIMENT WAS CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE A GUARD OF HONOUR FOR THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF WHEN SHE VISITED TORONTO.

THE REGIMENT AGAIN PARTICIPATED IN THE SUMMER CONCENTRATION IN GAGETOWN ON EXERCISE "MORNING STAR" JUNE 20th TO AUGUST 3rd 1956. OBJECT --- THE OCCUPATION AND DEFENCE OF AN AREA UNDER NUCLEAR CONDITIONS.

188

LCOL AM MILLAR,
MBE, CD
20 AUGUST 1956
TO
31 AUGUST 1958



189

LATER IN 1956 THE REGIMENT WAS INSPECTED BY GOVERNOR GENERAL VINCENT MASSEY AND SHORTLY AFTER, ON THE 4th OF NOVEMBER WHEN THE FIRST UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE (UNEF) WAS ESTABLISHED.

A FEW OF THE MEMBERS WERE SENT TO EGYPT IN SUPPORT OF 56 CANADIAN SIGNAL UNIT WHO HAD REQUESTED 130 MORE SIGNALMEN THAN THEIR ORIGINAL ESTABLISHMENT CALLED FOR.

EXERCISE "EASTERN STAR", THE SUMMER CONCENTRATION OF 1957 TOOK PLACE FROM JUNE 27th TO AUGUST 1st. THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO STUDY THE DEFENCE AND THE ATTACK IN THE ZONAL CONCEPT DESIGNED FOR NUCLEAR WAR, AND IN THE HOLDING OF A FORWARD ZONE BASED ON A WATER OBSTACLE.

190

Disbanded & Re-Designated

THE FIRST CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT DISBANDED AND RE-DESIGNATED 5 SIGNAL SQUADRON ON THE 14th OF JULY 1958, UNDER GENERAL ORDER 604/58.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL W.G. HOLMES, CD, TOOK OVER AS COMMANDING OFFICER ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1958.

IT WAS IN THE FALL OF THIS YEAR THAT THE REGIMENT (NOW SQUADRON) MOVED FROM CAMP BORDEN TO KINGSTON AND FOUND ITSELF HOUSED IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT TYPES OF BUILDINGS, FROM WORLD WAR II VINTAGE H-HUTS, A CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING AND A WOOD FRAME HANGAR.

191

LCOL W.G HOLMES,
CD
1 SEPTEMBER 1958
TO
24 JUNE 1961



192

Re-Designated

HEADQUARTERS 57 CANADIAN SIGNAL SQUADRON WAS FORMED ON 27th OF JULY 1960, TAKING WITH IT SOME AUGMENTEES FROM THE SQUADRON ON ANOTHER UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSION TO THE BELGIAN CONGO.

ON 1 JUNE 1961, ANOTHER DISBANDMENT AND RE-DESIGNATION, THIS TIME TO 1 SIGNAL UNIT.

THIS WAS NOT TO LAST LONG HOWEVER, AND, ON THE 15th OF AUGUST 1963, THE UNIT WAS AGAIN REDESIGNATED THE 1st CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT, UNDER GENERAL ORDER 769/64 DATED 30 MARCH 64 --- ACTION AFFECTED 15 AUGUST 1963.

193

MAJOR GR ANDERSON
CD
25 JUNE 1961
TO
24 SEPTEMBER 1961



194

LCOL HE GOOD MC,
CD
25 SEPTEMBER 1961
TO
28 FEBRUARY 1965



195

ON THE 4th OF MARCH 1964, AUGMENTEES WERE AGAIN PROVIDED TO THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS (UNFICYP) WHICH BECAME OPERATIONAL ON THE 27th OF MARCH 1964.

IN 1965, THE REGIMENT FORMED A "FOREST FIRE AND FLOOD CONTROL SQUADRON" AND BEGAN TRAINING FOR CIVIL EMERGENCIES.

LCOL FR WIGGS TOOK OVER AS COMMANDING OFFICER ON THE 1st OF MARCH 1965.

ON THE 15th OF MARCH, A SAD OCCURRENCE, THE DEATH OF OUR COLONEL-IN-CHIEF, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, MARY, THE PRINCESS ROYAL, WHO HAD VISITED OUR REGIMENT MANY TIMES BOTH DURING AND AFTER THE WAR.

196

LCOL FR WIGGS MC,
CD
1 MARCH 1965
TO
31 JULY 1967



197

IN 1967, THE REGIMENT WENT ON NUMEROUS TROOP, SQUADRON AND REGIMENTAL EXERCISES TO A VARIETY OF LOCATIONS, WITH 225 SIGNAL SQUADRON (BAOR), TO ALASKA WITH 33(US) SIGNAL BATTALION FOR EXERCISE "FRONTIER ASSAULT".

IN MARCH, MEN WERE PROVIDED FOR GOVERNOR GENERAL VANIER'S FUNERAL, AND A GUARD OF HONOUR WAS PROVIDED FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH'S VISIT TO CORNWALL ON THE 2nd AND AGAIN IN KINGSTON ON THE 6th.

IN APRIL 1967, THE NEWEST TROOP IN THE REGIMENT WAS FORMED AND WENT ON EXERCISE "FIND OUT".

THIS NEW TROOP --- CALLED "VOYAGEUR CANOE TROOP" WAS TRYING TO "FIND OUT" HOW COMMUNICATIONS WOULD

198

FARE FOR THE VOYAGEUR CANOE PAGEANT WHICH WAS TO TAKE PLACE FROM MAY 13th TO SEPTEMBER 6th. FIVE OFFICERS, FOUR SENIOR NCO'S AND THIRTY-ONE MEN TRAVELED WITH THE CANOE PAGEANT FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, ALBERTA, TO THE EXPO 67 SITE AT ILE ST. HELENE, QUEBEC.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS WERE PROVIDED FROM THREE SAFETY BOATS TO LAND DETACHMENTS AT BASE HEADQUARTERS AND ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN NEAREST BASE HEADQUARTERS ALONG THE ROUTE, AN/GRC 26Ds TO PENHOLD, REGINA, SHILO, BORDEN AND KINGSTON.

DURING THIS PART OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS, FIVE LINEMEN OF THE REGIMENT JOINED THE LIGHT AND

199

SOUND TROOP OF THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES TATTOO. THE PAN-AMERICAN GAMES HELD IN WINNIPEG TOOK THREE OFFICERS AND FIFTY-SEVEN OTHER RANKS TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE YACHTING, LONG DISTANCE, EQUESTRIAN AND RUNNING EVENTS, BUTT PARTIES AND MARKERS FOR SHOOTING EVENTS.

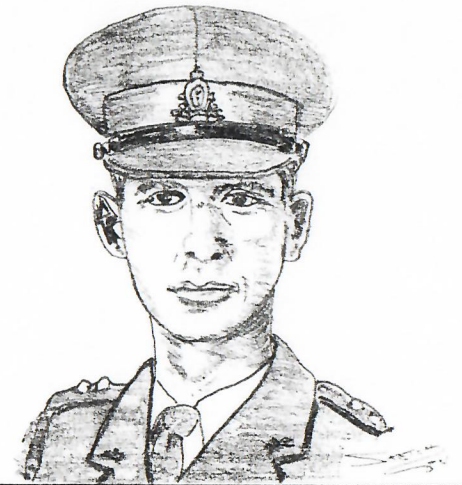
COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE HEADQUARTERS AND KINGSTON WAS ANOTHER OF THEIR TASKS.

LCOL B.J. BENNETT BECAME COMMANDING OFFICER ON 1 AUGUST 1967.

AFTER THE BUSY CENTENNIAL YEAR OF 67, ACTIVITIES QUIETENED DOWN AND BY EARLY 68, EVERYTHING WAS BACK TO NORMAL.

200

LCOL BJ BENNETT
CD
1 AUGUST 1967
TO
6 AUGUST 1969



201

TRAINING AND EXERCISES SUCH AS EXERCISE "PRANCING JIMMY", A WINTER EXERCISE IN FARNHAM, QUEBEC, AND "PRANCING JIMMY II", AN EXERCISE TO PRACTICE AIR MOVEMENT TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE HEADQUARTERS, AND THE ANNUAL "NERVE SYSTEM", A COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE.

IN MARCH, 1968, ANOTHER ELITE TROOP WAS ESTABLISHED --- "TACTICAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS TROOP (TACSATCOM)".

TWO MOBILE SATELLITE TERMINALS WERE DELIVERED AS PART OF THE EXPERIMENTAL NATO SYSTEM JOINING THE SEMI-MOBILE TERMINAL AND FIXED TERMINAL BASED AT SHIRLEY BAY.

202

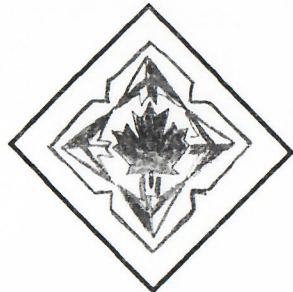
ON THE 23rd OF AUGUST 1968, 1 LINE TROOP BECAME PART OF THE REGIMENT AS 2 SQUADRON HEAVY LINE TROOP.

1 OCTOBER 1968, THE INTEGRATION OF THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES WHEREBY ALL FORMER SINGLE ELEMENTS, CORPS AND BRANCHES CEASED TO EXIST. RC SIGS PERSONNEL, RCEME RADIO AND RADAR TECHNICIANS, RCAF TECHNICAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL AND RCN RADIOMEN SPECIAL WERE GROUPED TOGETHER TO FORM THE NEW COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS BRANCH.

AIRFORCE AND NAVY PERSONNEL WOULD NOW BEGIN WORKING, SLEEPING AND CAMMING ALONGSIDE THE ARMY IN THE FIELD FROM THIS POINT ONWARDS.

203

THE RED PATCH WAS TAKEN DOWN AND REPLACED BY THE MOBILE COMMAND BADGE. THIS BADGE WAS USED ON VEHICLES AS WELL AS UNIFORMS.



Mobile Command Badge

204

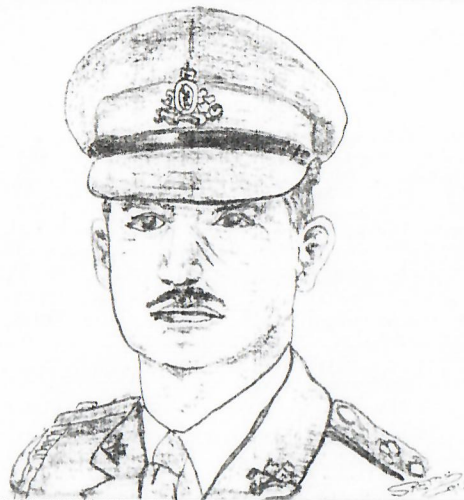
1969 SAW THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF LONG RANGE EXERCISES CALLED THE "NIMRODS".

MARCH 69 WAS THE FIRST OF THE SERIES WITH DETACHMENTS ATTACHED TO THE INFANTRY WHO WOULD CARRY OUT JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING IN JAMAICA, WITH DETACHMENTS IN THE JAMAICAN DEFENCE FORCE (JDF) BARRACKS IN KINGSTON AND OTHERS WITH THE INFANTRY IN MONTEGO BAY.

THE OTHER END OF THE LINK WAS SET UP ON THE ISLAND AT CFB TRENTON. BETWEEN THE "NIMRODS" VARIOUS OTHER EXERCISES WERE TO TAKE PLACE. "PASS BLOCKER", A SIMULATED OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT EXERCISE IN GASPE, QUEBEC, "NORTHERN RANGER", A DEFENCE OF CANADA EXERCISE.

205

LCOL PH SUTTON
CD
7 AUGUST 1969
TO
12 AUGUST 1971



206

NOVEMBER CAME AND WITH IT "NIMROD LEAP" IN JAMAICA ONCE MORE.

JANUARY TO MARCH 1970 BROUGHT ABOUT "NIMROD CAPER II, AFTER WHICH CAME THE ANNUAL COMMAND POST EXERCISE WITH THE STAFF COLLEGE. IN JULY 1970 THE TACTICAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS TROOP WENT ON THE ROYAL TOUR OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS BACK-UP ALONG WITH TELEVISION SATELLITE COVERAGE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CANADIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (CRC).

ON THE 1st OF SEPTEMBER, 1970, 2 SQUADRON WAS REDUCED TO NIL STRENGTH AND HEAVY LINE BECAME 1 LINE TROOP (CFCC) ONCE AGAIN.

207

ON THE 15th OF OCTOBER 1970, WHILE THE REGIMENT WAS ON A SHORT NINE DAY EXERCISE IN THE PETAWAWA AREA, THE ARMED FORCES WERE GIVEN A MISSION WHICH WAS UNIQUE IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY.

"OPERATION ESSAY" -- THE FIRST INSTANCE OF PEACETIME TROOPS BEING USED IN SUCH LARGE NUMBERS WITH SO MANY VARIED TASKS IN SUCH A SHORT TIME.

WITHIN HOURS ON THE 3rd DAY OF THE EXERCISE, SIX VEHICLES WERE HURRIEDLY DESPATCHED TO MONTREAL (ST. HUBERT AND LONGUE POINTE). ON THE 5th OF OCTOBER THE BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER, JAMES CROSS WAS KIDNAPPED BY THE FRONT DE LA LIBERATION DU QUEBEC (FLQ) AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE KIDNAPPING, ON THE 10th OF THE QUEBEC LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION MINISTER.....

208

PIERRE LAPORTE, THE ARMED FORCES WERE CALLED IN TO ASSIST THE RCMP ON THE 12th.

WHILE THIS WAS GOING ON IN MONTREAL, AN OPERATION OF A SIMILAR NATURE TOOK PLACE IN OTTAWA CALLED "OPERATION GINGER".

THE OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE ARMED FORCES TO COME OUT IN "AID TO THE CIVIL POWER" CAME FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC ON THE 15th OF OCTOBER, IN THE WORDS OF A LETTER, "TO HELP THE POLICE PROTECT THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS".

WITHIN 10 DAYS THE REGIMENT HAD DEPLOYED 191 ALL RANKS TO MONTREAL AND OTTAWA ALONG WITH THEIR COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT VEHICLES.

209

"OPERATION GINGER" OFFICIALLY TERMINATED ON THE 21st OF NOVEMBER. MEANWHILE, IN MONTREAL, THE SAME ROUTINE CONTINUED AND, ON THE 3rd OF DECEMBER A LITTLE KNOWN "OPERATION RAGOUT" TOOK PLACE.

THE RCMP THOUGHT THEY HAD FOUND THE HOUSE WHERE CROSS WAS BEING HELD. THE HOUSE WAS RAIDED AND BY MORNING NEGOTIATIONS FOR CROSS'S RELEASE HAD BEGUN, HOURS LATER THE KIDNAPPERS CAR WAS ESCORTED TO DORVAL AIRPORT WHERE THE KIDNAPPERS BOARDED A SPECIAL PLANE AND WERE FLOWN TO CUBA.

WHEN THEIR ARRIVAL IN CUBA WAS CONFIRMED, CROSS WAS RELEASED AND TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL. "OPERATION ESSAY" CAME TO AN END AT 12 NOON ON THE 4th OF JANUARY 1971

210

ON APRIL 15th A REQUEST WAS RECEIVED FROM WARDEN ARTHUR JARVIS TO PROVIDE NOT LESS THAN 100 TROOPS TO AID THE PRISON OFFICERS IN MAINTAINING SECURITY, EXTERNAL TO THE MAIN CELL BLOCK WHICH WAS BEING HELD FORCIBLY BY THE INMATES.

AT 0230 HOURS, WITHIN 90 MINUTES OF THE RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST, 45 MEN WERE ASSEMBLED, READY TO MOVE. ONE HUNDRED MEN FROM THE REGIMENT WERE PLACED ON ONE HOURS NOTICE AND ANOTHER HUNDRED WOULD BE READY BY 0600.

500 PRISONERS HAD SEIZED SIX HOSTAGES AND TOOK CONTROL OF THE MAIN CELL BLOCK AND SMASHED THE LOCKING SYSTEMS. AT 1830 HOURS THAT EVENING, 135 SOLDIERS MARCHED ONTO THE PENITENTIARY

211



212

GROUNDS TO DEPLOY ON PERIMETER GUARD. AT 0530 HOURS SUNDAY THE 18th THE INMATES VOLUNTARILY STARTED TO LEAVE THE MAIN CELL BLOCK TO SURRENDER. BY 1800, ALL INMATES AND HOSTAGES HAD BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL P.H. SUTTON WAS NAMED FORCE COMMANDER WITHIN THE PENITENTIARY AND THE REGIMENT REMAINED UNTIL WEDNESDAY THE 21st OF APRIL DOING CONTAINMENT DUTY. THE RIOT LASTED SIX DAYS.

ON THE 12th OF AUGUST 1971 A CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL P.E. MORNEAULT, CD, BECAME THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER.

213

LCOL PE MORNEAULT,
CD
13 AUGUST 1971
TO
6 JULY 1973



214

IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1971, THE REGIMENT MOVED TO CAMP GAGETOWN, N.B. BY ROAD AND RAIL FOR THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION SINCE INTEGRATION, "RUNNING JUMP II".

THE MAIN PART OF DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS WAS LODGED IN PETERSVILLE WHILE OTHER DETACHMENTS WERE DEPLOYED WITH THEIR ASSIGNED BRIGADES.

GAGETOWN, FOR A WHILE, WAS NORTHERN EUROPE AND THE OBJECT OF THE EXERCISE WAS TO SEND BY AIR A BATTLE GROUP TO ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE'S MOBILE FORCE LAND (AMF(L)) IF THE LATTER DEPLOYED TO DENMARK OR NORWAY, AND, THE BALANCE OF AN AIR/SEA TRANSPORTABLE COMBAT GROUP FROM CANADA TO THE NORTH FLANK IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

215

ALTOGETHER 5,000 MEN AND 2,000 TRACKED AND WHEELED VEHICLES TOOK PART IN THE EXERCISE. THE REGIMENT REVERTED TO ITS MAIN ROLE, THAT OF DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT. 26 APRIL 1972, THE FIRST FEMALE TO BE POSTED TO THE REGIMENT WAS PRIVATE MURIEL SMITH, AN ADMINISTRATION CLERK, AND QUALIFIED STENOGRAPHER.

ON JULY 10, 1972, A HEAD COUNT AT THE MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY REVEALED THE 14 PRISONERS WERE MISSING, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF CONVICTED MURDERERS AND OTHER JAILED FOR CRIMES OF VIOLENCE.

FIVE MEN WERE CAPTURED IN THE SURROUNDING AREA WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DAYS BUT NINE REMAINED AT LARGE.

216

THIS WAS THE LARGEST BREAK IN CANADIAN PENAL HISTORY. ON JULY 13th, NINETY MEN FROM THE REGIMENT UNDER COMMAND OF MAJOR ROY McLEAN ARRIVED ON THE SCENE FOR "OP FELLOW".

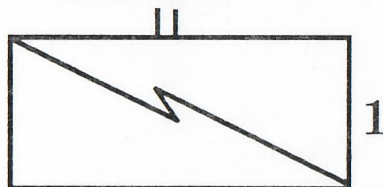
ELEMENTS OF 3RCR WERE BUSSED TO KINGSTON, THEN TO NAPANEE --- THE SEARCH AREA. ALTOGETHER 300 TROOPS TOOK PART IN THE SEARCH AND, ON THE 24th IT WAS PRESUMED THAT ONLY FOUR PRISONERS HAD MADE IT THROUGH THE COMBINED POLICE AND ARMY ROADBLOCKS SO THE TROOPS WERE RETURNED TO THEIR NORMAL DUTIES.

FROM THE 14th TO 28th OF SEPTEMBER 1972, THE REGIMENT PARTICIPATED IN "EXERCISE STRONG EXPRESS", A NATO JOINT EXERCISE HELD THROUGHOUT THE NORTHERN ATLANTIC,

217

K TROOP, THE LONG RANGE COMMUNICATION TERMINAL (LRCT) TROOP WENT TO NORWAY ALONG WITH THEIR EQUIPMENT.

THE MOBILE COMMAND BADGE ON VEHICLES WAS REPLACED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SYMBOL FOR A DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT



"OPERATION NORDIC PRANCER", WINTER INDOCTRINATION WAS HELD IN JANUARY 1973, FOLLOWED BY THE ANNUAL "NERVE SYSTEM" EXERCISE IN FEBRUARY.

218

LCOL G.D. SIMPSON,
CD

6 JULY 1973
TO
11 NOVEMBER 1973
AND
10 JUNE 1974
TO
31 JULY 1975



219

A CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE WAS HELD ON THE 6th OF JULY WHEN LCOL GD SIMPSON, CD TOOK COMMAND OF THE REGIMENT.

ON THE 11th OF JULY, 96 MEN WENT ON "EXERCISE NEW VIKING" NEAR RESOLUTE BAY, N.W.T., ABOUT 130 MILES DUE EAST OF THE MAGNETIC POLE.

INDOCTRINATION IN THE WAYS OF SURVIVING IN THE ARCTIC WAS THE THEME AND AFTER MANY MILES OF WALKING AROUND THE ISLAND THEY WERE FLOWN TO MOULD BAY, WERE THEY WOULD WALK AND WALK SOME MORE BEFORE BOARDING THE AIRCRAFT FOR HOME ON THE 27th OF JULY.

220



221

Op Danaca

IT WAS NOT UNTIL NOVEMBER 1973 THAT THE REGIMENT AGAIN PARTICIPATED IN A MAJOR OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT, "OPERATION DANACA".

ON THE 5th, FIVE MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT LEFT FOR CAIRO, EGYPT AS PART OF THE ADVANCE PARTY LED BY BRIGADIER GENERAL D.S. NICHOLSON, FOR THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE (UNEF II) IN THE MIDDLE EAST, FOLLOWING THE YOM KIPPUR WAR OF OCTOBER 1973.

ON THE 10th OF NOVEMBER, A 110-MAN FORCE UNDER LCOL SIMPSON LEFT KINGSTON FOR TRENTON, A RARE AND UNUSUAL SIGHT FOR PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY, SEEING A CONVOY OF FRESHLY PAINTED WHITE VEHICLES WITH THE LARGE "UN" ON THE SIDE.

222

UP UNTIL THE FIRST CONVOY LEFT, NO ONE WAS SURE WHETHER OR NOT THE REGIMENT WAS ACTUALLY LEAVING. BASE KINGSTON REMAINED OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY FOR THE NEXT FIVE DAYS OF PREPARATION INCLUDING CLOTHING, PAY, MEDICAL, DENTAL, DOCUMENTATION AND ALL OTHER SECTIONS NEEDED TO CLEAR THE REGIMENT FOR THIS OPERATION.

DURING THE CONFUSION WHICH FOLLOWED, FOUR VEHICLES WERE PAINTED WHITE UNINTENTIONALLY. THEY HAD BEEN TAKEN TO BE WINTERIZED AND SERVICED BUT ENDED UP IN THE UN LINE.

TWO YOUNG PRIVATES MADE A GESTURE THAT HADN'T BEEN HEARD OF SINCE WWII, THEY GOT MARRIED 24 HOURS BEFORE LEAVING.

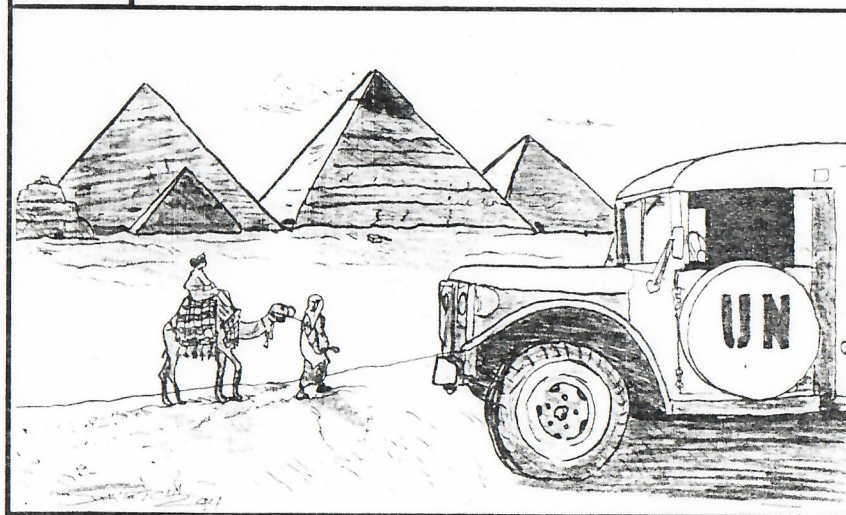
223

ONE YOUNG MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS, WHO HAD BEEN IN THE WRONG PLACE, CHECKING OUT COURSE OPTIONS, FOUND HIMSELF BEING KITTED OUT FOR EGYPT.

WHEN THE FIRST PLANE LEFT TRENTON, THE NEXT WAS ONLY FOUR HOURS BEHIND UNTIL ABOUT TWENTY FLIGHTS HAD AIRLIFTED 481 TROOPS, 43 VEHICLES AND 115 TONS OF EQUIPMENT IN 72 HOURS. THIS WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST AIRLIFTS IN SUCH A SHORT TIME IN CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL SIMPSON WAS MADE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE FORCE UPON ARRIVAL IN CAIRO AT 3:30 PM ON NOVEMBER 11th, 1973. DETACHMENTS FOR SUEZ, RABAH, ISMILIA, JERUSALEM AND ABU SEWEIR....

224



225

WERE SET UP BEFORE LEAVING CANADA BUT, BECAUSE OF THE TERRIBLE CONDITION OF ABU SEWEIR AND A LOT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EGYPTIANS, THE MAIN CAMP WAS TO BE LOCATED AT SHAMS RACETRACK IN CAIRO.

WITHIN A WEEK, HUNDREDS OF TENTS WERE SET UP IN FRONT OF THE GRANDSTAND AND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CAMP BARB-WIRED OFF FROM THE EGYPTIAN CAMPS ON BOTH SIDES.

THE DETACHMENTS FOR SUEZ, RABAH, JERUSALEM AND ISMAILIA WERE SOON IN PLACE AND OPERATIONAL. ANOTHER SITE CALLED FAYID, ON THE GREAT BITTER LAKE (PART OF THE SUEZ CANAL) WAS MANNED EVENTUALLY BY A FOUR MAN DETACHMENT.

226

CHRISTMAS CAME AND EVERYONE HAD THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS ALONG WITH SAND AND FLIES, SERVED BY THE OFFICERS AND SENIOR NCO'S. THE TREES THAT HAD BEEN SHIPPED FROM GERMANY WERE TRIMMED WITH BEER CAN PULL-TABS AND A FEW LOCALLY PURCHASED ORNAMENTS FROM CAIRO.

THIS TIME OF YEAR WAS ESPECIALLY HECTIC FOR THE COOKS, AND THE PADRES WHO HAD TO TRAVEL FROM ONE DETACHMENT TO THE OTHER FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

THE OLD ADAGE "COMFORT BEGINS AT HOME" WAS HARD TO MANAGE BECAUSE EVERY TENT GROUP WAS LOOKING FOR WOOD TO BUILD SHELVES AND ANYTHING TO KEEP THEIR GEAR OFF THE DIRT OR SAND FLOOR. WOOD WAS MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD OVER THERE.

227

MAJOR R.M. JACKSON
CD
12 NOVEMBER 1973
TO
9 JUNE 1974



228

MAJOR RM JACKSON TOOK OVER COMMAND OF THE REMAINDER OF THE REGIMENT (2 SQUADRON) BACK IN KINGSTON AND CARRIED ON WITH THE NORMAL COMMITMENTS SUCH AS "FINAL GLORY" IN JANUARY AND "NORDIC PRANCER" IN FEBRUARY AND THE ANNUAL EXERCISE/HOCKEY GAME WITH THE AIRBORNE REGIMENT "ROVING JIMMY" IN APRIL.

MEANWHILE BACK IN EGYPT, ON THE 22nd OF JANUARY 1974, BRIGADIER GENERAL NICHOLSON HANDED OVER COMMAND OF THE FORCE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL D.E. HOLMES AND IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE GENERAL HAD A FEW STRANGE IDEAS. ONE IDEA WAS THAT EVERYONE SHOULD LEARN ANOTHER SKILL, OTHER THAN ONE PERTAINING TO THEIR TRADE.

229

IT WAS SOON APPARENT THAT HE HAD TAKEN HIS OWN ADVICE AND, SEEING A HUGE ROAD-GRADER GOING DOWN THE ROAD WITH THE GENERAL DRIVING BECAME A COMMON SIGHT.

THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT IN EGYPT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS, LOGISTICS AND AIR SUPPORT FOR THE FORCE. FROM THE START OF THE OPERATION, TRANSPORT AND MEDICAL SERVICES WERE ALSO DONE BY THE CANADIANS; A JOB THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TAKEN BY THE POLISH CONTINGENT.

THEIR MEDICAL FACILITY AT FIRST WAS AN EMPTY TENT WITH A RED CROSS FLAG. WHEN THEIR MEDICAL STAFF FINALLY DID ARRIVE, THEY TOOK OVER ONE OF THE DOWNTOWN HOSPITALS IN CAIRO.

230

THE POLISH HAD SOMEWHAT OF A PROBLEM WITH THEIR TRANSPORT DUTIES ALSO. THE PROBLEM BEING THAT SINCE THEY WERE FROM A COMMUNIST COUNTRY THE ISRAELIS WOULD NOT LET THEM CROSS THEIR BORDER.

THE CANADIANS ENDED UP DRIVING THEIR TRUCKS INTO ISRAEL AND BACK TO THEM AT THE BORDER WHERE THEY WOULD AGAIN DRIVE BACK TO CAIRO.

THE FIRST OF THE ROTATIONS HOME BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 12th, 1974 AND ABOUT 60 MEN PER WEEK WOULD CONTINUE TO BE REPLACED UNTIL BY THE THIRD WEEK IN JUNE THE ENTIRE CONTINGENT OF 1050 WERE REPLACED BY REGULAR AND RESERVE VOLUNTEERS. "K": TROOP HAD ONE END OF THEIR LINK REMAIN IN KINGSTON FOR REAR LINK COMMUNICATIONS AND THIS

231

EVENTUALLY ENDED IN MAKING HUNDREDS OF PHONE-PATCHES BETWEEN THE HUSBANDS IN EGYPT AND THEIR WIVES AT HOME. A WIVES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WAS ALSO STARTED BY 2 SQUADRON AND WITH A SIMPLE PHONE CALL, MEMBERS WERE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SHOVELLING SNOW, PUTTING ON STORM WINDOWS OR ANY OTHER WAY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE WIVES OF THE MEN IN EGYPT.

THE REGIMENT WAS RE-UNITED IN KINGSTON BY THE SUMMER OF 1974. TWO MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT WERE APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT AS A RESULT OF THEIR PERFORMANCE IN EGYPT. THEY WERE A CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER R.D. EARL WHO WAS THE REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR BECAME FORCE SERGEANT MAJOR UPON

232

ARRIVAL IN CAIRO, PROVIDED LEADERSHIP, THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ADVANCE PARTY, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RECREATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ON AND OFF DUTY PERSONNEL AND MANY OTHER TASKS.

SERGEANT G. DEELEY, CHIEF COOK WHO PROVIDED A VERY HIGH STANDARD OF MESSING UNDER EXTREME CONDITIONS, FEEDING MANY TIMES MORE THAN THE DETACHMENTS WERE DESIGNED TO HANDLE.

IN JULY 1974 THE REGIMENT BEGAN THEIR NORMAL ROUTINE OF EXERCISES, "NEW HORIZON IV" DEALING WITH ADVENTURE TRAINING AND IN SEPTEMBER WHILE SOME WERE ON "NIMBLE OPENER" IN PETAWAWA, OTHERS BEGAN ARRIVING IN LAHR, GERMANY FOR THE NATO EXERCISE "REFORGER" WITH 4 CMBG.

233

Regimental March

IN NOVEMBER 1974, PHASE I OF THE NEW REGIMENTAL BUILDING WAS STARTED BY BALL BROTHERS LIMITED, CONTRACTORS.

ON THE 22nd OF NOVEMBER 1974, AUTHORITY WAS GRANTED TO ADOPT THE OFFICIAL MARCH OF THE FORMER ROYAL CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS, BEGONE DULL CARE, ARRANGED BY C.A.W. ADAMS, AS THE REGIMENTAL MARCH OF THE 1st CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT.

REFERENCE: A. FMC 1110-1 (DCOS PERS) OF 31 OCT 1974
B. 5050-7 TD 4310 (DC2) OF 22 NOV 1974

234



235

IN MARCH 1975, THE BRANCH ADVISOR, BRIGADIER R.N. SENIOR ARRIVED FOR A THREE DAY VISIT THAT ENDED UP HAVING HIM TAKEN INTO THE BUSH ON WINTER INDOCTRINATION, COOKING HIS OWN MEALS FROM A RATION PACK AND LOTS OF SNOWSHOEING. THE LAST DAY THEY MOVED OFF ON ANOTHER TOBOGGAN PULL TO THE GANANOQUE AIRPORT TO WATCH A PARACHUTE DROP BY THE AIRBORNE REGIMENT ON THE ANNUAL "ROVING JIMMY".

AT THE SAME TIME, OTHERS WERE IN YELLOWKNIFE N.W.T. PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE DOG SLED RACES.

ON THE 21st OF JUNE 1975, IN RECOGNITION OF THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION AND GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE REGIMENT AND THE CITY OF KINGSTON,

236

Freedom Of The City

HIS HONOUR MAYOR GEORGE SPEAL CHOSE TO GRANT THE 1st CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY.

THE REGIMENT MARCHED FROM THE RMC PARADE SQUARE TO CITY HALL FOR THE CEREMONY, THEN, DID A MARCH THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CITY AND BACK OVER THE CAUSEWAY TO R.M.C. THE REGIMENT THEN WAS TASKED TO PROVIDE RANGE CONTROL, BUTT PARTIES AND MARKERS ON THE CONNAUGHT RANGES. DURING THE SUMMER OF 1975 THE REGIMENT RECEIVED A MOMENTO FROM EGYPT, A 23mm TWIN BARREL RUSSIAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN --- A SOUVENIR OF "OP DANACA". THE WEAPON WAS DISCOVERED ALONG THE ROMANI EL TASA ROAD WHEN CANADIAN SIGNALS RETURNED TO THE SINAI IN NOVEMBER 1973.

237

THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF MAJOR W.F. COWPERTHWAIT AND MASTER-CORPORALS F.N. PALMER-STONE AND E.A. (TED) DAVIDSON THE GUN WAS DISMANTLED AND SHIPPED TO KINGSTON TO BE MOUNTED ON THE FRONT LAWN OF REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS.

ON JUNE 25th, 1975, SEVENTY-SIX MEN WENT TO THE ARCTIC CIRCLE FOR ANOTHER WALKING EXERCISE CALLED "NORTHERN MESSENGER".

OTHER MEMBERS WERE PREPARING FOR THE CANADIAN OLYMPIC TRAINING REGATTA (CORK). WORKING WITH HMCS NIPIGON, ON HAROUR CRAFT AND COAST GUARD VESSELS, THE REGIMENT PROVIDED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ALL VESSELS INCLUDING TOW AND RESCUE VESSELS, HOME BASE AND MANY OF THE LAND BASED PORTABLE TERMINALS.

238

WITH THIS GOING ON, THE REGIMENT STILL HAD ENOUGH MEMBERS TO HOLD A CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE, LIEUTENANT COLONEL W.H. BATT, CD BECAME THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER.

OFF TO VALCARTIER ON OCTOBER 16th FOR EXERCISES "NIMBLE OPENER" AND "RITE SIMPLE II" WHICH WERE STANDARD REGIMENTAL EXERCISES.

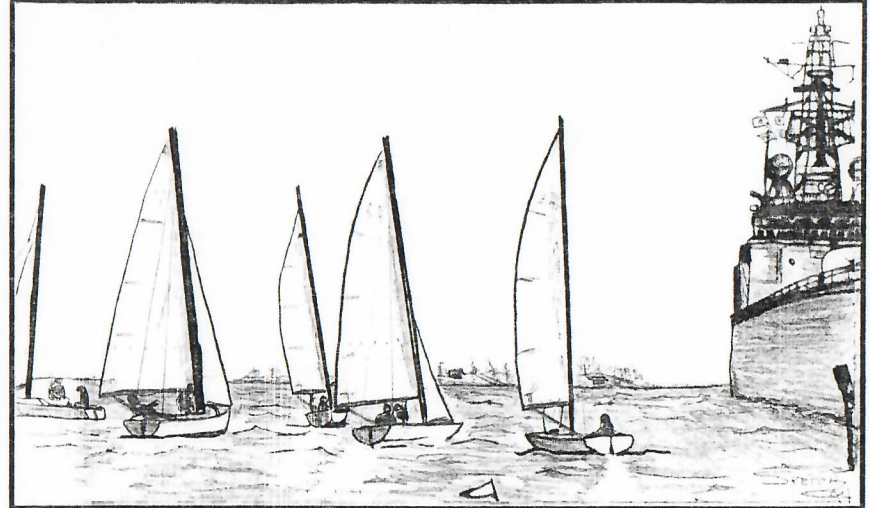
PHASE II OF THE REGIMENTAL BUILDING WAS STARTED IN NOVEMBER 75 AT A TOTAL COST OF 6.64 MILLION DOLLARS. THERE WOULD BE A TOTAL FLOOR SPACE OF 155,400 SQUARE FEET AND WOULD HOUSE THE ENTIRE REGIMENT WITH VEHICLE COMPOUNDS IN THE REAR. THE ARCHITECTS WERE HARRY P. SMITH, STAHL, ELLIOT, MARSHALL AND MERRITT.

239

LCOL W.H. BATT,
CD
1 AUGUST 1975
TO
28 FEBRUARY 1977



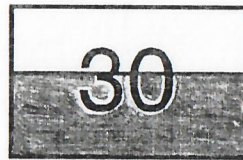
240



241

Re-Badging

ON THE 28th OF JANUARY 1976 THE REGIMENT HAD A REBADGING CEREMONY. THE NEW BADGE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS BRANCH HAD BEEN APPROVED AND MANUFACTURED AND IT WAS NOW TIME TO GIVE UP THE BADGE OF THE OLDEST SIGNAL CORPS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, THE ROYAL CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS. ALSO ON THE SAME DATE, THE REGIMENTAL FLAG (RC SIGS FLAG WITH A RED "30") WAS RETIRED.



RETIRED FLAG

242

EXERCISES "FINAL GLORY", "ROVING JIMMY" AND "JOINT HANDS" IN FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA WERE COMPLETED BUT THEY DID NOT GET IN THE WAY OF THE PREPARATIONS. THE REGIMENT SPENT THE NEXT SEVEN MONTHS ON, "EXERCISE MOUNT OLYMPUS" AND "OPERATION GAMESCAN". THESE EXERCISES WERE IN SUPPORT OF THE XXI OLYMPIAD IN MONTREAL PROVIDING COMMUNICATION LINKS BETWEEN MOBILE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND A NUMBER OF TASK FORCES IN THE MONTREAL AREA.

THE REGIMENT TOOK OVER, HEADQUARTERED AND HOUSED ITSELF IN THE MACDONALD-CARTIER HIGH SCHOOL IN ST. HUBERTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST, SOME ARRIVING AS EARLY AS THE 9th OF JUNE. HUNDREDS OF BEDS WERE SET UP, LOCKERS MOVED IN AND CLASSROOMS BECAME LIVING

243

QUARTERS, OFFICES, STORES AND A VARIETY OF OTHER USES. MESSES WERE THEN SET UP, THE THEATRE AND LIBRARY USED EXTENSIVELY AND EVEN AN UNOFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SHOWED ITSELF. VISITS BY ANYONE AND EVERYONE BECAME A COMMON OCCURRENCE. THE OLYMPICS WERE A HUGE SUCCESS SPORTSWISE, SECURITYWISE AND COMMUNICATIONWISE.

THE REGIMENT RETURNED HOME AT THE END OF AUGUST. SEPTEMBER 76 SAW THE REGIMENT PREPARING FOR "RITE SIMPLE III", THIS TIME IN WAINWRIGHT, ALBERTA.

THE FIRST OF THE VEHICLES LEFT KINGSTON BY RAIL ON THE 17th AND THE SECOND GROUP WENT TO TRENTON FOR AIRLIFT, WHICH WAS THE FIRST MAJOR MOVE OF REGIMENTAL EQUIPMENT SINCE "OP DANACA".

244

A Break From Tradition

THE EXERCISE WAS COMPLETED ON THE 10th OF OCTOBER.

"NOT FOR ALL"

A TRADITION USUALLY GRANTED TO THE INFANTRY AND ARMoured UNITS WAS FINALLY GRANTED TO THE REGIMENT, THAT OF A COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT.

BRIGADIER GENERAL M.H.F. WEBBER (RETIRED) WAS APPOINTED AS THE 1st COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT AND TO MARK THE OCCASION A PARADE WAS HELD ON THE 28th OF OCTOBER, 1976.

245

1st Colonel of the Regiment

GEN M.H.F. WEBBER,
CD
28 OCTOBER 1976
TO
14 JULY 1979



246

IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, "K" TROOP (LRCT) HAD A MAJOR EXERCISE IN THE NORTH, "NANOOK LARK", TESTING THE TROOPS CAPABILITY OF OPERATING IN EXTREME COLD WEATHER CONDITIONS ABOVE THE 60th PARALLEL. IT TOOK THREE HERCULES CHALKS TO AIRLIFT THE TROOP INTO THIS LOCATIONS.

1 FEBRUARY 1977, MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT WITH AUGMENTEES FROM THE CFB KINGSTON BASE DEFENCE FORCE SET OUT ON A RESCUE MISSION, CARRYING FUEL OIL AND SUPPLIES TO THE RESIDENTS OF HOWE ISLAND ABOUT SEVEN MILES EAST OF KINGSTON. THE ISLAND POPULATION OF 165 RAN INTO SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHEN THE FERRY SERVICE TO THE ISLAND FROM THE MAINLAND WAS CUT OFF BY THE WEATHER DURING ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR SNOW STORMS WHICH HIT THE AREA.

247

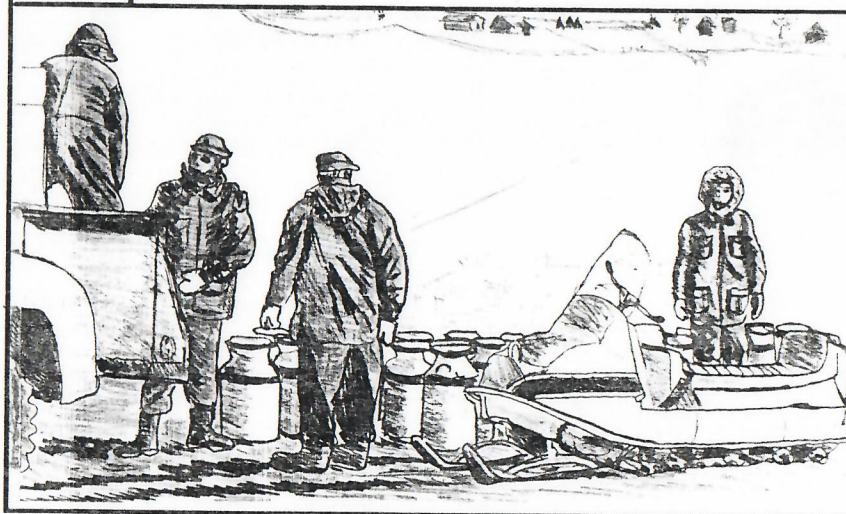
THE MAJOR PROBLEM WAS A LACK OF FUEL OIL. THE INITIAL PLAN WAS TO CARRY THE FUEL IN 45 GALLON DRUMS BY ARMY TRUCKS BUT HEAVY SLUSH MARKS AT THE ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS MADE THIS IMPOSSIBLE.

THE REGIMENTS TOBOGGANS AND JERRY CANS WERE USED AND PULLED BY SNOWMOBILES, BOTH MILITARY AND PRIVATELY OWNED.

IN ALL THE TOTAL DELIVERY WAS ESTIMATED AT 2000 GALLONS WITH ANOTHER 1500 GALLONS STOCKPILED FOR FUTURE USE.

THE TOBOGGANS CARRIED MILK CANS ON THE WAY BACK FOR BALLAST AND TO ALLOW THE FARMERS TO START THEIR DAIRY OPERATIONS AGAIN. THIS WAS THE FIRST MISSION OF ITS KIND FOR THE KINGSTON MILITARY.

248



249

LCOL D. BANKS,
CD
1 MARCH 1977
TO
16 NOVEMBER 1978



250

ON FEBRUARY 24th LCOL BATT STARTED HANDOVER PROCEDURES FOR LCOL D. BANKS TO TAKE COMMAND EFFECTIVE 1 MARCH 1977. A DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXERCISE "MERCURY BURST" AT PETAWAWA IN MAY, FIGHTING MOSQUITOES, BLACK FLIES AND FOREST FIRES WAS ALL THAT WAS NEEDED FOR THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER TO OBSERVE HIS NEW REGIMENT IN ACTION.

ON THE 7th OF JUNE 1977, AFTER A SPAN OF 12 YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF MARY, OUR FIRST COLONEL-IN-CHIEF, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCESS ANNE WAS APPOINTED COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS BRANCH. THE REGIMENT CLAIMS THE RECORD OF BEING THE FIRST IN THE BRANCH TO TOAST THE NEWLY APPOINTED COLONEL-IN-CHIEF,

251

Our New Colonel-In-Chief



Her Royal Highness, The Princess Anne

252

AT A REGIMENTAL DINING-IN ON THE 16th OF JUNE, 1977. THE TOAST IS AS FOLLOWS:

THE PRESIDENT SAYS: MR VICE, OUR "COLONEL IN CHIEF" OR "M. VICE PRESIDENT NOTRE COLONEL EN CHEF" WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT RESPONDING "MESSIEURS, NOTRE COLONEL EN CHEF, LA PRINCESSE ROYALE" OR "GENTLEMEN OUR COLONEL -IN-CHIEF, THE PRINCESS ROYAL". THE REPLY IS: "THE PRINCESS ROYAL" OR "LA PRINCESSE ROYALE".

THE MARCH OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC BRANCH, "THE MERCURY MARCH", WILL BE PLAYED FOR THE LOYAL TOAST TO THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF.

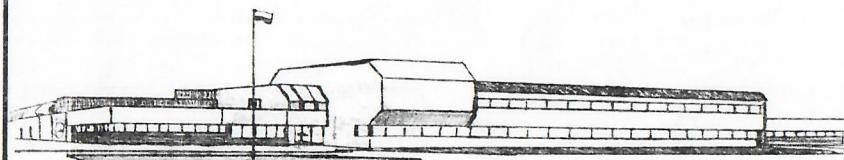
253

Unofficial Lake

WHILE SOME MEMBERS WERE ON SUMMER LEAVE, OTHERS WERE AGAIN ON THEIR WAY NORTH FOR "EXERCISE NORTHERN JAMES" AND "NORTHERN MESSENGER" AT COPPERMINE, N.W.T. MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT PROVIDED COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO THE CANADIAN FORCES MAPPING AND CHARTING ESTABLISHMENT DURING A SURVEY OPERATION ON BAFFIN ISLAND IN 1977.

AS A TOKEN OF THEIR APPRECIATION TO THE REGIMENT THE MCE UNOFFICIALLY NAMED A LAKE AFTER THE REGIMENT, AND DECLARED "THAT THE LAKE AT 66 02 30 NORTH LATITUDE AND 70 28 00 WEST LONGITUDE AND DULLY INDICATED ON THE NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SHEET NUMBER 261 SHALL HERETOFORE AND FORTHWITH BE KNOWN AS 1st CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT LAKE".

254



255

New Home

ON THE 8th OF SEPTEMBER, 1977, THE REGIMENT'S NEW "HOME" WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED WHEN THE GUARD OF HONOUR WAS FORMED IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING. THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF, ADMIRAL R.H. FALLS, CMM, CD, ARRIVED, INSPECTED THE GUARD, THEN PRESENTED THE KEYS OF THE NEW BUILDING TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER, LIEUTENANT COLONEL D. BANKS, CD.

THE ADMIRAL WAS THEN ESCORTED TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE WHERE, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A MK4 - 1916 MORSE KEY, HE UNVEILED A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE OFFICIALLY OPENING THE NEW BUILDING.

THE EVENT MARKED ADMIRAL FALLS' FIRST OFFICIAL ACT IN HIS APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF.

256

THE OFFICIAL MOVE DID NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL NOVEMBER WHEN THE REGIMENT MOVED OUT OF H-55, H-29, A-7, G-25, C-19 C-20 WHICH WERE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE BASE. THE REGIMENT WAS AT LAST UNDER ONE ROOF.

"EXERCISE RITE SIMPLE IV" AND "NIMBLE OPENER" AT VALCARTIER IN OCTOBER FINISHED OFF THE YEAR.

IN DECEMBER 1977, A PROJECT THAT BEGAN EARLY IN 76 WAS APPROVED ---- THAT OF OUR NEW REGIMENTAL CREST.

IT WAS FINALLY APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIAL AND FORWARDED TO HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN, FOR HER APPROVAL.

257

Regimental Crest



258

JANUARY 1978 SAW THE REGIMENT ON EXERCISE AGAIN, THIS TIME "RITE SIMPLE V" IN PETAWAWA, "FINAL GLORY" IN FEBRUARY AND "ARCTIC EXPRESS" WHICH WAS A OVERSEAS EXERCISE WITH A DETACHMENT IN PRESTWICK, SCOTLAND, COMMUNICATION TO ONE IN ANDOYA, NORWAY, AND TWO MORE IN SOLA, NORWAY. THE PERSONNEL ON THIS EXERCISE ARRIVED HOME AROUND EASTER.

13 APRIL 1978 BROUGHT ON ANOTHER LARGE SCALE OPERATIONAL COMMITMENT, THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANNON (UNIFIL). 82 MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT WITH AUGMENTEES FROM THE AIRBORNE REGIMENT IN PETAWAWA CONSISTING OF OPERATORS AND SUPPORT UNITS WERE TO BE ON THE GROUND IN THE BUFFER ZONE BY THE 21st OF APRIL.

259

"Operation Angora"

THE OPERATION WAS CALLED "OPERATION ANGORA". WITH THE HEADQUARTERS IN NAQOURA. ORGANIZED DETACHMENTS WERE SENT OUT TO THE VARIOUS INFANTRY BATTALIONS, LIVING UNDER VARYING CONDITIONS ACCORDING TO THEIR LOCATIONS AND THE BODY THEY WERE WITH.

A DETACHMENT WITH THE FRENCH BATTALION WERE IN A LEBANESE ARMY BARRACKS IN TYRE, WHILE A DETACHMENT WITH THE SENEGALESE IN THE VILLAGE OF MARAKFT WERE LIVING IN TENTS.

OTHER DETACHMENTS WERE WITH THE NIGERIANS IN TAYR ZIBNA, THE IRANIANS IN BURI QALLAWIYAH, NORWEGIANS IN MARJAYOUN, THE NEPALESE IN ETT TAIBE AND THE FIJIAN AND IRISH BATTALIONS.

260

Lebanon



261

THE CANADIAN SIGNALS (CANSIGS) BASE CAMP WAS GIVEN THE NAME CAMP PEARSON. TWO CONTROL STATIONS, FORCE COMMAND, LOGISTICS NET, AIR-GROUND-AIR, FORCE TEAM NET, FORCE MOBILE MOTOROLA AND A REAR LINK TO ISMAILIA, EGYPT, ALONG WITH COMMUNICATIONS TO ALL THE BATTALIONS, FIVE STACKED SB 22 MANUAL SWITCHBOARDS, AND SDS SECTION, VEHICLE AND RADIO REPAIR SECTIONS.

IF IT SOUNDED BUSY, IT WAS, BUT STILL, 3 MEMBERS FOUND TIME TO SET UP AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION SO PHONE PATCHES TO HOME COULD BE MADE.

THE UNIT PROVIDED A RELIABLE, FLEXIBLE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. THROUGH WHICH COMMAND AND CONTROL OF THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE COULD BE AFFECTED.

262

AT 04:00 GMT, 1 OCTOBER, 1978 THE CANADIAN SIGNAL UNIT (UNIFIL) TRANSFERRED THE COMMUNICATIONS TO A COMBINATION OF UN CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AND REGIMENTAL SIGNALLERS.

A FINAL PARADE TO CLOSE CAMP PEARSON AND A FAREWELL DINNER AND RECEPTION THAT EVENING AND THE NEXT MORNING 76 MEMBERS LEFT FOR ISMAILIA, EGYPT, ON THE LAHR, GERMANY AND HOME. THE MAIN BODY ARRIVED IN CANADA ON THE 6th OF OCTOBER, 1978.

MEANWHILE BACK IN KINGSTON, THE ZU23 WAS PLACED IN FRONT OF THE NEW BUILDING IN JUNE, AFTER A LENGTHY RUST REMOVAL AND A NEW COAT OF PAINT.

263

The Blue and White

THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL IS ENTITLED THE BLUE & WHITE. IT ORIGINATED IN THE HISTORICAL SECTION OF THE REGIMENT AS A QUARTERLY IN APRIL 1978. FROM VOLUME 4 ON IT WAS SEMIANNUAL PUBLICATION. FROM VOLUME 14 TO THE PRESENT IT HAS BECOME AN ANNUAL.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE BLUE & WHITE IS TO PROVIDE MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT, PAST AND PRESENT, WITH AN INFORMATIVE, HISTORICAL AND SOMETIMES HUMOROUS LOOK AT REGIMENTAL MATTERS AFFECTING ALL OF US.

IT CONTAINS ARTICLES REGULARLY SUBMITTED FROM TROOPS, SQUADRONS, THE PADRES, THE REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR, THE COMMANDING OFFICER, AND THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT.

264

Fairfax Webber Trophy

OTHER ARTICLES SUCH AS BIOGRAPHIES, POSTINGS, POEMS, CARTOONS, HISTORICAL ARTICLES, OFFICERS LISTS, SPORTS AND TRAINING ARE SOMETIMES ADDED. THE FAIRFAX WEBBER TROPHY WAS INITIATED IN THE SUMMER OF 78. THE TROPHY WAS DONATED BY BRIGADIER-GENERAL M.H.F. WEBBER, CD, IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. FAIRFAX WEBBER, LATE OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS.

THIS TROPHY WAS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE SQUADRON THROUGH ANNUAL COMPETITION IN REGIMENTAL SKILL-AT-ARMS. THE REGIMENT PERPETUATES THIS TROPHY AND THE COMPETITION USUALLY TAKES PLACE IN THE SPRING. IT CONSISTS OF A COVERED ROSE BOWL WITH THE FIGURE OF VICTORY ON TOP, WITH A RIFLEMAN ON EACH SIDE OF THE BASE IN THE STANDING, SHOOTING POSITION.

265

Fairfax Webber Trophy

266

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, THE HONOURABLE BARNEY DANSON PAID A VISIT TO THE REGIMENT ON THE 7th OF JULY, AND MADE A TOUR OF THE NEW BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT.

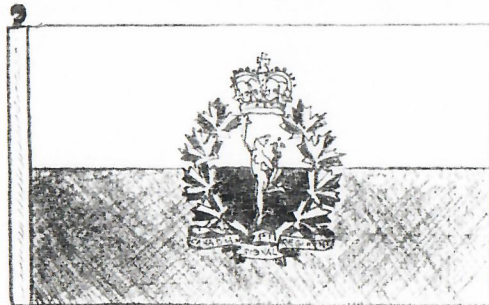
FROM THE 17th OF SEPTEMBER TO THE 3rd OF OCTOBER ONE GROUP WAS ON "EXERCISE NORTHERN VIKING" AT BURWASH LANDING IN THE YUKON TERRITORIES. THE PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE WAS TO INSTALL FOUR EMERGENCY SURVIVAL CAIRNS, TO CONDUCT SURVIVAL TRAINING AND TO DEMONSTRATE MILITARY SKILLS AND EQUIPMENT TO THE NATIVES AND UNDERTAKE COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

"RITE SIMPLE VII" IN VALCARTIER IN OCTOBER WAS ANOTHER REGIMENTAL EXERCISE TO PROVIDE THE STAFF OF 5EME GROUPEMENT DE COMBAT AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE WITHIN A HIGHER FORMATION.

267

Regimental Flag

ON THE 16th OF NOVEMBER 1978, ON A CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE BETWEEN LCOL D. BANKS, CD AND LCOL E.R. CAMPBELL, CD. THE REGIMENTAL FLAG APPEARED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE REGIMENTAL CREST HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE QUEEN.



268

LCOL E.R.
CAMPBELL,
CD
17 NOVEMBER 1978
TO
7 JULY 1981



269

ON LCOL BANKS' DEPARTURE THE BANKS TROPHY WAS INITIATED. THE BANKS TROPHY IS THE REGIMENTAL BATTLE FITNESS TROPHY, PRESENTED BY LCOL (LATER BRIGADIER GENERAL) D. BANKS. THE TROPHY IS AN ENCLOSED ROSEBOWL MOUNTED ON A WOODEN BASE. IT IS AWARDED ANNUALLY TO THE SQUADRON TEAM SCORING THE HIGHEST POINTS ON THE FORCED MARCH COMPETITION.

ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS WENT TO WHITEHORSE, Y.T. TO MOVE AND LIVE IN THE CANADIAN NORTH IN WINTER DURING "EXERCISE NORTHERN JAMES II" FROM 5 TO 16 MARCH. ON THE 19th OF MARCH 1979 A NEW SQUADRON (3 SQN LTACS) WAS BROUGHT INTO BEING. IT WAS CREATED IN RESPONSE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "COMNODE SYSTEM".

270

The Banks Trophy



271

THE SQUADRON WAS TO PROVIDE RELIABLE TELEPHONE AND TELETYPE COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIELD ON A 24-HOUR BASIS.

THE "COMNODE SYSTEM" REPLACED THE "COMCEN" FUNCTION OF 1 SQUADRON.

MEANWHILE, 2 SQUADRON HAD MOVED TO GERMANY FOR MARCH AND APRIL 79 FOR EXERCISE "CERTAIN SENTINEL" WHICH WAS THE FIRST TIME THE SQUADRON HAD PARTICIPATED IN A 60,000 MAN NATO EXERCISE IN THE WINTER CONDITIONS OF GERMANY.

ON THE 14th OF JULY, A DOUBLE CEREMONY OCCURRED, WHEN THE REGIMENT EXERCISED ITS RIGHT TO THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY BY PARADING THROUGH KINGSTON.

272

Change of Colonel of the Regiment

COL J.G.B KNOWLTON,
CD
14 JULY 1979
TO
17 JULY 1983



273

LATER THAT DAY, A CHANGE OF COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT WITH BGEN WEBBER HANDING OVER HIS APPOINTMENT TO COL JGB KNOWLTON.

TWO MONTHS LATER, ON THE 28th OF SEPTEMBER AN ALLIANCE WAS APPROVED BY THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF, BETWEEN THE 1st CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT AND THE 1st (BRITISH) ARMoured DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT LOCATED IN VERDEN, WEST GERMANY. ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 12, 1979, THE REGIMENT PROVIDED AN HONOUR GUARD AT NORMAN ROGERS AIRPORT FOR THE ARRIVAL OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ANNE, OUR COLONEL-IN-CHIEF FOR HER FIRST VISIT TO THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS AND THE TOUR OF THE REGIMENT BUILDING AND ITS EQUIPMENT, WHICH WAS TO TAKE PLACE ON THE 13th.

274

AT 10:00 HRS THE MOTORCADE ARRIVED, THE GUARD OF HONOUR WAS INSPECTED, THEN A VISIT TO THE FORDE BUILDING AND SIGN THE BRANCH GUEST BOOK.

NEXT, THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF LAID A WREATH AT THE VIMY MEMORIAL. SHE WAS THEN TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE C & E MUSEUM, A LUNCHEON AT THE WO/SGTS MESS, A TOUR OF THE GENET BUILDING, FINALLY ARRIVING AT THE REGIMENT BUILDING AT 3:30 pm.

THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF SIGNED OUR GUEST BOOK AND THEN PROCEEDED TO THE LRCT POD WHERE SHE SENT A MESSAGE TO ALL C & E UNITS, THEN TO THE STATIC DISPLAY OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT....

275

LCOL CAMPBELL THEN ESCORTED THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF TO THE MESSAGE CENTRE TO RECEIVE THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HER MESSAGE FROM THE C & E UNITS. SHE THEN PROCEEDED TO THE THOMPSON DRILL HALL FOR A C & E BRANCH JR RANKS RECEPTION.

NEXT IT WAS OFF TO PETAWAWA FOR "RITE SIMPLE VIII" IN NOVEMBER, FOLLOWED BY WINTER INDOCTRINATION.

JANUARY 1980 SAW THE REGIMENT IN FOR DRUM, N.Y. ON "EXERCISE EMPIRE GLACIER", "ROVING JIMMY" IN FEBRUARY AND "STALWART WARRIOR" AT THE STAFF COLLEGE IN TORONTO ROUNDED OUT THE WINTER. ON MARCH 17th "K" TROOP (LRCT) WENT ON EXERCISE "RUSTY RELIC" IN NIAGARA ON THE LAKE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A REAR LINK TO CFB DEBERT AND...

276



277

TO CHECK OUT THE OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITY OF "K" TROOP PERSONNEL.

MAY 26th SAW TWO EXERCISES, "EXERCISE CROSSED FLAGS" AND "EXERCISE JAMES I, THE 3rd". THESE WERE JOINT EXERCISES WITH 30 (BRITISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT FOR A LONG RANGE EXERCISE AND, WITH A FEW MEMBERS OF OUR SISTER REGIMENT, 1st (BRITISH) ARMoured DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT.

1 SQUADRON WAS TASKED WITH PROVIDING A COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXPLAINING PARTS OF CANADA'S HISTORY, BOTH IN THEORY AND PRACTICAL SESSIONS. THE EXERCISE TOOK PLACE FROM KINGSTON TO NIAGARA FALLS TO LONDON AND IPPERWASH.

278

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 2 SQUADRON WENT ON THEIR ANNUAL "REFORGER" EXERCISE (WHICH WAS COMPOSED OF MANY SMALLER EXERCISES) AS UMPIRE SUPPORT. PART OF REFORGER WAS "EXERCISE CERTAIN RAMPART", A TWO WEEK EXERCISE IN THE MUNICH AREA OF SOUTHERN GERMANY WITH A TOTAL OF 35,000 NATO TROOPS PARTICIPATION, "EXERCISE SPEARPOINT" WHICH WAS HELD AT THE SAME TIME BY THE BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE IN NORTHERN GERMANY AND, IN CENTRAL GERMANY IT WAS "EXERCISE ST. GEORGE".

"RITE SIMPLE" AND "NIMBLE OPENER" ENDED THE YEAR WITH AN EXERCISE DESIGNED TO EXERCISE THE REGIMENT AND BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRONS IN PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS AND TO PRACTICE THE STAFF OFFICERS IN FIELD STAFF PROCEDURES AND GIVE SUPPORT TO THE...

279

RO 81

DIVISIONAL STAFF. MAY 23rd TO JULY 7th, 1981 THE LARGEST MILITARY EXERCISE HELD IN CANADA IN SEVENTEEN YEARS, "RENDEZVOUS 81" (RV81) IN WHICH THE REGIMENT FORMED THE BASIS OF THE DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS, THE COMMAND AND CONTROL ORGANIZATION PROVIDING ALL COMMUNICATIONS AND ALL HOUSE-KEEPING FACILITIES FOR THE DIVISIONAL OFFICERS. LCOL CAMPBELL WAS THE CAMP COMMANDER UNTIL HE HANDED OVER COMMAND OF THE REGIMENT IN THE FIELD TO LCOL G. LACKONICK, CD. THE AIM OF THIS EXERCISE WAS TO PRACTICE THE FIELD FORMATION IN DEFENCE FORMATION, AND THE PRACTICE OF MANOEVRING INFANTRY, TANKS, ARTILLERY, ENGINEERS AND SIGNALS ON THE BATTLEFIELD WITH AIR AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT. 10,000 MEN FROM OVER 300 UNITS PARTICIPATED IN RV81.

280

LCOL G LACKONICK,
CD
8 JULY 1981
TO
23 JUNE 1983



281

Clement Building

ON THE 18th OF SEPTEMBER 1981, AT 11:15 HOURS, A BRIEF CEREMONY WAS HELD TO NAME THE HOME OF THE REGIMENT, NOW KNOWN AS E-30. THE BUILDING WILL BE NAMED THE "CLEMENT BUILDING" IN HONOUR OF THE LATE BRIGADIER GENERAL J. BRUCE CLEMENT, CD, WHO HAD A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH THE ROYAL CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS AND WAS THE FIRST COLONEL COMMANDANT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS BRANCH 1973 TO 1976.

"EXERCISE SOVEREIGN VIKING" SAW LRCT TROOP AT RAE POINT, NWT, FROM AUGUST 4th TO OCTOBER 5th AGAIN CHECKING OUT THE MOBILITY AND OPERATIONAL READINESS OF THE TROOP.

AFTER 70 PERSONNEL DID THEIR WINTER INDOCTRINATION

282

AT FORT DRUM, NY., IN FEBRUARY, THE REGIMENT BEGAN PREPARING FOR A REGIMENTAL EXERCISE TO TAKE PLACE THERE IN APRIL. "EXERCISE MERCURY TREK" TOOK 450 PERSONNEL AND OVER 200 VEHICLES TO FORT DRUM PRIMARILY TO INCREASE THE EXPERTISE AS COMMUNICATORS FOR THE DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF MOBILE COMMAND. ON THIS EXERCISE THE REGIMENT PRACTISED MOVEMENT, DEFENSE OF DIV HQ AND BASIC SOLDIERING AND SIGNAL SKILLS.

20 SEPTEMBER 82, AN EXERCISE WAS HELD BY THE DIV HQ SUPPORT CLERKS, "QUANTIFY QUOTA". THE EXERCISE TOOK THE CLERKS FROM KINGSTON TO CAMP TILlicum, ON LAKE NIPPISSING, SOUTH OF NORTH BAY, PRACTICING CAMOUFLAGE AND DEFENCE OF THE CAMP.

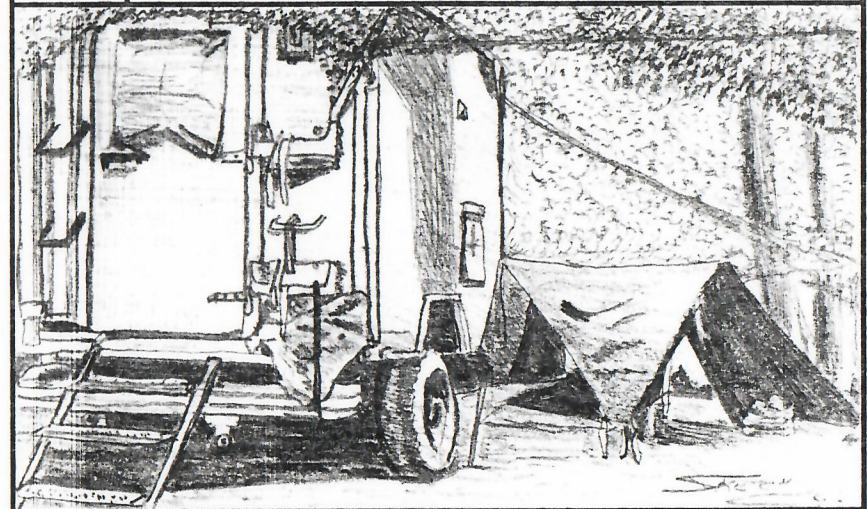
283

THE PURPOSE WAS DRIVER TRAINING, TO EXPOSE NEW ARRIVALS TO FIELD LIVING CONDITIONS, THE EQUIPMENT USED IN THE FIELD AND THE SET-UP OF DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

FROM THE END OF JANUARY 1983 TO EARLY FEBRUARY "EXERCISE STALWART WARRIOR" AT THE STAFF COLLEGE IN TORONTO TOOK 65 PERSONNEL TO SUPPLY FIELD COMMUNICATIONS SIMULATING THE ACTIVITIES OF A DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS, MESSAGE DISTRIBUTION, TELETYPE AND TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD FACILITIES, DR SERVICES AND CLERICAL SUPPORT DUTIES.

THIS EXERCISE PROVIDED A "HANDS ON" EXPERIENCE FOR 70 ARMY AND 12 AIRFORCE PERSONNEL.

284



285

RV 83

RV 83 TOOK PLACE FROM APRIL 23rd TO MAY 25th, 1983 IN WAINWRIGHT ALBERTA. THIS WAS ANOTHER LARGE SCALE DIVISIONAL EXERCISE WITH THE REGIMENT PROVIDING COMMAND AND CONTROL, ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR FMC (FORCE MOBILE COMMAND) DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS, THE AIM WAS TO PRACTICE THE WARNING PROCEDURE, MOVEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE CANADIAN AIR/SEA TRANSPORTABLE BRIGADE GROUP ALLOCATED TO NATO.

INVOLVED IN THE EXERCISE WERE 7,500 PERSONNEL, 2,500 VEHICLES AND 105 AIRCRAFT.

ON THE 17th OF JUNE, 1983, COLONEL J.G.B. KNOWLTON, RELINQUISHED HIS APPOINTMENT OF COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT TO COLONEL P.H. SUTTON.

286

COLONEL PH SUTTON
CD
17 JUNE 1983
TO
24 JUNE 1988



287

LCOL PA TAPPIN
CD
23 JUNE 1983
TO
5 JULY 1985



288

LIEUTENANT COLONEL G. LACKONICK HANDED OVER COMMAND OF THE REGIMENT TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL P.A. TAPPIN ON THE 23rd OF JUNE 1983.

THE REGIMENT AND THE SIGNALLERS CLUB OF KINGSTON PLAYED HOST TO THE LARGEST SIGNALS REUNION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS. THE REUNION LASTED THREE DAYS, 2nd, 3rd AND 4th OF SEPTEMBER DURING WHICH TIME OVER 2200 CORPS MEMBERS WERE PRESENT.

DURING THE REUNION, ON THE 3rd OF SEPTEMBER, A CEREMONY TOOK PLACE IN THE CATARAQUI CEMETERY. THIS WAS THE PLACING OF A COMMEMORATIVE STONE ON THE GRAVE OF MAJOR BRUCE CARRUTHERS, THE FOUNDER OF THE SIGNALLING CORPS IN 1903.

289



290

OCTOBER 15th, 1983, 1 SQUADRON WENT TO FORT DRUM, NY FOR A SQUADRON EXERCISE, FOLLOWED BY THE ENTIRE REGIMENT GOING THERE ON THE 14th OF NOVEMBER FOR "EXERCISE MERCURY TREK".

ON THE 22nd OF NOVEMBER TO THE 3rd OF DECEMBER, "EXERCISE RITE SIMPLE X" IN PETAWAWA SAW THE STAFF OFFICERS FROM MOBILE COMMAND IN THE ROLE OF DIVISION HEADQUARTERS DOING A COMMAND POST EXERCISE.

ON JANUARY 22nd, 1984, "EXERCISE STALWART WARRIOR" AT THE STAFF COLLEGE IN TORONTO STARTED THE YEAR. "EX MIDNIGHT PROWLER 84" 16 - 27 JANUARY IN FORT DRUM, USA, WHICH INCLUDED SOLDIERS FROM 30 SIGNAL REGIMENT IN BLANDFORD, ENGLAND, FOR WINTER WARFARE.

291

'EX JAMES FIRST X' 5 - 18 FEBRUARY -- AN LTACS TRAINING EXERCISE WHICH INVOLVED ELEMENTS OF THE REGIMENT, 1 BRIGADE GROUP, SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE AND 5 BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON. VARIOUS SMALLER EXERCISES TOOK PLACE ALONG WITH THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED EXERCISES SUCH AS:

NASTY TUMBLE/NIPPY CHAPTER, 6 - 17 FEBRUARY

EX FOCUS - 20 FEBRUARY TO 5 MARCH

EX NERVE SYSTEM - 20 - 24 FEBRUARY

EX AVALANCHE EXPRESS - 1 - 28 MARCH IN NORWAY

EX CROSSED FLAGS - AN EXCHANGE OF 1(BR) ARMoured DIVISION PERS FOR FLYING FALCON

EX NEBULA JOURNEY - 2 - 13 APRIL

EX PILGRIM PATH - 9 - 18 APRIL

EX PRUDENT STEP - 23 - 26 APRIL

EX NEAR PERFECT, NOBLE LINK, QUESTING SUN AND EX FOCUS IN MAY

292

JUNE 18 - 22 - THE REGIMENTAL SKILL AT ARMS COMPETITION (THE FAIRFAX WEBBER)

ON THE SAME DATES THE REGIMENTAL LONG RANGE PATROL COMPETITION (THE BANKS)

EX FINAL DRIVE AND MERCURY TREK IN JUNE FINISHED OFF THE EXERCISE PERIOD BEFORE BLOCK LEAVE.

ON AUGUST 3rd, THE REGIMENT ACCOMPANIED BY THE VIMY BAND AND THE FIFES AND DRUMS OF THE FORT HENRY GUARD, MARCHED THROUGH THE STREETS OF KINGSTON WITH BAYONETS FIXED AND DRUMS BEATING, EXERCISING ITS RIGHT TO THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY AND PART OF OUR 70th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

293

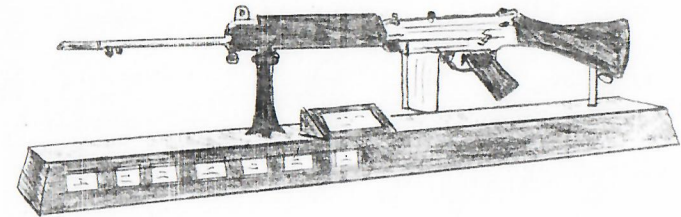
ON 5 AUGUST 84, LCOL PA TAPPIN (CO) MAJ RP BONNER (DCO) AND CAPT JBA BELL (ADJT) PRESENTED A REGIMENTAL FLAG TO THE CHAPEL ON BEHALF OF ALL RANKS OF THE REGIMENT. THE REGIMENT ALSO HELD A CEREMONY AT THE CARRUTHERS GRAVE SITE. THE FIRST OF WHAT WAS TO BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT.

FROM AUGUST TO OCTOBER THE REGIMENT PROVIDED AUGMENTEES AS UMPIRE STAFF TO 4 CMBG IN LAHR. MORE SMALLER EXERCISES IN SEPTEMBER AND FROM THE 19th OF OCTOBER TO THE 10th OF NOVEMBER THE ANNUAL "RITE SIMPLE" AND "RITE DOUBLE".

THE REGIMENTAL COIN WAS CONCEIVED BY THE ADJUTANT CAPTAIN JBA BELL AND DESIGNED BY MCPL E.A. SKETCHER ON 13 OCTOBER.

294

Sutton Trophy



295

THE SUTTON TROPHY WAS INITIATED THIS YEAR AND PRESENTED TO THE REGIMENT BY COLONEL PH SUTTON, THE PRESENT COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT. THE TROPHY IS THE REGIMENTAL WEAPONS CLASSIFICATION TROPHY AND IS TO BE PRESENTED ANNUALLY TO THE TROOP ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST OVERALL SCORE IN THE ANNUAL PERSONAL WEAPONS CLASSIFICATION.

EXERCISE "FINAL DRIVE" AND "EX REFRACTIVE LAYER" ROUNDED OUT THE YEAR.

APPROXIMATELY 100 SOLDIERS WENT TO PETAWAWA FOR THE REGIMENT'S WINTER INDOCTRINATION EXERCISE, EX "MIDNIGHT PROWLER" FROM 14th TO 28th OF JANUARY. DURING THE SAME TIME "EX REFRACTIVE LAYER" AND "STALWART WARRIOR" TOOK PLACE.

296

The Regimental Coin

ON FEBRUARY 16th, THE SHERRITT MINT IN TORONTO WAS CHOSEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO PRODUCE THE REGIMENTAL COIN. 3,000 WERE TO BE MADE OF NICKEL-BONDED STEEL AND SERIALIZED.

THE RAISON D'ETRE OF THE REGIMENTAL COIN IS TO FOSTER REGIMENTAL ESPRIT DE CORPS. THEREFORE, IT SHALL BE CUSTOMARY FOR SERVING AND FORMER MEMBERS TO HAVE THEIR "COIN" ALWAYS ON THEIR PERSON. FAILURE TO PRODUCE THE COIN SHALL ENTAIL A FORFEIT AS NEGOTIATED AT THE TIME (OR GENTLEMANLY AGREED) NORMALLY A ROUND OF DRINKS. IF THE COIN IS PRODUCED, THE CHALLENGER MUST PAY THE FORFEIT. THE COIN IS AVAILABLE TO ALL SERVING AND EX-MEMBERS OF THE SIGNAL REGIMENT AND ALL ITS PRECEDING UNITS REGARDLESS OF THEIR AFFILIATION.

297



298

RV 85

THE RECCE PARTY CONSISTING OF THREE VEHICLES AND FIVE PERSONNEL DEPARTED FOR WAINWRIGHT, ALBERTA ON THE 28th OF MARCH. RV85 WAS THE REGIMENTS MOST SIGNIFICANT UNDERTAKING THIS YEAR. IT INVOLVED THE ROAD, RAIL AND AIR MOVEMENT OF THE ENTIRE REGIMENT SOME 4000 KM.

WE PROVIDED COMMAND AND CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND CONDUCTED FIVE MAJOR EXERCISES IN THE LOCAL TRAINING AREA.

THIS EXERCISE INCLUDED 30 STAFF AND 200 AUGMENTEES FROM THE MILITIA, THE COMMUNICATION COMMAND RESERVE, THE REGIMENTS SISTER UNIT (1 ARMoured DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT) FROM VERDEN, GERMANY AND 4 CMBG HQ & SIGS SQN AND THEIR "PATENSHAFT" UNIT.

299

THE EXERCISES THAT WERE PART OF RV85 WERE:
 "CYGNET GLOBE" 15 - 19 APRIL
 "MAX EFFORT" 22 - 23 APRIL
 "FINAL GLORY" 24 - 26 APRIL
 "RITE SIMPLE XII" 29 APR - 2 MAY
 "RITE DOUBLE II" 4 - 7 MAY

GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING WHICH INCLUDED THE COMPETITIONS FOR THE BANKS TROPHY AND THE FAIRFAX WEBBER TROPHY WERE HELD FROM 10 TO 22 MAY.
 EX "PROUD WARRIOR" 30 MAY - 3 JUNE

THE REDEPLOYMENT TOOK PLACE FROM THE 3RD OF JUNE TO THE 21st.

THE REGIMENTAL COIN WAS COMPLETED ON THE 21st OF JUNE 85 AND WENT ON SALE JUNE 24th.

300

LCOL DRA McLEAN
 CD
 5 JULY 1985
 TO
 7 JULY 1987



301

ON JULY 5th, LIEUTENANT COLONEL P.A. TAPPIN HANDED OVER COMMAND OF THE REGIMENT TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL D.R.A. McLEAN, CD.

GMT IN SEPTEMBER WAS CALLED "MOBILE VENTURE" IN WHICH NEW PERSONNEL WERE INDOCTRINATED INTO THE REGIMENT AND ANOTHER COMPETITION FOR THE BANKS AND FAIRFAX WEBBER TROPHIES. THIS TOOK PLACE FROM THE 3rd TO 13th OF SEPTEMBER, WITH "REFRACTIVE LAYER ON 17 - 19 SEPTEMBER, A COMMUNICATIONS AND MOVEMENT EXERCISE FROM KINGSTON TO PETAWAWA AND THEN DEPLOYED TO VALCARTIER FOR A SERIES OF COMMAND POST EXERCISES.

EX "FOCUS II, (2 SQUADRON) IN GERMANY" AND "NARROW GAP ALONG WITH "PIONEER VOYAGE" ENDED THE YEAR.

302

Regimental Senate

AFTER WINTER INDOCTRINATION IN JANUARY 86, THE REGIMENT PROCEEDED TO DO NO FEWER THAN 42 EXERCISES THIS YEAR ON TOP OF THE VARIOUS OTHER COMMITMENTS WHICH TURNED UP, SUCH AS TECH CONTROL COURSES, RADIO OPERATOR COURSES, CHANGE OF RSM PARADE AND BLOCK LEAVE.

ON THE 21st OF AUGUST THE FIRST REGIMENTAL SENATE MEETING TOOK PLACE. THE SENATE IS A BODY FORMED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE REGIMENTAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE SENATE IS TO PROVIDE, AS NECESSARY, ADVICE, GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE TO THE REC ON ALL MATTERS AFFECTING THE WELL BEING AND GOOD HEALTH OF THE REGIMENT. ITS MAIN TASK IS TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO THE REC,

303

THE SENATE HAS NO EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY. THE SENATE CONSISTS OF PAST COLONELS OF THE REGIMENT, PAST AND PRESENT COMMANDING OFFICERS AND PAST AND PRESENT REGIMENTAL SERGEANTS-MAJOR.

THE CO-CHAIRMEN BEING THE INCUMBENT COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT AND THE SENIOR SERVING MEMBER, THE ADJUTANT IS THE SECRETARY.

ALSO ON THE 21st WAS THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF MERCURY IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING.

THE REC, AT ITS FOURTEENTH MEETING INITIATED THE PROJECT TO FOSTER UNIT SPIRIT AND IDENTITY, AND PROVIDE AND APPROPRIATE MONUMENT TO COMPLEMENT THE CLEMENT BUILDING.

304

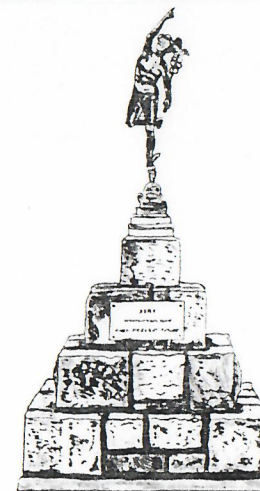
Regimental Statue

THE STATUE WAS PURCHASED IN OCTOBER 1985 FROM THE CASA DEL CORALLO, ITALY. IT WAS PRODUCED IN 1963 BY PROF IPPOLITO, AN AMATEUR ARTISAN, WHO PRODUCED ONE OR TWO SUCH BRONZE STATUES EVERY YEAR AS A HOBBY. OUR STATUE WAS ONE OF THE LAST WORKS BEFORE HIS DEATH IN 1964 AT 73 YEARS OF AGE.

THE PLATE READS

"JIMMY"

1ST CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT
PAST ~ PRESENT ~ FUTURE



305

30th OF SEPTEMBER, 1986, ROUTINE ORDER NUMBER 41 SHOWED THE FOLLOWING ENTRY:

SHORT TITLE - 1st CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT
THE OFFICIAL SHORT TITLE FOR THIS UNIT
IS NOW 1CSR. THE MESSAGE ADDRESS FOR
THE REGIMENT IS ALSO CHANGED TO
REFLECT THE NEW SHORT TITLE

ROUTINE ORDER NO.41
DATED 30 SEP 86
ISSUED BY MAJ CC MacLENNAN
SIGNED BY CAPT JJAY ST PIERRE

MESSAGE CENTRE DR COURSES, CRITICAL NODE ANALYSIS
TRAINING AND COURSES, LRCT COURSES, AND THE
DIVISION COMMANDERS VISIT, INTERSPERSED WITH
EXERCISES AND THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER
FINISHED OF THE YEAR.

306

RV 87

1987 BEGAN WITH WINTER INDOCTRINATION AS USUAL
FOLLOWED BY MORE TECH CONTROL AND RADIO RELAY
COURSES IN BETWEEN 6 SMALLER EXERCISES, THEN
ANOTHER BIG ONE, RV87 AT WAINWRIGHT ON THE 1st OF
APRIL TIL THE 18th OF MAY.

1CSR PROVIDED SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS AT TASK FORCE
HQ LEVEL IN CONJUNCTION WITH 1 BRIGADE AND THE
SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL
SQUADRONS. LRCT DEPLOYED TO WAINWRIGHT THIS TIME.
THE REAR PARTY ARRIVED BACK IN KINGSTON ON THE 12th
OF JUNE. THE SUTTON, BANKS AND WEBBER TROPHY
COMPETITION FOLLOWED.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL T COCKERILL, CD, BECAME THE
NEW COMMANDING OFFICER ON 7 JULY 1987.

307

LCOL T. COCKERILL
CD
7 JULY 1987
TO
7 JULY 1989



308

IN AUGUST THERE WERE LEADERSHIP AND DEFENSIVE
DRIVER COURSES, DRIVER WHEELED, COMBAT STORESMAN
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, LRCT, MLVW AND A DRIVER
COURSE FOR LRCT. FIVE MORE EXERCISES AND THEN
MORE COURSES IN SEPTEMBER.

REUNION 87 TOOK PLACE FROM THE 4th TO 7th OF
SEPTEMBER. THIS ANNIVERSARY MARKED THE 50th OF
VIMY BARRACKS AND THE 35th OF THE APPRENTICE
PROGRAM AND 1 LINE TROOP. THE REUNION WAS AGAIN
HOSTED BY THE REGIMENT.

THERE WERE 14 MORE TROOP, SQUADRON AND
REGIMENTAL EXERCISES BETWEEN HERE AND CHRISTMAS
COMBINED WITH PENITENTIARY ASSISTANCE TRAINING
AND THE COMMANDERS VISIT.

309

JANUARY 1988 THE REGIMENT WAS TASKED TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT (LRCT) TO THE JOINT TASK FORCE (ARMY/NAVY) THAT WAS FORMED IN THE EVENT THAT CANADIANS RESIDING IN HAITI MIGHT REQUIRE ASSISTANCE OR EVACUATION.

WINTER INDOCTRINATION FOLLOWED IN JANUARY ALONG WITH A COMMAND POST EXERCISE. LRCT WENT TO NORWAY IN FEBRUARY, 2 SQUADRON TO GERMANY, THE REST ON WINTER EXERCISES IN CANADA.

SPRING BROUGHT ON THE MARCH FOR THE BANKS, THE BATTLE EFFICIENCY TESTING, THE SUTTON AND FAIRFAX WEBBER COMPETITIONS.

MAY 9th THE REGIMENT MOUNTED A GUARD OF HONOR FOR QUEEN BEATRIX OF HOLLAND, RIDEAU HALL, OTTAWA.

310

Repatriation Of The Bones

IN JUNE OF 1988, MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT WENT TO FORT ERIE, ONTARIO TO TAKE PART IN A RATHER UNIQUE EVENT. IN A SOLEMN BUT COLOURFUL REPATRIATION CEREMONY, THE BONES OF 28 NAMELESS U.S. SOLDIERS KILLED IN THE WAR OF 1812 AND BURIED AT SNAKE HILL WERE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMETLAND FOR REBURIAL, 174 YEARS AFTER THEY DIED IN ACTION.

TAKING PART IN THE CEREMONY WERE THE FT. ERIE GUARD, THE FT. MYER OLD GUARD FIFE & DRUM CORPS CEREMONIAL GUARD, THE LINCOLN AND WELAND RIFLES AND THE ARLINGTON CEREMONIAL GUARD. THE REGIMENT PROVIDED THE GUARD OF HONOUR. ONCE RETURNED TO THE AMERICANS THE REMAINS WERE INTERRED AT BATH NATIONAL CEMETERY. THE FUNERAL PROCESSION WAS THE LONGEST IN US MILITARY HISTORY, CLOSING THE PEACE BRIDGE WHILE IT CROSSED OVER.

311

Regimental Bursary

JUNE 4 THE ANNUAL ACADEMIC BURSARY WAS INITIATED. THE BURSARY IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR DESERVING CANDIDATES ENTERING A PROGRAM OF POST SECONDARY EDUCATION. THIS INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO UNIVERSITY, COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

THE BURSARY IS OPEN TO ALL DEPENDENT CHILDREN OR SPOUSES OF PRESENT AND FORMER SERVING MEMBERS OF THE SIGNAL REGIMENT. A FORMER MEMBER MUST HAVE HAD AT LEAST ONE YEAR CONTINUOUS SERVICE WITH THE REGIMENT TO QUALIFY. THE BURSARY WILL BE AWARDED BASED ON THE CANDIDATES SCHOLASTIC ABILITY AND PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES. THE AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE WILL CONSIST OF NO LESS THAN 3 MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

312

REGEN GD SIMPSON
 OMM, CD
 24 JUNE 1988
 TO
 9 NOVEMBER 1990



313

Op Vagabond

24 JUNE 1988 COLONEL P.H. SUTTON, CD, (RETIRED) RELINQUISHED THE APPOINTMENT OF COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL G.D. SIMPSON, OMM, CD, (RETIRED).

IN JULY THE REGIMENT MANNED THE CONNAUGHT RANGES. ON AUGUST 12th, LRCT DEPLOYED ON "OP VAGABOND", THE PERSIAN GULF. (UNIIMOG).

1CSR SUPPLIED 31 PERSONNEL TO AUGMENT 88 SIGNAL SQUADRON, WHICH EXPANDED SO MUCH THAT IT WAS REORGANIZED INTO A REGIMENT UPON ARRIVAL. KNOWN AS 88 CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT (88 CSR) IT WAS COMPOSED OF 881 SIG SQN IN IRAN AND 882 SIG SQN IN IRAQ, BAGDAD SIGNAL TROOP (WITH THE NRL - NATIONAL REAR LINK) AND SUPPORT SQUADRON.

314

FROM SEPTEMBER TIL DECEMBER NUMEROUS SQUADRON, TROOP AND THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED REGIMENTAL EXERCISES TOOK PLACE.

1988 WAS AN OFF-RV YEAR DURING WHICH THE CYCLE OF COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL TRAINING CONTINUED. THE FORMATION OF 1 CANADIAN DIVISION HEADQUARTERS ON 1 SEPTEMBER FOLLOWED BY SIGNIFICANT ESTABLISHMENT CHANGES TO FULFILL ITS OPERATIONAL ROLE AS A DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS SIGNAL REGIMENT.

JANUARY 1989 OPENED WITH THE ANNUAL WINTER WARFARE COURSE, FOLLOWED BY THE REGIMENTAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LECTURES FOR THE OFFICERS AND SENIOR NCO'S, REC AND ARMED FORCES COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION (AFCEA) MEETINGS.

315

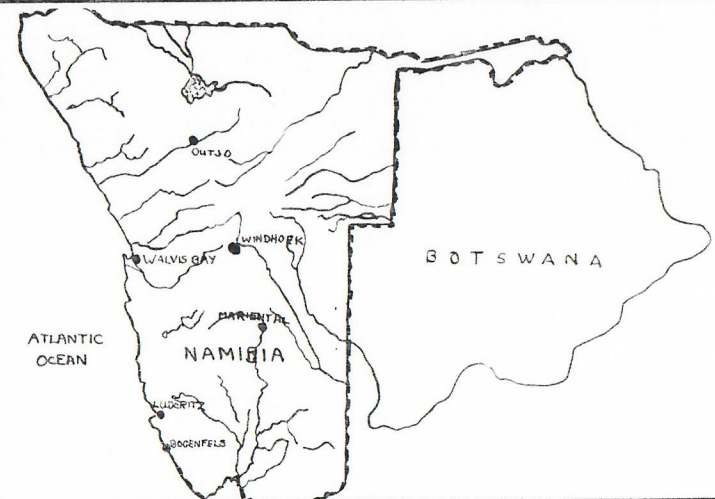
Op Matador

FOUR SQUADRON AND REGIMENTAL EXERCISES, WINTER INDOCTRINATION HELPED TO FILL FEBRUARY AND MARCH A FEW SMALL EXERCISES AND THE ANNUAL COMPETITIONS (BANKS, SUTTON & FAIRFAX WEBBER).

APRIL 3 HAD THE REGIMENT MOUNTING A 100-MAN GUARD FOR THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, MME SAUVE, AT THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

IN THE MEANTIME, K TROOP (LRCT) HAD LEFT FOR "OP MATADOR (CCUNTAG) NAMIBIA. 11 MEN AND TERMINAL #2 LEFT ON MARCH 26th AND 27th AND LANDED AT THE AIRPORT IN WINDHOEK ON THE 28th AND 29th WHERE THEY SET UP A TEMPORARY COMPLEX AT THE FAIRGROUNDS. THE DATE OF THEIR RETURN WILL BE THE 15th OF JANUARY 1990.

316



317

RV 89

THE REGIMENT PARTICIPATED EXTENSIVELY IN RV 89 IN WAINWRIGHT, ALBERTA, ACTING AS THE DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS SIGNAL REGIMENT. THE REGIMENT WAS COMPLETE AND ON THE GROUND BY APRIL 11th WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 2 SQUADRON, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH REMAINED IN KINGSTON FOR A MAY DEPLOYMENT TO GERMANY.

THE REGIMENT CONDUCTED VARIOUS TYPES OF TRAINING BESIDES THE EXERCISES, THESE INCLUDED: RAPPELLING, NAVIGATION, PERSONAL WEAPONS, NBCD AND RADIO RELAY REBROADCAST.

2 SQUADRON WENT TO GERMANY ON LIVE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING EXERCISES WITH THE 701st MI BRIGADE (US ARMY) IN AUGSBURG, WEST GERMANY IN MAY.

318

ON 10 MAY 89 THE FIRST FEMALE RADIO OPERATOR PTE MGD LALIBERTE WAS POSTED TO THE REGIMENT.

EXERCISE RV 89 CAME TO AN END AND EXERCISE COMMUNICATIONS WERE CLOSED DOWN BY THE 1st OF JUNE AND THEN THE REDEPLOYMENT TO KINGSTON FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS BY AIR, RAIL AND ROAD.

COMMAND OF THE REGIMENT WAS PASSED FROM LCOL T COCKERILL TO LCOL D.L. DEMPSTER ON THE 7th OF JULY 1989.

FROM THE 23rd OF JULY TO THE 5th OF AUGUST APPROXIMATELY 20 VEHICLES AND 80 PERSONNEL WERE PROVIDED FOR THE CANADIAN FORCES SMALL ARMS COMPETITION AT THE CONNAUGHT RANGES NEAR OTTAWA AS RANGE SAFETY OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE

319

LCOL DL DEMPSTER
CD
7 JULY 1989
TO
28 JUNE 1991



320

SUPPORT STAFF.

ON 1 AUGUST THE ORGANIZATION OF 1CSR WAS CHANGED IN PREPARATION FOR ITS NEW ROLE IN SUPPORT OF 1 CANADIAN DIVISION HEADQUARTERS.

FOR THE NEXT THREE WEEKS FOUR COURSES AND TWO SMALL EXERCISES WERE RUN.

ON THE 25th OF AUGUST THE REGIMENT TOOK TIME OUT TO CELEBRATE ITS 75th BIRTHDAY BY HAVING A MESS DINNER .

ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, A SMALL CEREMONY IN FORT FRONTENAC CALLED A RED PATCH PARADE SIGNIFYING THE REGIMENT BECOMING A PART OF 1 CANADIAN DIVISION.

321

THE REVIEWING OFFICER WAS MAJOR GENERAL J,K. DANGERFIELD. THE REGIMENT THEN MOVED OFF TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON BY PARADING TO CITY HALL AND THEN THROUGH THE STREETS. AN OPEN HOUSE AND REGIMENTAL FAMILY DAY FOLLOWED THE PARADE.

ON AUGUST 27th THE REGIMENT SET UP AN OPEN HOUSE DISPLAY IN KINGSTONS CITY PARK FOR THE PUBLIC TO VIEW SOME OF OUR EQUIPMENT.

THE REGIMENTAL POSTER WAS AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME ON AUGUST 28th. AS PART OF THE RE-CONFIGURATION OF THE REGIMENT TWO NEW ORGANIZATIONS WERE FORMED. THE FIRST WAS 4 SQUADRON WHOSE ROLE WOULD BE LTACS ...

322

(LAND TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATION SYSTEM) AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS TROOP (IS TP) WHOSE ROLE, SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPUTERS TO THE REGIMENT, WOULD BE TO PROVIDE LOCAL AREA AND WIDE AREA NETWORKING FOR THE DIVISION AND ALL TRAINING FOR BOTH USER AND SUPPORT STAFF. THIS BECAME OFFICIAL IN SEPTEMBER OF 1989.

ANNUAL GMT FOLLOWED FROM 17 TO 28 SEPTEMBER WITH MAXIMUM EFFORT IN OCTOBER TAKING PLACE IN KINGSTON AND PETAWAWA.

DURING MAXIMUM EFFORT THE WARNING ORDER FOR "OP SULTAN" (UN MILITARY OBSERVER FORCE CENTRAL AMERICA) WAS RECEIVED.

323

Op Sultan

THE INITIAL TASKING WAS FOR A SIGNAL SQUADRON OF 50 TO 60 PERSONNEL AND A MANNED LRCT POD. SCREENING FOR THIS EMPLOYMENT COMMENCED ON 30 OCTOBER.

FROM HERE TO THE END OF THE YEAR ONLY TWO MORE EXERCISES TOOK PLACE INTERMIXED WITH PAC TRAINING (PENITENTIARY ASSISTANCE), PARADES, INSPECTIONS AND DAG (DEPARTURE ASSISTANCE GROUP) TO ENSURE ALL PERSONNEL WERE FIT OPERATIONALLY, MEDICALLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY FOR OVERSEAS DUTY.

1990 BEGAN AS USUAL WITH WINTER WARFARE INDOCTRINATION, WHERE SOLDIERS WERE TAUGHT NOT ONLY TO SURVIVE IN WINTER BUT HOW TO CONTINUE TO WORK EFFECTIVELY.

324



325

FROM THE 14th TO 19th OF JANUARY WO BANKS WENT TO TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS FOR A RECCE. THE FOLLOWING FEW WEEKS WERE SPENT LOADING EQUIPMENT INTO SEA CONTAINERS. THE TERMINAL WAS THEN TRANSPORTED TO MONTREAL FOR LOADING ON A SHIP.

ON FEBRUARY 4th THE WHOLE CREW (16 PERSONNEL) DEPARTED FOR PETAWAWA FOR ANOTHER DAG AND BRIEFINGS BEFORE DEPARTING FROM TORONTO ON THE 12th. THE CREW MOVED INTO AN APARTMENT BUILDING AND DID A BIT OF SIGHTSEEING WHILE WAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THE SHIP. FINALLY ON THE 10th AND 11th OF MARCH THEY STARTED SETTING UP ON THE CIVILIAN SIDE OF THE AIRPORT.

DAILY TEMPERATURES AVERAGED 45 DEGREES CELSIUS AND EQUIPMENT OVERHEATED.

326

A "HEAT LOG" WAS KEPT WHICH WAS USED BY THE UNIT MEDICAL OFFICER TO JUSTIFY THE PROCUREMENT OF AIR CONDITIONING. WITH THE PROBLEMS RESOLVED THEY SETTLED DOWN TO ROUTINE WORKING UNTIL THE 24th OF MARCH. AT THIS TIME THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE AREA WAS TO BE LEVELED AND PAVED SO THEY HAD TO FIND ANOTHER SITE. FOR A WEEK FOLLOWING THEY WERE BACK TO WORKING THE SATELLITE IN THE 89 (CDN) RWAU (ROTARY WING AVIATION UNIT) ORDERLY ROOM.

A SITE WAS FOUND AND THE MOVE WAS CARRIED OUT ON MARCH 31st, SETUP COMPLETED BY APRIL 1st. MEANWHILE BACK IN CANADA, THE PERSONNEL FROM "OP MATADOR" RETURNED FROM NAMIBIA ON JANUARY 15th.

1 FEBRUARY 90 THE METAL SHOULDER FLASHES AND

327

BUTTONS WERE AUTHORIZED FOR THE LAND ELEMENT UNIFORMS.

SIGNALS

SHOULDER FLASH



BUTTON

A PARADE WAS HELD TO MARK THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST DAY THESE ACCOUTREMENTS COULD BE WORN. THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF FEBRUARY WERE SPENT ON VARIOUS COURSES, RADIO RELAY, FIRST AID ETC., THEN A FEW EXERCISES (REFRACTIVE LAYER IV, NIMBLE STRIDE). AS OF THE 1st OF MARCH THERE ARE 13 FEMALE OPERATORS IN THE REGIMENT AND MORE TO FOLLOW.

328

MARCH 22nd 1CSR IS OFFICIALLY RENAMED THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT (1CDHSR).

"MAX EFFORT", "RITE SHAPE" AND "RITE SIMPLE", THREE MAJOR EXERCISES WITH THE DIVISION HEADQUARTERS BETWEEN KINGSTON, PETAWAWA AND VALCARTIER TOOK CARE OF THE MONTH OF APRIL. IN MID MAY THREE SECTIONS OF TROOPS WENT TO RESOLUTE BAY ON EXERCISE PRACTISING WINTER SURVIVAL, PATROLLING BY SNOWMOBILE AND MAINTAINING COMMUNICATIONS. "EX MERCURY STRIDE" STRETCHED ACROSS MOST OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO INCLUDING BORDEN, TORONTO, NORTH BAY, TRENTON, KINGSTON, BROCKVILLE, CARP AND OTTAWA. THE EXERCISE INCLUDED RADIO RELAY LINKS INTO THE AUTOMATED DEFENCE DATA NETWORK (ADDN) AND CNR COMMUNICATIONS.

329

A NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS A 260 KM RADIO RELAY PATH WITH REPEATERS WAS ACHIEVED WITH THE LONGEST SINGLE LINK BEING 178 KM ACROSS LAKE ONTARIO.

THERE ALSO CAME AT THE SAME TIME "FINAL GLORY" AND ONE CALLED "SILBER BIBER", THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE WAS TO PROVIDE THE DIVISION ENGINEER GROUP THE MEANS AND ABILITY TO PRACTICE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF THE DIVISION ENGINEERS ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN RECONFIGURED FOR DEPLOYMENT TO WAR.

JUNE IS THE MONTH ALLOTTED THIS YEAR FOR THE COMPETITIONS AND VARIOUS COURSES. ON THE 11th 3 SQUADRON WAS DISSOLVED.

THE REGIMENTAL SENATE VOTED IN THE REGIMENTAL

330

Op Salon

PRAYER AT A MEETING ON THE 15th OF JUNE.

1 AND 3 SQUADRONS WERE AMALGAMATED DURING THE PERIOD 11 - 15 JUNE TO FORM A NEW 1 SQUADRON.

THIS NEW SQUADRON IS MADE UP OF "A" (DIVISION MAIN HEADQUARTERS), B (DIVISION ALTERNATE HEADQUARTERS), AND D (DIVISION REAR HEADQUARTERS) TROOPS. TROOPS WERE PROVIDED AGAIN FOR THE CONNAUGHT RANGES FROM THE 21st OF JULY TO 20th OF AUGUST.

ON THE 18th OF JULY SOLDIERS FROM SEVERAL PARTS OF THE REGIMENT WERE TASKED TO SUPPORT THE RESTORATION OF ORDER DURING THE MOHAWK CRISIS IN MONTREAL NAMED "OPERATION SALON" THE 2 SQUADRON RECCE PARTY LEFT ON THE 18th AND THE MAIN BODY ON THE 21st.

331

THE SOLDIERS WERE INVOLVED IN SEARCHES FOR WEAPON CACHES, MAINTAINING THE PUBLIC ORDER, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MANY OTHER PUBLIC AND NOT-SO-PUBLIC ACTIVITIES. OUR PERSONNEL WERE EMPLOYED IN BOTH OKA AND KAHNAWAKE FROM MID-AUGUST TO MID-OCTOBER.

WHEN THE BARRICADES WERE FINALLY DOWN AND THE MOHAWK WARRIORS, THEIR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND JOURNALISTS WERE ISOLATED IN THE OKA TREATMENT CENTRE, IT ALL CAME TO AN ABRUPT END.

ON 26th SEPTEMBER, AN AGREEMENT WAS ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE WARRIORS AND THE MILITARY. THEY ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE TAKEN INTO MILITARY CUSTODY PROVIDED THEY WERE NOT TAKEN BY THE QPP AFTERWARDS.

332

WHEN THE BUSES ARRIVED IN FRONT OF THE DRIVEWAY LEADING TO THE TREATMENT CENTRE, CHAOS BROKE OUT. THE MOHAWKS TRIED TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE RAZOR WIRE. MOST OF THEM WERE CAPTURED BY THE SOLDIERS SURROUNDING THE CENTRE, BUT A FEW DID MANGE TO GET AWAY, ONLY TO BE CAPTURED LATER.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM MND CAME IN A MESSAGE ON THE 22nd OF NOVEMBER 1990



333

Regimental Prayer

JULY 24, 1990, BOTH CHAPLAINS GENERAL APPROVED THE REGIMENTAL PRAYER OF THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT.

Eternal God, the Living Word sustain by the power of your Spirit the members of our Signal Regiment. May the words that they communicate with speed, accuracy and vigilance contribute to reconciliation which leads to peace and justice throughout the world. Be their strength in times of trial. Stand as guardian over their welfare and that of their loved ones. In the name of the Giver of Peace we pray.

Amen

Dieu eternel, Parole de Vie, Soutiens par la puissance de ton Esprit les membres de votre Regiment de Signaleurs. Puissent les messages qu'ils transmettent avec vitesse, precision et vigilance contribuer a la reconciliation qui mene a la paix et a la justice dans le monde. Sois leur force dans les moments difficiles. Assure leur bien-etre et prends soin de ceux qui leur sont chers. Au nom de Celui qui donne la paix nous te prions.

Amen

334

"EXERCISE ROYAL SWORD" WAS A DIVISIONAL COMMAND POST EXERCISE CONDUCTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 4 SEPTEMBER TO 28 OCTOBER IN GERMANY. ON THE 12th OF SEPTEMBER THE REGIMENT DEPLOYED TO THE SCHWEPPERMAN KASERNE IN AMBERG TO SUPPORT THE DIVISION HEADQUARTERS.

COMMUNICATIONS, QUARTERS AND HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES WERE PROVIDED TO THE DIVISION STAFF FOR THE EXERCISE DURATION. ALL PERSONNEL WERE REDEPLOYED BY 26th OF OCTOBER.

MEANWHILE ON OCTOBER 1st A BUS LEFT FOR TRENTON WITH 13 PERSONNEL FROM K TROOP (LRCT) AND TERMINAL #3 TO BE AIRLIFTED TO DOHA, BAHRAIN, AIRPORT FOR "OPERATION SCIMITAR". ON OCTOBER 4th THEY LEFT FOR

335

Operation Scimitar

THEIR SITE IN QATAR. THE SITE HAD BEEN A MIGRANT WORKERS CAMP AND A SCRAP METAL YARD WAS CLEANED UP AND THE LRCT COMM CENTRE WAS SET UP. DAILY AVERAGE TEMPERATURES WERE IN THE 40s AND DESPITE HAVING TO WEAR GLOVES TO TOUCH THE HOT METAL OF THE ANTENNAS AND FREQUENT STOPS TO CONSUME HUGE QUANTITIES OF WATER THE REAR LINK WAS SET UP AND NAMED CANADA DRY ONE.

A DAILY ROUTINE WAS SOON FIXED AND THE 18 HOUR DAYS OF WORK WERE LOWERED. ON 9 JANUARY THE MESSAGE EVERYONE WAS WAITING FOR CAME IN.

SOON THE LRCT TERMINAL AND EQUIPMENT LEFT WITH THE CREW FOLLOWING ON THE 18th AND 24th OF JANUARY 1991.

336

Operation Accord/Friction

"OPERATION ACCORD"/"FRICTION" - 25 OCTOBER 1990. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE IN-THEATRE COMMAND AND CONTROL FOR NAVAL AND AIR FORCES DEPLOYED TO THE PERSIAN GULF TO ENFORCE THE UNITED NATION S EMBARGO AGAINST IRAQ, 90 (CA) HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON WAS CREATED.

1 CDHSR WAS MADE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING THE NEW UNIT WHICH WAS TO BE MOUNTED AT CFB KINGSTON. THE DEPUTY COMMANDING OFFICER, MAJOR D.L. CYR, WITH A SMALL "EX ROYAL SWORD" REAR PARTY, CONDUCTED NBC DEFENCE, FIRST AID, WEAPONS AND COMMUNICATION REFRESHER TRAINING FOR THE NEW UNIT.

IN ADDITION THE REGIMENT PROVIDED TWO LONG RANGE COMMUNICATION ...

337

TERMINALS COMPLETE WITH 30 PERSONNEL TO MAN THEM. "OP ACCORD" WENT TO BAHRAIN AND "FRICTION" WENT TO QATAR.

AFFILIATIONS BETWEEN CANADIAN FORCES UNITS ARE BASED ON A HISTORICAL OR GEOGRAPHICAL LINK BETWEEN UNITS WHOSE CLOSE TIES HAVE DEVELOPED THROUGH THEIR COMBINED PARTICIPATION IN OPERATIONS OR TRAINING OR BY REGULAR EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL ON EXERCISE, SPECIAL MEETS, PARADES OR COMPETITIONS.

ON 6 NOVEMBER A MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AUTHORIZING THE FOLLOWING CF AFFILIATIONS.

709 COMM REGIMENT (TORONTO) TO 4 SQUADRON
705 COMM SQUADRON (HAMILTON) TO 1 SQUADRON
RESERVE EW SQUADRON (KINGSTON) TO 2 SQUADRON

338



339

COLONEL B.J. BENNETT
CD
9 NOVEMBER 1990
TO
12 MAY 1994



340

ON NOVEMBER 9th BRIGADIER GENERAL G.D. SIMPSON, MMM, CD RELINQUISHED HIS APPOINTMENT AS COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT TO COLONEL B.J. BENNETT, CD.

THE FINAL TWO EXERCISES OF THE YEAR WERE "MAXIMUM EFFORT" 19 TO 30 NOVEMBER AND "MOMENTARY PAUSE" 3 TO 12 DECEMBER 1990.

JANUARY 1991 STARTED OFF AS PER NORMAL WITH WINTER INDOCTRINATION ON "MIDNIGHT PROWLER".

THE MEN OF K TROOP RETURNED FROM "OP SCIMITAR" ON THE 24th.

FIRST AID AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS COURSES WERE COMPLETED FOR JANUARY AND ...

341

FEBRUARY WAS USED ENTIRELY FOR COURSES:

RADIO RELAY, TECHNICAL CONTROLLER, TECHNICAL SYSTEM CONTROLLER, COMMAND POST OPERATOR, QUALIFICATION LEVEL 4 TRAINING FOR RADIO OPERATORS AND ADMINISTRATION CLERKS. STAFF INSPECTION AND THE COMMANDERS VISIT PUT FEBRUARY BEHIND THEM. MARCH WAS A MONTH OF THE SAME, MLVW, FIRST AID AND COMBAT STOREMAN COURSES.

"OP FRICTION" ENDED ON MAR 15th AND EVERYONE RETURNED HOME.

APRIL WAS EXERCISE MONTH WITH "PROGRESS PRONTO", "RITE DOUBLE", "OMEGA STRIKE", MERCURY SIMPLE" AND "NIMBLE STRIDE", ALL SQUADRON EXERCISES.

343

A "MAXIMUM EFFORT" FROM 21 TO 31 MAY TOOK THE REGIMENT TO MEAFORD IN A PROGRESSIVE ADVANCE, UTILIZING ALL SUB UNITS OF THE REGIMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE DIVISION.

JUNE WAS PICKED THIS YEAR FOR THE COMPETITIONS (SUTTON, BANKS AND FAIRFAX WEBBER) AND A CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE ON THE 28th. 28 JUNE 1991, LCOL D. DEMPSTER RELINQUISHED COMMAND OF THE REGIMENT TO LCOL J.I. HOLSWORTH.

THE REGIMENT AGAIN PROVIDED SUPPORT TO THE CANADIAN FORCES SMALL ARMS COMPETITION AT THE CONNAUGHT RANGES FROM 18 TO 31 JULY. THIS YEAR THE REGIMENT CONTRIBUTED A RIFLE TEAM AND A PISTOL TEAM. THE RIFLE TEAM PLACED 5th OF 13th AND 10th OF 11th FOR THE PISTOL TEAM.

342

Tournay Hall

16 MAY 1991 SAW THE DEDICATION OF THE REGIMENTS JUNIOR RANKS QUARTERS AS TOURNAY HALL.

WO1 W.E. TOURNAY WAS THE RSM OF 5 SIGNAL SQUADRON AND 1 SIGNAL UNIT, PREDECESSORS OF 1 CANADIAN DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT, FROM 26 MAY 1959 UNTIL 20 APRIL 1964.

MRS. BEA CATTELL (RSM TOURNAYS DAUGHTER) WAS PRESENT FOR THE CEREMONY WHICH INVOLVED AN INSPECTION OF THE GUARD, A DEDICATION SPEECH, A BLESSING BY THE PADRES, UNVEILING A PLAQUE INSIDE, A SPEECH BY MRS CATTELL, PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND THE DEPARTURE OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY.

AS OF 16 MAY 91, BUILDING B76 IS OFFICIALLY NAMED TOURNAY HALL

344

LCOL J.I. HOLSWORTH
CD
28 JUNE 1991
TO
17 JUNE 1993



345

EX Royal Alliance

2 EXERCISES IN AUGUST AND IN SEPTEMBER THE REGIMENT PREPARED FOR GERMANY AGAIN. THE REGIMENT PROVIDED 13 PERSONNEL FROM 1 TO 19 SEPTEMBER IN SUPPORT OF THE ANNUAL FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE IN GERMANY. UPON COMPLETION THE PERSONNEL REMAINED IN GERMANY AND JOINED THE REGIMENT FOR "EXERCISE ROYAL ALLIANCE" WHICH TOOK PLACE FROM 18 TO 29 SEPTEMBER.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1945 THAT A CANADIAN DIVISION WAS UNDER OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF A CORPS-LEVEL HEADQUARTERS. IN THIS CASE, THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION WAS UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF 2 (GERMAN) KORPS. THIS EXERCISE WAS AIMED AT EXERCISING THE DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND CONFIRMING THE OPERABILITY BETWEEN THE GERMAN AND CANADIAN INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

346

A MEDALS PARADE WAS HELD ON 4 OCTOBER FOR MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT AND DIV HEADQUARTERS WHO SERVED IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

ANOTHER "MAXIMUM EFFORT" AND AN LRCT EXERCISE CALLED "EXERCISE SIGNET GLOBE", HELD FROM 30 OCTOBER TO 8 NOVEMBER AND INVOLVED WORLDWIDE HF COMMUNICATIONS WITH GIBRALTAR, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

NOVEMBER WAS USED FOR UDEC TRAINING, FIRST AID COURSES, AIR BRAKE TRAINING AND SENIOR NCO TRAINING DEVELOPMENT.

"EXERCISE FINAL DRIVE" FROM 4 TO 10 DECEMBER AND "RITE SIMPLE" IN CALGARY TO PREPARE 1 BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS FOR RV 92.

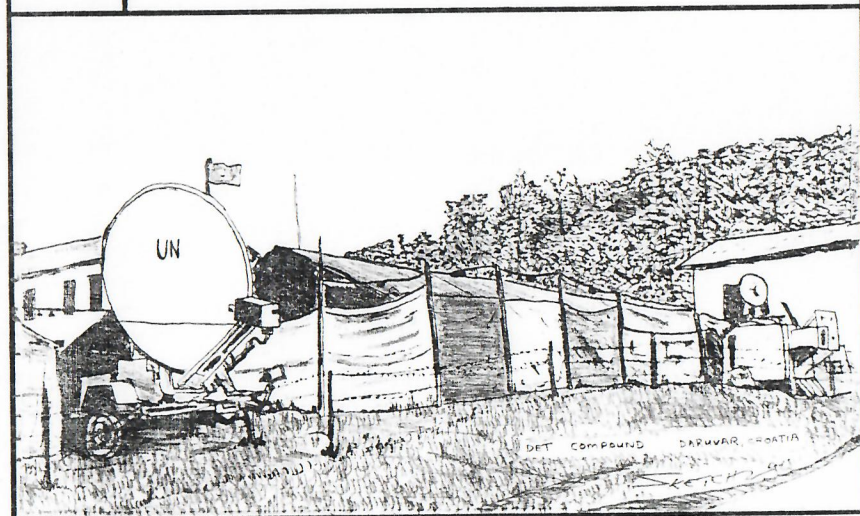
347

AFTER THE WINTER INDOCTRINATION EXERCISE "MIDNIGHT PROWLER" IN MEAFORD FROM 13 TO 23 JANUARY, THE CDS (CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF) VISITED. THE VISIT INCLUDED DISPLAYS BY 1 AND 2 SQUADRON. FEBRUARY SAW MORE COURSES: LRCT, DRIVER WHEELED, RADIO RELAY ETC., AND TWO SQUADRON EXERCISES.

K TROOP WAS AGAIN CALLED TO SUPPLY A TERMINAL AND 7 PERSONNEL TO "OP HARMONY" IN YUGOSLAVIA (UNPROFOR).

ON 21st OF MARCH TERMINAL #1 AND THE PERSONNEL LEFT KINGSTON. THE LAST LEG OF THE TRIP FROM GERMANY TO YUGOSLAVIA WAS BY TRAIN. THEY LEFT GERMANY ON THE 6th OF APRIL AND BY THE 8th THEY WERE IN DARUVAR, YUGOSLAVIA.

348



349

RO 92

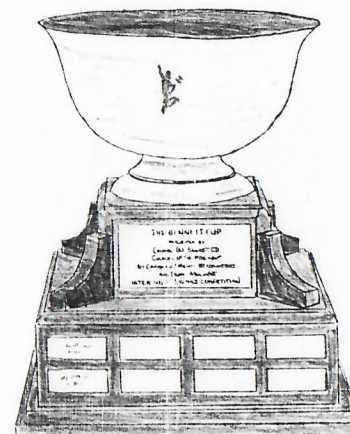
THE PRE-ADVANCE PARTY LEFT FOR WAINWRIGHT ON 8 APRIL AND ON THE 11th AND 12th THE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT WERE LOADED ON TRAINS. THE ADVANCE PARTY LEFT ON THE 18th AND THE MAIN BODY BETWEEN APRIL 23rd AND 26th.

WITH AUGMENTEES THE STRENGTH OF THE REGIMENT INCREASED TO APPROXIMATELY 1000. ON MAY 5th THE FIRST COMPETITION FOR THE NEWEST REGIMENTAL TROPHY, THE BENNETT CUP TOOK PLACE.

THE COMPETITION CONSISTED OF SEVEN STANDS WHICH TESTED BOTH GENERAL MILITARY SKILLS AND SIGNAL FIELD TRADE SKILLS OF THE TEAMS FROM 5QGET, 1CBG SIGNALS AND THE REGIMENT. THE FIRST WINNER WAS 1 BRIGADE HQ & SIGNALS.

350

Bennett Cup



351

DURING RV92 PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED IN VARIOUS TYPES OF MILITARY TRAINING SUCH AS PERSONAL WEAPONS, M72 AND 84MM TRAINING, GRENADE AND RAPPEL TRAINING. THERE WAS ALSO ENOUGH TIME TO DO THE FAIRFAX-WEBBER AND BANKS COMPETITIONS ON THE 8th AND 16th OF MAY. THE REDEPLOYMENT WAS COMPLETED BY JUNE 10th.

ON THE 19th OF JUNE THE REGIMENT CONDUCTED A SUNSET CEREMONY AT OLD FORT HENRY IN KINGSTON. THE PARADE WAS CUT SHORT DUE TO A VERY HEAVY RAINFALL. A VERY WET RECEPTION WAS HELD AFTER FOR ALL SPECTATORS AND PARTICIPANTS.

WHILE MOST WERE ON LEAVE, 1 SQUADRON PROVIDED PERSONNEL FOR THE CONNAUGHT RANGES. THIS YEAR THE REGIMENT ENTERED TWO TEAMS, A FOUR MAN PISTOL TEAM

352

AND A 5 MAN RIFLE TEAM. THE RIFLE TEAM FINISHED THIRD OUT OF FIVE FOR THE MINOR UNIT CATEGORY.

FUNERAL SERVICES WERE HELD ON THE 28th OF JULY FOR OUR FORMER COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT, COLONEL JGB KNOWLTON. ALL AVAILABLE REGIMENTAL PERSONNEL WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

ADVENTURE TRAINING WAS CONDUCTED BY EACH SQUADRON FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, SOME ON CANOE TRIPS IN ALGONQUIN PARK, DOWN THE RIDEAU RIVER, DOWN THE TRENT RIVER AND OTHERS HIKING IN KILLARNY PROVINCIAL PARK.

SOME OTHERS CONDUCTED A DEMONSTRATION IN GANANOQUE FOR THE FESTIVAL OF THE ISLANDS, 13 TO 23 AUGUST.

353

ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1992 K TROOP (LONG RANGE COMMUNICATION TERMINAL TROOP) WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE REGIMENT AND LAND FORCES COMMAND TO COMMUNICATION COMMAND, 79 COMMUNICATION REGIMENT.

THE REGIMENT WENT ON 3 EXERCISES DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, "MOBILE VENTURE", "ORIENT III", AND "RITE BASIC VI".

OCTOBER WAS FILLED WITH MORE COURSES, RADIO RELAY, DRIVER WHEELED AND TECHNICAL CONTROL COURSES AND ALSO A SIGNAL SUBALTERN'S COURSE, WHERE A NUMBER OF SUBALTERN'S FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY WERE INTRODUCED TO THE HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF BOTH SIGNALS AND THE REGIMENT.

354

A GRAVESITE CEREMONY WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 24th TO HONOUR MAJOR BRUCE CARRUTHERS, FOUNDER OF THE SIGNALLING CORPS.

THIS CEREMONY HAS NOW BECOME A TRADITION AT THE REGIMENT, ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN THE TEXT EACH YEAR, THE CEREMONY HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT EVERY YEAR ON OR ABOUT THE REGIMENTAL BIRTHDAY OR THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORPS.

ON OCTOBER 16th 1992, AFTER 35 YEARS OF NATO SERVICE 4 CANADIAN MECHANIZED BRIGADE GROUP (4CMBG) WAS DISSOLVED. 4 CMBG SIGNAL SQUADRON WAS ONCE "L" TROOP OF THE 1st CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT BACK IN 1957 AND EVEN FURTHER BACK WHEN

355

1 CSR ABSORBED THE SIGNAL SQUADRON OF 27 CANADIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE, RENAMING THEM J AND E TROOPS. IN 1968 4 CMBG WAS FORMED AND WITH IT "L" TROOP WAS RENAMED 4 SIGNAL SQUADRON. DURING A PARADE IN LAHR THE CO OF 4 CMBG HQ & SIG SQN PRESENTED THE COLOURS OF THE SQUADRON TO OUR COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT.

THE FOLLOWING WEEK THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT PRESENTED THE COLOURS TO THE CO OF THE REGIMENT.

THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF OCTOBER WERE USED FOR SQUADRON EXERCISES. COMPUTER COURSES (INTRODUCTION, BASIC WORD PERFECT, BASIC LOTUS ETC) WERE THE ACTIVITIES FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF ...

356

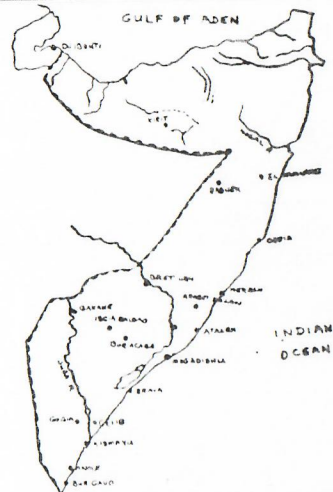
Operation Deliverance

NOVEMBER BEFORE "MAX EFFORT" CAME ALONG FROM THE 12th TO 20th. ALL SQUADRONS PARTICIPATED IN THE EXERCISE DURING WHICH 4 SQUADRON SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AN LTACS SHOT FROM KINGSTON TO OTTAWA.

THE REGIMENT BEGAN PREPARATIONS FOR "OP DELIVERANCE" IN DECEMBER. THE RECCE PARTY, MAJOR G. DAWSON AND 4 OR 5 MEN ARRIVED IN MOGADISHU, SOMALIA ON DECEMBER 13th THE REMAINDER TRICKLED IN BETWEEN THEN UNTIL THE MAIN BODY ARRIVED ON THE 28th.

THE SIGNALS TROOP OF THE HEADQUARTERS CANADIAN JOINT FORCES SOMALIA WAS COMPOSED OF ALPHA TROOP AND AUGMENTED WITH PERSONNEL AND SUPPORT ELEMENTS ALLOWING THEM TO OPERATE

357



358

AS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION. THEY SETTLED IN THE RUINS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY COMPOUND AND BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF THE HEADQUARTERS.

MANY NIGHTS WERE BROKEN WITH SPORADIC GUN FIRE AND THE CLOSE PASSING OF US ATTACK HELICOPTERS. A LARGE VARIETY OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS WERE IN FORCE INCLUDING HF TELETYPE, VOICE LINKS, CFARS, VHF VOICE LINKS, US AND CANADIAN TACTICAL TELEPHONE SYSTEMS AND AN EXTENSIVE COMPUTER NETWORK.

THE SIGNAL TROOP PERFORMED EXTREMELY WELL IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY AND EXTREMELY STRESSFUL CONDITIONS. THE TROOP WENT THE DURATION OF THE DEPLOYMENT WITHOUT ANY MAJOR INCIDENTS. 115 REGIMENTAL PERSONNEL DEPLOYED.

359

JANUARY 1993 BEGAN WITH COURSES, ADP TRAINING, MLVW/HLVW TRAINING, RAD OP QL4 AND "EXERCISE CLEAN HOUSE" WHICH INVOLVED REORGANIZING AND A HOUSECLEANING OF ALL VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT HELD BY EACH SQUADRON.

"EXERCISE STALWART WARRIOR" IN FEBRUARY WAS A THEATRE LEVEL COMMAND POST EXERCISE HELD IN CFB BORDEN, INVOLVING STUDENTS FROM THE TORONTO COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE PRACTISING SENIOR AND STAFF POSITIONS. AUGMENTEES FROM 1CDHSR PROVIDED JUNIOR STAFF POSITIONS.

"MIDNIGHT PROWLER" (ANNUAL WINTER WARFARE TRAINING) WAS HELD THIS YEAR IN FEBRUARY FROM THE 15th TO THE 26th. A TOTAL OF 260 PERSONNEL PARTICIPATED.

360

MARCH WAS MAINLY SQUADRON EXERCISES, DEMONSTRATIONS, STAFF INSPECTION AND THE ANNUAL ATI (ANNUAL TECHNICAL INSPECTION).

JUNE WAS AGAIN ADVENTURE TRAINING MONTH, CANOEING IN ALGONQUIN PARK, ALONG THE RIDEAU CANAL, BON ECHO PROVINCIAL PARK AND FRONTENAC PROVINCIAL PARK.

THE BANKS COMPETITION AND A REGIMENTAL TRACK AND FIELD DAY WERE ALSO PART OF THE JUNE ACTIVITIES.

THE PERSONNEL FROM "OP DELIVERANCE" RETURNED AND ON THE 17th OF JUNE, THE COMMAND OF THE REGIMENT WAS PASSED FROM LCOL J.I. HOLSWORTH TO LCOL M.E. HANRAHN.

361

LCOL M.E. HANRAHAN
CD
17 JUNE 1993
TO
PRESENT



362

THE REGIMENT AGAIN FIELDDED A RIFLE AND A PISTOL TEAM AT THE CONNAUGHT RANGES FOR THE FORCES SMALL ARMS COMPETITION FROM 19th TO 31st OF JULY. THE RIFLE TEAM WON THE "FIRE TEAM TROPHY".

THIS YEAR 2 SQUADRON WAS TASKED TO PROVIDE THE RANGE STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT.

THIS YEAR THE REGIMENT SENT A TEAM OF 15 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL 4 DAY MARCH IN NIJMEGEN, HOLLAND FROM THE 19th TO 23rd OF JULY.

AUGUST 14th TO 27th THE REGIMENT PARTICIPATED IN "EXERCISE ROYAL GUARD", A LAST MINUTE REPLACEMENT FOR "EX ROYAL MARITIME" WHICH WAS CANCELLED DUE TO 5 BRIGADE HAVING OTHER TASKINGS. "ROYAL GUARD" WAS A DIVISION LEVEL PAPER WAR DESIGNED TO

363

Reunion 1993

EXERCISE THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION STAFF. THE REGIMENT ALSO PRACTISED TACTICAL DEPLOYMENT AND DEFENSE OF A HEADQUARTERS.

THE C&E REUNION FROM 3 TO 6 SEPTEMBER WAS HOSTED BY THE REGIMENT. THE REUNION WAS A CELEBRATION OF THE 25th BIRTHDAY OF THE BRANCH AND THE 90th OF THE CORPS. MORE THAN 2500 RETIRED AND SERVING MEMBERS ATTENDED. DURING THE REUNION TWO OTHER EVENTS HAPPENED, FIRST WAS A "PATENSCHAFT" CEREMONY ON 4 SEPTEMBER.

A "PATENSCHAFT" IS A FORMAL MILITARY ASSOCIATION BETWEEN TWO MILITARY UNITS. THE PATENSCHAFT BETWEEN THE 1st CANADIAN DIVISION AND II GERMAN KORPS, ULM WILL ENSURE THAT THE LONG STANDING

364



365

RELATIONSHIP WHICH WAS FORMED BETWEEN THE GERMAN ARMY AND CANADIAN ARMY IN EUROPE CONTINUES.

SECOND, WAS A SMALL CEREMONY AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE REGIMENTAL ALL RANKS CANTEEN. A SMALL CROWD OF DUTY PERSONNEL, BRIGADIER GENERAL MHF WEBBER, THE RSM AND A FEW ONLOOKERS WATCHED WHILE GENERAL WEBBER UNVEILED A SIGN ABOVE THE DOOR NAMING THE CANTEEN THE "SPITSBERGEN CANTEEN" IN HONOUR OF THE RAID IN WHICH ALL RANKS PARTICIPATED. (SEE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1941)

SEPTEMBER 13th TO 24th THE TROOPS TOOK PART IN "EX MOBILE VENTURE" IN PETAWAWA AT THE REGIMENTS ANNUAL BATTLE SCHOOL.

366

OCTOBER 1993 SAW EVERYONE IN THE REGIMENT ON COURSES AND BRIEFINGS. THE SUBALTERN COURSE WAS RUN ONCE MORE TO FOSTER "ESPRIT DE CORPS" AMONG THE YOUNG SIGNAL OFFICERS, WITH A SIDE TRIP TO THE GRAVESITE OF MAJOR CARRUTHERS.

SQUADRON TRAINING AND REGIMENTAL MAINTENANCE COVERED THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF NOVEMBER UNTIL "FINAL GLORY" AND "MAX EFFORT" FROM THE 15th TO 26th WITH "RITE SHAPE" IN THE MIDDLE. "EX FINAL DRIVE" IN DECEMBER WAS THE LAST EXERCISE OF THE YEAR.

1994 STARTED OUT WITH REGIMENTAL MAINTENANCE AND AN MLVW/HLVW COURSE UNTIL THE 24th WHEN EXERCISE "MIDNIGHT PROWLER" IN VALCARTIER CAME ALONG UNTIL FEBRUARY 4th THEN IT WAS BACK TO TRAINING AGAIN.

367

ADMINISTRATION CLERK QL4, RADIO OPERATOR QL4 AND JUNIOR LEADERSHIP COURSES UNTIL THE 21st WHEN AGAIN IT WAS TIME TO PREPARE FOR ANOTHER EXERCISE, THIS TIME IT WAS "EXERCISE RITE COMPLEX" WHICH LASTED UNTIL MARCH 4th. THE ANNUAL ATI (TECHNICAL INSPECTION) PREPARATIONS AND INSPECTION FINISHED MARCH.

AFTER EASTER, SQUADRON TRAINING AND MORE REGIMENTAL MAINTENANCE WAS THE ORDER OF THE DAY. THE SUTTON TROPHY COMPETITION ON THE 29th, AND "EX MAX EFFORT" UNTIL THE 10th OF MAY.

ON MAY 12th, COLONEL BENNET RELINQUISHED THE APPOINTMENT OF COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT TO BGEN D BANKS.

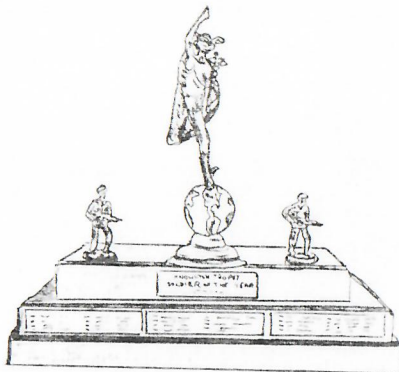
368

BGEN D BANKS CMM
CD
12 MAY 1994
TO
PRESENT



369

THE ANNUAL "SOLDIER OF THE YEAR" TROPHY WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN OUT SINCE 1970 WAS CHANGED TO THE "KNOWLTON TROPHY" IN 1990.



370

IN JUNE 1993, BRIGADIER GENERAL GD SIMPSON PRESENTED THE REGIMENT WITH A TROPHY FOR THE BEST AGGREGATE SCORE IN SPORTS COMPETITION.



371

Op Lance

ON TUESDAY JUNE 21st THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT 350 TROOPS WOULD BE GOING TO RWANDA TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS FOR 5500 U.N. PEACEKEEPERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN RWANDA (UNAMIR II) CALLED "OPERATION LANCE." TROOPS BEGAN THE DAG (DEPARTURE ASSISTANCE GROUP), (CLEARANCES, NEEDLES ETC.) AND TRAINING IN PETAWAWA AND KINGSTON. PACKING AND LOADING OF EQUIPMENT CAME NEXT. MEANWHILE DEPLOYMENT PLANS WERE BEING MADE WHILE LCOL HANRAHAN THE CO MADE A RECONNAISSANCE TRIP TO RWANDA, RETURNING ON 2 JULY. A SIGNAL SQUADRON WITH HEADQUARTERS AND COMMUNICATION TROOP (WHOSE TASK WILL BE TO PROVIDE COMMS FOR THE SIX UN INFANTRY BATTALIONS AND UNAMIR HEADQUARTERS IN KIGALI) AND A

372

SUPPORT SQUADRON (TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATION, LOGISTIC AND MEDICAL SERVICES TO THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT) WOULD BE FORMED. THE ADVANCE PARTY LEFT KINGSTON ON JULY 18th UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE DEPUTY COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE REGIMENT, MAJOR G. DAWSON. THE REGIMENT PERSONNEL WILL BE QUARTERED IN KIGALI IN AN UNUSED SOCCER STADIUM WHICH HOUSED REFUGEES AT ONE TIME AND OTHERS WILL BE IN ENTEBBE, UGANDA, AT A STAGING CAMP AND SUPPLY DEPOT. JULY 25th, 27th AND 28th, THE MAIN BODY DEPARTED FROM TRENTON WITH 64 VEHICLES. ANOTHER 100 OR MORE PERSONNEL WILL LEAVE IN MID AUGUST.



To Those Of The
1st Canadian Signals
Who gave their Lives for Their Country



World War I

A/CAPT JR ALLAN
SIG NH COUTTS
SIG TR CRAVEN
A/SGT J CUNNINGHAM
SIG HS DOWSON
SIG HT EDWARDS
LT GIBSON

SIG T GRAHAM
SIG JH GRANDIN
SIG GR GRIEVE
SIG GJ HAMILTON
SIG HJ HAMMOND
SIG TA JOHNSON
SIG E KELLETT

LCPL R LEAVITT
SIG H MANN
SIG ER MacLELLAN
CAPT MARKHAM
SIG HJ NICHOLSON
SIG WH NORTH
LT G NORTON

CPL H SHILL
SIG WDSPEAR
SIG H STEWART
SIG FA SWALE
SIG T TAYLOR
SIG AD WATTERSON
SIG H WORTHINGTON

World War II

SIG HA BALL
SIG WJO BENNETT
SIG AK BLACKALL
SIG CG BROWN
SIG RW DEVLIN
SIG GR ELLIOTT
L/SGT LR FRY
SIG AP GAWNE
SIG A GIBSON
L/SGT GF GLOVER
SIG L GRIFFIN
SIG JC HALL

SIG JT HAMILTON
CPL JB HENRY
SGT DG HUTT
SIG E JANTZI
SIG KW JESSHOPE
SIG KW JINSEN
SIG RL JONES
SIG TBBH KROON
SIG SG LEWIS
LCPL LJ MacDONALD
SIG P MASSON
LT MC McKINNON

SIG P McNEIL
SIG G MEILLEUR
SIG W MOORE
LCPL EW MORRISON
SIG RJ PAIN
SIG JD PATTISON
SIG MS QUICK
SIG RA QUINN
SIG RP RUMPEL
SIG WH SEMPLE
SIG MV SHIELDS
SIG GE SIMPSON

SIG TW SIMPSON
SIG D SMITH
LCPL BG STILES
SIG JW STURMAN
LCPL RG SWEETING
SIG MA TAYLOR
SIG FC THOMPSON
SIG JH THOMPSON
SIG WG THOMPSON
SIG NP VINEHAM
SIG NA WALKER
SIG RL WHYTE

Peacetime

WO J IZZARD

MWO RB HANSTEAD

CPL R LEVEILLE

Index

A.

ALLIANCES : 273, 337
AMYOT, LCOL PE : 185
ANDERSON, MAJ GR : 193

B.

BADGES ETC. : 13, 47, 48, 203, 327
BANKS, LCOL D : 249, BGEN, COL
OF THE REGT 368, TROPHY 270
BATT, LCOL WH : 239
BENNETT, LCOL BJ : 200, COL, COL OF
THE REGT, 339, BENNETT
CUP, 350
BLUE & WHITE : 265
BURSARY : 311

C.

CAMPBELL, LCOL ER : 268
CARRUTHERS, MAJ RB (BRUCE) : 289
CLEMENT BUILDING : 281
CLINE, MAJ GA : 31
COCKERILL, LCOL T : 307
COLONEL-IN-CHIEF : 66, 251
VISITS, 65, 273
COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT : 245, 272,
286, 312, 339, 368

D.

DEMPSTER, LCOL DL : 319
DISBANDMENT : 45, 176

E.

EAMAN, LCOL JH : 93
EARNSHAW, MAJ P : 38

F.

FAIRFAX-WEBBER TROPHY : 264
FEMALES IN REGIMENT : 215, 318
FORDE, MAJ E : 26
FREEDOM OF CITY : 236, 271, 321

G.

GENET, LCOL JE : 51
GOOD, LCOL HE : 194
GOTHIC LINE : 148
GROVER, LCOL BWF : 119
GUSTAV LINE : 136

H.

HANRAHAN, LCOL ME : 361
HITLER LINE : 136
HOLMES, LCOL WG : 191
HOLSWORTH, LCOL JI : 344

I.

ITALY : 113

J.

JACKSON, MAJ RM : 227

K.

KNOWLTON, COL JGB : 272
TROPHY, 369

L.

LACKONICK, LCOL G : 280
LEBANON : 260
LISTER, MAJ FA : 2

M.

MCKEE, LCOL CS : 75
McLEAN, LCOL DRA : 300
MILLAR, LCOL AM : 188
MOBILIZATION : 1
MORNEAULT, LCOL PE : 213

N.

NEW HOME : 255

O.

OPERATIONS:

ACCORD : 336
ANGORA : 259
CANNONSHOT : 165
CHESTERFIELD : 141
DANACA : 221
DELIVERANCE : 356
ESSAY : 209
FELLOW : 216
FRICTION : 336
GAUNTLET : 77
GINGER : 209
GOLDFLAKE : 162
HARMONY : 347
HEATHER : 77
HUSKY : 96
MATADOR : 315
SALON : 330
SCIMITAR : 325
SULTAN : 323
VAGABOND : 313

P.

PATENSCHAFT : 363

R.

RE-ACTIVATION : 241
REBADGING : 241
REGIMENTAL :
BIRTHDAY : 1
COIN : 296
CREST : 257
FLAG : 186
MARCH : 233
PRAYER : 333
STATUE : 304
REDESIGNATION: 46, 177, 183, 180
192, 328
RED PATCH : 30, 110, 320

Index

R.(CONT'D)

REMOBILIZATION : 50
REPATRIATION OF BONES : 310
ROYAL ALLIANCE : 345
RENDEZVOUS :
 81 : 279
 83 : 285
 85 : 298
 87 : 306
 89 : 317
 92 : 349

S.

SANFORD, LCOL G : 72
SENATE COMMITTEE : 302
SHORT TITLE : 305
SIMPSON, LCOL GD : 218, BGEN, (COL
 OF THE REGT) : 312, SIMPSON
 CUP : 370
SPITZBERGEN : 77, 365
SUTTON, LCOL PH : 205, COL, (COL
 OF THE REGT) : 286, SUTTON
 TROPHY : 294

T.

TAPPIN, LCOL PA : 287
TOAST TO COL-IN-CHIEF : 252
TOURNAY HALL : 342

U.

UNIT SERIAL : 69, 94, 184, 217

V.

VE-DAY : 171

W.

WEBBER, LT MHF : 77, LCOL : 179
 BGEN, (COL OF REGT) : 245
 WEBBER TROPHY : 264
WIGGS, LCOL FR : 196

