

REPORT NO. 23  
HISTORICAL SECTION (G.S.)  
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

15 Aug 49

Return and Leave to Canada for Personnel  
of the Canadian Army Overseas

1. This report replaces Historical Officer C.M.H.Q. [Report No. 124](#). Like the earlier report it deals with the principal means by which personnel of the Canadian Army Overseas obtained periods of home service in, or leave to Canada. The Report is divided into five sections as follows:

- (a) Compassionate Return and Leave to Canada.
- (b) Prisoner of War Escort Detachments.
- (c) Return of Instructors to Canada.
- (d) Rotation Duty and Leave to Canada.
- (e) Total Personnel returned to Canada.

Apart from a few minor deletions and additions, sections (a), (b), and (c) have been included as originally drafted for [Report No. 124](#). The balance of the report describes policy changes which occurred subsequent to the completion of the C.M.H.Q. report and further statistical data.

COMPASSIONATE RETURN AND LEAVE TO CANADA

2. The problem of compassionate leave to Canada for family or business reasons arose within a few months of the arrival of the Canadian troops overseas. As early as 15 Feb 40, Maj-Gen (later Lt-Gen) H.D.G. Crerar, Senior Officer, C.M.H.Q., took the matter up with H.Q. 1 Cdn Div. He pointed out that several cases had already come to his attention and expressed the view that the number of these cases was bound to increase as the time of separation from home life grew longer. He suggested therefore that steps should be taken to lay down a definite policy with regard to the return of individuals to Canada on compassionate grounds, pointing out that it was essential that any policy adopted should consider both the questions of temporary leave for a maximum of four months, and permanent return to Canada for disposal of the personnel concerned (C.M.H.Q. file 19/Compassionate/1: Gen Crerar to H.Q. 1 Cdn Div, 15 Feb 40). In the case of officers and Warrant Officers, Class 1, General Crerar felt that compassionate leave might be granted at the individual's expense. Should the grounds on which the leave might be granted warrant a permanent stay in Canada, consideration would then be given to the question of a refund for transportation. The return to Canada in the case of other ranks (and special cases of officers) would be at Government expense. In every instance the soldier would be struck off strength the Canadian Army Overseas (ibid). This policy was approved by H.Q. 1 Cdn Div (Ibid, A.A. & Q.M.G., to S.O., C.M.H.Q., 1 Mar 40), and was submitted to Ottawa on 5 Mar 40 (ibid: S.O., C.M.H.Q. to Secretary, Department of National Defence).

3. A careful examination of the pertinent A.H.Q. and C.M.H.Q. files did not reveal whether the policy outlined above was officially authorized by D.N.D. Nevertheless it would appear that all cases of compassionate leave which occurred during 1940 and early 1941 were governed by the principles suggested by General Crerar.

4. In September 1941, however, the prevailing policy was reviewed at C.M.H.Q. The question of compassionate leave was then under discussion at Ottawa where it was proposed to issue a routine order on this matter applying

to the troops in Canada. This order, C.A.R.O. 1145, was published on 24 Oct 41. It laid down that discharges would only be considered in cases where extreme hardship would be caused to the soldier concerned by his retention in the army. In this connection it must be ascertained that the circumstances had changed since enlistment, and that such changes could not have been foreseen at the time of enlistment; if the discharge was requested on financial grounds, it would be necessary to demonstrate that the soldier had made every effort to alleviate the condition. The application must contain all available information and must be recommended by the Officer Commanding of the unit, and the General or District Officer Commanding concerned.

5. Subsequently, a similar order was published overseas. This was Overseas R.O. 1156, 24 Oct 41, published under the heading "Return and Leave to Canada on Compassionate Grounds".

6. This order set forth the condition under which applications for compassionate return or leave to Canada would be considered. It stated that leave would be granted "only in very exceptional cases" and not ordinarily at public expense. Any application would require the recommendation of:

(a) O.C. unit.

(b) In the case of units under Corps: the Divisional Commander and H.Q. Corps.

(c) In the case of units under C.B.U.: the Commander Canadian Base Units.

(d) In the case of units under Canadian Forestry Corps: the Commander, C.F.C.

Details would then be sent to Ottawa, and D.N.D. would be requested to carry out an investigation with a view to substantiating the facts as outlined by the applicant.

7. This procedure was followed throughout 1942. It appears, however, to have caused some dissatisfaction owing to the time taken to complete each case. On 30 Oct 42, the D.A. & Q.M.G., First Cdn Army, wrote to C.M.H.Q. pointing out that it took from two to three months for a decision to be reached by D.N.D. as to whether circumstances warranted return (ibid: 30 Oct 42). In November 1942, in response to numerous reminders regarding delays in investigations, D.N.D. pointed out the various difficulties in the way of obtaining necessary information, but stated that a special section had been established to deal with these cases in the future (ibid: Tel A.G. 1076, DEFENSOR TO CANMILITRY, 13 Nov 42).

8. A report prepared at C.M.H.Q. in response to a request received from N.D.H.Q. in April 1943 indicated that the situation then was that of 647 applications received during the period 1 Oct 42 to 14 Apr 43, 338 had been referred to N.D.H.Q., and 112 of these had been authorized for return to Canada (ibid: Tel A.G. 3152, DEFENSOR TO CANMILITRY, 11 Apr 43; Tel A. 1237, CANMILITRY TO DEFENSOR, 15 Apr 43).

9. With a view to speeding up the rejection or approval of applications H.Q. First Cdn Army on 12 May 43 suggested that in future applications be forwarded by the unit concerned direct to Cdn Sec G.H.Q. 2 Ech, for transmission to C.M.H.Q. (ibid: G.O.C.-in-C., First Cdn Army to S.O., C.M.H.Q.). This proposal was concurred in by C.M.H.Q., and Overseas R.O. 3525 was published on 10 Jun 43. This order provided that applications for compassionate return and leave to Canada for all units under command First Cdn Army would be submitted direct to Cdn Sec G.H.Q. 2 Ech, for transmission to C.M.H.Q. In the case of units under command C.M.H.Q., applications would be sent direct to C.M.H.Q. This applied in the case of all regimental officers

up to the rank of major (excluding however majors holding appointments of 2 i/c of units) and other ranks. The application of all other officers of field formations and units would require the recommendations of the formation commander immediately concerned, who would refer appropriate cases to higher authority. Such applications would be forwarded through normal channels (Overseas R.O. 3525, 10 Jun 43).<sup>1</sup>

10. The commitment of a large part of the Canadian Army Overseas to operations in the Mediterranean theatre accentuated the problem of compassionate leave. Many of these troops, particularly in 1 Cdn Div, had had long service overseas, and the long separation from their families was increasingly occupying their attention. This matter was the subject of a cable on 26 Apr 44 from Lt-Gen E.L.M. Burns, G.O.C. 1 Cdn Corps, to the Chief of Staff, C.M.H.Q., Lt-Gen K. Stuart. General Burns observed that the subject of leave to Canada was now, more than ever before, in the minds of the troops in the Italian theatre. Many of these men had been away from their homes for over four years and the general feeling among them was that few of their marriages would stand the strain of such a prolonged separation. Further discontent was caused by the general belief that a return or leave to Canada on compassionate grounds was nearly impossible to obtain. Although this belief was incorrect, the following facts lent colour to it:

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<sup>1</sup>A report submitted to A.D.A.G.(B), C.M.H.Q. on 26 Aug 43 yields the following information for the period 1 Aug 42 to 31 Jul 43:

We have handled compassionate return cases to the number of 899.

Of these 153 have been sent back to Canada under R.O. 3525. In approximately 10 percent of the cases handled the O.C. unit has been informed of the nature of the investigation in Canada and advised to include the individuals in P.O.W. escorts. The remainder have been rejected or are still under investigation.

(C.M.H.Q. file 45/Trans/3/2: A.A.G. (Pers) to A.D.A.G.(B), C.M.H.Q., 26 Aug 43).

Figures from 2 Ech as at 22 Apr. Total applications to date 169. New cases received faring preceding week 25. Number of applications approved during the week 3. Average time required to complete investigation six weeks.

(19/Compassionate/1/2: Tel A.C.A. 2649, ADNAP (from CANDEX) to CANMILITRY, 26 Apr 44)

From these figures it would appear that a backlog was building up which would never be cleared and would simply get worse as time went on. General Burns recommended that "fresh assurance" should be given all ranks "that every effort will be made to deal promptly and generously with future applications", that "every effort be made to shorten the period between submission of applications and approval or rejection" and that "special consideration be given to those who have seen long service overseas". (ibid)

11. C.M.H.Q. took up the matter with D.N.D., recommending that A.A.I. applications be given priority and that every possible effort be made to complete investigations in the shortest possible time (ibid: Tel A. 2975, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 3 May 44).

12. A further cable in May to General Stuart from General Burns gave the following additional information on the situation:

2 Echelon data here indicates applications being received at rate of 70 per month. Based on total strength Cdn forces here this works out to one application per thousand men per month. If five percent of applications were approved each month this would mean routing of forty Cdns each month to UK or Canada. Am informed that no difficulty would arise in obtaining surface passage for this or a greater number.

Number of headquarters through which each application goes tends to slow up completion of investigation. Recommend strongly that 2 Echelon here be allowed to cable direct to DEFENSOR.

(ibid: Tel A.C.A. 2808, ADNAP (from Candex) to CANMILITRY, 11 May 44)

13. The points brought up by these communications were investigated by C.M.H.Q., particular attention being paid to the lapse of time. It was estimated that:

(a) By airmail using the channel, Unit - 2 Ech - C.M.H.Q. - N.D.H.Q., the time taken was 71 days.

(b) By cable using the same channel of communication, the time taken was 42 days.

(c) By cable direct from 2 Ech to N.D.H.Q., the time taken was 39 days.

Investigations in Canada took 35 days at this time (ibid: Memo by A.G.7a, C.M.H.Q., 17 May 44). From this it appeared that the major part of the delay was caused by the time taken to complete investigations in Canada (ibid: Minute by A.D.A.G. (B), C.M.H.Q., no date).

14. Steps were taken to eliminate as far as possible the complaints outlined by General Burns. Cdn Sec, G.H.Q. 2 Ech, A.A.I., was instructed to forward all applications for compassionate leave and compassionate return, by cable to C.M.H.Q. (45/Trans/3/2: Tel A. 3972, C.M.H.Q. to 1 Cdn Corps, 11 Jun 44). At the same time, it was recommended that compassionate cases and married personnel, who had been more than four years away from their families, would have priority for P.O.W. escorts. This ruling applied more particularly to A.A.I. (For further information on this point see para 31)(ibid).

15. The position had not, however, greatly improved by January 1945. Writing to the Directorate of Personnel C.M.H.Q. on the 12th, Col M.S. Dunn, O.I.C. Cdn Sec G.H.Q. 2 Ech, A.A.I., stated that as of that date 509 applications were still outstanding, 175 of which had been submitted prior to 1 Nov 44. Col Dunn considered that "this situation is decidedly unsatisfactory and this backlog has resulted in a great deal of dissatisfaction and tends to a lowering of morale in field units.<sup>2</sup> (C.M.H.Q. file 19/Compassionate/1/2: Cdn Sec 2 Ech A.A.I. to D. Pers C.M.H.Q., 13 Jan 45). In North-West Europe a similar situation existed, and on 3 Feb Brigadier J.P.A. Lister, D.A. & Q.M.G. First Cdn Army requested C.M.H.Q. to examine Overseas R.O. 3525 "to see whether some amendment to the somewhat rigid conditions is not possible at this time" (ibid: D.A. & Q.M.G. First Cdn Army to M.G.A., C.M.H.Q., 3 Feb 45).

16. At this time the Adjutant-General, Maj-Gen A.E. Walford, was visiting the London Headquarters and the M.G.A., Maj-Gen E.G. Weeks, took the opportunity to raise with him the who question of leave and return. As a result, on 9 Feb, the A.G. cabled D.N.D. from London asking for comments on a plan to speed up the granting of compassionate return or leave by making the C. of S., M.G.A. and/or O.I.C. any Cdn Sec 1 Ech the authorizing authorities. This would involve waiving of investigations in Canada and might permit unjustifiable return in some cases, but this possibility the A.G. felt must be accepted in the interests of facilitating the despatch of deserving personnel. Disciplinary action could be taken where a soldier had obtained return through

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<sup>2</sup>The same letter contains the following statistics for the period 11 Mar 44 - 31 Dec 44:

Applications submitted to C.M.H.Q. by 2nd Ech	- 1542
Total granted	- 588
Total not granted	- 417
Total still under investigation	- 537

The figure of 588 granted included 365 returned as P.O.W. Escort, for medical reasons, under Tri-wound Scheme etc., prior to finalization of their Compassionate Leave Applications.



culpable misrepresentation of the facts (ibid: Tel WAL 7, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 9 Feb 45). A decision on this point was not taken, however, until after the return of the A.G. to Ottawa. On 8 Mar, with the receipt of a cable from the A.G. delegating authority "to C. of S., M.G.A. Canmilitary and/or O.I.C. Cdn Sec 1 Ech to approve return without referral to Defensor in exceptional cases when delay ... would entail serious hardship to individual", the new procedure came into effect at C.M.H.Q. (ibid, Tel ADGEN 29, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 8 Mar 45). All compassionate cases not falling within this category would continue to be referred to D.N.D. for investigation. In this connection the A.G. noted that an improved investigation procedure had out time in half within the last few weeks and that further improvements were expected as the system developed.

17. But the increased power of C.M.H.Q. under telegram ADGEN 29 brought only a slight improvement in the situation and the time factor in handling compassionate cases continued to be a matter of concern to the "A" Staff at London and at the field headquarters. Even in those cases of sufficient urgency to justify authorization by C.M.H.Q. the soldier had to carry out a time-consuming correspondence with interested persons or relatives in Canada in order to assemble the necessary evidence on which to base his application. On 23 Jul C.M.H.Q. proposed that these matters could be handled much more speedily if the facts on which applications were now based were represented direct to D.N.D. in the first instance by the interested persons in Canada. D.N.D. could then verify the facts, cable a brief summary to C.M.H.Q. and, where appropriate, authorize return. (ibid, M.G.A. to Secretary D.N.D., 23 Jul 45). The A.G. Branch at Ottawa did not, however, consider it advisable to put such a policy into effect, since the widespread publicity which would be necessary would probably result in a flood of unjustified applications from dependents in Canada. It was agreed, however, to give careful and sympathetic consideration to all representations received at D.N.D. from dependents residing in Canada and suggested:

That your HQ take more advantage of the authority granted by the use of ADGEN 29.

That a soldier need possess less evidence regarding his home circumstances than the present ORO demands.

(ibid, A.G. to C.M.H.Q., 3 Aug 45)

18. Up to this point compassionate return or leave could be authorized only in cases "where extreme hardship would be caused to the individual concerned over his dependents by his retention overseas" and commanding officers were instructed to satisfy themselves "that undue hardship is involved; that the return of the individual is the only means of alleviating it; that the circumstances have changed since enlistment, and that such change could not have been foreseen at the time of enlistment" (Overseas R.O. 3525). With the cessation of hostilities, however, it became possible to institute a more lenient policy and to widen the grounds for application. On 19 Jun D.N.D. authorized C.M.H.Q. to approve return of personnel under ADGEN 29 in case of serious or fatal illness of parent or immediate relative.

(a) Where evidence shows that situation would be benefited by soldiers return.

(b) In all other cases where soldier has been overseas more than 18 months.

(C.M.H.Q. file 19/Compassionate/1/2: Tel AG 737, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 19 Jun 45)

On 30 Aug the grounds for compassionate return were further broadened when C.M.H.Q., in reply to a request from H.Q. 3 Cdn Inf Div C.A.O.F., advised the

various field headquarters that it was now prepared to consider applications based on deterioration of domestic relations if:

- (a) Applicant appears sincere in his desire for reconciliation.
  - (b) There appears to be a reasonable chance to effect reconciliation.
- and
- (c) (i) Applicant has been overseas 18 months or more.
- or
- (ii) There is at least one child of the marriage.

or alternatively if

- (a) The wife is seriously neglecting her child or children.
- or
- (b) The moral atmosphere surrounding the child or children is objectionable and likely to be improved by the presence of the husband.

(ibid, A.A.G. (Pers) C.M.H.Q. to H.Q. 3 Cdn Inf Div  
C.A.O.F., 30 Aug 45)

The information, however, was for the guidance of the various headquarters concerned in determining whether an application should be forwarded and was not to be given any publicity.

19. In a communication of 31 Aug, D.N.D. increased the authority of C.M.H.Q. as defined in ADGEN 29. The latter Headquarters was now enabled to deal with all cases of obvious merit and to delegate its authority to such administrative officers as it might care to appoint for the purpose. (ibid, Tel AG 904, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 31 Aug 45). Then on 6 Sep D.N.D. advised that in view of the cessation of hostilities, it was considered that

compassionate grounds should be extended to cover all cases of serious illness of immediate relatives regardless of length of service overseas (C.M.H.Q. file 19/Compassionate/1/3, Tel AG 6393, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 6 Sep 45). By 11 Sep the power of approval had been delegated to C.M.H.Q. without exception and passed by them in turn to Headquarters C.F.N. and 3 Cdn Inf Div C.A.O.F. For the guidance of these latter headquarters C.M.H.Q. laid down that "for all future purposes a lower standard of supporting evidence in compassionate return/leave cases will be allowed". It was now considered that any soldier who submitted an application on grounds appearing to deserve consideration might now be despatched on the authority of an appropriately delegated officer notwithstanding a paucity of evidence. Cases in which a favourable decision might be given were:

- (a) A serious problem existed at home and the soldier's return or leave would alleviate the problem or his failure to return or leave would be likely to cause substantial hardship to the applicant or his dependents.
- (b) Serious or expected fatal illness as authorized by D.N.D. on 6 Sep.
- (c) Deterioration of domestic relations as outlined in para above.
- (d) Desire for children. Such application might be approved if (i) the wife was nearing the age where childbearing would be difficult or impossible or (ii) the wife was in imminent danger of having to undergo an operation which would preclude pregnancy.

In the case of deserving applicants in which the evidence was insufficient they would be instructed to obtain from friends or relatives the appropriate documents rather than take the much slower course of asking D.N.D. to investigate. (ibid, A.A.G. (Pers) Letter, 11 Sep 45). At this time Ottawa recommended that requests for investigations by London be limited to those in

which there was good reason to doubt the veracity of the facts presented.

(*ibid*: A.G. Branch, D.N.D. to C.M.H.Q., 12 Sep 45)

20. Statistical data with respect to personnel returned to Canada on compassionate grounds is not readily available, apart from that obtained by the narrator from A.G. (Stats) C.M.H.Q. in July 1944 and included in Appx "B" to this report.

#### PRISONER OF WAR ESCORT DETACHMENTS

21. An opportunity to send men back to Canada on leave, on other than purely compassionate grounds, was opened to C.M.H.Q. in October 1941. At that time a proposal was received from the British authorities to employ Canadian personnel as P.W. escorts, and a request was made for a first escort. (C.M.H.Q. file 45/Trans/3: Memo from Directorate of P.W., War Office, to S.O., C.M.H.Q., 20 Oct 41).

22. The British proposal was viewed favourably by C.M.H.Q. Brigadier Beament, D.A.G., wrote "We might take advantage of the offer to give, what would be, in fact, leave in Canada to personnel who had been in this country for a long period. I suggest 18 months continuous service overseas as a minimum" (*ibid*: D.A.G. to A.A.G. (Pers), 28 Oct 41). He went on to say that although a limited number might be found from personnel returning to Canada permanently, the majority would have to be from personnel who would be returned to the United Kingdom on the conclusion of duty and leave (*ibid*). The matter was referred to the Corps Commander Lt-Gen A.G.L. McNaughton (*ibid*: 30 Oct 40), and on receiving his concurrence, to D.N.D. (*ibid*: Tel A. 1995, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 31 Oct 41). Official approval was received from Ottawa on 3 Nov 41 (*ibid*: Tel A.G. 254, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 3 Nov 41).

23. The War Office estimated that a guard of six officers and 110 other ranks, who would be trained in their duties at a special British establishment, would be required. Their services would be needed for three months, varying, of course, in accordance with the supply of shipping at both the United Kingdom and Canada ends. All expenses, apart from pay and allowances which would continue to be a Canadian responsibility were to be borne by the British Government. It was agreed that upon the conclusion of their duties in Canada, personnel would be released for return to the United Kingdom (ibid: Memo D.A.G., C.M.H.Q. to A.A.G. (Pers), C.M.H.Q., 28 Oct 41). The escort detachment was to consist of a headquarters staff and a guard whose number, all ranks, would approximate ten percent of the prisoners escorted (ibid: C.M.H.Q. Adm O. No. 208, 13 Dec 41).

24. Steps were now taken at C.M.H.Q. to determine a suitable selection procedure. Three guiding principles were agreed upon. The individuals chosen were to be men who had completed 18 months' service in the C.A.S.F., with a record of good conduct throughout, and whose bearing was such that it would reflect credit upon the Canadian Army. Those selected would be sent for training in British P.W. camps. Upon the conclusion of their training, they would be either returned to their own units or detailed for duty in a P.W. escort detachment. The tour of duty was to count against a privilege leave in the United Kingdom, with free transportation warrants for their Canadian leave (45/Trans/3: Tel A. 1995 CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 31 Oct 41); Tel A.G. 254 DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 3 Nov 41).

25. The granting of privilege leave in Canada having been C.M.H.Q.'s primary object in agreeing to the provision of this personnel, it was agreed that 1 Cdn Div, as the senior formation overseas, should have first claim in the allocation of numbers. The proportion finally agreed upon was 50 percent from 1 Cdn Div and 25 percent each from Corps Troops and Canadian Base Units. Provision was made for the inclusion of a small number of compassionate leave cases irrespective of length of service or the formation to which they

belonged (ibid: D.A. & Q.M.G., Cdn Corps to Units under command, 5 Nov 41). This was, however, subsequently altered. Such compassionate cases were only to be eligible on the strength of their military record and length of service (ibid: Tel A. 139, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 20 Jan 42).

26. The first P.W. escort was composed of six officers, one warrant officer, 23 S/Sgts and Sgts, and 175 rank and file. This represented an increase over the original estimate; in addition three British officers in the role of interpreters were supplied by the War Office (C.M.H.Q. file 6/1 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 2379, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 26 Dec 41). Major A.H. Norrington, Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, was appointed to command the detachment. A medical staff of one officer and five other ranks were to serve the escort and draft (45/Trans/3: memo of A.G.2, C.M.H.Q., 16 Dec 41). Arrangements were made for 1000 P.W., all other ranks, to embark on 19 Dec 41 (ibid: Tel 2404, MASSEY to EXTERNAL, 16 Dec 41). The detachment sailed from Liverpool in H.M.T. "Morston Bay" on 23 Dec 41, arriving at Halifax on 1 Jan 42 (ibid: Personal report of the voyage by Maj A.H. Norrington, 1 Jan 42).

27. The Toronto Globe and Mail of 5 Jan 42 reported the arrival at "an Eastern Canadian Port" of "one thousand German prisoners ... under the eyes of jubilant Canadian soldiers headed for a few weeks precious leave after eighteen months in England". The officers in charge of the movement were reported to have said that the "experiment of having troops headed for leave guard the prisoners was a complete success on this its first try out". All ranks were reported as being very excited at the prospect of seeing their homes again.

28. The escort returned to the United Kingdom on board H.M.T. "Orion". Of the original group only three officers and 130 other ranks returned. Three officers and 61 other ranks were retained in Canada (reasons unspecified) (45/Trans/3: Tel A. 848, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 28 Mar 42; Tel A.G. 949, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 23 Apr 42). Of the remaining eight, one was granted

additional leave by the embarkation authorities in Halifax, seven were absent without leave (ibid: Report to Capt T.M. Powers, A/O.C. 1 Cdn P.O.W. Escort Det to A.A.G. (Orig), C.M.H.Q., 17 Mar 42). The Detachment disembarked at Glasgow on 9 Mar 42 and proceeded from there to Bordon. After a short period, allowed for documentation, they were returned to their respective Reinforcement Units (ibid).

29. During the period November and December 1941, while arrangements for the first P.W. escort were being made, no definite commitments were made by the War Office as to their future needs in this respect. Nevertheless consideration was given by C.M.H.Q. to the possibility of Canadian troops being used in further P.W. convoys. Provision was made for P.W. Detachments to be set up "from time to time as requested by the War Office and approved by this Headquarters" (45/Trans/3: C.M.H.Q. Circular Letter No. 285, 13 Dec 41). They were not entirely unprepared, therefore, when in March 1942 the War Office asked for Canadian personnel to form a second and third P.W. guard. There have been many later requests. By November 1944 a total of 22 Canadian P.W. Escort Detachments had been formed and despatched.

30. Selection policy during this period, December 1941 to July 1944, passed through three phases. The original intention was that personnel should be selected entirely on the basis of military record and length of service; only in very exceptional cases would leave on compassionate grounds be accepted as a valid reason for inclusion in the P.W. escorts (45/Trans/3: Tel A. 139, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 20 Jan 42). At the request of C.M.H.Q. lists of personnel who met these requirements had been compiled by the unit concerned, and from these lists the escorts were chosen. Generally speaking, this policy was adhered to throughout 1942. A detailed break-down of personnel comprising the escorts for this period is not readily available, but from an examination of the figure at hand (see Appx "A") it would appear that, although personnel selected came within the conditions laid down, age and medical category were used as a secondary basis of selection.



31. In January 1943 there was a change in policy. The original requirements remained in force, but provision was made for the inclusion of a small number of compassionate cases. The percentage of compassionate cases which might be included was not then made firm. This change was the outcome of an investigation into a particular case, where an application for compassionate leave had come to the attention of General McNaughton (19/Compassionate/1: Maj-Gen Turner, D.A. & Q.M.G. First Cdn Army to Maj-Gen Montague, 1 Jan 43). On the grounds of not conforming with existing selection policy the application had been turned down, but the following recommendations were made by the Army Commander:

In this as well as all others of a similar nature, if some military duty calls for the return of certain officers, and the officers for whom compassionate leave has been requested are suitable in all respects, every consideration should be given to detailing them for such duty. He (the Army Commander) requests, therefore, that no case of this nature be overlooked when we are sending personnel either officers or other ranks, back to Canada on duty.

(ibid)

32. Early in May 1943 there was a further change in policy. The War Office had requested the loan of approximately 1400 all ranks of the Canadian Army for new escort duty. While willing to meet this request, C.M.H.Q. felt that it was obviously undesirable to use young, fit soldiers for this purpose, and therefore decided that over age and category personnel must be obtained. These men would be retained in Canada and would "be replaced by young, fit reinforcements" who could be utilized in the Canadian Army Overseas (C.M.H.Q. file 6/POW Escort/1: Gen Montague to H.Q. First Cdn Army, 13 May 43). General McNaughton concurred in this proposal generally, but recommended that a maximum of 200 should come from fit personnel requiring temporary return on compassionate grounds (ibid: Tel A. 313 First Cdn Army to C.M.H.Q.,

14 May 43). On 28 May, the proportion of compassionate cases to be included in the P.W. Detachments, was laid down by the Army Commander. The composition was to be as follows: one-seventh were to be category "A" personnel, while the remaining six-sevenths were to be over age and low category (19/Compassionate/1: Memo from A.G.7b, C.M.H.Q., to A.A.G. (Pers), 28 May 43).

33. An examination of the figures available (see Appx "A") reveals that, during the period ending 3 Feb 43, a large percentage of the personnel in P.W. escorts were being retained in Canada as over age or under category. From this, it might be concluded that such personnel were selected with the point in view that they would not be returned to the United Kingdom on the completion of their escort duties. Other personnel included were those returned as instructors, candidates for O.C.T.U., and various unclassified duties. A small number are listed as returned for compassionate reasons (see footnote para 9).

34. On 3 Mar 44 the P.W. evacuation programs for Operation "OVERLOAD" was placed before C.M.H.Q. by the Director of P.W. at the War Office. It was estimated that during the three months following the operation approximately 40,000 prisoners of war would be sent to Canada and the U.S.A. each month. The War Office share of the escort required would amount to about 1500 - 2000 men per month. C.M.H.Q. was asked to consider the possibility of providing all or a portion of this number (45/Trans/3/2: Memo Director P.O.W. War Office to S.O., C.M.H.Q., 3 Mar 44). In reply, General Montague stated that 400 Canadian personnel per month could be provided for P.W. escorts (ibid: General Montague to the Under Secretary of State, War Office, 9 Mar 44). This figure was based on a consideration of figures regarding personnel returned to Canada during the six months previous (see Appx "B").

35. This proposal provided an opportunity to clear up the situation as regards compassionate and semi-compassionate cases among troops in the Italian

theatre. A cablegram was accordingly despatched on 11 Jun 44 by General Montague to General Burns, asking him to despatch from Italy, on each of two drafts, up to 380 other ranks, and a limited number of officers to the United Kingdom for this duty. Priority was to be given to married men with wives in Canada, who had been away from home for over four years, and to personnel who had been wounded two or more times. Authorized compassionate cases must be sent; other compassionate cases where the evidence available was satisfactory might also be sent (ibid: Tel A. 3972, CANMILITRY to 1 Cdn Corps, 11 Jun 44). This was further extended on 22 Aug 44 by the inclusion of compassionate leave and compassionate return cases whose applications had been submitted (ibid: Tel A. 5914, CANMILITRY to A.A.I. for CANDEX, 22 Aug 44). On 23 Aug 44, Canadian troops under 21 Army Group were requested to select personnel for inclusion in P.W. escorts, the policy of selection being the same as that laid down for 1 Cdn Corps (Ibid: General Montague to Cdn Sec, G.H.Q., 2 Ech, 21 Army Group, 23 Aug 44).

36. During the period from December 1941, when the first escort sailed from the United Kingdom, until November 1944, a total of 4758 all ranks had been returned to Canada under this scheme (see Appx "A" for further details).

#### RETURN OF INSTRUCTIONS TO CANADA

37. The provision of instructions for the training centres in Canada was a further method by means of which personnel of the Canadian Army Overseas obtained periods of home service. The first request from Canada for such personnel was received at C.M.H.Q. on 5 Oct 40. General Crerar, Chief of the General Staff, N.D.H.Q., in a cable of that date to General McNaughton, stated that it had been anticipated that returned battle casualties would be used for this purpose, but that owing to the changed strategical situation, it would be necessary for the Canadian units in the United Kingdom to provide instructions to strengthen the staff of the Canadian Training Centres (C.M.H.Q. file

1/Instructors/1: Tel G.S. 2206, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY). It was desired that these instructors be sent from time to time until returned casualties were available (ibid). General McNaughton approved the proposal, and arrangements went forward for the selection of suitable personnel (ibid: Tel G.S. 2139, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 10 Oct 40).

38. During 1940 and 1941 the Canadian Army Overseas supplied from time to time, as requested, instructors for the Training Centres in Canada. On 29 Feb 42 an amendment was made to the selection policy. In a letter of that date, to the formations and units under his command, Lt-Gen Crerar, then G.O.C. 1 Cdn Corps, announced that where possible instructors would be employed in their home districts (ibid: 24 Feb 42). This meant that, although selections would continue to be based on instructional ability, an effort would be made to choose men from the provinces or military districts in which the training centre requiring instructors were located; in other words consideration was to be given to the soldier's territorial affiliations (ibid: Tel G.S. 2223, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 24 Oct 40).

39. This policy, which offered returning instructors every opportunity for home leave, was, however, subsequently abandoned. This paramount need was for instructors of the highest calibre to train recruits in Canada. Thus, with this in view, Lt-Gen K. Stuart, Chief of Staff, C.M.H.Q., in a letter to the Secretary, Department of National Defence, on 6 Jun 44, wrote that "compassionate grounds and territorial questions will not be considered in the selection of returning personnel" (1/Instructors/1/5).

40. No evidence has been found to indicate that the granting of leave to Canada for deserving personnel was ever, during the period October 1940 to June 1944, a real factor in the selection of instructors for Canada. However, between January 1942 and August 1944, 587 officers and 2292 other ranks (see Appx "B") did obtain a period of home service under this scheme, and a large number of them were undoubtedly men with long service overseas. And the fact

of returning to Canada did given them opportunities of visiting their families.

#### ROTATION DUTY AND LEAVE TO CANADA

41. Early in 1944 the question of a policy for home leave to Canada came up for discussion both in Canada and overseas. At Ottawa on 17 Feb 44 the D.G.M.S., Maj-Gen G.B. Chisholm, in a memorandum prepared for the Adjutant-General, noted that the Consultant Neuropsychiatrist then visiting Canada on a liaison trip from England had suggested that certain personnel overseas were suffering from long continued separation from Canada and their families and that it might be advisable to allow leave to Canada for men who have completed possibly four and a half years of overseas service. (H.Q. 54-27-55-11 (Vol 1): Memorandum D.G.M.S. to A.G., 17 Feb 44). On 21 Feb, the A.G. submitted the memorandum of the D.G.M.S. for consideration by the Military Members of the Army Council who decided that:

In view of the many administrative difficulties involved, including the question of provision of reinforcement replacements ... such a scheme was impracticable and should be deferred until such time as there is a more definite indication of the future trend of operations now contemplated.

(Ibid, Extract from Record of Discussions of Military Members held Monday, 21 Feb 44)

42. In the meantime C.M.H.Q. was examining the implication of a War Office scheme, then under consideration, to give home leave to officers and other ranks of the Indian Army and Colonial forces; the qualifying period for such leave to be three years for Indians and two years for East and West Africans. The War Office were not proposing to give leave to the British Army, but these

under a scheme known as "Python" were already eligible for repatriation after five years service overseas. (C.M.H.Q. file 19/Gen/2: D.S.D. War Office to Staff Duties C.M.H.Q., 14 Feb 44). The situation in the case of the two sister Dominions of South Africa and New Zealand was even more favourable to the soldier. The South Africans had been completely exchanged, after two years service abroad. In the main, this was brought about by the need to refit after Tobruk, where casualties had been very heavy. The New Zealand plan was that all troops would be eligible for return after three years service abroad. Under this scheme it was estimated that all New Zealand personnel would have been repatriated in three months time (ibid: Memorandum of A.D.A.G.(B), C.M.H.Q., 22 Feb 44). The U.S. Army also had a policy of rotation for which was according to periods of service laid down by theatre commanders. As yet such periods had been prescribed for the North African and Alaskan theatres only and were 18 months and two years respectively.<sup>3</sup> Limiting factors in all cases were, of course, shipping, replacements and military exigencies. (H.Q. 53-27-55-11 (Vol 1): W.D. Bureau of Public Relations Release, 17 Feb 44). The predominant factor in introducing these leaves was the desire to avoid the lowering of efficiency and morale which it had been observed resulted from long periods away from home.

43. On 21 Feb the repatriation of British troops with long service abroad was the subject of a statement by Mr Churchill in the House of Commons. Replying to questions, the British Prime Minister stated that "such shipping as can be made available ... is being used to bring back to the home establishment men who have been overseas for many years"; further that "men who have been abroad for over five years are being brought home". He made it clear that the intention was to shorten the term of service; "We are hoping to shorten this as shipping permits and as the war progresses but I cannot do any

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<sup>3</sup>The U.S. plan was not applicable to troops in U.K. or Hawaii due to the better living conditions and the lack of battle strain (H.Q. 54-27-55-11 (Vol 1): Memorandum of Maj-Gen H.F.G. Letson, Adjutant-General).

more than I have said up to the present" (19/Gen/2: Evening Standard, London, 22 Feb 44).

44. No provision had been made for the return of Canadian personnel to Canada after a period of overseas service; nor had there been any large scale exchange of personnel except those returned to Canada for medical reasons, duty, liaison, P.W. escorts and compassionate leave under the circumstances outlined previously in this report. The deterring factors were the lack of shipping and the manpower situation in Canada (Memorandum of A.D.A.G.(B) op cit). Nevertheless the absence of such provision, in view of the public announcement of British policy and the opportunities afforded to other Dominion troops and the Americans, excited considerable dissatisfaction among Canadian personnel, especially those serving in Italy. This was particularly true of those who had been overseas since 1939. The following extract from a soldier's letter quoted in the Censorship Report from 16-31 Mar was typical of many:

I am sure at home there are plenty of able-bodied men to take our places some who would take over for awhile while we met our loved ones (2 Cdn Fd Amb)

(C.M.H.Q. file 19/Canada/2: Extracts from Appreciation and Censorship Report No. 41, Period 16-31 Mar 44. For further extracts, etc., see Appx "C")

In March, as a result of an article in the "Eighth Army News" by the chaplain of L. Edmn R., the subject came to the fore in newspapers in Canada. The Army Council meeting at Ottawa on 16 Mar decided that D.P.R. should make a cautious public release while the Adjutant-General would explore the matter further and obtain the views of the Chief of Staff at C.M.H.Q. (H.Q. 54-27-55-11 (Vol 1)):

Extract from Minutes of Meeting of Army Council, 16 Mar 44). The Public Relations Release, which went out the same day, stated that:

... the matter has been understudied for some time. Operational requirements ... make it impossible that such leave be granted at the present time, but the policy for the future is the subject of continuing investigation.

(Ibid: Public Relations (Army), 16 Mar 44)

45. In March 1944 Lt-Col G.S. Currie, Deputy Minister of National Defence (Army) visited the United Kingdom where he discussed the question of leave to Canada with General Montague. It was agreed, however, that nothing could be done for the present owing to the fact that active operations on the continent of Europe were then pending. In addition there was the question of shipping to be considered (19/Canada/2: M.G.A. to D.A.G., C.M.H.Q., 14 Apr 44). On 13 Apr, following the visit of the Deputy Minister, General Montague directed the D.A.G., C.M.H.Q., Brigadier C.S. Booth, to have the matter of leave to Canada considered from every angle so that the ideas of the Commander Overseas "are crystallized, and we can make definite recommendations to the Government" (ibid). His own quick appreciation:

... was that we would be glad to have a system for leave to Canada established, but that it would be entirely dependent on N.D.H.Q. producing the shipping. I think the Deputy Minister appreciates this.

(Ibid)

46. During the same period C.M.H.Q. took a short step towards meeting the problem of home leave. On 27 Apr General Montague, in a letter to Lt-Gen H.D.G. Crerar, G.O.C.-in-C., First Cdn Army, proposed the adoption by the Canadian Army of the recently approved War Office Tri-Wound scheme. "As you



know", he wrote, "there is a considerable demand for general leave to Canada for those soldiers who have been away from home for a matter of four years or more, and the adoption of the tri-wound scheme would in a small measure help to meet this demand" (C.M.H.Q. file 8/Tri-Wound/1: M.G.A. to G.O.C.-in-C. First Cdn Army, 27 Apr 44). This scheme, as proposed by the War Office, provided for the return to the United Kingdom of personnel who had been wound, other than trivially, three times since 3 Sep 40. Qualifying wounds were those which had necessitated removal to General Hospitals, Casualty Clearing Stations, or Field Dressing Stations. Personnel would be returned to the United Kingdom and retained there for at least three months. In applying such a scheme to the Canadian forces it would be necessary to consider the return of personnel to both the United Kingdom and Canada. Although General Crerar felt that the scheme would be unlikely to affect, at least for some considerable time, any great number of Canadians he thought "it might assist in meeting the demand for leave to Canada by dealing with some of those cases in which the greatest hardship and anxiety had been suffered by the families at home" (Ibid: Army Commander to M.G.A., 30 Apr 44). he felt that it necessary in determining qualifications to eliminate trivial wounds, self-inflicted wounds or accidents due to improper conduct. Following approval by the Army Commander the proposal was submitted to D.N.D. for their concurrence. Ottawa approved the plan on 1 Jun but requested that it "be extended to include those twice wounded who have had more than four years away from Canada" (ibid: Tel A.G. 4729, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 1 Jun 44). As only a small number of personnel were involved in any event, the proposed change was concurred in and steps taken to put the scheme into affect. Before this could be done, however, a fresh proposal was received from Ottawa suggesting that the qualification "twice wounded and four years' overseas" service be changed to "twice wounded and three years' service" (ibid: Tel A.G. 4821, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 30 Jun 44). According to a survey made by Overseas Records Office personnel with two wounds and four years overseas' service numbered 171, and those with two wounds and three but less than four years' overseas service 23 (ibid: A.D.A.G.(A) to D.A.G. C.M.H.Q., 15 Jul 44). It would therefore make

little difference from the point of view of shipping or replacements whether a three or four year qualifying period was adopted. The D.N.D. amendment was included therefore and the Tri-Wound Scheme instituted early in August 1944 by the publication of a Routine Order (Overseas R.O. 4902, 9 Aug 44).

47. Meanwhile both in Canada and Overseas work continued on the evolving of a policy for home leave. On 2 May 44 a letter was received at C.M.H.Q. from Brigadier E.G. Weeks, O.I.C., Cdn Sec G.H.Q. 1 Ech A.A.I., outlining the view of the G.O.C. 1 Cdn Corps on the subject. In his submission Brigadier Weeks referred to the fact, already noted, that other Empire forces, and the Americans, had a policy governing return home on leave (see Appx "D"), and that the absence of a similar policy for Canadians had resulted in dissatisfaction on the part of Canadian troops in the Mediterranean theatre. For this reason, it was requested that the granting of leave of absence to Canada should be given immediate consideration and a policy announced. Brigadier Weeks put forward on behalf of the Commander 1 Cdn Corps several proposals towards the formulating of a policy:

- (a) No service leave to be granted before 15 Sep 44.
- (b) The length of service counted as qualifying for such leave to be four years' unbroken service outside Canada, of which period six months must have been served in A.A.I.
- (c) Only 5 percent of unit strength to proceed on service leave in any one month.
- (d) Of those eligible under (b) preference to be given to:
  - (i) Individuals with longest service.
  - (ii) Married personnel.
  - (iii) Individuals with satisfactory conduct.

(e) Leave of absence, based on service, to be separate from  
compassionate leave.

(19/Canada/2: Brigadier Weeks to Chief of Staff, C.M.H.Q., 2 May 44)

A month later, on 2 Jun, Maj-Gen Montague requested Brigadier Booth to expedite the preparation of a policy appreciation with a view to having a system of leave in force possibly as early as August. (Ibid: M.G.A. to D.A.G., C.M.H.Q., 2 Jun 44).

48. In accordance with this instruction a statement was prepared covering the situation and setting forth a proposed policy. The chief obstacle was the non-availability of shipping. This question had been discussed with the War Office, which, although sympathetic, would make no definite commitment as to what shipping space could be placed at the disposal of the Canadian authorities. This, the War Office pointed out, was dependent upon operational requirements. It was, however, suggested that probably 2000 men per month could be handled. With regard to the numbers involved, a rough survey had been made at Overseas Records Office which indicated that there were 45,000 personnel serving overseas, who had arrived in the United Kingdom prior to December 1940, and 110,000 who arrived prior to December 1941.<sup>4</sup> These figures, owing to the confidential nature of the inquiry, were not considered statistically accurate, but sufficiently so to consider the question on a broad basis. (Ibid: A.D.A.G.(B) to D.A.G., C.M.H.Q., 10 Aug 44). Thus a scheme based on the conditions of:

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<sup>4</sup>According to a survey conducted at Ottawa in March 1944, there were at that time 17,000 men who had been overseas for more than four years and 28,000 who had been overseas for more than three years. Included in these figures were 2000 missing and PW personnel and 500 U.K. enlistments. The same survey also revealed that since the beginning of the war 26,603 personnel had returned from overseas. (H.Q. 54-27-55-11 (Vol 1): D.A.G.(D) to A.G., 6 & 14 Mar 46).

(a) no more than 5 percent of unit strength to proceed on leave during any one month;

(b) the qualifying service to be four years' unbroken service outside Canada;

would mean that, based on the 45,000 estimate, 2200 would proceed on leave each month. Apart from these conditions it was proposed that preference be given to those personnel

- (i) with the longest record of service;
- (ii) in a theatre of operations with the longest service outside the U.K.;
- (iii) who are married and whose wives are residing in Canada;
- (iv) whose conduct has been satisfactory.

Duration of the home leave was to be 30 days plus travelling time. (Ibid). After changing the four year qualifying period to four and one half years the M.G.A. on 13 Aug submitted the proposal to the Army Commander for his concurrences (Ibid: M.G.A., C.M.H.Q. to G.O.C.-in-C., First Cdn Army, 13 Aug 44).

49. At this time C.M.H.Q. had to hand a proposal on the same subject but on more general lines from D.N.D. The basic idea was for a period of home leave based on length of service overseas, the minimum qualifying period to be three years. D.N.D. pointed out, however, that the shorter qualifying period would mean that a larger number of personnel would be eligible and increase the difficulties of providing shipping and replacements. Among the points raised in the D.N.D. letter were (i) whether the plan should extend only to theatres of operation or to all personnel overseas; (ii) the method of selection from among those eligible; (iii) trades pay and the policy in regard to ranks of personnel returned assuming vacancies in the overseas establishment were

filled; and (iv) the retention of certain categories of personnel in Canada. D.N.D. estimated that the total period of absence of an individual from the time of departure from his unit until his return overseas would be about three months. Thus the number of overseas personnel available for duty would be decreased by three times the number of personnel returning to Canada in a month and to offset this would require that a corresponding number of replacements be sent from Canada. In fact, replacements would continuously be required throughout the operation of any such scheme, due to the number of personnel returning for leave, who would be permanently retained in Canada for reasons such as age and category. The replacement problem would be further complicated by the necessity of providing specially qualified personnel, particularly tradesmen. (Ibid: D.N.D. to C.M.H.Q., 4 Aug 44).

50. On 14 Sep C.M.H.Q. finally received a reply from Headquarters First Cdn Army to their submission of 13 Aug (see para 48). Since the proposal was first made the situation within the Army as regards casualties and reinforcements had so greatly improved<sup>5</sup> that the Army Commander felt it to be feasible to put a scheme in operation in sufficient time for the first draft to reach home by Christmas. (Ibid: H.Q. First Cdn Army to C.M.H.Q., 14 Sep 44). About this time the Minister of National Defence, Col J.L. Ralston, visited Italy, and on his return, as a result of questions put to him while there, requested C.M.H.Q. to provide him with essential details on "leave to Canada for troops with over four years' overseas service, six months of which spent in a theatre of operations" (Ibid: D.A.G. to A.D.A.G.(B), C.M.H.Q., 6 Oct 44). By 14 Oct a detailed study of the subject had been made at C.M.H.Q. which showed that personnel of the Canadian Army Overseas with not less than four years' service overseas numbered 2066 officers and 28,006 other

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<sup>5</sup>Later, on 21 Sep, the D.A. & Q.M.G., First Cdn Army, advised C.M.H.Q. that "... the improved strength position of inf bns ... unfortunately had not been borne out by actual receipt of bodies". He asked, however, that the study of the problem of home leave continue. (19/Canada/2: Walford to C.M.H.Q., 21 Sep 44).

ranks of which 679 officers and 12,778 other ranks were in A.A.I. Of the latter group 585 officers and 11,245 other ranks had had six months service in the Mediterranean theatre. In addition a careful examination of the reinforcement situation had resulted in the view that at the time leave to Canada could only be permitted on a token basis of 500 per month for both theatres and the U.K. Allowing for travelling time and 30 days' leave in Canada personnel would be away for three months. This would mean that provision would have to be made for 1500 replacements before leave personnel would start to return overseas. (Ibid: A.D.A.G.(B) to D.A.G., 14 Oct 44).

51. At Ottawa on 29 Oct the Adjutant-General outlined before a meeting of the Army Council in the office of the G.G.S., a plan for the institution of a system of leave to Canada which had been arrived at after consideration of a number of alternative schemes put forward by the staffs concerned at home and overseas. The basis principle of the scheme was that leave would be granted first to the individual who combined longest service overseas with longest service in a theatre of operations, and provided that:

- (a) All personnel with not less than five years satisfactory continuous service Overseas shall be eligible, and that priority of despatch will be determined in individual cases by the months of service in the theatre of operations, which will be added to the total number of months of continuous service Overseas. For instance, a man with four and one half years overseas, six months of which was in a theatre of operations, would be considered as having a total of five years' service.
- (b) Personnel should have thirty clear days at home.
- (c) Leave would be granted only to personnel desirous of returning to Canada.

- (d) The period of service in a theatre of operations would be computed from the date of departure from the United Kingdom.
- (e) Leave would be equally available to single and married men, and should be in addition to existing arrangements in respect to "tri-wound" leave, Ps.O.W. escorts and return on compassionate leave.
- (f) Allocations to theatres of operations and the United Kingdom would be made by C.M.H.Q. in proportion to the number who qualify in each area.
- (g) An initial quota of 250 per month by authorized immediately.
- (h) Based on a monthly quota of 250 and in the light of experience in dealing with personnel returned to Canada on compassionate leave, etc., it is estimated that approximately 1123 replacements would be required before any personnel returned to their units.

The Military Members were unanimous in expressing their approval of the scheme and were of the opinion that it should be introduced in time for the first quota to reach their homes by Christmas 1944. The scheme was placed before the Minister and on 6 Nov was announced by him during a speech to the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Legion. It might be noted that Mr Ralston had resigned on 1 Nov and was replaced by General McNaughton. (H.Q. 54-27-55-11 (Vol 1): Adjutant-General to the Minister, 1 Nov 44)

52. To ensure that the first quota reached home by Christmas, D.N.D. had arranged with U.S. War Department, through the British Army Staff Washington for 200 personnel to sail direct from Italy to Canada via U.S. port (H.Q. 54-27-55-11 (Vol 1): D.Q.M.G.(D), 7 Nov 44 and Milstaff Washington to Q.M.G., 7 Nov 44). To provide a more equitable representation by theatres, General Montague, after consultation with the Army Commander, advised Ottawa that it

was considered desirable that the first quota be increased to 450, adjustments to be made on subsequent quotas; the division to be 200 from Italy, 200 from North-West Europe and 50 from the United Kingdom. D.N.D. had described as eligible those with "... satisfactory ... service". "Satisfactory", General Montague noted, would be defined as all service except time spent in detention and additionally would exclude from the scheme those with bad service during the past year. He urged that any publicity given to the scheme emphasize that the leave was a privilege, not a right and would be at all times subject to the exigencies of the service. (19/Canada/2: Tel A. 9128, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 11 Nov 44).

53. The basic principle of selection was as laid down in the original directive from D.N.D., i.e., each completed month of service outside the Western Hemisphere but not in a theatre of operations to count one month; each completed month of service in a theatre of operations (Mediterranean Area and North-West Europe) to count for two months. Various methods were adopted by formations and unites to determine priorities of individuals equally qualified under the broader system. To give an example, in the Royal Canadian Regiment, where the allotment for the first quota was three and the number eligible 41, the matter was determined by a draw (W.D., R.C.R., 16 Nov 44). In some cases selection was finally based on a close scrutiny of individual case histories and the most deserving chosen. The final decision in contentious cases rested with an officer two grades above the soldier's immediate commanding officer, i.e., the Brigadier Commander in the case of an infantry soldier, (19/Canada/2: Tel A.Q. 16, H.Q. First Cdn Army to C.M.H.Q., 10 Nov 44 and Tel A. 9129 C.M.H.Q. to H.Q. First Cdn Army, 11 Nov 44). It was also agreed that leave quotas should correspond by ranks in both theatres in proportion to the numbers on strength of officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and privates (ibid).

54. As was to be expected a number of administrative difficulties arose soon after the inauguration of Rotation Leave. These resulted chiefly from the



policy of retaining leave personnel on the strength of the Army Overseas partly in order that they might not lose their rehabilitation credits and partly because it was intended that they return overseas on completion of leave. As a result, documentation and pay procedures were complicated and delays were caused. In order that personnel would not suffer any loss of seniority or pay, D.N.D. had laid down that leave personnel would retain acting ranks and lance appointments. Unfortunately at C.M.H.Q. and H.Q. First Cdn Army this ruling was taken to apply to officers drawing special rates of pay, i.e., command and graded pay. After numerous cables had passed between London and Ottawa on this matter of special rates, the subject would appear to have been closed with a communication from the A.G. to the effect that:

... agreement with ... proposal would necessitate submission to Privy Council in turn necessitating estimate of cost and this considered impossible to compute thereby making possibility of favourable reaction by Privy Council remote.

(19/Canada/2: Tel AG 1311, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY,  
26 Jan 45)

55. The first personnel despatched under the Rotation Leave Scheme - 200 from A.A.I., 250 from N.W.E. and U.K. - sailed from U.K. and Italian ports at the end of November. Subsequent drafts departed for Canada at roughly monthly intervals in the months following to June 1945. Negotiations between Ottawa and the Overseas authorities led to a gradual increase in the size of drafts and in the first four months of operation some 4,084 all ranks were returned to Canada (H.Q. 54-27-55-11 (Vol 2): Adjutant-General to the Deputy Minister (Army), 9 Apr 45). (For further statistical data see Appx "E" to this Report).

56. Although the original intention was that personnel granted Rotation Leave to Canada would return overseas on the completion of such leave, in

practice only a very small number returned.<sup>6</sup> The chief reasons for retention of these personnel in Canada were medical and compassionate. A survey conducted in Canada among 192 other ranks from the first two quotas revealed that 95% were reluctant to return overseas on completion of leave; by 25 Jan 80% of personnel otherwise available for return had submitted applications for extension of leave or retention in Canada on compassionate grounds. Additionally Medical Officers examining the personnel surveyed estimated that 30-40% would be assigned PULHEMS gradings below the standards for their former overseas duties. (Ibid: Memorandum R. & I. Section D.N.D., 30 Jan 45). On 17 Dec Maj-Gen Welford advised C.M.H.Q. that:

view held here shared by Minister that as many as possible of personnel despatched on Rotation Leave be retained here for period of six months or longer and posted to H.W.Es. to release G.S. and N.R.M.A. personnel into reinforcement stream. Will also have desirable effect of partially staffing Army in Canada with Overseas personnel and be an ultimate aid in demobilization.

(19/Canada/2: Tel A.G. 887, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY,  
17 Dec 44)

Fit personnel desiring to return overseas and key personnel desired by Overseas authorities would not be retained. The governing factor would be the current reinforcement situation. C.M.H.Q. replied that this proposal was not acceptable until reinforcements scheduled for January and February were in the U.K. and available for posting to the North-West Europe theatre (ibid: Tel C.O.S. 85, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 20 Dec 44). By 29 Dec policy was that normally personnel despatched to Canada on Rotation Leave would return

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<sup>6</sup>Overseas Records Office in a memorandum to A.G. (State) C.M.H.Q. on 5 Jul 45 gives the number of personnel returned as 49 officers and 44 other ranks (A.G. State Working Files in possession H.S.4)

Overseas on its completion but that personnel whose PULHEMS grading was lower than that required for the type of employment held at the time the leave was granted would be automatically retained (ibid: Tel A. 11154, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 29 Dec 44). The matter again arose in the following month when C.M.H.Q. concurred in a suggestion from D.N.D. that the latter decide on applications from Rotation Leave personnel for retention in Canada on compassionate grounds without reference to the Overseas authorities. (Ibid: Tel A.G. 4557, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 16 Jan 45).

57. On 27 Feb an announcement by the Minister revealed that of the first three quotas, comprising 1992 all ranks, all except 53 were being retained in Canada for use in the home establishment. At the same time, D.N.D. informed C.M.H.Q. that:

In future personnel despatched on Rotation quota which will be set from time to time by Defensor will normally be retained in Canada for benefit of Army here.

(19/Canada/2/2: Tel A.G. 540, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY,  
27 Feb 45)

Individuals whose services were required by the Overseas Army would in the future be considered separately from the Rotation scheme. (Ibid) The new plan was to deal with all personnel returning to Canada under four heads:

First. Rotational Duty all of whom will remain in Canada for at least six months duty following disembarkation leave etc. Second. Long Service Leave all physically fit of whom will return Overseas unless individuals after arrival in Canada apply to remain and you concur. Third. Compassionate Leave under present conditions including delegation of power of decision vide my Adgen 29 todays date. Fourth. Unfit under present regulations main endeavour should be to build

Rotational Duty group to highest possible figure which will obviously include some unfits who qualify long service formula.

(Ibid: C.M.H.Q. to H.Q. First Cdn Army, 9 Mar 45)

The Rotation Duty category would include all personnel returned for duty of any character rather than long service only. Long Service Leave, on the other hand, was to be sparingly granted since return Overseas would be now the exception not the rule. This policy was arrived at by D.N.D. as a matter of "urgent and important national policy" affecting not only families in Canada but, "in light of latest information post hostilities shipping situation, affecting priority of demobilization and rehabilitation of long service personnel". Another consideration was that "with operational troops now being reduced to barest necessities we should have in Canada as potential aid to avail power maximum number overseas personnel" (ibid). This was the system followed until June 1945, when the movement of Canadian Army Pacific Force and "High Priority Point Score" personnel (see relevant sections of Hist Sec C.M.H.Q. [Report No. 177](#), The Repatriation of the Canadian Military Forces Overseas, 1945-1947 brought an end to the Rotation Duty and Leave Scheme.<sup>7</sup>

58. During the seven month period, 30 Nov 44 to 21 Jun 45, 239 Officers and 3581 other ranks were returned to Canada on Rotation Leave and Long Service Leave, and 387 officers and 6022 other ranks on Rotation Duty, making a total of 626 officers and 9603 other ranks (see Appx "E" for detailed breakdown of these figures). Although D.N.D. early issued a Routine Order (5150, 6 Dec 44)

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<sup>7</sup>The Rotation Leave Scheme was revived for the benefit of C.A.O.F. in November 1945. Eligibility was based on (a) three years continuous service outside Western Hemisphere (b) 150 points on the same basis as the repatriation scheme (see Hist Sec [Report No. 177](#), para 16) and (c) satisfactory service. As in the first scheme personnel were retained on strength of the Overseas Army with the intention that they would return on the completion of leave but again apart from a few key personnel very few were returned. (see 19/Canada/2/2 and 2/3 folios 31 Jul 45 to 2 Mar 46)

governing the granting of Rotation Leave no equivalent order was ever issued by C.M.H.Q.<sup>8</sup> Initially the failure of the Overseas authorities to publish a governing order stemmed from the fact that the working of C.A.R.O. 5150 changed the basic qualifications for Rotation Leave, i.e., the D.N.D. order read that "all ranks having five years ... continuous service overseas ..." and that "in deterring priority in individual cases, service in an operational theatre ... shall count double". The overseas practice was that personnel with the equivalent of five years' continuous service would be eligible, for example an individual with four and one half years of continuous service overseas, six months of which had been in a theatre of operations would count as having five years' continuous service. The feeling at C.M.H.Q. was that no change should be made in the overseas system of selection but that no overseas order would be issued until the matter was clarified by D.N.D. (19/Canada/2: D.A.G., C.M.H.Q. to D.A. & Q.M.G. First Cdn Army, 29 Jan 45). During his visit in February, the Adjutant-General discussed this point with the Army Commander and on 9 Feb cabled D.N.D. that he was in agreement with the overseas view and that C.A.R.O. 5150 should be amended to conform (Ibid: Tel WAL 9, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 9 Feb 45). Actually C.M.H.Q. policy was in accordance with the plan originally approved by the Military Members in Ottawa on 29 Oct (see para 51). Neither the suggested amendment to C.A.R.O. 5150 nor the conforming overseas order were published however, and throughout the period information concerning the scheme reached lower formations and units through the media of circular letters.

#### TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL RETURNED TO CANADA

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<sup>8</sup>The relevant Canadian Army Routine Orders were 5150 and amendments 5211, 20 Dec 44, 5248, 6 Jan 45 and 5585, 18 Apr 45, which latter covered the revised scheme as agreed to in March 1945. In addition R.Os. 6212, 19 Nov 45, 6258, 6 Dec 45 and 6437, 11 Mar 46 governed the granting of Rotation Leave to members of the Canadian Army Occupation Force.

59. Information made available to the narrator by A.G. (Stats) C.M.H.Q. in 1944 revealed that by 31 Aug 44 a grand total of 23,400 officers and 289,417 other ranks of the Canadian Army had arrived in the United Kingdom; while 4715 officers and 33,749 other ranks had returned to Canada during the same period. (See Appx "B" and "B-1"). By 1 Jun 45 i.e. shortly before the commencement of the general repatriation program, a total of 370,848 all ranks had been shipped from Canada to the European zone. The total for reverse movement reached on this same date was 70,271 all ranks. (See Appx "B-2" to this report). The figures obtained from A.G. (Stats) C.M.H.Q. indicate, as might be expected; that the commonest grounds for return were medical. Over 10% of the returns, however, were made under the Rotation Scheme, while compassionate return or leave, P.W. Escort and Instructors together probably accounted for about half as many again.

60. This report was prepared by Major D.N. Cunningham.

(C.P. Stacey) Colonel  
Director Historical Section

APPENDIX "A"  
TO HIST SEC A.H.Q. REPORT NO. 23

STATISTICAL DATA - P.W. ESCORT DETACHMENTS

Nos. 1 to 21

No.	Date S.O.S. C.A. O/S	No of Offrs	No of O.Rs.	COMPOSITION
1	23 Dec 41	6	199	(6/1 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 2379, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 26 Dec 41). 61 members of this detachment retained in Canada for reasons of age or category ( <u>Ibid</u> : Tel A. 848, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 28 Mar 42; Tel A.G. 949, DEFENSOR to CANMILITRY, 23 Apr 42).
2	25 Mar 42	8	167	Personnel returned to Canada for duty (6/2 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 842, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 27 Mar 42).
3	8 Apr 42	7	160	Personnel were composed of 117 COTU candidates, the balance being N.C.Os. returning for duty in Canada. (6/3 POW Escort/1: Report of the voyage by Major R.E. Bucker, O.C. No. 3 POW Escort Det, 16 Apr 42).
4	2 Dec 42	7	105	(6/4 POW Escort/1/2: Tel A. 3758 CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 3 Dec 42). 71 members of this detachment were retained in Canada for reasons of age or category ( <u>Ibid</u> : A.G., N.D.H.Q. to S.O., C.M.H.Q., 23 Mar 43, 16 May 43).
5	19 Dec 42	7	105	71 members of this detachment retained in Canada for reasons of age or category (6/5 POW Escort/1: A.G., N.D.H.Q. to S.O., C.M.H.Q., 23 Mar 43, 16 May 43).
6	13 Feb 43	7	105	Composed of 99 candidates for OCTU, balance returned for duty (6/6 POW Escort/1: Nominal Roll of 8/XUK/54, 8 Feb 43).
7	30 Apr 43	6	85	55 members of this detachment were retained in Canada for reasons of age or category (6/7 POW Escort/1: A.G., N.D.H.Q. to S.O., C.M.H.Q., 29 Jun 43).
8	6 Jun 43	7	210	177 members of this detachment were retained in Canada for reasons of age or category. (6/8 POW Escort/1: A.G., N.D.H.Q. to S.O., C.M>H.Q., 28 Aug 43)
9	8 Jun 43	8	464	409 members of this detachment were retained in Canada for reasons of age or category (6/9 POW Escort/1: A.G., N.D.H.Q. to S.O., C.M.H.Q., 18 Sep 43)

No.	Date S.O.S. C.A. O/S	No of Offrs	No of O.Rs.	COMPOSITION
10	23 Jun 43	6	112	(6/10 POW Escort/1: 8/XUK/62, 17 Jun 43) 77 members of this detachment were retained in Canada for reasons of age or category ( <u>Ibid</u> : A.G., N.D.H.Q. to S.O., C.M.H.Q., 27 Oct 43, 2 Dec 43).
11	2 Jul 43	7	210	(6/11 POW Escort/1: Nominal Roll of 8/UXK/63, 22 Jun 43), 157 members of this detachment were retained in Canada as ineligible for further duty overseas ( <u>Ibid</u> : A.G., N.D.H.Q. to S.O., C.M.H.Q., 27 Oct - 13 Nov, 2 Dec, 7 Dec 43, 7 Jan, 12 Feb 44).
12	4 Jul 43	6	147	(6/12 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 2173 CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 6 Jul 43). 123 members of this detachment were retained in Canada for reasons of age or category ( <u>Ibid</u> : A.G., N.D.H.Q. to S.O., C.M.H.Q., 27 Oct 43, 15 Nov 43, 3 Dec 43, 9 Dec 43, 7 Jan 44)
13	23 Jul 43	7	215	Personnel returned for following reasons: Escort duty and leave, 14; age and category, 208; (6/13 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 2401, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 23 Jul 43)
14	3 Aug 43	2	109	Personnel returned for following reasons: Escort Duty, 5; A.Gs. Disposal, 1; Instructors, 34; OCTU, 71; (6/14 POW Escort/1: S.O., C.M.H.Q. to Secretary Department of National Defence, 4 Sep 43)
15	21 Aug 43	7	215	All personnel returned for reasons of age or category (6/15 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 2861 CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 21 Aug 43)
16	3 Feb 44	7	126	Personnel returned for following reasons: P.O.W. Escort duty, 28; duty, 1; compassionate leave, 1; reallocation, 103; (6/16 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 746, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 3 Feb 44)
17	June 1944	6	151	Personnel returned for following reasons: Instructors, 10; duty, 9; compassionate leave, 41; underage, 71; reallocation, 90; (6/17 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 4156, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 19 Jun 44)



No.	Date S.O.S. C.A. O/S	No of Offrs	No of O.Rs.	COMPOSITION
18	June 1944	7	206	Personnel returned for following reasons: Instructors, duty and courses, 89; POW escort duty, 5; compassionate leave, 6; medical and age, 80; reallocation, 33; (6/18 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 4428, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 29 Jun 44)
19	July 1944	5	102	Personnel returned for following reasons: Instructors and duty, 2; compassionate leave, 3; POW escort duty, 102; (6/19 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 5122, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 25 Jul 44)
20	August 1944	7	285	Personnel returned for following reasons POW Escort duty, 243; compassionate leave 35; miscellaneous, 7; (6/20 POW Escort/1: Nominal Roll of 8/XUK/116 (NETD), 11 Jul 44)
21	August 1944	8	419	Personnel returned for following reasons: POW escort duty, 388; compassionate leave, 19; category, 20; (6/21 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 6119, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 28 Aug 44)
22	November 1944	714 all ranks		No breakdown available (6/22 POW Escort/1: D.A.G. C.M.H.Q. to O.C.1 Cdn N.E.T.D., 23 Nov 44)

TOTAL 4758 all ranks

- NOTE: (a) The dates of S.O.S. Canadian Army overseas of detachment No. 1 - 13 are to be found in 6/12 POW Escort/1: Tel A. 269, CANMILITRY to DEFENSOR, 14 Jan 44.
- (b) The dates of S.O.S. of Detachment No. 14 - 16 are to be found in 6/16 POW Escort/1: Memo of Brigadier Booth, D.A.G., C.M.H.Q., 18 mar 44.
- (c) In the case of Detachment No. 17 - 21 the exact dates S.O.S. are not available; accordingly months only are given.
- (d) Care should be exercised in the use of the figures given under heading "Composition" in the case of P.W. Escort Detachment Nos. 1 to 12 (exclusive of Nos. 3 and 6). There is no official breakdown of the figures given under headings "Nos. of Offrs" and "Nos. of O.Rs.", available at C.M.H.Q.; and those given in the final column are to be found in the references cited. These figures may, however, be incomplete and should not be regarded as complete or exhaustive; they serve as a general guide only.

\*STATISTICAL DATA - PERSONNEL RETURNED TO CANADA  
November 1939 to July 1944

Reasons for Return	1940		1941		1942		1943		1 Jan 44- 31 Jan 44		Totals 3 Nov 39 to 31 Jul 44	
	Offrs	ORS	Offrs	ORS	Offrs	ORS	Offrs	ORS	Offrs	ORS	Offrs	ORS
Duty in Canada					516	389	455	281	332	91	1303	761
Medical					195	4483	236	4119	465	6067	896	14669
Overage & Category (Incl Reallocation)					-	-	10	782	-	4281	10	5063
A.G. Disposal					115	13	90	22	154	15	359	50
Underage					-	129	-	41	-	18	-	188
Compassionate Grounds					21	88	36	106	41	188	98	382
Leave in Canada					6	18	1	-	-	-	7	18
Instructors					322	1145	150	781	115	366	587	2292
C.J.W.S.C.					137	-	131	-	-	-	268	-
O.C.T.U.					-	663	-	6866	-	109	-	1458
Courses					-	-	-	-	89	-	89	-
P.O.W. Escort					20	376	61	1658	7	132	88	2166
On Comd to Canada					4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Med Conducting Party					23	109	15	171	29	395	67	675
Ships Conducting Party					80	169	38	143	17	44	135	356
Miscellaneous					55	61	142	1960	54	23	251	2044
No Breakdown Available	122	1362	431	2265							553	3627

TOTALS	122	1362	431	2265	1494	7643	1365	10750	1303	11729	4715	33749
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NOTE: There were no personnel returned to Canada during 1939.

\* These figures provided by A.G. (Stat) C.M.H.Q.

APPENDIX "B-1"  
TO HIST SEC A.H.Q. REPORT NO 23

\*STATISTICAL DATA - ARRIVALS IN U.K.

3 Nov 39 - 31 Aug 44

Period	Offrs	ORs
3 Nov - 31 Dec 1939	681	15247
1 Jan - 31 Dec 1940	2805	39892
1 Jan - 31 Dec 1941	3985	66215
1 Jan - 31 Dec 1942	4720	58793
1 Jan - 31 Dec 1943	6840	72662
1 Jan - 31 Aug 1944	4369	36608
TOTAL	23,400	289,417

\* ... These figures provided by AG (Stats) C.M.H.Q.

TROOP MOVEMENTS TO AND FROM CANADA 1939 - 1945

Year	<u>From Canada</u> Total for Year	<u>From Canada</u> Cumulative to Year's End	<u>To Canada</u> Total for Year	<u>To Canada</u> Cumulative to Year's End
1939	15,713	15,713	-	-
1940	43,603	59,316	1,380	1,380
1941	69,580	128,896	2,641	4,021
1942	66,812	195,708	9,060	13,081
1943	79,190	274,898	11,392	24,473
1944	62,536	337,434	23,075	47,548
1945 (to 30 Oct)	35,102*	372,536	149,788**	197,336

\* 1688 after 1 Jun  
 \*\* 125,265 after 1 Jun

The above statistics taken from File in possession of National Defence  
 Statistics known as "Brigadier's Book" (Brigadier J.P.A. DeLanlanne, formerly  
 D.A.G.(A), A.H.Q.).

EXTRACTS FROM SOLDIERS' LETTERS RELATING  
TO THE QUESTION OF LEAVE TO CANADA

Appreciation and Censorship Report No. 49

For Period 16-31 Jul 44

Inclusive

Part B

4. Home Leave. The increasing volume of comment on the question of home leave indicates how large this problem is now looming in the minds of the troops. Those who have served for nearly five years are acutely conscious of the fact that they are unable to look forward to a period of leave as a duly earned right, and the authorities are bitterly criticized for failing to make provision in this respect. The granting of compassionate leave in exceptional circumstances, and the detailing of men for P/W Escort duty, have merely tended to aggravate the question in the eyes of the remainder.

(a) An offr: "As a matter of fact, leave is one of the shocking things about the Cdn Army ... There is no provision for getting men home at all, no matter what length of time they have been overseas or out of Canada. We are the only army that has not a policy covering this matter. We get a few of the more urgent ones home on the odd P/W Escort but it's a bad thing and I wish they would do something about it. Of course the old cry is we can't afford the lads that volunteered get it in the neck just that much more. The time overseas is getting too long for a lot of the lads. The number of homes that are breaking up are too damn many, and the only solution of it is to get the lads home that have been away too long. There's a very strong feeling of resentment growing in some of the men about this and although it has

little effect on this operation over here I feel they will have quite a bit to say after they get home. As a matter of fact it will probably be a good thing. It will make some people wake up".

(b) An N.C.O.: "The Americans get sent home after eighteen months overseas and the English lads with over four years overseas have all been sent back but as usual the Canadian is kept".

(c) A W.O.: "I don't think that I could feel any better, other than being lonesome and tired of this thing. Surely they will do something for us soon, if they haven't forgotten that we are over here. I think that we have done our part in this hell of a war. Five years is a long time off a man's life".

(d) An N.C.O.: "I see where I made a mistake, in not getting married before I left Canada, as the married men who have been away from home anywhere from three years and up are getting the privilege of escorting prisoners back to Canada. Guess I'll just have to remain until the end".

\*SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF LEAVE POLICY OF  
OTHER BRITISH, DOMINION AND ALLIED FORCES

COUNTRY	LEAVE GRANTED	REQUIREMENTS	REMARKS	AUTHORITY
British	Posting to U.K.	5 yrs' unbroken Army Service abroad.	Ruling date 1 Jan 44. Applies to all arms and branches of the service.	G.R.O. 138/44 d. 25 Feb 44
United States	Posting to U.S.	(a) 6 mos' service (b) ½ of 1% of units aggregate strength returned each month on rotational basis	Personnel are not returned to this theatre.	
South Africa	30 days' leave plus travelling time.	3 yrs' service outside the union		
India	2 mos in India (a) V.C.Os. and I.O.Rs. (of all units excepting Gurkha units) (b) 3 mos in India GOs, GORs and Gurkha NCs (E).	2 yrs' service overseas	Vacancies allotted (a) by O2E (Ind) CMF not to exceed 6% of unit strength (b) O.C. unit sanctioning authority (c) leave is reckoned from date of leaving regimental centre until date of reporting back to regimental centre	G.R.O. 249/44 d. 24 Mar 44
New Zealand (ME Policy)	28 days annually to all ranks (not definitely arranged to N.Z.)	(a) not to exceed 15% of unit at any one time (b) discretion of formation commander	No definite leave policy for C.M.F.	2 NZKF Order 1092
R.C.A.F.	(a) Return to U.K. (b) 8 wks' leave in Cdn from U.K.	Completion of 2 operational tours. Completion of one operational tour and one non-operational tour of 6 mos in the U.K.	(a) applies only to aircrew (b) an operational tour varies on type of aircraft being used but may be from 6 mos to 18 mos.	

\* The above information is taken from C.M.H.Q. file 19/Canada/2. Appx A, Brigadier Weeks, Cdn Sec G.H.Q. 1 Ech, A.A.I., to General Montague, C.M.H.Q., 2 May 44.



MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS UNDER ROTATION LEAVE AND DUTY SCHEMES

Table I - Rotation Leave and Long Service Leave

<u>Draft Serial</u>	<u>Embarked Date</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>
ITUS 1	A.A.I. 30 Nov 44	3	197
XUK 132A	U.K. 7 Dec 44	25	221
XUK 133	U.K. 31 Dec 44	-	1
XUK 136	U.K. 11 Jan 45	-	2
ITUS 2	A.A.I. 20 Jan 45	21	380
XUK 139	U.K. 5 Feb 45	42	403
XUK 143	U.K. 27 Feb 45	36	482
ITUS 3	A.A.I. 27 Feb 45	22	443
XUK 144	U.K. 7 Mar 45	1	-
ITUS 4	A.A.I. 17 Mar 45	11	355
XUK 148C	U.K. 27 Mar 45	-	9
XUK 148D	U.K. 27 Mar 45	25	471
XUK 148B	U.K. 29 Mar 45	1	117
XUK 148	U.K. 30 Mar 45	48	478
XUK 151	U.K. 13 Apr 45	2	6*
XUK 153	U.K. 22 Apr 45	1	-
XUK 155A	U.K. 15 May 45	1	-
XUK 158	U.K. 14 May 45	-	14
XUK 161	U.K. 30 May 45	-	2
Total Rotation Leave and Long Service Leave		239	3581

\* Commencing with this draft leave was known as Long Service Leave.

Table II - Rotation Duty

XUK 151	U.K.	13 Apr 45	30	557
XUK 151A	U.K.	18 Apr 45	20	423
XUK 153A	U.K.	21 Apr 45	-	11
XUK 153	U.K.	22 Apr 45	37	336

XUK 154	U.K.	30 Apr 45	1	16
XUK 155	U.K.	11 May 45	20	231
XUK 158	U.K.	14 May 45	71	1151
XUK 155A	U.K.	15 May 45	4	3
XUK 159	U.K.	30 May 45	-	16
XUK 161	U.K.	30 May 45	8	536
XUK 162	U.K.	7 Jun 45	22	716
XUK 164	U.K.	7 Jun 45	120	1502
XUK 165	U.K.	14 Jun 45	22	109
XUK 166	U.K.	21 Jun 45	32	415
Total Rotation Duty			387	6022

Table III - Total Rotation Leave and Duty and Long Service Leave - 626 Officers and 9603 Other Ranks

Table IV - Rotation Leave and Long Service Leave Personnel Returned to United Kingdom.

Lady Nelson	disembarked	U.K.	4 Mar 45	3 Offrs	- ORs.
AT 194	"	"	5 Mar 45	13 "	27 "
AT 199	"	"	27 Mar 45	1 "	1 "
Air	"	"	27 Mar 45	1 "	- "
AT 204	"	"	22 Apr 45	- "	3 "
CU 66	"	"	29 Apr 45	23 "	- "
CU 68	"	"	15 May 45	- "	7 "
AT 208	"	"	17 May 45	5 "	- "
CU 73	"	"	12 Jun 45	4 "	- "
Total				50 "	38 "

NOTE: Statistics taken from A.G. (Stats) C.M.H.Q. Working File; Long Service Leave - Details and Dispositions.