



**History Of
The
1st Anti-Tank Regiment
Royal Canadian Artillery
1939 – 1945**



1st Canadian Infantry Division



Introduction

This book has been compiled from the War Diaries and an edited copy of the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA history produced by Major Mike Calnan and Major Doug Knight.

The Artillery Regimental family is indebted to the writers who made a great effort in recording the events that took place during the Second World War. This effort was on the behest of the Brigadier Royal Artillery whose desire was to ensure that the World War II Artillery story was properly documented.

This book has been produced by the Royal Canadian Artillery Association as part of our mission to celebrate and safeguard our Regimental heritage while connecting with Canadians. Please forward any errors and/or omissions to the executive director as they will be corrected in the digital copy to enhance the accuracy for future printings. We are also looking for additional photographs of the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA to enhance our collection.

I trust you will find the book informative and hope that you will find portions of it relevant to either your current or past service. Additional books are planned to be released in the future from many of the other Canadian Active Service Force artillery units.

Lest We Forget.



Leon Jensen OMM CD
Executive Director
Royal Canadian Artillery Association
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MOBILISATION AND TRAINING IN CANADA

5 September 1939 - 22 December 1939

BACKGROUND AND ORGANIZATION

On 5 September 1939, Lieutenant-Colonel George Johnston was designated as the Commanding Officer, 1st Canadian Army Field Brigade, which was composed of the following batteries:

27th Field Battery, Montreal, commanded by Major Richard Bliss (succeeded before departure of the battery overseas by Major John Albert Gillies)

51st Field Battery, Ottawa, commanded by Major George Orrin Hutchison

57th Field Battery, Quebec, commanded by Major L A Devine

90th Field Battery, Fredericton, commanded by Major T C Barker (succeeded before departure of the battery overseas by Major John Harris)

The batteries remained in their respective towns until departure for the port of embarkation. It was composed of the following officers:

Commanding Officer - Lieutenant-Colonel George Johnston

Second-in-Command - Major Richard Bliss

Adjutant – Captain G T White

Intelligence Officer - Lieutenant H Z Palmer

Regimental Quartermaster – Captain H E Slater

Regimental Medical Officer – Lieutenant J E Andrew

Padre - Honorary Captain Gordon Jones

Paymaster – Lieutenant Gord Savage

On 25 October 1939, the 1st Canadian Army Field Brigade was converted to the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment, Canadian Army Active Service Force, by General Order No. 135/39, with effect from 1 October 1939, and Regimental Headquarters received orders to become organized and ready to function as Regimental Headquarters in Ottawa by 16 November.

On 2 December 1939, a warning order was received for the movement of the advance party to England and embarkation leave commenced for the main party. The first Regimental Part 1 Order was issued on 4 December, calling for the first Commanding Officer's parade at 0945 hours, 5 December 1939, in front of the Coliseum at Lansdowne Park, Ottawa.

On 8 December, the regimental advance party consisting of Lieutenant H Z Palmer and Lance Sergeant R A Dow left from the Isabella street siding, near the Elgin Street subway on the first troop train to leave Ottawa for England. They were attached to No. 1 Provost Company for the journey. On the same train were the General Officer Commanding 1st Canadian Infantry Division and his staff.

On 12 December, the final movement order for the regiment was received, and after the last parade had been held at 2200 hours, at which Regimental Sergeant Major A B Brewer was presented with the Canadian Efficiency Medal by Lieutenant-Colonel George Johnston, Regimental Headquarters



and the 51st Battery entrained. There was a large gathering of Ottawa citizens at the station, and they gave them a great send-off. Despite the crowd, the train managed to move off on time for Halifax.

At 1300 hours on 18 December, the regiment began to embark on transports as follows: RHQ and 51st Battery on *Royal Mail Steamship Almanzora*, 27th Battery on *Royal Mail Ship Oroma*, 57th and 90th Batteries on *Royal Mail Ship Rena del Pacifico*.

The 27th Battery was quartered in the immigration sheds while awaiting the arrival of their ship. After embarking, the troops were confined to their ships for a period of approximately eleven days before sailing.

At 1130 hours on 22 December, the convoy moved off from Halifax on its journey to England. It was escorted by *HMS Revenge*, the French battle cruiser *Dunquerque*, the light cruiser *LaGloire*, and several destroyers.

Christmas 1939 was spent on the high seas, the only comment in the War Diary for that day being that the weather was not good. On 28 December, the convoy was met by an escort of twelve Royal Navy destroyers.

A submarine alarm, lasting six hours, was sounded at 1100 hours on 29 December, but fortunately nothing came of it and at 2030 hours the same night, land was sighted and the troops had their first long-awaited look at the shores of "Old England".

At 0930 hours, 30 December 1939, the convoy passed through the Firth of Clyde and anchored off Greenock, Scotland, where the ships were visited by Major-General Andrew McNaughton and his staff. Later in the day the regiment disembarked and entrained at the docks on the London North-Eastern railway and proceeded south via Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Newcastle to North Camp Station, Farnborough, Hampshire, arriving at 1100 hours 31 December. Regimental Headquarters and the 51st Battery marched from the station to Lille Barracks where they joined the 27th Battery who had arrived the day before. The 57th and 90th Batteries arrived the following day. The total strength of the regiment was now 21 officers and 562 other ranks. The 3rd Field Regiment RCA was also billeted in Lille Barracks and the two regiments shared officer's and sergeant's messes.



TRAINING IN ENGLAND

30 December 1939 - 30 June 1943

During the first week in January 1940, one-third of the regimental strength at a time proceeded on their five days landing leave. The 7th Battery had the honour of mounting the first Regimental Guard



27th Battery, 1st Anti-Tank Regiment, RCA, CASF

in England at 0900 hours on 8 January. The first regimental parade was held on 12 January. During the parade several gunners collapsed as a result of an epidemic of influenza, which was prevalent in the area at the time.

On 24 January, the regiment and other units of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division were inspected by His Majesty, the King, accompanied by Major-General Andrew McNaughton and the Honourable Vincent Massey. The regiment was drawn up in review order on the left of the 3rd Field Regiment RCA. The highlight of the inspection was when the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel George Johnston, was introduced by Major-General Andrew McNaughton to the King as “The man who has not yet seen his guns”.

The regiment now began a period of training, and various officers and non-commissioned officers were sent on courses. During this period, the regiment received considerable assistance from the 50th Anti-Tank Training Regiment, Royal Artillery, who loaned instructors and equipment and arranged Tactical Exercises Without Troops for officers and non-commissioned officers. The regiment did not begin to receive equipment until February, and even then, it came in very slowly. Training proceeded satisfactorily and on 8 March, the 90th Battery put on a demonstration of gun drill for a large group of cadets from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

On 21 March, the regiment paraded in steel helmets for the first time when they received an extensive spot inspection by the Commander Royal Artillery and his staff. This was followed by similar inspection by the General Officer Commanding 1st Canadian Infantry Division on 28 March.

The first change in officer personnel within the regiment since its arrival in England occurred on 15 April when Lieutenant Gord Savage was promoted to the rank of Captain and transferred to the 1st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. Shortly after this, the regiment, together with the 3rd Field Regiment RCA, put on a successful training demonstration for Her Royal Highness, Princess Alice, and the Earl of Athlone.

On 9 May the regiment carried out its first practice 2-pounder shoot at Stoney Castle Ranges, firing at stationary targets at a range of 400 yards (365 metres) and at crossing targets at a range of 700 yards (640 metres). During the month of May, one troop from the regiment stood-to daily at dusk and dawn, fully-armed and equipped in a local anti-parachutist role.



The officers held their first formal mess dinner on 16 May, Major L A Devine presiding as President.

On 19 May the regiment proceeded to Fargo Camp, Salisbury, where the batteries carried out tactical schemes using their complement of twelve 2-pounder guns. While carrying out this training, the regiment received the code word *Caesar*, which meant that it would provide anti-aircraft defence along either of two routes to be used by the remainder of the Division in the event of the invasion of England.

Before this could be put into effect, the plan was changed and Southern Command ordered that two batteries and Regimental Headquarters, equipped as per war establishment, would be prepared to entrain for an unknown destination by 2230 hours 23 May 1940. The batteries chosen were the 27th and 57th. Preparations were carried out immediately and the personnel train left from Amesbury in good time. The equipment train was delayed some time by the non-arrival of supplies and eventually left without them. The supplies arrived shortly afterwards, however, and were sent on to Dover by road.

Embarkation at Dover commenced at 0700 hours 24 May in the following manner:

27th Battery less C troop on *SS Canterbury*
57th Battery less I troop on *SS Auto Carrier*
RHQ plus C and I troops on *SS Monas Queen*.

The strength of the two batteries and Regimental Headquarters was as follows:

	Officers	Other Ranks	Total
RHQ	9	43	51
Signals		23	23
27th Battery	4	117	121
57th Battery	4	117	122
Total	17	301	318

At 1845 hours 24 May, the Commanding Officer returned from a conference with information that the sailing had been cancelled, and disembarkation started at once. The regiment returned to Fargo Camp arriving there in the early hours of 26 May.

Shortly after the return to Fargo Camp, another warning order was received for the same movement, but this time three batteries were called for rather than two. This order was cancelled by 1200 hours 26 May, and the unloading of equipment from the train was carried out. The next move for the regiment came on 29 May when the batteries reported to their respective infantry brigades as follows:

27th Battery to 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade
51st Battery to 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade
57th Battery to 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade

By 1 June 1940, the regiment had arrived in the new Divisional Operational Area, near Northampton, and the Commanding Officer reported to the headquarters of the Canadian Forces Reserve Group. The following day, the Commanding Officer congratulated the regiment on the very efficient and workmanlike manner in which they had carried out the four moves, involving heavy baggage and equipment, between 22 May and 3 June.



By 7 June, the regiment was again back in the Aldershot Command and was inspected by the King and Queen on 8 June, after which preparations were made for part of the regiment to leave for France.

On 10 June, the party left Aldershot under the command of the Second in Command, Major Richard Bliss, and travelled by road to Falmouth. The party consisted of seven officers, 289 other ranks, 130 vehicles, and 8 motorcycles. They embarked, landed in France and were back in England by 18 June, having spent approximately 48 hours in France, four days prior to the armistice between France and Germany.

The regiment then moved to yet another area, Holton Park, Oxfordshire, where several packing exercises were carried out until the end of the month, when the regiment moved once more, this time into Work Park, Surrey on 30 June. While in this area, ten percent of the regimental strength was allowed away on privilege leave. Four officers and twelve non-commissioned officers from the 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, were attached to the regiment for training during this time. A fatal accident occurred on 8 July when a 57th Battery dispatch rider, Gunner Eric Milton Stevens was killed. He was buried in Brookwood Cemetery on 10 July 1940

As well as carrying out practice night convoys and taking part in a divisional exercise in Ashdown Forest, the regiment acted in an anti-parachutist role. This necessitated a considerable amount of reconnaissance of the area, in order that officers and men might familiarise themselves with the district.

On 4 September, at approximately 2035 hours, a general alarm was given for the whole division to Stand To. This lasted several hours, but the anticipated invasion of England by the German army did not materialize. For their conduct during the stand-to, the regiment received a letter of appreciation from the General Officer Commanding, 1st Canadian Infantry Division.

On 15 September, another fatal accident occurred, when another despatch rider, Gunner Philip Ryan, 51st Battery, was killed. He was buried in Brookwood Cemetery on 18 September 1940.

Toward the end of September, the regiment moved into excellent winter quarters in the area of Shirley, Croydon, where batteries were together for the first time since May 1940. Regimental Headquarters was located at Windmill House, Shirley Park.

At this time the Battle of Britain was at its height, and day and night raids became very frequent. One German bomber pilot was apprehended by the 90th Battery after parachuting into their lines. On 19 September, several civilians were killed and others injured by a land mine which dropped about 150 yards (137 metres) west of a pub in which the officers of the regiment had just concluded a mess meeting. Three of the officers were slightly wounded and were attended by the regimental medical officer. Personnel from the regiment assisted in the search for bodies and the evacuation of injured civilians. Later an unexploded land mine was found which, to be neutralized, had to be rolled several yards away onto a level platform. Volunteers who carried out this work were Gunner L Brunet, Gunner J Geddes, and Gunner K M Johnston, all of 51st Battery. The mine was then neutralized by a mine destruction party from the Royal Navy.

On 10 October, the regiment was informed by the Croydon police that Lieutenant J Keefe had been injured by enemy air action, suffering a compound fracture of the right leg and severe burns to his hand and face. On 21 October, Captain G T White vacated the appointment of Adjutant to take over duties as Battery Captain in 57th Battery. He was the original adjutant of the regiment and was succeeded by Lieutenant Lawrence Frawley.



Toward the end of October, the regiment sent parties of one officer and 24 men for about a week at a time to Tangmere airport to obtain anti-aircraft experience in defending that area. At about the same time, the 57th Battery left the regimental area to take over coastal duties from British troops. On 30 October, Lieutenant T A Cowan succeeded Lieutenant Lawrence Frawley as Adjutant. The General Officer Commanding, 1st Canadian Infantry Division, Major-General George Randolph Pearkes, VC, DSO, MC, visited the regimental area and inspected Regimental Headquarters, 27th, 51st, and 90th Batteries during their normal training.

On 11 November 1940, Major Richard Bliss was appointed Commanding Officer of the 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA. Major L A Devine took over temporary command of the regiment in the absence of the Commanding Officer and Major Colin Campbell assumed command of 57th Battery.

On 16 November, the regiment supplied a guard under the command of Lieutenant W G Reynolds, which was mounted at divisional headquarters. On 24 November, Major Douglas Harkness arrived from the 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA and succeeded Major John Harris as battery commander of the 90th Battery, Major John Harris being posted to the 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA. On 22 December, Lieutenant-Colonel George Johnston left the regiment, which he had organized in Canada and brought overseas, to take command of 1st Medium Regiment RCA. Major L A Devine was appointed Acting Commanding Officer of the regiment.

During January 1941, the regimental hockey team carried out practices at the Purley ice rink. Several officers were sent on courses to Larkhill, Salisbury during the month. On 7 January, the regiment provided another guard for divisional headquarters, this time under command of Lieutenant Edward Scott. Twelve 2-pounder guns complete with stores and ammunition were turned over to 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, on 17 February.

On 3rd March, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Medland arrived from 4th Canadian Field Regiment RCA, to assume command of the regiment and Major L A Devine reverted to Second in Command.

The battery commanders at this time were:

27th Battery	Major John Gillies
51st Battery	Major George Hutchison
57th Battery	Major Colin Campbell
90th Battery	Major Douglas Harkness

March 1941, a system of vehicle holidays was inaugurated to minimize movement of vehicles within the regiment and to effect a saving of petrol and rubber, supplies of which were becoming quite limited. On 27 March, the regiment was inspected by the Corps Commander Royal Artillery, Brigadier James Crossley Stewart, accompanied by the Commander Royal Artillery, Brigadier Arthur Victor Tremaine, and staff.

In April 1941, the 27th Battery moved to new billets in the area of Limpsfield, the 57th Battery moved to Caterham, and the 90th Battery into the area of Tatsfield. Lieutenant Edward Scott succeeded Lieutenant T A Cowan as Adjutant on 15 April. The next day, during a heavy air raid over Greater London, 90th Battery suffered severe casualties when a 15-cwt truck received a direct hit from a bomb. Casualties in personnel were as follows:

Killed

G4023 Sergeant Harry Knight Olive
G4090 Bombardier Clarence Wainwright Green
G4172 Gunner Jasper Stanley Chase



G4014 Gunner Bertram Michael Clarke
G4059 Gunner Harold Rosdwell Wheeler
G4141 Gunner Edgar Joseph Richard
G4092 Gunner Roy Kenneth Warman
Wounded
G4085 Gunner D Critchlow

The General Officer Commanding 1st Canadian Infantry Division, Major-General Pearkes, visited the 90th Battery the following day to express his sympathy. The funeral for these men took place at Brookwood Cemetery on 19 April 1941.

During the latter part of April, Observation Posts in Ashdown Forest area were manned by officers of each battery in turn in order to give junior officers experience with the duties involved.

On 6 May, Gunner K P Matheson managed to get his name mentioned in the War Diary as being returned to the regiment by the Provost after having been absent without leave for some 308 days. However, nothing daunted, he promptly departed again the next day having managed to persuade his guard Gunner W G Smith to accompany him

During May, each Battery in turn fired on the anti-tank ranges at Lydd, and in June the regiment took part in two exercises, *Waterloo* and *Maple*. The divisional artillery sports meet was held on 28 June and was won by the regiment with a score of 22 points. This was followed by the divisional sports meet on 1 July in which the regiment was represented by Sergeant Lawrence, 27th Battery, and Lance Sergeant McIntosh, 51st Battery.

On 24 July, Major L A Devine with 18 other ranks left the regiment to take command of the newly formed 7th Anti-Tank Regiment, Corps Artillery, and Major George Orrin Hutchison was appointed Second in Command of the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA. Major Douglas Harkness was appointed Battery Commander of 51st Battery.

From 31 July to 2 August, the regiment took part in exercise "Albert" and on 4 August, all captains and lieutenants were obliged to write an artillery examination, most of which dealt with field artillery problems. Major George Welsh was posted to the regiment from the 4th Field Regiment RCA, and took command of the 90th Battery which brought the regiment once more up to its full quota of senior officers as follows:

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Medland	Commanding Officer
Major George Hutchison	Second in Command
Major John Gillies	27th Battery
Major Doug Harkness	51st Battery
Major Colin Campbell	57th Battery
Major George Welsh	90th Battery

From 13 to 16 August, the regiment acted as enemy troops on exercise *Roft* during which the only outstanding occurrence was an issue of rum, which was given out due to the bad weather during the exercise.

On 26 August, the regiment held a garden party for the men, their wives and friends, which was a great success. The band of No. 3 Infantry Holding Unit supplied the musical contributions and added very much to an enjoyable day. During the afternoon Prime Minister William Lyon MacKenzie-King inspected the divisional artillery.



On 25 September, the regiment took part in the first long exercise, *Bumper* which ended on 3 October. Two days later they moved to Sennybridge, Wales, where the batteries carried out tactical schemes and range practices until 15 October.

Towards the end of October, Major George Hutchison, Captain Scott, Captain H E Slater, Lieutenant Dawes, Lieutenant T A Cowan, and Lieutenant Prices were all struck off strength the regiment to go to Canada to organize the 5th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, part of 4th Canadian Division. Major George Hutchison was to command this new regiment. Major John Gillies was appointed Second in Command, being succeeded as battery commander of 27th Battery by Captain G T White who was promoted to Major.

In November, the 51st Battery took over coastal defences covering an area from west of Selsey Bill to east of Littlehampton. These defences consisted of 6-pounder naval guns on fixed mountings. The 57th Battery moved to the area of Pulborough, 90th Battery to Plumpton, 27th Battery to Henfield, and Regimental Headquarters moved to Storrington. On 28 November, Lieutenant Hugh Burnett succeeded Lieutenant Edward Scott as Adjutant.

During December the regimental hockey team managed to get some more practice at the Brighton ice rink. During the same period, each battery went to Lydd ranges for firing practice.

On 17 December Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Medland attended a reception given by the Lord Mayor of London. The regiment's third Christmas away from Canada was spent in a very enjoyable manner for the other ranks, with officers waiting on them at dinner and non-commissioned officers taking over their unpleasant duties such as guards.

On 6 January 1942, Gunner Charles Thomas Windsor was killed in a vehicle accident in Pulborough and shortly afterwards, on 11 January, Gunner Robert Cousins died from injuries received when he fell out of a train.

Major D C Keating, Royal Artillery, was attached to the regiment on the 17 January as Gunnery Instructor for training purposes. He arrived at an unpropitious moment as the regiment was still smarting from the defeat of its hockey team at the hands of the Royal 22nd Regiment.

On 27 January, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Medland left the regiment to take command of the 2nd Field Regiment RCA and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Hague. Just after this changeover in commanding officers, two troops of the 27th Battery took part in a *defence against armour* demonstration in the area of Upper Deeding.



In March, the regiment once again attended Lydd ranges for firing practice. On 1 April word was received that there was a large enemy concentration of paratroops in the area of Cherbourg and a general stand-to was ordered. This lasted from 0200 until 0500 hours, but no paratroopers materialized. Instead the regiment took part in two appropriate exercises, *Robin I* and *Robin II* which concerned the attack against a bridgehead taken and held by enemy paratroops and airborne troops.

On 10 April, Regimental Headquarters moved into Woppingthorn House, Steyning, Sussex. Between 21 and 24 April, the regiment took part in exercise "Beaver III" where the 1st Canadian Infantry Division was supposed to make a rapid advance from an established bridgehead onto an objective, under invasion conditions. During this exercise, the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, was under command 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA for the first but not the last time, and they managed to account for six enemy tanks during the last phase of the exercise.



Major John A Gillies, Sergeant Major Paul Trudel

In May 1942, the regiment took part in three exercises: exercise *Mess-Tin* that practiced all ranks in the art of mess-tin cooking, exercise *McGill* that tested the organization and administration of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. The third and longest, exercise *Tiger*, lasted from 19 May to 31 May and was a large-scale scheme between units of 1st Canadian Corps, known as the *Surrey Army* and 12th British Corps known as the *Kent Army*. For the purposes of the exercise, Surrey was treated as a neutral state. This exercise will be mainly remembered for the exceedingly wet and miserable weather that accompanied it.

During June, the regiment put on a series of tactical demonstrations in cooperation with the infantry brigades. The demonstrations consisted of two parts. Part one was a sand-table scheme and part two was the sand-table scheme brought to life, using Bren Carriers as tanks and the 2-pounder anti-tank guns with blank cartridges. The demonstration brought out the effectiveness of well-sited guns and of good camouflage, and was attended by officers from the infantry brigades and the divisional artillery. Captain John Mooney was admitted to hospital due to injuries received while he was attending an assault course at Borden, Hampshire.

In July 1942, the regiment organized and ran a 2-pounder anti-tank training school at Haywards Heath for the benefit of the infantry anti-tank platoons. It was attended by one officer and 36 other ranks of each infantry battalion in the division. This school evidently created quite an amount of interest among the higher officers of the Canadian Army and it is doubtful if any of them failed to inspect or visit it during the time it was functioning. About this time, Major John Gillies was struck off strength of the regiment to attend a two-months senior officers course, and was succeeded by Major Douglas Harkness as Second in Command

On 8 August, the regiment moved to the Dexhill area, Regimental Headquarters being established in the Cooden Beach Hotel. The infantry anti-tank school carried out their firing practice at Beachy Head ranges under the supervision of the instructors from the regiment. Quite satisfactory results were obtained.



The regiment received its new 6-pounder anti-tank guns during the month of September. These were taken down to Lydd ranges where the zeroing and firing practice were carried out. On 6 September, Major John Gillies returned to the regiment from the senior officers course and resumed his duties as Second in Command. Captain W S McKnight was promoted to Acting Major and was struck off strength to the 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA.

On 21 September, the regiment was inspected by the General Officer Commanding, Major-General Harry Salmon, and on 17 November took part in the ceremonial parade held by the divisional artillery in Eastbourne.

Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Hague left the regiment on 23 November to take over command of the 2nd Field Regiment RCA and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Wills from the 4th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, in the 5th Canadian Armoured Division. During October, November, and December, there were several changes among the senior officers in the regiment. Major Colin Campbell was struck off strength on 26 October to the Judge Advocate General Branch, in Canadian Military Headquarters and was succeeded in command of the 57th Battery by Major M Y McLean from the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA. Major John Gillies left the regiment on 2 December to take command of the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA and was succeeded as Second in Command by Major Douglas Harkness. Major R Barker came to the regiment from the 3rd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, to command the 51st Battery.

Towards the latter part of November and December, the regiment sent several large parties of officers and men to Scotland for combined operations training. The remainder of the regiment carried out anti-aircraft light machine gun practice, using balloons as targets, at Holywell ranges near Eastbourne. On 4 December, the Corps Commander Royal Artillery inspected the vehicles and training of the regiment.

The regiment spent its fourth Christmas away from Canada in the usual manner and a good time was had by all.

In January 1943, the regiment fired their monthly practice shoot at Michaeldean ranges, Burling Gap, with moderate results. During this same month, they carried out an experimental form of training by reversing day with night, so that all training and normal daily routine was carried out during the hours of darkness and sleeping was done in the daytime. About the middle of January, Major G T White and Battery Sergeant-Major Richard Zari left the regiment for instructional attachment to the First British Army in North Africa, and while on embarkation leave, Battery Sergeant Major Richard Emanuel Zari was killed in an enemy air raid. Major G T White was succeeded in command of the 27th Battery by Major G A Rankin.

In February a big improvement was shown in the regiment's shoot at Lydd ranges. On 27 February, Lieutenant C H Parker and 31 other ranks were struck off strength to the 5th Canadian Anti-Tank Regiment RCA.

The previous month's good shooting was upheld when the regiment took part in exercise *Welsh* from 2 to 10 April. During this scheme, they stopped at the Royal Artillery practice camp at Harlech, Wales, where they fired at moving targets at ranges varying from 300 to 800 yards (275 to 730 metres). A total percentage of 65.9 hits was achieved, reputed to be the highest score yet attained by any anti-tank regiment.

In April, the regiment once again undertook the training of the infantry anti-tank platoons of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Brigades. Shortly after the completion of this training the regiment moved to Scotland. Regimental Headquarters was established in Soorn Castle as was the 27th Battery. The 51st and 57th



Batteries went to Catrine while 90th Battery, with their customary facility, set themselves up close to Glasgow and a long way from Regimental Headquarters and troublesome supervision.

While in this area one troop per battery was equipped with 17-pounder anti-tank guns and the 6-pounder troops with Mk IV barrels for the 6-pounder guns. Firing practice was carried out at Cummertrees ranges. This was the first time that the great majority of the men had ever seen a 17-pounder fired, and as the guns had been accepted without having been proof-fired, the first rounds were fired with a lanyard. Sergeant Arthur Clynick who will be remembered as being the possessor of a large and flowing moustache, made the mistake of peering over the shield as he fired his first round. There was a strong wind blowing and the size of the muzzle flash took Sergeant Clynick completely by surprise. It was some time before he could once again twirl his moustache. From then on, the 17-pounder was treated with a good deal of respect. The waterproofing of vehicles was commenced. Major James Sutherland was posted to the regiment about the middle of April to take over command of the 51st Battery upon Major R Barker being posted to 2nd Canadian Army Reinforcing Unit.

On 10 June 1943, Lieutenant-Colonel George Hutchison returned to the regiment to take over command from Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Wills, and on 15 June, the regiment took part in two schemes *Stymie I* and *Stymie II* in which they practised the loading and off-loading of vehicles and personnel from ships.

On 24 June, the mechanical transport ships sailed in convoy at 1150 hours for an unknown destination. These were followed on 28 June by the personnel ships, and so after three and a half years the regiment set sail from England. The men left those shores with mixed feelings. Many pleasant memories were taken with them from this "green and pleasant land." The future promised to be far from dull, and it looked as though the years of training in England would be put into practical use at last.

On leaving England the senior officers of the regiment were as follows:

Lieutenant-Colonel George Hutchison	Commanding Officer
Major Douglas Harkness	Second in Command
Major G A Rankin	27th Battery
Major James Sutherland	51st Battery
Major M Y McLean	57th Battery
Major George Welsh	90th Battery
Captain John Coatsworth	Adjutant
Acting Captain John Lindsay	Regimental Quartermaster



ACTIVE SERVICE IN SICILY

10 July 1943 - 3 September 1943

On 1 July 1943, the troops were informed that they were going to make an assault landing on Sicily. However, before arriving, the regiment was to suffer its first casualties of the operation. On 5 July the transport *CC-1*, on which Major Douglas Harkness together with some Regimental Headquarters personnel and the 17-pounder troops from 27th and 57th Batteries were being transported, was torpedoed at 1715 hours between Algiers and Bougie. Major Douglas Harkness was awarded the George Medal for his conduct during the torpedoing and subsequent sinking. The casualties were as follows:

Dead & Missing

27th Battery

D7168 Gunner Arthur Romuald Belzil

D7172 Gunner Robert Morton

D7017 Gunner Leslie Tilson Patrick Keogh

D7074 Gunner Charles Stankus

57th Battery

E0089 Lance Sergeant William Arthur Bannier

E0082 Bombardier John Wilson Clark

E0086 Lance Bombardier Wilson Henry Annett

F65567 Gunner Raymond John Ashe

B17385 Gunner Frank Boyers Martin

E0021 Gunner Howard Benjamin Seifert

Wounded and admitted to 69 British General Hospital, Bougie

Regimental Headquarters

G4099 Bombardier K W Fraser

C50017 Lance Bombardier J J Moore

M173 Gunner A J Ward

27th Battery

D7169 Lance Bombardier R A Hammerbeck

E30647 Gunner L A Blais

D7069 Gunner A Grenier

F77450 Gunner W W McDonald

F89630 Gunner A S McDonald

57th Battery

E0137 Gunner P H Adams

D118123 Gunner M Dolbec

E0054 Gunner H E Furlong

B11286 Gunner J J McMahon

C768 Gunner J A Sigouin

In the early hours on 10 July the regiment began to land on the Pachino Peninsula, and the 90th Battery in support of 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade scored first blood for the regiment when one of its 6-pounder guns destroyed an Italian mortar post. The regiment as a whole was operating on a light scale of vehicles as not all the MT ships had completed off-loading. The regiment did not receive the balance of its vehicles until 16 July. Little opposition was met on the beaches, and the division proceeded without much difficulty toward its objectives. The first casualty was Sergeant William James Upton, 90th Battery, who was wounded and evacuated on 16 July and later died of wounds.

When the division was still some distance south of Leonforte, the 90th Battery suffered some casualties from enemy shelling and Lance Bombardier D Bemrose displayed great coolness and courage under shellfire in assisting these wounded to the ambulance. Though wounded himself, he then drove the ambulance back to the first aid post.



LEONFORTE

Stiff opposition was met by the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade as they neared Leonforte. The 90th Battery did some very good work in support of the infantry, both in the assault on the town and in the subsequent house clearing. On 25 July the Battery Commander, Major George Welsh and Lieutenant Charles Murdoch had occasion to observe an enemy machine-gun post, which was holding up our infantry on the only avenue of approach into the town. Major George Welsh then ordered up two 6-pounder guns under command of Sergeant Swift and Sergeant Morehouse, which were put into position and engaged the machine gun post at 900 yards (820 metres), destroying it together with a light tank. Major George Welsh and Lieutenant Charles Murdoch then went forward to observe the results of the shooting and returned with about 20 prisoners whom they had managed to collect.

On 26 July L troop under command of Lieutenant Gerard Evans formed part of a flying column together with four tanks and one company of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry that was sent into Leonforte to assist the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in clearing the town. Lieutenant Charles Murdoch with his troop of 17-pounder guns followed closely behind in support. Lieutenant Gerard Evans deployed his guns in the town and enemy-held houses were effectively engaged in spite of heavy mortar and small arms fire. The troop did a very good job assisting in the eventual clearing of the town. During that night Lieutenant Charles Horatio Waterous and his despatch rider, Gunner James Gordon Clarke, 90th Battery, were killed while out on a reconnaissance when they got too far ahead and were shot up by an enemy tank which they came upon unexpectedly.

Regimental Headquarters was strafed by enemy aircraft on 28 July, and Gunner W L Dunn, 90th Battery, was seriously wounded. Jaundice, malaria and dysentery were also causing casualties throughout the division. The next day Regimental Headquarters moved into an area five miles south of Agira. The 57th Battery in support of 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade was deployed in the area of Catanova and had one man wounded during the day.

The first copy of the divisional newspaper The Red Patch was received by the regiment on the 30 July. During this time the division was moving steadily ahead over difficult ground and very dusty roads in extremely hot weather. By 4 August, they were in the area of Regalbuto and on 5 August, the 27th Battery was in action near Carcoci where Gunner Leo Bedard was killed, Gunner G D Brown captured, and Lance Sergeant M F Smith wounded. By 6 August, the 1st Canadian Infantry Division passed into army reserve, and on 12 August, the regiment was concentrated in an area south of Scordia where a certain amount of training and sports was carried out.

The weather was very hot and training was carried out only in the cooler part of the day. The Sicilian custom of having a siesta was quickly adopted and from then on everyone spent the afternoons lying in whatever shade could be found, trying to keep cool and fighting a losing battle against the flies. On 14 August, the following officers were awarded decorations for the action at Leonforte:

Major George Arthur Welsh DSO

Lieutenant Ernest St John Charles Murdoch MC

Lieutenant Gerard Charles Evans MC

While in Scordia, the regiment was addressed by General Bernard Montgomery, the Eighth Army Commander, who visited them on 20 August. Two days later, Lieutenant-General Andrew McNaughton inspected the regimental area and general layout of the camp. The 90th Battery provided the guard of honour and this, the General inspected to the whirring of newsreel cameras. In spite of the heat, all



infantry anti-tank platoons underwent a short period of training, which included a scheme under the supervision of their respective batteries.

The highlight of the rest period in Scordia was the regimental officer's party, which Lieutenant-Colonel George Hutchison organized. This was the first large-scale dinner that any regiment gave after leaving England, and it proved to be the forerunner of many similar ones throughout the division. The plans were laid with as much care as for a major operation, and the future army careers of the officers in charge of the arrangements were at stake. Captain Hugh Burnett was entrusted with the task of procuring a pig, with the aid of a pair of "condemned" boots, a working knowledge of French and the realization of what failure would mean he was successful. He was not successful, however, until he had helped pursue a promising specimen through the only known swamp in Sicily. Lieutenant L A Smith, after scouring most of Sicily for glasses, finally found a sufficient quantity in the house 100 yards (90 metres) from where Regimental Headquarters was encamped. An orchestra was brought from Lentini. Apart from an incurable habit of playing God Save The King in waltz time to the confusion of the guests who found themselves applauding the national anthem, those men did very well. Of course, they did suffer from the Sicilian fault of no two people being able to agree on anything but the fact that one would be giving forth with "O Solo Mio" while the rest were "sending" with Ciribiribin was attributed to the impact of jazz on the Sicilian temperament. The dinner itself was a masterpiece with the pig borne in triumph, whole, on a large platter with an apple in its mouth. The number of cocktails served before dinner would have been sufficient to make even bully beef look good, and even after dinner the supply of alcohol never did run out. Among the guests at this party were Brigadier A D Matthews, Lieutenant-Colonel J S Ross, Lieutenant-Colonel H N Lane, Lieutenant-Colonel K Lockatt, Lieutenant-Colonel D Farquharson, Lieutenant-Colonel W Bradford, and the Brigade Major Royal Artillery, Major D Doherty. Although the party had taken a great deal of work to arrange, it was well worth it.

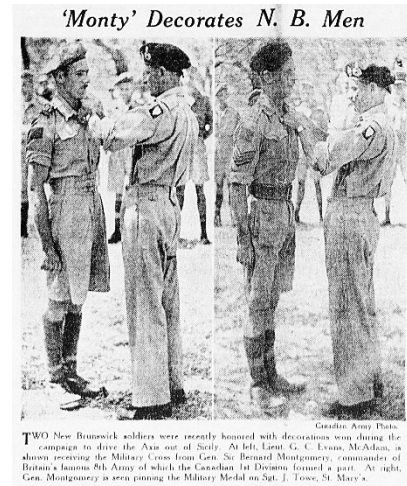
In addition to this party several entertainments were staged. On one evening there was an amateur night while on another evening an Italian variety show visited the area. On 1 September, Regimental Headquarters received the preliminary warning order for the forthcoming invasion of Italy and on 2 September, 90th Battery moved to a concentration area south of Messina. The balance of the regiment followed on 4 September. Embarkation commenced the same day.



ITALY

5 September 1943 - 15 March 1945

The regiment landed in Italy on 5 September and moved into a concentration area south of Reggio di Calabria. Italian soldiers were giving themselves up in hundreds and opposition to the advance of the division was very light. On 8 September, Italy surrendered to the Allies. On 13 September, Major George Welsh, Lieutenant Charles Murdoch, Lieutenant Gerard Evans, Sergeant John Towe and Bombardier R A Bennett were decorated by General Montgomery when he presented awards for valour to personnel of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division for the campaign in Sicily. At this time the regiment was in an area south of Catanzaro where general maintenance was carried out. The division commenced to move forward once again on 17 September. Batteries moved with their respective brigades and were deployed to the north of Potenza, and then moved on north from there. These moves were daily occurrences.



Regimental Headquarters and 27th Battery arrived in the area of Minervino where the 27th Battery was placed under command of a special divisional advance guard, which was formed to clear the way for the further advance of the division against the left flank of the German Army containing the British and American armies at Salerno. However, by 3 October, the 27th Battery had returned to regimental command. Major G T White rejoined the 27th Battery at this time after an absence of eight months. Major G A Rankin was posted to Headquarters 13th British Corps. At this time the condition of the roads, due to heavy rains caused the advance to be slowed down considerably.

By 14 October, the division had advanced to just south of Campobasso by a series of short actions in which some of the batteries, the 57th and 90th in particular, engaged the occasional machine gun post or enemy-held house in support of the infantry. The enemy's resistance had gradually become stiffer, and shelling and mortaring had increased in proportion.



CAMPOBASSO

On 14 October 1943, Major G T White picked up a British agent, Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte, 3rd Field Regiment, Transvaal Horse Artillery, and two escaped British prisoners of war. He took them to Headquarters 1st Canadian Infantry Division where they gave information regarding enemy gun locations on the immediate front.

They also stated that they had seen no tanks in the Campobasso - Castropignano area. This information was thought to be fairly accurate as these men had been behind the enemy lines for about six days. Towards the end of October, Campobasso was occupied and the division was deployed in static positions in the Campobasso - Vinchiaturio area. The 27th, 51st, and 57th Batteries were deployed with their respective brigades, most of them managing to secure billets. They remained in this area until moving into a concentration area near Petrella on 19 November.

On 2 November 1943, a new war establishment was received by the regiment, which allowed an increase of one captain per battery, whereupon the following promotions were effected:

27th Battery - Lieutenant R J K Pyne to Acting Captain

90th Battery - Lieutenant Charles Murdoch MC to Acting Captain

Adjutant - Lieutenant J E Ferguson to Acting Captain

Regimental Quartermaster - Lieutenant Jack Kee to Acting Captain

At the same time Captain John Coatsworth was posted to the 51st Battery and Captain John Lindsay was posted to the 57th Battery.

On 13 November, Captain Pyne left for England and Lieutenant John Mulkerns was promoted to Acting Captain in his place. On 21 November, the regiment was concentrated in the area of Petrella where it remained until 30 November. During this time casualties were heavy due to jaundice and malaria: among these Major James Sutherland and Lieutenant R A Ryder were evacuated with jaundice. Captain H W Sutherland was promoted to Acting Major and took over command of the 51st Battery vice Major James Sutherland.

The 27th Battery with 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade was under command of the 13th British Corps on 16 November for operations on the upper Sangro river. On 30 November, the division moved up to the area of Fossacesia to relieve the 78th British Division. During the move up of Regimental Headquarters and 57th Battery three men were killed and one man wounded by an S-mine in an area north of Rocca.

Those killed were:

E 14299 Gunner Alexandre Fontaine 57th Battery

L 10456 Gunner Oliver Joseph Frigon 57th Battery

H 10275 Private Henri Joseph Vincent 57th Battery

Wounded

L 458 Gunner A Sitter 57th Battery

Those killed were buried in the British cemetery at Fossacesia.



MORO RIVER

On 5 December 1943, wireless silence was lifted and the division prepared to force a crossing of the Moro River and establish a bridgehead on the far side. The 1st and 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigades were chosen as the troops to make the initial crossing and with these two brigade groups went two batteries from this regiment. In support of 1st Brigade was 51st Battery while 90th Battery fought once more with 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade. The 57th Battery assisted 90th Battery in their crossing of the river by supplying them with additional men and vehicles and three men of 57th Battery were wounded in this action.

This was the beginning of the battle for Ortona, which not only saw some of the bloodiest fighting of the whole campaign but also was one of the most famous victories of Canadian arms in Italy.

Weather conditions for the river-crossing were far from ideal and due to the softness of the ground and the determined resistance of the enemy, 90th Battery were unable to get any guns across until 2215 hours 9 December. By 10 December all the guns of 90th Battery were across the river together with one troop from 51st Battery. The balance of 51st Battery succeeded in crossing by 11 December. The role of 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade in this operation was that of divisional reserve and in accordance with this plan 27th Battery did not cross until later. This battery, prior to moving across the Moro, concentrated in San Apollinare.

Even with the entire division across the river, German resistance was far from broken, and the enemy made numerous counterattacks. Both infantry and supporting arms suffered heavy casualties but were never in danger of being forced to withdraw. So ended the opening round of the battle for Ortona.



ORTONA

On 13 December A troop 27th Battery while in support of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, received a direct hit on the gun pit which killed Lance Sergeant Joseph Chapatis and Lance Bombardier Clifford Ernest Fairbairn, and on the same day Gunner Rufus Manning Hooper and Gunner Dow Elwood Sleep, 90th Battery, were killed by mortar fire near San Leonardo. During this time and up to 1 January 1944, the men were subjected to heavy shell and mortar fire. The strain was beginning to tell on some of the men, and these were sent back to rear echelons for a few days rest.

On 20 December the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada of 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade with K and L troops of 90th Battery in support, had advanced to the outskirts of Ortona. From then on, these two troops were engaged in close support of the infantry during the stubborn street fighting in Ortona. The 6-pounder guns did very valuable work in destroying houses and enemy strong points, even blasting a path through the rubble-choked streets for our tanks. Not only did the 90th Battery use their 6-pounders, but the 17-pounders were also used under the able direction of Captain Hugh Burnett in such a manner as to gain him the award of the Military Cross.

Christmas day was spent in the line, and the celebrations were as good as could be expected. The special Christmas rations were supplemented by freshly killed (by enemy action of course) cattle and fowl, not to mention the odd jug of vino left behind by the Germans. The fact that a large mail was received also assisted in making everyone realize that this was not just another day. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel George Hutchison, made a point of visiting all gun detachments and battery headquarters throughout the day. On 26 December, Sergeant M A Fallon, 90th Battery, was wounded by machine-gun fire and Gunner Ray Adamson of the same battery was reported missing. His body was later found riddled with bullets upon the occupation of Ortona.

After very stubborn street fighting which continued through Christmas Day to 28 December, the enemy evacuated Ortona. After that the shelling abated somewhat but enemy air activity during daylight hours, both strafing and bombing, increased. As a result of one of these raids, Captain John Coatsworth, 51st Battery, was killed while travelling in a jeep along the coast road on 28 December. Between 5 and 28 December, the regiment suffered 1 officer and 7 other ranks killed and 12 other ranks wounded. Most of these casualties were in 90th Battery.

Upon the fall of Ortona, the front became more or less static. Both sides engaged in active patrolling and one or two local attacks. The three brigades took up positions along the high ground north of Ortona from the Adriatic coast inland to north of San Apollinaire. The infantry anti-tank guns and three batteries of the regiment were deployed in their respective brigade areas. Regimental Headquarters was situated between the coast road and the sea about one mile south of the River Moro. They remained under canvas all winter.

During this period of static warfare the men were subjected to more hardship than ever before. The weather was cold and wet with numerous snowstorms and, due to the constant shelling, habitable houses were very scarce. Movement was kept to a minimum, as the enemy possessed several observation posts commanding our area.

Batteries were rotated in the line so that each would have a rest period. Within the batteries themselves, two troops were deployed in the forward areas with one troop in depth. The personnel of the troops also changed from the forward gun positions to those of the ones in depth, during their battery's spell in the line. This greatly relieved the strain on the detachments as the forward guns were



open to neutralization by hostile patrols. In several cases it was impractical to take the rations up by vehicle, as the roads were under accurate harassing fire from medium machine guns, mortars, and artillery. Carrying up the rations by hand was a slow and tiring job at a time when the batteries were not up to full strength. To overcome this, the 27th Battery had attached to them a detachment of mules complete with Indian muleteers. These lived with one of the troop Headquarters and commuted between the troops and battery headquarters carrying rations, petrol, and mail. This system worked very well, and the mail always got through. They did, however, give the Battery Captain Quartermaster a few extra headaches, as the supply point was slightly incredulous when he indented for the mule's rations.

Early in January 1944, the regiment received some officers and senior non-commissioned officers from various Canadian divisions in England who had volunteered for six months' attachment to the 1st Canadian Infantry Division for battle experience. The division sent an equal number of officers and non-commissioned officers to England, including Acting Major H W Sutherland of the 51st Battery. Major James Sutherland returned to the regiment after a bout of jaundice and assumed command of 51st Battery.

On 6 January, the Corps Commander, General Harry Crerar visited Regimental Headquarters, and later watched a demonstration of manhandling anti-tank guns by 57th Battery. Major George Welsh left the 90th Battery on 12 January to return to England on his way to Canada and was succeeded by Major Arthur Warr who had come out to Italy on exchange from the 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA.

From 14 to 18 January, 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 5th Canadian Armoured Division, relieved 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade in the coastal sector and the 49th Battery, 4th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, in support of them, relieved the 27th Battery who moved into San Apollinare. On 18 January, 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade relieved 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade, which was unable to gain its objectives in that area. The regiment at this time had five officers, six sergeants and seven other ranks attached for a period of two weeks from the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, for battle experience.

On 23 January, Lieutenant K M Johnson, 57th Battery, removed some high explosive charges from a small bridge while under fire when he was on a reconnaissance of the forward areas. This action subsequently gained him a Mention-in-Despatches. During January, the regiment received a supply of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal ribbons and clasps, which were then issued out to all ranks. During this period the regiment ran an antitank training school for infantry anti-tank platoons and reinforcement personnel. Leaves were started to the Eighth Army leave camp at Bari, and 18-hour passes were given to San Vito. A river crossing demonstration was put on by the regiment, bringing out the different methods of getting anti-tank guns across a river. On 9 February Major Douglas Harkness left the regiment for England to command the 5th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, 4th Canadian Armoured Division. Captain T A Cowan was promoted to the rank of Acting Major to command the 57th Battery. Major M Y McLean took over command of the 27th Battery. On 11 February, Major G T White was appointed Second in Command.

During the early part of February, reports had been reaching the regiment from infantry sources that there was a 6-pounder gun approximately 200 yards from the German outposts. Upon investigation this gun proved to be one abandoned by 4th Indian Division following an unsuccessful advance. Lieutenant Douglas Harkness decided that if this gun could be made serviceable it would be an admirable way of silencing a troublesome German strongpoint. Sergeant McAra and Gunner Taylor volunteered to go with Lieutenant Douglas Harkness, and for four nights these men worked on the gun and manhandled it into a position from which they could engage the target. Enemy patrols passed close



by them on several occasions but never stopped to investigate what they fondly thought to be a derelict gun. Finally, one dawn, a supporting barrage was laid down by the field artillery, and these three men fired eleven rounds at point-blank range. Dust and falling masonry obscured the target from the gun position, but the infantry who investigated later said that at least ten casualties had been inflicted.

In March 1944, Eighth Army commenced its preliminary preparations for the assault on the Gustav and Hitler lines. This entailed the concentration of a large number of divisions south of the Liri valley and the consequent thinning out of the divisions remaining in the line. As a result of this, 1st Canadian Infantry Division that was already covering more than a normal divisional front, became even more extended. To form a second line of defence in the event of a temporary German breakthrough, three localities were chosen by Major-General Chris Vokes DSO, which were to be turned into nodal points with all-round-defence by both infantry weapons and anti-tank guns. The personnel to man these defences came from one anti-tank battery in each nodal point and a Royal Canadian Engineers company that was divided up amongst the three.

These nodal points stretched in a line along the main Ortona - Orsogna road and were at important road junctions. The most easterly was just west of Ortona and was entrusted to the 51st Battery. Next and about two miles inland, at Dundee Crossroads was the 27th Battery, while on the western end was 90th Battery at Caldari. The 57th Battery was held in reserve at San Apollinare.

The 113th and 104th Batteries of 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, relieved 27th and 90th Batteries to allow the latter to carry out their new tasks. All the guns in these three strong points were dug into elaborate gun pits reminiscent of the last war. The 27th Battery outdid the others by finding a large cliff with a soft stone face into which they dug a series of caves.

These positions were inspected by the Commander Royal Artillery 1st Canadian Infantry Division, the Corps Commander Royal Artillery V Corps, and by Major-General Vokes, and slight modifications to the siting of the guns were made. Apart from a good deal of harassing fire by 105-mm and 150-mm guns, the system was never put to the test of an attack.

During April the regiment received International half-tracked vehicles to tow their 17-pounders and these proved greatly superior to the Field Artillery Tractors. This superiority was ably demonstrated in various gruelling hill climbing and river crossing tests, the most famous of which was known as Exercise Quad-buster.

On 7 April the Commanding Officer, four battery commanders, four liaison officers, and a number of other ranks from 13th Anti-Tank Regiment RA, 10th Indian Division, were attached to the regiment to prepare for the relief of 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA. For several weeks vehicles had been heading in all directions at the instigation of the Commanding Officer. Those wise in the ways of Col Hutch knew that something special in the way of parties was being prepared. This proved to be the case, and on 10 April the regimental officers held a mess dinner at the Sword and Drum, the officers club in San Vito. Captain John Mulkerns, who was in charge of entertainment, produced two imported dancing girls from Bari. These arrived with escorts - what they lacked in dancing ability they obviously made up for in experience in other ways. Gunner Mansfield was persuaded to sing his theme song, *Old Rocking Chair*, and then proceeded to forget how to stop, His rendition threatened to drown out even the sound of Major-General Chris Vokes, the guest of honour, losing at crap in the next room. The party was a great success.

On 15 April, Major Derick Halfhide was posted to the regiment and took command of the 57th Battery.



PREPARATION FOR THE ASSAULT ON THE HITLER LINE

On 18 and 19 April, 13th Anti-Tank Regiment, RA, 10th Indian Division, relieved the regiment and on 20 April the regiment moved with the 1st Canadian Infantry Division to a concentration area in the vicinity of Campobasso. The regimental area centred on the town of Baranello, southwest of Campobasso. Full security measures were taken to conceal the move, and all formation patches and Canada badges were removed from vehicles and uniforms. On arrival in the new area comprehensive training was immediately begun. This consisted in the greater part in battery schemes and troop schemes. Ten days after their arrival in Baranello, the batteries started to leave, at about 5-day intervals, with their respective brigades. Enroute to Caserta, each brigade stopped at a concentration area near Lucera. Intensive assault training was carried out with infantry and tanks to practice the tactical handling of these two arms in the attack on a strongly held position. The regiment's role was to practice the quick consolidation of objectives. These schemes were carried out with tanks of the 140th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, who were to support the division in the Hitler Line attack. Experiments were also carried out by each battery in using tanks as gun tractors. It was found that the performance of a tank towing a 17-pounder and limber was only slightly superior to that of a half-track.

Captain R L Ryder was sent to 4th British Infantry Division as the 1st Division's artillery liaison officer to liaise between the field regiments of this division who were to support the attack of 4th British Division on the Gustav Line.

By 7 May, the whole regiment was in a concentration area near Caserta where they remained approximately a week. While in this area, river crossing schemes were carried out in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Engineers, using Mark IV rafts. The 15th and 111th Batteries of the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, came under command of the regiment for the forthcoming operation. On 15 May, the 51st and 27th Batteries moved up with the 1st and 3rd Brigades to a concentration area near Mignano in preparation for the assault on the Hitler Line. On the morning of 16 May, 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade supported by 51st Battery took part in the closing phase of the breaking of the Gustav Line.

On 17 May the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade were moving up and 27th Battery suffered three gunners wounded. The troops of 51st Battery were under heavy mortar fire and sniping and Gunner James Aloysius Madore was mortally wounded. B Troop of 15th (Self-Propelled) Battery, 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, was under command of 51st Battery. That night, during an enemy counterattack, the infantry anti-tank 6-pounders knocked out two German Mark IV tanks. The divisional area received quite a heavy air attack at approximately 2300 hours.

On 18 May, the battle for the Hitler Line started as the division moved forward around the west of Cassino and Monte Cairo and fought its way through the outposts of the line. At this time Cassino and Monte Cairo were still in enemy hands and the latter was a commanding height, so to cover the advance a heavy artificial smoke screen was laid down. The infantry were advancing fairly rapidly and 51st Battery deployed three times during the day. The 90th Battery was still moving up with 2nd Brigade, while 27th Battery was supporting 3rd Brigade in the centre.

The division had moved up to within a few thousand yards of the enemy wire by 19 May, with division headquarters and Regimental Headquarters well forward so that they were just out of mortar range and ahead of the leading brigade Headquarters. The enemy was shelling and mortaring heavily, and it was noticeable that the number of dud rounds was fewer in comparison with the percentage experienced in front of Ortona. Gunner Martin Orval McPhadden, 27th Battery, was killed by shellfire.



The self-propelled troop of 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, under command 51st Battery, engaged several enemy-held houses and inflicted casualties. Some vehicles of the batteries deployed were temporarily put out of action by mortar and shell fire.

By 20 May, the 1st and 2nd Brigades were feeling out the defences of the Hitler Line itself and establishing a firm base for the assault. Both 27th and 51st Batteries experienced heavy shelling and mortaring and Lieutenant Clark of the 27th Battery lost his right arm.

Another enemy air raid was experienced on the night of 20/21 May. During the day 51st Battery had one 17-pounder gun knocked out by mortar fire. At 1400 hours, the Free French Division on the high ground on the left of 1st Canadian Infantry Division reported that approximately 50 enemy tanks were massing in the area of Monte San Leucio. Any counterattack that this force might have been contemplating was stopped when their advance was broken up by medium artillery and by Kitty Hawk aircraft of the Royal Air Force. These tanks were last seen to be moving northwest under cover of their own smokescreen.

At 1000 hours on 22 May an assault was launched on the left by 1st Brigade, led by the 48th Highlanders of Canada. Lieutenant George Thomas, Troop Commander of E Troop, 51st Battery, went through the gap in the wire with the 48th Highlanders to reconnoitre gun positions. On the 48th Highlanders front, enemy defences consisted of mines, wire, concrete machine gun posts, and concrete pill-boxes. There was also a 75-mm gun set in a revolving tank turret. One of these pill-boxes was engaged by a 17-pounder laid by Gunner R J Welburn, commanded by Bombardier Cardiff, and under the direction of Lieutenant D N Solomon of the 51st Battery. Five rounds were fired at this target at a range of 1,600 yards and, after the third round, an explosion was seen. Upon investigation, it was found that the pill-box had received two direct hits in the turret from the 17-pounder. The crew of five Germans was killed. Previous to being knocked out, this pill-box had accounted for three Sherman tanks. By this time the 48th had established a bridgehead in the Hitler Line southwest of Pontecorvo, and at 1900-hours, E Troop of the 51st Battery moved into the bridgehead and deployed. F Troop moved forward on the left to give covering fire to the bridgehead. This same day, 3rd Brigade cleared a large wood in which the Germans had established machine gun in the trees. The 3rd Brigade had now secured their starting line, and 2nd Brigade moved through 3rd Brigade's area to take up positions on the right flank.

On 23 May, the 2nd Brigade launched their attack north of Pontecorvo with the Princess Patricia Light Infantry on the right and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada on the left. The Loyal Edmonton Regiment was in reserve. All brigades during this battle were supported by squadrons of the 140th Regiment RAC. They met heavy resistance and the same type of defences as already described, stretched across the Liri valley. The concrete pill-boxes took a heavy toll of our tanks and the infantry suffered heavy casualties. While 2nd Brigade was attacking on the right, 3rd Brigade was pushing forward in the centre. During this action C Troop of the 27th Battery in support of the Carleton and York Regiment was caught in heavy enemy mortar concentrations and had one officer, Lieutenant C O D Magee, three detachment commanders, and four gunners wounded. As a result, the troop became somewhat disorganized until Lieutenant W A Grant, the Battery Liaison Officer, took charge and reorganized the troop. Two guns had been knocked out in these same concentrations, and a third was knocked out when it tried to move forward. The fourth gun was deployed. The driver of one of the half-tracks, Gunner Hubert Snow, did very good work in the evacuation of the wounded and subsequently was awarded the Military Medal. B Troop of the 27th Battery moved forward through C Troop in support of the West Nova



Scotia Regiment. Second-Lieutenant J B O'Neill of this troop laid the gun himself, which accounted for three enemy machine gun posts.

On the 1st Brigade front, the infantry began to exploit their successes of the previous day, and by 1600 hours enemy transport was reported to be retiring. F Troop and the Self-Propelled Troop under command of the 51st Battery were ordered to engage the enemy escape route. This was carried out successfully by the self-propelled guns.

The 90th Battery, in support of 2nd Brigade, had one gun knocked out by shell fire and one gun tractor received a direct hit. Four other ranks riding in this vehicle were wounded. Major Hugh Burnett MC, was commended for the work he did that day in keeping brigade headquarters informed on the progress of the infantry.

By 24 May Pontecorvo was occupied and the enemy continued to retire. The 27th Battery had three vehicles damaged by shell fire, three men wounded and one man, Gunner Samuel Victor Martin, killed. As far as the other batteries were concerned, this was a fairly quiet day. The 51st Battery had one troop deployed northwest of Pontecorvo and two troops east of the town.

The 3rd Brigade passed through Pontecorvo on 25 May and moved up to the Melfa River where the infantry gained a 200-yard (180-metre) bridgehead on the far bank. The 27th Battery had their 17-pounders deployed on the near side of the river covering this bridgehead. The 1st Brigade went into reserve and remained on the ground that they had taken.

On 26 May B Troop of the 27th Battery moved across the Melfa River in support of 3rd Brigade. The 51st Battery moved into a concentration area along the banks of the Liri River and the division moved forward as a whole.

On 27 May none of the regimental guns saw any action.

The 111th and 15th Self-Propelled Batteries returned to the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA on 28 May, and the 27th Battery went under command of the same regiment. The 104th Battery, 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, was placed under command the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA. The 51st Battery passed into reserve, and 57th Battery took over their task of supporting 1st Brigade. The 90th Battery went back into action with 2nd Brigade in the Ceprano area during the relief of the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade.

The weather was hot and very dusty on 1 June and the roads were congested with traffic as the 6th South African Armoured Division, moving up through the 1st Canadian Division, found itself held up by demolitions and mines. The guns of 90th Battery were deployed in the area of Radinico. The 57th Battery deployed south of Ferentino. Regimental Headquarters and 51st Battery were in the area of Ceccano.

On 3 June the 57th Battery was deployed in the area of Anagni and to the north of it when I Troop engaged enemy vehicles which could be observed retiring on the road from Acuto, at about 2,000 yards (1,820 metres) range. Due to faulty tracer ammunition, observation was impossible and some of the rounds were believed to have fallen short. This resulted in fire being returned from the 24th Guards Brigade, into whose area some of our rounds had apparently fallen. Fortunately, their observation was no better than ours, and their rounds passed harmlessly overhead.

On 4 June, the division passed into reserve on being relieved by the 6th South African Division who were to continue the advance. On 5 June, the 27th Battery returned under command 1st Anti-Tank Regiment and the 104th Battery under command of the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment.



PIEDMONTE D'ALIFE

By 10 June, the regiment had moved back to a concentration area near Piedmonte d'Alife. During the regiment's stay in this area, the weather was extremely hot. In view of this, the daily routine was as follows: training in the morning, siesta from noon until 1500 hours, and the remainder of the afternoon spent on sports and recreation. Leaves to the Eighth Army rest camp at Salerno and to Naples were given on a very generous scale. There were also conducted tours to Rome. This was particularly for the benefit of the Roman Catholics who were very keen to visit the Vatican City and meet the Pope. Each battery undertook the training of the infantry anti-tank platoons of their brigade. On 22 June, the regiment won the divisional artillery sports meet, but when the divisional representatives were chosen, only Sergeant W A Scharf was picked from this regiment's entries. In the Corps sports meet, he failed to place.

On 5 July, the 17-pounder troop of each battery did a scheme with the infantry of its brigade. These were schemes that practised, once again, the quick consolidation of objectives seized by the infantry.

On 9 July, five officers and 300 other ranks went to the 1st Canadian Division Beach Camp for a week. While these men were away, one other scheme took place. This was an exercise to give the newly-formed traffic control units an opportunity to handle convoys and the name of the scheme was *Time Out*.

An inter-battery gun drill competition was held on 13 July. This was attended by the Commander Royal Artillery who donated a pennant for the winning detachment. After a close fight, C-3 under Sergeant O DuMagnee, a 17-pounder from the 27th Battery, won.

It was on 17 July that the regiment, with regret, said good-bye to Lieutenant-Colonel George Hutchison and wished him luck in his new task as Commanding Officer of the 2nd Field Regiment RCA. At the same time we welcomed our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Frank McCordick.

On 20 July, the Commander Royal Artillery and his staff made a thorough inspection of personnel, equipment and administration of the regiment. Once again, the Commander Royal Artillery's pennant was at stake. This was to be awarded to the battery that was deemed to be the best all-round battery on the basis of the inspection. The 27th Battery won the pennant for the second time. All batteries took part in firing practice on the ranges at Eboli before the close of the month. Also, during July, the 17-pounder troops of the regiment were reorganized on the new war establishment of three guns per troop instead of four.



FLORENCE

1 August 1944 - 8 August 1944

On 26 July, formation flashes and Canada badges were taken down and tactical signs on vehicles were blacked out. The batteries began to move off in turn with their brigades to a concentration area near Spoleto. In this concentration area we were told that the division was moving into action in the area of Florence. The next stop on the road to Florence was a concentration area near Sienna. Physical training, manhandling, and maintenance were carried out, and large quantities of Chianti were consumed by Regimental Headquarters. On 5 August, the 2nd Brigade commenced the relief of the 2nd New Zealand Division and the 90th Battery were once more in the line. On 6 August, the 1st Brigade, supported by the 51st Battery, took over from the 6th South African Armoured Division and stationed itself along the south bank of the River Arno. Brigade and battery headquarters were situated on the southern outskirts of Florence itself. Both brigades experienced heavy shelling, from 15-centimetre and 17-centimetre guns during the night of 6/7 August. The 57th Battery, at this time, was in reserve in the regimental area near Tabarnuzzo. From then until 8 August, the division carried out a purely static, holding role along the south bank of the River Arno with 1st Brigade on the right, 2nd Brigade on the left and 3rd Brigade in reserve. On 8 August, the division moved to an area near Perugia.

The future plans for the division were as follows:

The Polish Corps was to advance up the Adriatic coast capturing or by-passing Pesaro.

The 1st Canadian Corps would advance on the left of the Polish Corps and would cut in to the coast at Cattolica. These towns were its objectives - Rimini, Ravenna, Ferrara, and ultimately Venice.

The 5th British Corps would be on the left of 1st Canadian Corps and its objective was Bologna.

Between our objectives and us lay the Gothic Line. It was hoped that the battle for the Gothic Line would follow a similar plan to that of the Hitler Line, where after a sharp but comparatively short fight, the enemy retreated swiftly and spectacular advances were made.

Thus, it looked to be no further from the Foglia to Venice than it had from the Rapido to Rome. Instead, the advance proved to be slow and costly, and the enemy, taking advantage of the terrain, fought for every yard of ground. For the purposes of the forthcoming action, the batteries were reorganized into two troops each. Each troop had two 6-pounders and two 17-pounder guns. One troop from each battery was put under command of the Royal Canadian Engineers to form working parties.

Captain T A Cowan and Captain R A Ryder were despatched to flanking divisions as divisional artillery liaison officers.

On 23 August, the regiment commenced its move into action, the batteries forward with their brigades. By midnight of 25 August, the 1st Canadian Division was in action against the outposts of the Gothic Line. The 1st and 2nd Brigades were up and 3rd Brigade was in reserve. Up to 27 August, the fighting was not too severe and 51st Battery with 1st Brigade deployed and advanced several times. On 27 August 1st Brigade moved forward to occupy the high ground overlooking the River Foglia. The battle for the immediate approaches to the Gothic Line commenced at 1600 hours on 28 August, when 2nd Brigade attacked the town of San Angelo. At 1800 hours 1st Brigade also attacked. During this time the divisional area was being shelled by the guns of the Gothic Line. On the morning of 28th August, Major James Sutherland of the 51st Battery took one prisoner. That afternoon at 1700 hours, when the Battery



Headquarters area was being shelled, Major James Sutherland was mortally wounded and died five hours later at 16 Main Dressing Station. He was buried at Borgo San Maria. The battery also had one sergeant wounded in this shelling. Captain D C Barker assumed command of the battery. The 17-pounders of 90th Battery, while in support of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, engaged some buildings that were suspected to be enemy Observation Posts.

By 29 August, the division controlled all the high ground on the southern bank of the River Foglia. On the hills on the far-side was the Gothic Line itself. The 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade passed through the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade and the latter went into reserve.

Acting Major T A Cowan assumed command of the 51st Battery on the termination of his task as liaison officer. Regimental Headquarters moved into the area of Ginestruta. The 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade with 90th Battery in support crossed the River Foglia on 31 August. The roads were very dusty making all movement visible to the enemy and bringing down shell fire. The 3rd Brigade with 27th Battery did not cross the Foglia until 1 September. It was obvious that the enemy had not completed his fortifications in the Gothic Line as several antitank pill-boxes, similar to those encountered in the Hitler Line, were found on the side of the road, still in their packing cases. The emplacements into which these turrets were to have gone commanded fields of fire that stretched for miles. At 1800 hours on 2 September 57th Battery came under command of 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade and 51st Battery became regimental reserve. The 90th Battery entered Fano following a successful attack by 2nd Brigade supported by the tanks of 21st Army Tank Brigade. The 90th Battery reached the area of Cattolica when 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade moved forward on 3 September. The 51st Battery, the regimental reserve, was formed into a battery of three 6-pounder troops. These troops were B Troop of the 27th Battery, E troop of the 51st Battery and L Troop of the 90th Battery. The 111th Battery, 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, came under command 57th Battery, and these two batteries moved into the area of San Giovanni in support of 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade.

Regimental Headquarters and 51st Battery moved on 4 September to an area just west of Cattolica. The 57th Battery, at this time, was busily engaged with shoots on houses and machine gun posts on the high ground near San Maria, which were holding up the infantry advance. Those shoots were successful and a number of dead Germans were found later. Gunner Ernest Forget of this battery was killed during this engagement and another man wounded.

In the evening of 4 September at 1930 hours D Troop of the 51st Battery, at that time under command of the 57th Battery, gave supporting fire to a local infantry attack. The targets were again houses and machine gun posts and some 70 rounds were fired. Several of the houses were demolished, but many machine guns had not been located and consequently were not neutralized. These remaining machine guns broke up our infantry attack. Captain R A Ryder returned from 5th Canadian Armoured Division where he had been acting as division liaison officer and took over the appointment of Adjutant on 5 September. Captain John Mooney replaced Captain R A Ryder at artillery headquarters at 5th Canadian Armoured Division.

During this period, the Luftwaffe was staging small, nightly air raids on the gun areas of the field and medium artillery. These, while causing no casualties in the regiment, made the nights somewhat uncomfortable. The division was continuing its advance and on 7 September, the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade relieved 1st Brigade on the west of Riccione. At the same time 111th Battery ceased to be under command on its return to its own regiment. The batteries of our own regiment were now so organized as to be almost unrecognizable. Troops had been posted from battery to battery until all that remained in



most cases of the original battery was the Battery Headquarters. The composition of the Batteries was as follows:

27th Battery I and C Troops
51st Battery B, E, and L Troops
57th Battery D and G Troops
90th Battery H and K Troops

A, F, and J Troops were working with the Royal Canadian Engineers

On 8 September, a new formation came under command of the 1st Canadian Division. This was the 3rd Greek Mountain Brigade. This brigade had no anti-tank guns and 51st Battery was placed under its command to provide its anti-tank defence. On 9 September, this brigade, supported by the 51st Battery, relieved 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade. This same night also saw the end of the troublesome German air raids as our anti-aircraft guns were finally given permission to fire. Up until now, these raiders had enjoyed complete freedom from interference from the anti-aircraft guns as our night fighters were supposed to have been operating in the area. On their arrival this night, however, they were greeted by such a barrage from the heavy and light anti-aircraft regiments that they never returned.

On the ground, enemy resistance was becoming stiffer and the shelling more intense. The 1st Division was moving forward, but there was savage fighting on the right flank of 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade. The 27th Battery had two men wounded, and one M-10 of the 15th Self-Propelled Battery was knocked out by enemy Mark VI Tiger tanks while in support of this brigade. The balance of the regiment was suffering casualties in guns and vehicles as a result of the increased shelling. The 51st Battery engaged some more houses in the area of Riccione while the 57th Battery deployed in the Hper area north of the River Moriano.

On 15 September, Sergeant W M McDougall, a detachment commander of C Troop, spotted a tank, which was hull-down behind a hedge. Owing to the distance and the small amount of the turret visible he could not be sure of its identity. As there was an officer of the Royal Armoured Corps nearby, Sergeant McDougall showed him the tank and this officer said that it was obviously a German one. Sergeant McDougall gave the order to fire and the 17-pounder misfired. At that moment the tank moved from behind the hedge - a now unmistakable Sherman, the standard allied tank.

On 16 September, the Greek Brigade crossed the River Moriano in the coastal area and moved up to the south edge of the Rimini airport. This area was very heavily mined and fierce hand to hand fighting took place. The 27th Battery who were also across the Moriano River, in support of 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade, lost some more vehicles through enemy shellfire. Regimental Headquarters on the other hand moved into palatial billets in Riccione.

A short pause now occurred while the division re-grouped prior to 2nd Brigade's attack on the high ground in front of Rimini. The 51st Battery lost Sergeant Joseph Albert Reid who was killed while on a reconnaissance. Gunner Bruce Johnson of the 57th Battery also lost his life.

The 2nd Brigade's attack encountered very stiff opposition in the area of San Martino. The 3rd Brigade was also having some very hard fighting at a point known by codeword *Kestrel* and Lance Sergeant Douglas Arthur Whitticks of the 27th Battery was mortally wounded. In the fighting around *Kestrel*, the infantry, at one time, withdrew behind two of the 27th Battery's 6-pounder guns. These two guns were commanded by Sergeant H V Coombes and Lance Sergeant L Berthiaume. Sergeant Coombes removed the striker from his gun and retired with the infantry, but Lance Sergeant Berthiaume, considering his gun to be of vital importance in the anti-tank defence of the area, remained with his



detachment in front of our forward defence lines for several hours. For this, Lance Sergeant Berthiaume was awarded the Military Medal.

On 19 September, 3rd Brigade, after very stiff fighting, succeeded in capturing San Fortunato Ridge. This ridge dominated Rimini and the guns of 27th Battery were looking down on Rimini airport and the Adriatic coast.

One of the chief tasks of the batteries during this period was to afford close support to their infantry by engaging machine gun posts over open sights.

The advance continued to grind forward and on 21 September, 2nd Brigade attacked across the Marecchia River and established a bridgehead by 1400 hours. Artificial moonlight, created by searchlights, was being used on a large scale and this gave sufficient light, that had the regiment fought a night engagement, flares would not have been necessary.

The regiment had now been in continuous action for one month and the relief of the division, on 22 September, by the 2nd New Zealand Armoured Division took place. The regiment moved to Riccione for its well-earned rest period.



REST AREA IN RICCIONE

23 September - 9 October 1944

The regiment was concentrated in good billets on the coast road in Riccione. In addition to being able to live in comparative comfort once more, there was a generous leave allotment for personnel and sports were also organized on a regimental basis. The men's time however, was not entirely spent in recreation as there was much maintenance done and all four batteries were reorganized. No. 1 British Casualty Clearing Station, 83rd British General Hospital, asked for volunteers for blood donations and 200 men from the regiment volunteered. Of these, 46 men were accepted, as having the class of blood required.

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineering inspectors from Eighth Army carried out a very thorough inspection of all the vehicles in the regiment and their report on the standard of maintenance in the regiment was anything but favourable. Five long-service men left for Canada on 4 October as prisoner-of-war escorts.



SAN ARCANGELO TO CESENA

9 October 1944 - 28 October 1944

On 9 October, the rest period came to an end when the division moved forward to the relief of 5th Canadian Armoured Division. On 10 October, 51st Battery moved to San Arcangelo with 1st Brigade. On 11 October, Regimental Headquarters moved into the area of the railway station just south of this town and 51st Battery moved with 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade into Savignano, which was being heavily shelled.

It was now proposed that the regiment should be reduced to three batteries, and that the other batteries would absorb the personnel of 90th Battery, which was to be disbanded. Plans were laid accordingly but they failed to materialize.

At this time only one brigade, 1st Brigade, was committed, and 51st Battery was the only battery of the regiment which was in action, this battery being deployed in a bridgehead established on the northern side of Savignano. Here, Sergeant W A Scharf was seriously wounded by shell-fire.

Captain Jack Kee went to the 2nd New Zealand Division as artillery Liaison Officer on 12 October.

The 1st Brigade was meeting stiff opposition as they moved forward, and the forward troops were heavily shelled on 14 October. Lieutenant Gordon Hobbs, a troop commander of 51st Battery, was wounded in the stomach and chest by mortar fire while riding a motorcycle back from a recce.

Since the battery was operating in close country, the 17-pounder troop was used to give depth to the anti-tank defences and was not committed with the forward battalions. The half-tracks from the 17-pounder troop were used to move forward both the Royal Artillery and infantry 6-pounder guns, as the small arms fire was intense. On 17 October, the regiment drew four 2-pounder guns adapted with a choke-bore Little John adapter. This modification jumped up the muzzle velocity to 4,000 feet-per-second (1,218 metres-per-second) when sabot ammunition was used. Those guns were issued to 90th Battery and were not committed until 22 October. In the meantime, gun drill and general training was carried out by 90th Battery, which was in reserve.

On 17 October, 2nd Brigade, supported by 57th Battery moved through 1st Brigade and went into action on the latter's right. Both brigades were now on the banks of the Donagaglia River. The weather became unfavourable and operations consequently slowed down.

The 27th Battery relieved 51st Battery on 18 October when 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade relieved 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade. The following day Regimental Headquarters moved up route 9, the road leading to Cesena, and stopped in a farm house about 2,000 yards (1,820 metres) north of Savignano. This was in a gun area and the enemy's counter-battery work was both accurate and heavy. During one of the ensuing concentrations, at 1930 hours, Sergeant J C Newton, the pay sergeant, was seriously wounded losing both an arm and a leg.

By 20 October, the 27th Battery had reached Cesena while the 57th Battery were also up to the River Savio on the right. This river was crossed by 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade on 22 October. Here, for the first time, the new 2-pounders were put into action when Lieutenant G E Weidmark of the 90th Battery took a troop of them into 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade's bridgehead. For this operation, this troop was under command of 57th Battery. The balance of this battery's guns was across the river by 24 October. Due to the state of the ground, the guns were towed in by jeeps and carriers. Lieutenant D A Harkness, the same day, deployed three more 2-pounder guns in this area.



During the night the enemy retired and although the infantry advanced rapidly all the next day they did not regain contact until they reached their objectives on the Ronca River. No further advances were made, and 56th British Division relieved 1st Canadian Infantry Division a few days later. The regiment moved back to Riccione for its second rest period in that town.



SECOND REST PERIOD IN RICCIONE

28 October 1944 - 28 November 1944

Although the regiment arrived in Riccione on 28 October, the batteries and Regimental Headquarters were not all in billets until 31 October. Once again, the regiment was fortunate in securing good accommodation. A non-commissioned officer's school was set up to train the junior non-commissioned officers of the regiment. Florence and Rome were both available as leave centres and a large number of officers and men were able to visit civilization once more. Officers and non-commissioned officers were also sent on course to the Royal Artillery Training Depot at Eboli and Lieutenant-Colonel Frank McCordick himself went down there on a regimental commanders' refresher course and in his absence Major G T White commanded the regiment.

No rest period would be a rest period without schemes, and all batteries carried out river crossing exercises using Class II and Class V rafts. These were both night and day exercises. The Commander Royal Artillery's pennant was awarded to the battery, which crossed the river in the shortest time. For the third time, 27th Battery won this pennant.

On 25 November, Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Warr arrived to take over command of the regiment and Lieutenant-Colonel Frank McCordick became Commanding Officer of the 1st Field Regiment, RCHA. On 28 November, Gunner William Raymond Porteous died from injuries received when he was hit by a tank transporter while walking along the road at night. The same day, a warning order was received that the regiment would be going back into action.



LAMONE AND SENIO RIVERS

In the forthcoming action, the regiment expected to be operating over country in which there were many rivers and creeks and through which ran very poor roads. The weather conditions made this ground very soft for the movement of vehicles and, in view of this, the regiment was reorganized using 6-pounder guns in three batteries and with the 90th Battery supplying two troops of 2-pounder guns. The echelons were cut down to the minimum of vehicles. The remainder of the equipment, 17-pounder troops complete with personnel, vehicles, and guns were formed into a regimental group, which was under command of Captain D C Barker. These were held in the divisional X area, where the men enjoyed the comparative comfort of billets in Cattolica. The regimental X area consisted of 158 other ranks, 48 vehicles, and 19 guns. The attached officers also remained in X area.

On 29 November, 27th Battery, moving with 3rd Brigade, left on its way to the front. The following day was spent just south of the Montone River waiting for the three-brigade attack to commence from the bridgehead on the far side. The 3rd Brigade attacked at 0900 hours on 1 December. They were supported by 27th Battery, who had under command two 2-pounder troops from the 90th Battery. Some rocket-firing P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft helped in the preliminary bombardment of the enemy positions. This was the first time that any troops of the regiment had watched this type of aircraft at work. As feared, the roads were very bad, and all operations were also hampered by foggy weather at night. By 3 December, the 3rd Brigade had worked up close to the town of Russi.

The 1st Brigade moved through Russi to the Lamone River. Here the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment attempted a crossing but were not successful. The 51st Battery had two troops of Little Johns from the 90th Battery under command for this phase of the operation.

As we were obviously going to meet stiff resistance and have to force a crossing it was decided to form two additional 6-pounder troops. X and Y Troops thus came into being, their equipment and personnel coming from X area. On 5 December, 1st Brigade again crossed the Lamone River. The attack this time was on a brigade scale, with the Royal Canadian Regiment on the left and the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment on the right. A narrow but fairly deep bridgehead was established, as there was little opposition at first. By 0630 hours the following morning, two Little Johns, towed by jeeps, and two 6-pounders of E Troop were across the River. One 2-pounder and jeep under Sergeant James Bailey of the 90th Battery, moved with B Company of the Royal Canadian Regiment along the far bank of the Lamone River. This Company was heavily counter-attacked, with the company commander killed, and company headquarters taken prisoner. Sergeant Bailey and his detachment were surrounded but managed to fight their way out. This counter attack pressed on and the Royal Canadian Regiment had to withdraw to their start line on the near bank of the river. Sergeant Bailey led his detachment back to the initial bridgehead where he had previously sited a gun. Here he deployed both detachments with small arms and held this position, guarding the approach to the bridgehead, until the last of the infantry had withdrawn. For his outstanding leadership, courage and devotion to duty, Sergeant Bailey was awarded the Military Medal.

This unsuccessful crossing cost the regiment two 6-pounders, two 2-pounders, and two jeeps. The detachments of these guns all managed to fight their way back to safety. The abandoned guns were disabled and the striker cases brought back by the detachments. On 5 December, the Tactical Regimental Headquarters moved into the railway station at Russi.



During the next few days, the division was busy re-grouping in preparation for yet another attack, this time 3rd Brigade would carry the ball. The 48th Highlanders were placed under command of 3rd Brigade for this forthcoming attack. The 27th Battery in support of 3rd Brigade was operating with three 6-pounder troops and two 2-pounder troops. The regimental plan for the support of the 3rd Brigade crossing, which was to be on a three-battalion front, was that there would be two 2-pounder guns in each assaulting battalion's area. As soon as the bridgehead had been secured, 6-pounder guns would relieve the 2-pounders.

Lieutenant A R Moore was wounded in the eye by mortar fire on 6 December. The regiment later learned that he lost the sight of this eye. Gunner William Thomas Lorenzo was mortally wounded and a sergeant slightly wounded at the same time. All three were men of the 51st Battery.

During 7 and 9 December, no effort was made to cross the river but F Troop of the 51st Battery engaged an observation post on the far bank at 500 yards (450 metres) range and scored 69 hits.

On the night of 10 December at 2130 hours the leading troops of 3rd Brigade crossed the Lamone River and gained a bridgehead on the far bank. By first light the 2-pounder anti-tank guns were deployed in the battalion areas, and by 0800 hours, two troops of 6-pounders had crossed and were moving up into position. Getting the guns across the river was no small task. On each side of the river were high steep dykes and although the river itself was narrow, it was swift-flowing and was spanned by only a Class II floating bridge. It required the combined efforts of a whole troop to manhandle one gun across the river. This was the morning of 11 December and when the bridgehead was consolidated, 1st Brigade with the Carleton and York Regiment under command passed through 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade.

By 2359 hours, the Royal Canadian Regiment and the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment had reached the Vecchio Canal, southeast of Bagnacavallo, the brigade's ultimate objective.

On 12 December, 1st Brigade was across the Naviglio Canal to the northeast of Bagnacavallo. The following day, this Brigade was counter attacked with tanks and self-propelled guns, and the infantry were forced back to the line of the Naviglio Canal. They did, however, manage to maintain a small bridgehead on the enemy side of the canal. One 2-pounder with the Carleton and York Regiment immobilized a tank, but the enemy recovered it after dark. At 0800 hours, during this same counter-attack, the 6-pounder gun commanded by Sergeant John Menzie destroyed one tank and forced another to withdraw. Sergeant John Yost Menzie was killed in this engagement. He had shown great coolness and courage, as the first tank was not destroyed until it was less than 300 yards (275 metres) away and had received three hits. His gun position was now known to the enemy and neutralizing fire was being brought to bear upon him. In spite of this, he was still able to engage the second tank, and it was during this engagement that he was killed. In yet another counter-attack, Gunner J D Breeze and Gunner R Doucette were responsible for knocking out a tank and damaging another. All these tanks went to the credit of 51st Battery.

On the night of 13 December, 2nd Brigade supported by 57th Battery with the 104th Self-Propelled Battery of 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, under command, relieved 1st Brigade.

The division spent 14 December in re-grouping so as to have all three brigades up. During the day 51st Battery shot up some houses on the outskirts of Bagnacavallo, and G Troop of the 57th Battery claimed one Tiger tank disabled.

One of the forward gun detachments of the 27th Battery on 15 December, was rather surprised to see an ammunition vehicle of the Royal 22nd Regiment drive through the front lines. Sergeant L



Berthiaume, the detachment commander, was forced to watch the personnel in the vehicle marched away as prisoners. Before the Germans could move the vehicle, he fired seven rounds into it and destroyed it.

Although on the following day the 2nd and 3rd Brigades changed areas, the 27th and 57th Batteries did not move, as the condition of the ground was such that it would have been almost impossible to bring the guns out of action. This ended 27th Battery's affiliation with 3rd Brigade.

All day, the shelling of the forward areas was heavy and continuous with houses being the favourite targets. No casualties were caused in the regiment by this, but Gunner Neil McNeil Cuthbertson of the 90th Battery, was killed by a sniper. The shelling did account for two 2-pounders of the 57th Battery on 17 December.

The 1st Brigade attacked once more on 18 December but were unsuccessful and were forced to retire across the Vecchio Canal. None of the regiment's guns were concerned in this as they had not yet moved across the canal. In the 2nd Brigade sector, 57th Battery had one sergeant wounded while engaging a tank.

On 19 December, 2nd Brigade in their turn, launched an attack which passed through 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade in the bridgehead on the Naviglio Canal. This attack met heavy opposition and was over ground that had been heavily mined. The next day, the 27th Battery that was now supporting 2nd Brigade, had one 6-pounder and jeep destroyed when the gun went over a mine as it was being manhandled through a shell crater in the road. Gunner Jack Allen Hoggan was killed, Bombardier A Kulakowski lost a leg, and Sergeant W M McDougall was wounded. B Troop of the 27th Battery took one prisoner during this attack. That night it was reported that the enemy was withdrawing to the line of the Senio River, and on the morning of 21 December, this was found to be a fact.

The brigades and batteries spent the day consolidating the ground held by 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade to the southwest of Bagnacavallo, 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade to the northwest, and 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade in the centre in Bagnacavallo itself. The 51st Battery had one 6-pounder knocked out by mortar fire, and the 57th Battery lost one gun and jeep through shell fire.

On 22 December the balance of Regimental Headquarters moved into Russi. Throughout the division, arrangements were being made for a Christmas in the line. It was proposed that 1st and 2nd Brigades, with 27th, 51st, and 90th Batteries in support, would remain in action. The 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade and the 57th Battery were to be in reserve. It looked as though it would be a white Christmas as it snowed heavily on 23 December, and although no more snow fell, there was still some on the ground on Christmas Day. Christmas Day, though spent in the line by the majority of the troops, was claimed to be one of the most successful Christmases that they had had in the army. Even our most forward gun detachments did not miss their Christmas dinner and there was a double issue of rum for all.

On the day after Christmas, Lieutenant E S Kaufman of the 51st Battery ran over a mine while driving in a jeep. He was shaken up but fortunately suffered nothing more serious than a burst eardrum. This was, however, sufficient to give him a rest in hospital. Following their relief, 51st Battery moved into a rest area around the town of Godo on 28 December. The division was now in a static role in front of the Senio River and activity was confined to patrolling. Batteries and brigades alternately spent one week in the rest area. Some batteries, when their turn for relief came, left their guns in the line to be taken over by the succeeding battery. This was due to the poor condition of the roads and the proximity of the guns to the front lines. The brigade and battery in rest carried out a reconnaissance of several areas where



they would take up positions should an enemy breakthrough occur. These were sited so that they would be able to contain any penetration while steps were taken to restore the situation. During this period, each battery in the line had a troop of self-propelled guns from 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, under command, and these carried out many harassing fire tasks on the enemy positions. On 3 January 1945, the 2nd Brigade put in a small attack to straighten their line and the 27th Battery, while deploying their guns, lost Lance Bombardier Albert Marette and Gunner Alexander Montgomery Jack, who were killed, while Bombardier H Williams was seriously wounded. Three days later, the 17-pounder troops were back in action on the dissolution of the regimental X area.

The regiment started an infantry anti-tank training school in Ravenna with Captain Alfred Foubister in charge, with Lieutenants J T Wimble and J E Goodine and four non-commissioned officers as instructors. It was proposed to have three classes, one for each brigade as it took its turn in rest.

Major G T White and thirteen other ranks left for Canada on rotational leave on 13 January 1945. Major Derick Halfhide was appointed Acting Second in Command and Captain John Mooney was promoted to Acting Major and took command of 57th Battery.

The 27th Battery, after 24 hours in rest as part of 2nd Brigade Group, moved back into the line on 21 January, when 2nd Brigade took over from the Italians of the Cremona group. Ravenna was now providing some recreational facilities for officers and other ranks, and the Ravenna Officers Club was opened on 30 January. The Commanding Officer and some of the regimental officers were able to attend this opening and from all reports it must have been quite a party.

The regiment suffered its last battle casualty in Italy when Gunner David Henry Moran of the 57th Battery was killed in the town square of Bagnacavallo. He was sitting in a barbershop when a 105-mm shell fell in the square.

The 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, ceased to be in support of 1st Canadian Infantry Division when they moved out of the line on 10 February. Their place was taken by self-propelled batteries of the 93rd Argyll and Sutherland Anti-Tank Regiment, RA.

The 1st Canadian Corps Headquarters followed the corps anti-tank regiment out, and 5th British Corps assumed command of the 1st Canadian Division.

By this time rumours of impending moves were very strong and when the advance party of the 4th Maharatta Anti-Tank Regiment, 8th Indian Division, arrived in the regimental area everyone was certain that we would shortly be on the move. This regiment relieved the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, on 23 February, and on the following day the batteries started to move off with their brigades to the regimental concentration area at Corridonia. By the end of February, the regiment was concentrated in this town after spending most of the winter in the line. The regiment was now on its way to France, but this fact was known by very few as the whole move was kept Top Secret. To save unnecessary wear from a long road journey, 17-pounders and half-tracks were sent direct to Leghorn by rail from Riccione. During the time that the remainder of the regiment spent in Corridonia, each battery received a thorough inspection by the Commanding Officer. Staff tables were also prepared on personnel and equipment for the sea journey. Once again, all distinguishing insignias were removed before the first battery left Corridonia. One tragedy occurred before the regiment moved, when Gunner William John McElheron was killed in a jeep accident.

The move to the west coast was made in three stages: the first to Foligno, the second to Pontassieve, and finally the destination, Harrod's Camp near Leghorn. At this time Major John Mooney left on rotational leave to Canada and Captain D C Barker was promoted to Acting Major to command



57th Battery. While in Harrod's Camp, sight-seeing tours to Pisa were organized and nearly all personnel of the regiment were able to inspect the Leaning Tower.

Finally on 9 March, the 51st Battery embarked for France and the other batteries and Regimental Headquarters followed at intervals. The sea journey took approximately 28 hours, and the vessels used were Liberty ships and Landing Ship Tanks. For the greater part of the personnel, the first sight of a French town was when they debarked at Marseilles. For the trip through France the batteries continued to move independently, and the regiment was not together again until its arrival in Belgium. This journey lasted six days and each night was spent in a special staging camp. After Italy, the countryside of France with its people who seemed genuinely glad to see us was a welcome sight. On arrival in Belgium, Regimental Headquarters and 57th Battery were billeted in Hellegat, 51st and 90th Batteries in Niel, and 27th Battery in Schelle. The people of Belgium, like the people of France, were most friendly and welcomed us late-comers as liberators. They gave dances for us. They threw open their homes to all. They could not do enough for us. Our stay in Belgium will always be a pleasant memory, and it was with regret that we moved away. So many were the friends that we made that, since then, many members of the regiment have gone back to spend their privilege leave in the homes of the people with whom they were once billeted.



MOVE TO ACTION IN HOLLAND

3 April 1945

On 3 April 1945, the regiment began to move to the area of the Reichwald Forest in Germany. A new war establishment was now in effect whereby the regiment was made up of one self-propelled Battery, equipped with 17-pounder Valentines, and three batteries each with two troops of 17-pounder tractor-drawn guns and one self-propelled troop. Enroute to Germany, the 90th Battery, the self-propelled battery, and the self-propelled troop from each of the other batteries dropped out of the regimental convoy at S'Hertogenbosch for training with the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, in the area of Berlicum. The towed troops underwent firing practice at Lommel Ranges on 5 April. The regiment concentrated in the Reichwald Forest on 6 April, and on the following day, the batteries started moving up with their brigades to an area east of Zutphen. As our own self-propelleds were still in training, each battery had under command a self-propelled troop from the 6th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA.

On 11 April, the 1st Canadian Infantry Division forced the crossing of the IJssel River. The 2nd Brigade supported by 27th Battery led the attack. The guns were towed across a floating bridge by 15-cwt trucks and Humber scout cars, because the bridge would not carry a half-track. The half-tracks and self-propelleds were ferried across the river on Class 40 rafts. By 1200 hours on 12 April, 27th Battery guns were in position, and by 1430 hours the guns of 51st Battery were across the river and moving up to the support of 1st Brigade. The 57th Battery had made the crossing by 0430 hours 13 April 45.

During the ensuing fighting all batteries managed to collect some prisoners for themselves. In the first phase, 3rd Brigade was attacking along the Wilp-Apeldoorn road and took the towns of Posterenk and Achterhoek. The 57th Battery made good use of their self-propelleds in house clearing and the 17-pounders, which were not being used at the moment, were not deployed until 1830 hours on the evening of 13 April. The guns of the 27th Battery reached the area of Voorst on 14 April. The score of prisoners to date was: 27th Battery - five, 51st Battery - one, and 57th Battery - two. This was definitely a war of movement, and the resistance encountered was nothing as compared with what the division had experienced so recently in Italy.

On 15 April, 2nd Brigade turned south and advanced rapidly. The 1st Brigade was advancing on Apeldoorn with the 3rd Brigade on its left to the south. Lieutenant Heath of the 6th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, whose troop was under command of 51st Battery, engaged an enemy strong point in a wood with an SP and a Honey tank. After firing several rounds without result, accompanied by two men, he advanced on foot, throwing hand grenades, and came back with 13 prisoners. The 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade was now within 200 yards (180 metres) of the Apeldoorn Canal, and the self-propelled troop was moving just behind the leading infantry, giving close support. There was a little shelling, but the continual sniping was much more dangerous, and 51st Battery had one man wounded. Lance Sergeant H G Husted and Gunner William Jorheim of the 57th Battery captured two snipers who had been shooting at their gun detachment. The 27th Battery also took two prisoners.

The 2nd Brigade crossed the Apeldoorn Canal several miles south of Apeldoorn on 17 April without opposition and struck off in a westerly direction. They finally joined up with 5th Canadian Armoured Division in Barneveld. During this move, the tractor-drawn 17-pounders were never deployed, and the brunt of the work fell on the self-propelled troop. Five prisoners were taken.



The 3rd Brigade followed 2nd Brigade over the canal. This brigade moved north to within approximately one mile of Apeldoorn, then turned west and made for Laeger. The 1st Brigade moved through Apeldoorn and headed down the main road to Amersfoort.

After a 48-hour pause to mop up in the area of Barneveld, the brigades moved up to the line of the Amersfoort Canal. In this area the 17-pounder towed guns were deployed in battalion localities, and the self-propelled troops were allotted to whichever battalion required their services. The self-propelled troops of the 57th and 27th Batteries engaged a large tower in Amersfoort. Although there was no visible result, this harassing fire did make the tower untenable for the German Observation Posts.

Our own self-propelleds finally arrived on 22 April, but we were unable to use them in action as the equipment had excessive recoil, which was under investigation by the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. The official truce came into effect on 28 April, and all offensive action ceased. When, on 2 May, our own self-propelleds were declared serviceable, the troops of the 6th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, returned to their own unit thus bringing to a close an association that we were sorry to see end. The work of these troops had been of a high standard, and the cooperation between them and our own men was smooth and efficient. For his work during this period, Lieutenant A Keyes of the 6th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, was mentioned-in-despatches.

At 0800 hours on 5 May 45, the order to Cease Fire was given, when the German armies in Holland and Northern Germany surrendered unconditionally.

The following day, 1st Canadian Divisional Artillery concentrated their guns in an X area outside of Apeldoorn under command of Acting Major Charles Murdoch, MC. The regiments of the divisional artillery were now to be employed as an infantry brigade, in guarding dumps and disarming the German armies in Holland.

Captain John Mulkerns was promoted to the rank of Acting Major and posted to the 4th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, while Captain Alfred Foubister took command of a battery in 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, as Acting Major. On 8 May 15, the regiment moved from the area of Barneveld to Leiden, a distance of 60 miles. This move took us through the German lines where there was the incongruous sight of hundreds of fully armed German soldiers standing self-consciously in the midst of the cheering Dutch people. The further into German-occupied territory we travelled, the more moving became our reception. The towns were gay with bunting and flags, and the streets were packed with people. Everywhere, hastily erected signs bid us welcome. Men and women, old and young, were singing the Wilhelmus with tears running down their faces. In Leiden, the streets were lined with men and women of the Dutch underground army in uniform and, if possible, our reception there surpassed anything met before. The reactions to victory of a people who had never doubted that their day of liberty would come were a sight that will not be soon forgotten. More than one man in the regiment found that he had a lump in his throat and that his eyes were damp.

Such was our arrival in Western Holland.

The regiment was concentrated at Poelgeest in Oegstgeest, a village on the outskirts of Leiden. With the 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RCA, the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA formed a unit known as Bishop Force, which was under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel R M Bishop, Commanding Officer of the Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. The tasks of this force were to guard dumps in an area stretching from Amsterdam to Rotterdam, and to carry out patrols to round up any Germans in this area who were still at large. These duties were divided equally among the batteries.



The people of Leiden and Oegstgeest entertained the regiment on many occasions, and nobody was ever at a loss to know how to spend his spare time.

The regiment took part in four parades. On 21 May, four officers and 125 other ranks were the regimental representatives in a victory parade in The Hague, at which Prince Bernhard took the salute in the absence of Queen Wilhelmina. On 8 June, there was a mounted march past in Leiden when the Commander Royal Artillery, Brigadier William Ziegler DSO, took the salute, and this was followed on 10 June by the 1st Canadian Infantry Division march past in Rotterdam when Gen Harry Crerar, CH CD DSO and many other high-ranking officers were present. The regiment was represented by three officers and 72 other ranks on 28 June, in the parade in honour of Queen Wilhelmina's first appearance in Amsterdam after Victory Europe day. The turnout of men and equipment on these parades was excellent, and the freshly-painted appearance of vehicles and guns was in sharp contrast to their lately-doffed battle garb.



On 10 June, Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Warr relinquished command of the regiment on his departure to take over the 2/3rd Canadian Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, Canadian Army Occupation Force.

The regiment was very sorry to see yet another Commanding Officer leave and wished him the best of luck in his new duties.



THREE SOLDIERS—Three Canadian Soldiers at Linden, Holland, after the war is over. From left: Adrien Dube, Plaster Rock, N.B.; Sgt. Lock, Sask., and Sgt. Bertheume, Quebec.

Repatiation started when Sergeant W R Boivin, Lance Sergeant W E Thompson, Acting Sergeant J Ibbetson, and Gunner W R Wismer left the regiment to proceed on No. 1 Repatriation Draft on 3 June 1945. At this time, men were also leaving to join the Canadian Army Pacific Force or the Canadian Army Occupation Force.

The regiment turned in the towed 17-pounders and the half-tracks on 20 June. The self-propelleds were turned in on 28 June. It is always difficult for an artilleryman to say goodbye to his gun and this time was no exception. The turn-in of vehicles commenced on 13 July, but some vehicles will be retained until the disbandment of the regiment prior to its departure from this theatre.

Throughout its entire period of service overseas, the men of the regiment have received parcels, cigarettes, magazines, and newspapers not only from their immediate family and friends, but also from these organizations:

27th Battery - The Artillery Branch of the Montreal Soldier's Wives Association.



51st Battery - The Women's Auxiliary of the Ottawa Artillery

57th Battery - The Women's Auxiliary of the 13th Field Brigade

90th Battery - The Girls-They-Left-Behind-Them Club

The regiment as a whole received cigarettes from the Buckshee Fund and from the Toronto Hotels Soldiers' fund. We are very grateful to all these people who have given their time and money to provide us with these luxuries and thus given us the assurance that we have not been forgotten.

This brings the history of the regiment to the end of the month of July 1945, and at present the regiment is near Utrecht, waiting impatiently for the order to move from Holland on its long journey home.

The tides of war have taken this regiment to many lands. Though in the future many will forget, and to some the past will go unheeded, there will be many for whom the names Pachino - Leonforte - Agira - Sangro - Moro - Ortona - Hitler Line - Gothic Line - San Fortunado - Lamone - Senio - and Ijssel will always hold a deep significance.



Appendix I – Regimental Senior Appointments

Commanding Officers

Lieutenant-Colonel George William Frederick Johnston ED

Lieutenant-Colonel Johnston was born in Lethbridge, Alberta on 27 October 1893. A civil engineer he was also a member of the 23rd Field Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, NPAM. Lieutenant-Colonel Johnston was appointed Commanding Officer of the 1st Canadian Army Field Brigade on 5 September 1939 which was subsequently redesignated the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF. On 24 January 1940 the unit was inspected by His Majesty King George VI and Lieutenant-Colonel Johnston was introduced as the “man who has not yet seen his guns” as the regiment was still deficient of any ordnance. He later commanded the 1st Medium Regiment RCA, CASF and after a bout of illness went on to command the Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Unit and later the A1 Canadian Artillery Training Centre. After the war he was employed by the War Assets Corporation, the Welland Ship Canal, Canadian National Terminal Project, Toronto and Hydro-Quebec, Montreal. Lieutenant-Colonel Johnston passed away on 7 October at the age of 80 and is interred at Little Lake Cemetery in Peterborough, Ontario.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Merle Medland ED CD



Lieutenant-Colonel Medland was born in Durham, Ontario on 13 November 1897 and enlisted in World War I after serving in the Non Permanent Active Militia with the 9th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery. He was assigned regimental #317041 and joined the 12th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, CEF and was later transferred to the 48th Battery, 12th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, CEF and the 4th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, CEF. He was appointed a Cadet with the Royal Air Force and attended observer school. After the First World War he was employed as a manager with Wall Factory and as an executive he was part of the founding of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario. He returned to the Non Permanent Active Militia with the 53rd Field Battery RCA. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was a member of the 4th Field Regiment RCA CASF prior to taking command of the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA on 3 March 1941. On 27 January 1942 he took over command of the 2nd Field Regiment RCA. After the war he served with the 3rd Infantry Brigade, CA(M). Lieutenant-Colonel Medland passed away 12 November 1980 at the age of 82 and is interred at the Whitevale Cemetery in Durham, Ontario.



Lieutenant-Colonel Harry McLeod Hague DSO ED QC



Lieutenant-Colonel Hague was born Little Metis, Quebec on 6 August 1899. He was a student at the Royal Military College of Canada and volunteered to serve during the First World War. His late arrival in the war saw him advance no further than the Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Depot, CEF in England and on demobilization he returned to school and became a lawyer. Lieutenant-Colonel Hague took command of the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF on 27 Jan 1942. On 23 November 1942 he took over command of the 2nd Field Regiment RCA CASF which he took to Italy. He was wounded at San Leonardo, losing his arm to shellfire and repatriated back to Canada. After the war he worked for the Department of Veteran Affairs and was the chair of the Civilian War Amps Liaison Committee. Lieutenant-Colonel Hague DSO ED QC passed away 11 November 1994 at the age of 95 and is interred at Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal, Quebec, grave A1,A33.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Yarwood Wills ED

Lieutenant-Colonel Wills was born in Belleville, Ontario 9 April 1901. He had served prior to the war with the 34th Field Battery, Canadian Artillery, Non Permanent Active Militia. He attended the Royal Military College of Canada and went on to become a local lawyer and then a Belleville City Councillor. On mobilization he was assigned to the 4th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA and then assumed command of the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA on 23 November 1943. After the war he returned to the legal profession and was appointed a magistrate in the Belleville Police Court. Lieutenant-Colonel Wills passed away 2 Jul 1989 at the age of 88 and is interred at Belleville Cemetery, Hastings County, Ontario.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Orrin Hutchison OBE ED

Lieutenant-Colonel George Hutchison was born in Ottawa, Ontario on 19 October 1903 and commanded the 51st Field Battery, Canadian Artillery, Non Permanent Active Militia in that city. The 51st was mobilized as a sub-unit of the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA CASF. At the end of October 1941, he was returned to Canada to organize and command the 5th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA CASF. On 10 June 1943, Lieutenant-Colonel George Hutchison returned to the regiment to take over command and deploy to Italy. On the 17 June 1943 he was transferred as Commanding Officer of 2nd Field Regiment RCA CASF. After the war he became a dentist and passed away on 12 July 1968 at the age of 64. Lieutenant-Colonel George Hutchison is interred at the Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa, Ontario in grave 50,113E.



Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Edward McCordick OBE ED

Lieutenant-Colonel Frank McCordick was born in Saint Catharines, Ontario on 2 April 1904. He was a Major in the Non-Permanent Active Militia and took the Staff Course at Kingston in 1936. He is a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada. At the outbreak of World War II, he went overseas with the 2nd Field Regiment RCA and became second in Command of this regiment in February 1941. From January to December 1942, he did a tour of duty in Canada returning overseas in December 1942 to become battery Commander in the 2nd Medium Regiment RCA. In January 1944 he returned to his old Regiment, the 2nd Field Regiment RCA and from there was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and



Commanding Officer of the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA in July 1944. In November he assumed command of the 1st Field Regiment, RCHA which position he held until 4 May 1945b when he flew back to Canada to become Liberal Candidate for the Lincoln Riding in the 1945 Dominion General Election. He was not elected. In civilian life, Lieutenant-Colonel McCordick was a jobs engineer in Saint Catherine, Ontario. He later became president of F C McCordick Leathers and the Honorary Colonel of 56th Field Regiment RCA. Lieutenant-Colonel McCordick passed away on 20 February 1980 at the age of 75.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Hood Warr OBE

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Warr was born in Michel, British Columbia on 22 October 1914. He started with 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment before transferring to the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF, as Battery Commander of the 57th Battery. After a period of duty away from the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA CASF he returned as Commanding Officer on 27 November 1944. After the war he commanded the 2/3rd Canadian Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, Canadian Army Occupation Force (CAOF). After retirement he became the National Secretary, Canadian Veterans Association in the United Kingdom. Lieutenant-Colonel Warr passed away at Haywards Heath, England on 2 Mar 1984 at the age of 69.

Seconds in Command

Major Richard Bliss

Major George Orrin Hutchison

Major John Albert Gillies

Major Douglas Harkness

Major G T White

Battery Commanders

27th Field Battery, Montreal

Major Richard Bliss

Major John Albert Gillies

Major G T White

Major G A Rankin

Major M Y McLean

51st Field Battery, Ottawa

Major George Orrin Hutchison

Major Douglas Harkness

Major R Barker

Major James Sutherland

Major T A Cowan

57th Field Battery, Quebec

Major L A Devine

Major Colin Campbell

Major M Y McLean

Major T A Cowan

Major Derick Halfhide

Major D C Barker

90th Field Battery, Fredericton

Major T C Barker

Major John Harris

Major Douglas Harkness

Major George Welsh

Major Arthur Warr



Regimental Sergeants Major

Warrant Officer Class 1 A B Brewer

There is no official biography at this time of Warrant Officer Class 1 Brewer. Information indicates that he possibly served in the First World War with 16th Battery CEF and was employed with Canadian National Railways while also a member of the 79th Battery NPAM. It is confirmed that he was the Regimental Sergeant Major for the 6th Field Brigade NPAM prior to the Second World War.

As there is no record of his service with the 16th Battery, it is possible that the information was confused with that of Alfred Beverly Brewer Jr who was born in Smith Corner, N.B. on 22 Apr 1894, served with the 15th Canadian Infantry Battalion, where he was awarded the Military Medal. Alfred Beverly Brewer passed away 20 Dec 1969 at the age of 75 and is buried in the Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal, Que.



Appendix II - Decorations and Citations

Order Of the British Empire

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire is a British order of chivalry, rewarding contributions to the arts and sciences, work with charitable and welfare organisations, and public service outside the civil service. It was established on 4 June 1917 by King George V and comprises five classes across both civil and military divisions, the most senior two of which make the recipient either a knight if male or dame if female.

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (post-nominals: OBE) is awarded for outstanding achievement or service to the community. This will have had a long-term, significant impact and stand out as an example to others.



Lieutenant-Colonel George Orrin Hutchison OBE ED

Details of this award are yet to be discovered.



Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Edward McCordick OBE ED

Details of this award are yet to be discovered.



Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Hood Warr OBE

Details of this award are yet to be discovered.

Distinguished Service Order

The Distinguished Service Order (post-nominals: DSO) was a military order for officers only, and while normally given for service under fire or under conditions equivalent to service in actual combat with the enemy, it was awarded between 1914 and 1916 under circumstances which could not be regarded as under fire. The order was generally given to officers in command, above the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and awards to ranks below this are usually for a high degree of gallantry just short of deserving the Victoria Cross.



Major George Arthur Welsh DSO & Bar

On the night of July 21-22, 1943, at 2130 hours, an attack was launched by the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade against the Sicilian town of Leonforte, strongly held by troops of the 1st and second Panzer Grenadier Regiment. The Edmonton Regiment forced an entry into the town on the main road from the south where the fighting became most confused and



bloody. Major George Welsh, in an endeavour to seek out information, entered the town. Enroute he met Lieutenant H T Carson, 4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, attached to the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade, who had been sent forward for the same purpose. Both officers were then under heavy machine gun fire. Lieut. Carson pointed out the machine gun post which was doing the damage and which controlled the approach into the town, making further entry by the anti-tank guns impossible.

Major George Welsh went back up the road, brought a six-pounder into action and with Lieut C H Murdoch RCAC, manning the piece, successfully, destroyed the machine gun post. He then went forward alone, and hearing a group of German soldiers talking he stalked them and called on them to surrender. He single-handedly captured 20 German prisoners on this occasion.

Bar to Distinguished Service Order

Circumstances for this award are yet to be discovered.

Military Cross

The Military Cross (post-nominals: MC) was awarded to Commissioned Officers of the substantive rank of Captain or below or Warrant Officers for distinguished and commendable services in battle.

Captain Hugh Burnett MC



On December 21, 1943, a company of a western Canadian regiment was ordered to make a left flanking attack through the outskirts of Ortona. Capt. Burnett was able to observe the attack and considered that the advance of the infantry could be materially assisted by bringing forward a troop of anti-tank guns to engage enemy machine gun posts. The road between Ortona and the point where the guns were situated was being subjected to incessant enemy mortar and gun fire. Nevertheless Capt. Burnett proceeded immediately to the gun area and brought the troops up the road, losing one gun limber by reason of a direct hit. Then, under heavy machine-gun fire, he made a reconnaissance of gun positions, brought his guns into action and brought down fire repeatedly and effectively upon enemy machine gun posts. Capt. Burnett in acting immediately to remedy the situation he had observed, although at great danger to himself and at no time ordered to do so by his superior commander, displayed initiative, resolution, and courage of the highest order.

Lieutenant Gerard Charles Evans MC



At Leonforte on July 22, 1943, this officer led a mobile patrol of anti-tank guns during the storming of this town, and by his coolness and daring under enemy fire, was able to materially assist the infantry, machine gun posts and mortar positions were engaged at close range and destroyed. His gallantry and leadership were an inspiration to all ranks.



Lieutenant Ernest St John Charles Murdoch MC



At Leonforte, Sicily on July 22, 1943, this officer displayed great initiative and courage personally wheeling an anti-tank gun into position, manning it himself and although under heavy enemy machine gun fire he successfully destroyed the machine gun post which had been holding up the advance. The courage and example displayed throughout the whole action by Lt. Murdoch was outstanding.

Military Medal

The Military Medal was awarded to Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Members for individual or associated acts of bravery on the recommendation of a Commander-in-Chief in the field.

Sergeant James Basil Bailey MM



Sergeant Bailey has been with the 1st Canadian Anti-Tank Regiment since Sept. 4, 1939. Throughout Sicily and Italy his work has been outstanding. His gun was the first into Ortona and was instrumental in demolishing several enemy strong points. In the Liri Valley in support of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade and during the Gothic Line his coolness and courage under the most trying and difficult conditions, were a constant inspiration to his men and to the units he was supporting. On the morning of Dec. 5, 1944, when "B" Company of the Royal Canadian Regiment crossed the Lamono River, Sgt. Bailey was in command of two 2-pounder guns in support. He was making his way with one detachment to company headquarters when they were suddenly fired on at close range by Germans who had meanwhile counter-attacked and captured the headquarters. Sgt. Bailey immediately disposed his detachment in a ditch, from where they returned the fire, killing four of the enemy. He then led his men to a good position by a haystack in the yard adjoining the building, where he met an officer, who told him that there were now more 30 or more Germans in and around the house. Shortly after, the Germans started to file out of the house and Sgt. Bailey started to rush them intending to recapture the house, when he was met by a hail of fire from the other side of the yard. The enemy then called on the detachment to surrender, saying they could not escape they were covered by a machine gun post from behind. Using the haystack as cover, Sgt. Bailey managed to get within a few yards of the presumed machine gun nest and then rushed it, only to find it unoccupied. From here he gave covering fire while the detachment withdrew to their gun position. He himself followed only when the last man was clear. He deployed both detachments around the two guns further back and held this position, guarding the approach to the bridgehead. By his outstanding leadership and coolness, Sgt. Bailey brought his entire detachment safely through a very dangerous ambush, and accounted for four of the enemy. In this, as in every action throughout this period, his courage and devotion to duty were an inspiration to all ranks.

Bombardier Roy Allison Bennett MM



During the afternoon 23 Jul 43, 2 Cdn Inf Bde with 90 Cdn A Tk Bty under command, was attacking Leonforte. A force consisting of one troop tanks, one company infantry and two troops A Tk guns were sent into the town to clear out some enemy who were holding up the attack from prepared positions in and around the houses. The company of infantry were held up by heavy machine gun fire and mortar fire from a concealed position. L/Bdr Bennett



observing his troop NCO, Sgt Towe, engaging an enemy post, on his own initiative, and in the face of this heavy enemy fire, took his own gun forward and positioned it to bring fire to bear on another enemy post. Under the direction of L/Bdr Bennett, this enemy post was wiped out enabling the infantry to continue the attack.

Lance Sergeant Luciene Berthieme MM



On the morning of the 16 September 1944, just prior to first light Lance Serjeant Lucien Berthiaume's gun was deployed in a forward position with the Royal 22e Regiment at MR 863943. On the 17 September 1944 the company occupying the area in which the gun was deployed was withdrawn for tactical reasons and a company from another battalion was to have taken over. The latter move was not accomplished. As a result the gun and crew were left in an unoccupied area well forward of our FDLs.

During the day infantry attempting to take a ridge at MR 862935 forward of the gun were forced to retire through the gun area. Twice Lance Serjeant Berthiaume was advised by infantry officers to withdraw behind the FDLs and if unable to move the gun to leave it and bring his crew back. Lance Serjeant Berthiaume did not feel that he could accept this advice. In holding his position he knew full well that he and his crew, who had volunteered to remain, would be well forward of any friendly positions and would thus, for their own safety have to depend entirely upon their own resources in an area constantly under heavy shellfire and in which enemy snipers were extremely active.

However he realized the importance of his role and the fact that his gun in its present position provided the sole anti-tank defence for the forward company of the Royal 22e Regiment. He was covering approaches from an area known to contain enemy tanks. He and his men held their position in spite of heavy shell fire all throughout the day.

By his determined stand Lance Serjeant Berthiaume secured a flank of the infantry battalion he had been ordered to support. His courageous action and devotion to duty set a splendid example to both gunners and infantry men.

Gunner John Douglas Breeze MM



Circumstances for this award are yet to be discovered.

Bombardier William Joseph Doucette MM



On 23 Dec 43 during the street fighting in Ortona (MR 3316) the advance of "D" Company of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment was held up by intense fire coming from a house dominating the axis of advance. Tanks were unable to bring fire to bear on the house because of a pile of rubble which blocked the street. Bdr Doucette was in charge of an anti-tank gun supporting the advance of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Seeing the difficulty, with his crew he manhandled the gun up to the pile of rubble and, although under heavy fire from enemy MGs and mortars, destroyed the house and thus enabled the infantry to move forward. This NCO's courage,



determination and initiative were of the highest order and made a valuable contribution to the final success of the operation.

Lance Sergeant Albert Hope MM



On 23 Dec 43 during the street fighting in Ortona (MR 3316) two companies of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment put in an attack to clear the enemy from the town square. The progress of the assault was held up by heavy fire from buildings dominating the square. Bdr Hope was in command of an anti-tank gun. Seeing the situation, he had his gun towed forward by a tank and, when the tank was held up, manhandled it forward under very heavy fire into a position from which he engaged the enemy MG and mortar posts so effectively that the infantry were able to capture the square. The courage and coolness of this NCO under fire were of the highest order while his resource and initiative contributed greatly to the success of the attack.

Lance Bombardier Arthur Harold Leigh MM



On May 23, 1944, during the battle for the Adolf Hitler line Lance Bombardier Arthur Harold Leigh was a member of an anti-tank troop attached to the Carleton and York Regiment. As the troop despatch rider he was directly responsible for maintaining communications between his troop commander and the troop guns. As the guns moved into their first position one of the gun-towing vehicles was put out of action by enemy fire. Realizing that the gun would be useless without a vehicle and disregarding the heavy enemy mortar fire, Gunner Leigh rushed back to troop headquarters and brought up a 15 cwt. thus enabling the gun to be moved forward. His troop commander was forward on a reconnaissance and Gunner Leigh, his motorcycle having been knocked out, toured the gun position. He found the driver of one of the vehicles wounded and helped him to the nearest Regimental Aid Post. Returning he volunteered to take over the wounded driver's vehicle.

The troop commander went forward again to the commanding officer of the Carleton and York Regiment, leaving Bombardier Leigh to move the troop forward to its next position.

During this move enemy fire was particularly heavy and two of the gun tractors were struck by shrapnel and the gun crews thrown into a state of confusion. Gunner Leigh supervised the reorganization of the detachments and got the guns moving again, arriving in the new area with a complete troop.

Gunner Leigh's initiative, complete disregard of enemy fire, and his coolness and determination were an inspiration to the members of his troop. Largely as a result of his actions the infantry were given continuous support throughout the advance.

Gunner Hubert Joseph Snow MM



Gunner Hubert Joseph Snow is the driver of a half track anti-tank tractor of the 17 pounder troop of the 27 Canadian Anti-Tank Battery. During the battle for the Adolf Hitler line his troop was in support of the 48 Highlanders of Canada to the southeast of Pontecorvo (MR 7215). Early in the attack the troop came under continuous mortar and shell fire, and suffered several casualties. Gunner Snow, with complete disregard for his own safety drove his tractor through the incessant enemy fire and, by himself, lifted two casualties into his vehicle and drove them to safety. On his return to the gun area, Gunner Snow again went forward and took two more casualties out of the danger zone. During the engagement, this man made four trips alone into the



battle area and evacuated eight casualties to the Regimental Aid Post. This gunner's courage, gallant action and devotion to duty were undoubtedly responsible for the saving of several of his comrades' lives.

Sergeant John Towe MM



During the afternoon 23 Jul 43, 2 Cdn Inf Bde with 90 Cdn A Tk Bty under command, was attacking Leonforte. A force consisting of one troop tanks, one company infantry and two troops A Tk guns was sent into the town to clear out some enemy who were holding up the attack from prepared positions in and around the houses. The company of infantry was held up by heavy enemy machine gun fire and mortar fire from a concealed post. Sgt Towe, in the face of this enemy fire rushed forward his gun to a position from which he could engage the pocket of enemy. So effectively did he direct the fire from his gun that the enemy post was wiped out and the infantry enabled to advance. His courage and devotion to duty set a high example inspiring others of his troop to follow.

George Medal

The George Medal (post-nominals: GM) was established on 24 September 1940. It was awarded only for acts of great bravery and was intended primarily for civilians. Awards to the military were confined to actions for which purely military honours were not normally granted.

Major Douglas Scott Harkness GM



Awarded the George Medal in 1943 for the part he played in the orderly abandonment of a troopship which was torpedoed on her way from England to Sicily with vehicles, stores and personnel for the Sicilian campaign. With the ship on fire and ammunition exploding, Col. Harkness (in the words of the citation) "descended to the mess deck and, exhibiting courage, gallantry and devotion to duty of a high order, succeeded in rescuing men from the flames and pulling them to the main deck." Three minutes before the ship sank, Col. Harkness and another soldier rescued the last two men on board the ship, who were hysterical and had to be thrown bodily overboard.

Canadian Efficiency Medal

Warrant Officer Class I A B Brewer

Mention In Despatches

Mention in Despatches are awarded for valiant conduct, devotion to duty, or other distinguished service that had warranted their inclusion in an official account written by a superior officer, which had then been sent on to the War Office.

Captain K M Johnson

Lieutenant G E Weidmark

Lieutenant J E O'Neill

Sergeant J W Eden

Gunner D I Newell



Appendix III – Roll of Honour

The following personnel served with the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery during World War II and were killed during that time.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Robert Laurence Binyon

Gunner Ray Adamson



Born Stirling, Alta. 13 Jul 1906; #M635; labourer, tractor and truck driver; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA; killed in action 26 Dec 1943; age 37; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy; grave 8,C,1.

Gunner Ralph Ellsworth Amos



Born Doaktown N.B. 7 Jun 1910; #G4067; 90th Field Battery RCA, NPAM; 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of wounds 18 Dec 1944; age 34; interred Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy; grave 6,A,7.

Lance Sergeant Joseph Pierranico Andreoli



Born Montreal, Que. 23 Apr 1921; #D7057; shoemaker; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA; deceased 17 Dec 1943; age 22; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy; grave 11,F,5.

Lance Bombardier Wilson Henry Annett



Born Wakeham, Que. 22 Oct 1917; labourer; 82nd Battery, 13th Field Brigade RCA, NPAM; #E0086; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; torpedoed onboard the *Devis* missing and presumed dead 5 Jul 1943; age 25; memorialized on the Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy; panel 14.

Gunner Raymond John Ashe



Born Springhill, N.S. 22 May 1923; #F65567; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; torpedoed onboard the *Devis* missing and presumed dead 5 Jul 1943; age 20; memorialized on the Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy; panel 14.

Lance Sergeant William Arthur Bannier



Born Gaspé, Que. 1 Aug 1920; clerk; #E0089; 57th (Quebec) Field Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; torpedoed, presumed killed 5 Jul 1943; age 22; memorialized on the Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy; panel 14.

Gunner George Barthelette



Born Steinbach, Man. 1 Feb 1909; lumberjack; #H100346; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action, 1 Oct 1943; age 36; interred Bari War Cemetery, Carbonara, Italy; grave 3,C,5.

Gunner Leo Bedard



Born Montreal, Que. 20 Jul 1916; #D7006; 27th Battery, 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 5 Aug 1943; age 27; interred Agira Canadian War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy; grave D,E,453.



Gunner Arthur Romuald Belzil



Born Newport Gaspe, Que. 20 Aug 1919; #D7168; 27th Battery, 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; torpedoed onboard the *Devis* missing and presumed dead 5 Jul 1943; age 23; memorialized on the Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy; panel 14.

Gunner John Lewis Burns



Born Sunny Corner, N.B. 22 Jun 1921; labourer; #G49399; 28th Field Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; deceased train accident 8 May 1943; age 21; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom.

Gunner William Ernest Cattral



Born Ottawa, Ont. 26 Aug 1921; student; #C10362; 51st Battery RCA, NPAM; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 5 Sep 1944; age 23; interred Gradara War Cemetery, Pesaro, Italy; grave 2,H,25.

Lance Sergeant Joseph Chapatis



Born Montreal, Que. 27 Oct 1919; foundry worker; #D7110; 27th Field Battery (Howitzer) RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of wounds 17 Dec 1943; age 24; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy; grave 5,F,8.

Gunner Jasper Stanley Chase



Born Devo, N.B. 9 Nov 1910; truck driver; #G4172; 90th Anti-Tank Battery, 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed by enemy air action 16 Apr 1941; age 30; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom; grave 30,D,6.

Bombardier John Wilson Clark



Born Wakeham, Que. 22 Nov 1916; labourer; #E0082; 32nd Field Battery, 13th Field Brigade RCA, CASF; 57th (Quebec) Field Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; missing at sea, presumed killed 5 Jul 1943; age 25; memorialized on the Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy; panel

14.

Gunner Bertram Michael Clarke



Born Kent, England 28 Dec 1917; labourer; #G4014; 90th Field Battery (Howitzer) RCA, NPAM; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed by enemy action 16 Apr 1941; age 23; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom; grave 30,D,5.

Gunner James Gordon Clarke



Born Wiltshire, England 26 Sep 1919; farmer; 90th Field Battery (Howitzer) RCA, NPAM; #G4081; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 26 Jul 1943; age 23; interred Agira Canadian War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy; grave B,A,137.

Captain John James Coatsworth



Born Durham, England 13 May 1909; bank clerk, truck driver; 23rd Battery RCA, CASF; 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 28 Dec 1943; age 34; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy; grave 7,F,2.



Gunner Donald Copeman



Born Quebec, Que. 10 Oct 1920; clerk; #E5336; Royal 22nd Regiment, CASF; 18th Field Ambulance, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 3 Jan 1944; age 23; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy; grave 10,D,1

Gunner Robert Cousins



Born Belfast, Ireland 6 Mar 1907; painter; #B5918; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; deceased train accident 10 Jan 1942; age 34; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom.

Gunner Neil McNeil Cuthbertson



Born Perthshire, Scotland 14 Apr 1919; farmer; #G7349; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 16 Dec 1944; age 25; interred Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy; grave 6,B,24.

Gunner Clifford Ernest Fairbairn



Born Queensville, Ont. 27 May 1918; farming, factory hand; #D112004; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 14 Dec 1943; age 45; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy; grave 10,G,1

Gunner Alexandre Fontaine



Born Lévis, Que. 16 Oct 1915; driver; #E014299; 2nd Division Ammunition Column, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, CASF; 57th Battery, 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 4 Dec 1943; age 28; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy; grave 10,C,4.

Gunner Ernest Forget



Born Morin Heights, Que. 21 Aug 1916; grocery clerk, truck driver; #D118062; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 4 Sep 1944; age 28; interred Ancona War Cemetery, Tavernelle, Italy; grave 1,F,11.

Gunner Oliver Joseph Frigon



Born Hoey, Sask. 8 Sep 1920; carpenter; #L10456; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 4 Dec 1943; age 23; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy; grave 5,D,14.

Lance Bombardier Clarence Wainwright Green



Born Fredericton, N.B. 23 Jul 1917; city editor; #G4090; Royal Canadian Corps of Signals; 90th Field Battery (H), 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; deceased by enemy action 16 Apr 1941; age 23; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom; grave 30,D,4.

Gunner Albert Greening



Born Lowefarm, Man. 19 Mar 1912; farmer; #H5088; 3rd Field Regiment RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; deceased cerebral malaria 6 Oct 1944; age 32; interred Gradara War Cemetery, Italy; grave 2,H,34.

Gunner Arnold John Higgins



Born Ottawa, Ont. 4 Nov 1917; chauffeur; 1st Battery RCA, NPAM; #C10344; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 21 Jul 1943; age 26; interred Agira Canadian War



Cemetery, Italy; grave C,B,273.

Gunner Jack Allen Hoggan



Born High River, Alta. 18 Aug 1907; farmer; #M106513; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 20 Dec 1944; age 37; interred Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy; grave 6,F,16.

Gunner Rufus Manning Hooper



Born Back Bay, N.B. 27 Feb 1918; #G6036; fisherman; 105th Anti-Tank Battery RCA, CASF; 3rd Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 12 Dec 1943; age 25; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, Italy; grave 1,E,6.

Gunner Alexander Montgomery Jack



Born Sintaluta, Sask. 12 Apr 1909; driller helper; #M105936; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 4 Jan 1945; age 35; interred Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy; grave 6,F,15.

Gunner Bruce Johnson



Born Montreal, Que. 15 Sep 1920; painter; #E0185; 57th Anti-Tank Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 15 Sep 1944; age 24; interred Coriano Ridge Military Cemetery, Rimini, Italy, grave 13,C,7.

Lance Bombardier Leslie Tilson Patrick Keogh



Born Montreal, Que. 30 Apr 1921; Regiment de Chaudiere, NPAM; 27th Field Battery RCA, NPAM; #D7017; 27th Battery, 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; torpedoed onboard the *Devis* missing and presumed dead 5 Jul 1943; age 22; memorialized on the Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy; panel 14.

Bombardier Keith Chesly Kimball



Born Oromocto, N.B. 9 Nov 1921; farmer; 2/90th Battery RCA, NPAM; #G4311; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 8 Aug 1944; age 22; interred Florence War Cemetery, Italy; grave 6,A,6.

Lance Bombardier Earl Fraser Lippiatt



Born Montreal, Que. 23 Feb 1918; clerk; 17th Hussars, NPAM; 6th Hussars, NPAM; #D7124; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; deceased motorcycle accident 22 Sep 1940; age 22; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom.

Gunner William Thomas Loreno



Born Trenton, Ont. 5 Dec 1922; leather grainer; #B44951; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of wounds 6 Dec 1944; age 22; interred Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy; grave 5,C,6.

Gunner James Aloysius Madore



Born Rapide des Joachims, Que. 21 Mar 1922; lumbering; Lanark and Renfrew Highlanders, NPAM; #D132355; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment, RCA, CASF; died of wounds 17 May 1944; age 22; interred Cassino War Cemetery, Frosinone, Italy; grave 5,J,21.

Gunner William Hayward Mahaney



Born St John, N.B. 6 Jul 1910; sawyer; #K72665; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; drowned accidentally 30 May 1945; age 34; interred Protestant Churchyard, Oegstgeest, Netherlands; grave 16.



Lance Bombardier Albert Marette



Born Montreal, Que. 30 Oct 1918; carpenter, driver; #D7054; 27th Field Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 4 Jan 1945; age 26; interred Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy; grave 6,F,14.

Gunner Frank Boyers Martin



Born Toronto, Ont. 2 Mar 1924, tinsmith; #B17385; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; torpedoed onboard the *Devis* missing and presumed dead 5 Jul 1943; age 19; memorialized Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy, panel 14.

Gunner Samuel Victor Martin



Born Victoria, B.C. 8 Aug 1909; labourer; #K81826; Canadian Officers' Training Corps; No 14 Detachment RCAMC, CASF; No 13 Field Ambulance RCAMC, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 24 May 1944; age 34; interred Cassino War Cemetery, Frosinone, Italy; grave 5,G,21.

Gunner William John McElheron



Born Prince Albert, Sask. 5 Nov 1920; clerk; #D7116; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of wounds 27 Feb 1945; age 19; interred Assisi War Cemetery, Italy; grave 5,G,6.

Gunner Francis McGinn



Born St Anicet, Que. 3 Jun 1913; farmer; #D131325; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of wounds 23 May 1944; age 30; interred Cassino War Cemetery, Frosinone, Italy; grave 4,E,5.

Gunner James Duncan McIntosh



Born Almonte, Ont. 31 Aug 1920; farm labourer; #C9561; 3rd Field Battery RCA, CASF; 18th Field Regiment RCA, CASF; 3rd Anti-Tank Battery, 5th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of wounds 4 Sep 1944; age 24; interred Montecchio War Cemetery, Montelabbate, Italy; grave 3,H,2.

Gunner Frederick McNeil



Born Sydney, N.S. 11 Nov 1921; labourer; #F97615; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died at sea 19 Jun 1943; age 21; memorialized on the Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy; panel 14.

Gunner Martin Orval McPhadden



Born Martintown, Ont. 13 Mar 1923; labourer; #C101830; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of wounds 20 May 1944; age 21; interred Cassino War Cemetery, Frosinone, Italy; grave 13,G,16.

Sergeant Edward John Yost Menzie



Born Kingston, Ont. 4 Sep 1916; chauffeur; #C10478; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 13 Dec 1944; age 28; interred Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy; grave 5,F,19.

Gunner David Henry Moran



Born Gaspé, Que. 21 Dec 1920; labourer; #E0047; 82nd Field Battery, 13th Field Brigade RCA, NPAM; 57th (Quebec) Field Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 6 Feb 1945; age 24; interred Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy; grave 6,B,30.



Gunner Robert Morton



Born Verdun, Que. 12 Mar 1914; service station operator; 1st Motor Machine Gunners, NPAM; 66th Battery RCA, NPAM; #D7172; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; torpedoed onboard the *Devis* missing and presumed dead 5 Jul 1943; age 29; memorialized on Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy; panel 14.

Sergeant Harry Knight Olive



Born Halifax, N.S. 6 Aug 1919; student; 90th Battery RCA, NPAM; #G4023; 90th Battery, 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed by enemy action 16 Apr 1941; age 21; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom.

Gunner James Osborne



Born Glasgow, Scotland 29 Dec 1923; plumber's helper; #B44685; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 21 Jul 1943; age 17; interred Agira Canadian War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy; grave C,B,277.

Gunner William Raymond Porteous



Born Ashern, Man. 28 Feb 1922; truck driver; #H66450; 1st Medium Regiment RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of injuries 27 Nov 1944; age 22; interred Coriano Ridge Military Cemetery, Rimini, Italy; grave 9,D,5.

Sergeant Joseph Albert Reid



Born Langruth, Man. 29 Dec 1917; labourer;; #H59572; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; awarded Greek War Cross (3rd Class); killed in action Sep 17 1944; age 26; interred Gradara War Cemetery, Pesaro, Italy; grave 2,H,27.

Gunner Edgar Joseph Richard



Born Rogersville, N.B. 22 Dec 1920; #G14141; 90th Anti-Tank Battery, 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed by enemy action 16 Apr 1941; age 20; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom.

Gunner William Guy Rosenthal



Born Montreal, Que. 3 Nov 1922; day labourer; #D131028; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 25 Jul 1943; age 20; interred Agira Canadian War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy; grave D,A,392.

Gunner Philip Ryan



Born Manotick, Ont. 21 Sep 1911; truck driver; #C10325; 51st Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; deceased motorcycle accident 13 Sep 1940; age 28; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom.

Gunner Howard Benjamin Seifert



Born Quebec, Que. 8 Nov 1909; clerk; Royal Rifles of Canada, NPAM; #E0021; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; torpedoed onboard the *Devis* missing and presumed dead; age 33; memorialized on Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy; panel 14.



Gunner Dow Elwood Sleep



Born Upper Hainaville, N.B. 26 Jan 1919; cook; #G4128; 90th Field Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of wounds 12 Dec 1943; age 24; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy; grave 9,C,8.

Bombardier Charles Stankus



Born Montreal, Que. 18 Dec 1916; labourer; #D7074; 27th Field Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; 4th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; reported missing at sea 5 Jul 1943; age 26; memorialized on the Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy; panel 14.

Gunner Eric Milton Stevens



Born Richmond, Que. 14 Mar 1913; farmer; 7/11th Hussars, NPAM; 57th (Quebec) Field Battery RCA, NPAM; #E0154; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; deceased motorcycle accident 8 Jul 1940; age 27; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom.

Gunner Frank Gordon Strome



Born Englefield, Sask. 9 Feb 1915; farm labourer; #L74514; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 21 Jul 1943; age 28; interred Agira Canadian War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy; grave C,B,276.

Gunner Ernest Whydam Suddard



Born L'Anse Aux Cousins, Que. 11 Nov 1916; labourer; 82nd Field Battery, 13th Field Brigade RCA, NPAM; #E0088; 57th (Quebec) Field Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 16 Dec 1943; age 27; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy; grave 7,F,1.

Major James Hector Sutherland



Born Vancouver, B.C. 4 Mar 1910; Vancouver Police Department; 5th Medium Battery, 15th Brigade, Canadian Artillery, NPAM; 31st Battery, 15th (Vancouver) Coast Brigade RCA, CASF; 11th Anti-Aircraft Battery, 1st Anti-Aircraft Regiment RCA, CASF; 91/111 Battery RCA, CASF; 4th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of wounds 28 Aug 1944; age 34; interred Montecchio War Cemetery, Montelabbate, Italy; grave 3,D,10.

Gunner Bruce James Tedcastle



Born Toronto, Ont. 4 Apr 1923; mail clerk; #B110399; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; deceased accidental discharge 13 May 1945; age 22; interred Protestant Churchyard, Oegstgeest, Netherlands; grave 15.

Gunner David Douglas Terry



Born Lansdowne, Ont. 21 Aug 1920; farming; 47th (H) Field Battery RCA, NPAM; #C71; 11th Field Regiment RCA, CASF; 7th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; deceased motorcycle accident 12 Aug 1943; age 32; interred Agira Canadian War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy; grave B,C,172.

Gunner David Thomson



Born Leslie, Fyfehire, Scotland 25 Aug 1920; farm labourer; #M24157; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; deceased accidental beach mine explosion 3 Feb 1942; age 21; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom.



Sergeant William James Upton



Born Fredericton, N.B. 15 Jun 1919; welder; #G4179; 90th Anti-Tank Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of wounds 18 Jul 1943; age 24; memorialized on the Cassino Memorial, Frosinone, Italy; panel 14.

Gunner Henri Joseph Vincent



Born St. Lambert, Que. 23 Oct 1905; #H12075; 13th Battery RCA, CASF; 13/21 Battery, 6th Field Regiment RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 4 Dec 1943; age 38; interred Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy; grave 10,C,3.

Lieutenant Charles Horatio Waterous



Born Brantford, Ont. 1 Sep 1916; engineer; 54th Field Battery RCA, NPAM; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; killed in action 26 Jul 1943; age 26; interred Agira Canadian War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy; grave B,A,138.

Lance Sergeant Douglas Arthur Whitticks



Born Renfrew, Ont. 15 Feb 1912; pressman; #D7055; 27th Field Battery RCA, CASF; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; died of wounds 17 Sep 1944; age 32; interred Gradara War Cemetery, Pesaro, Italy; grave 2,H,28.

Gunner Charles Thomas Windsor



8Born Parry Sound, Ont. 28 Nov 1910; roofing; Queen's York Rangers, NPAM; #B6282; 1st Anti-Tank Regiment RCA, CASF; deceased road accident 7 Jan 1942; age 31; interred Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, United Kingdom.



Appendix IV – Nominal Roll

We have yet to find a complete nominal roll of the 1st Anti-Tank Regiment, RCA during the Second World War and have only managed to compile this list by extracting the names from the original document, researching online and using the names from the RCAA Lest We Forget Project. All ranks are intended to reflect the rank attained between 1939 and 1945.

Lt-Col Arthur Hood Warr	Lt-Col George W F Johnston	Lt-Col Thomas Merle Medland
Lt-Col Frank Edward McCordick	Lt-Col Harry McLeod Hague	Lt-Col Thomas Yarwood Wills
Lt-Col George Orrin Hutchison		
Maj Frederick Keth Amy	Maj L A Devine ED	Maj M Y McLean
Maj R Barker	Maj John Albert Gillies	Maj John Stuart Mulkerns
Maj Richard Ernest Bliss ED	Maj Derick John Halfhide	Maj G A Rankin
Maj Hugh Burnett MC	Maj Douglas Scott Harkness	Maj James Hector Sutherland
Maj J A Colin Campbell	Maj John Leonard Whitney Harris	Maj George A Welsh DSO & Bar
Maj T A Cowan	Maj W S McKnight	Maj G T White
A/Maj Ernest St John C Murdoch MC		
Capt D C Barker	Capt John (Jack) Albert Clayton Kee	Capt R L Ryder
Capt John James Coatsworth	Capt Walter Creighton Leggat	Capt Gordon Cassils Savage
Capt J E Ferguson	Capt John Milner (Ace) Lindsay	Capt Scott
Capt Alfred Edward Foubister	Capt John George McKillop Mooney	Capt H E Slater
Capt K M Johnson	Capt R J K Pyne	Capt Howell Percy Macleod Smith
Honorary Capt J Gordon Jones		
Lt John (Jack) Allan Bourne	Lt Ernest A Grant	Lt C H Parker
Lt J A C Campbell	Lt D A Harkness	Lt Prices
Lt N W Clarke	Lt Gordon A Hobbs	Lt W G Reynolds
Lt Dawes	Lt E S Kaufman	Lt William Salter
Lt J P Doddridge	Lt J Keefe	Lt Edward Cecil Scott
Lt W S Dunfield	Lt C O D Magee	Lt George Philip (Phil) Thomas
Lt Gerard Charles Evans MC	Lt W K McMenamon	Lt Charles Horatio Waterous
Lt R B Ferguson	Lt A R Moore	Lt G E Weidmark
Lt Lawrence Patrick Frawley	Lt J E O'Neill	Lts J T Wimble
Lt J E Goodine	Lt H Z Palmer	Lt J E Andrews RCAMC
WO I A B Brewer		
WO II John William Francis Lofstrom	WO II Richard Emanuel Zari	BSM George Toogood EM
TSM K C Cookman		
Sgt J A Adams	Sgt M A Fallon	Sgt Morehouse
Sgt James Basil Bailey MM CD	Sgt Ronald Jess Foster	Sgt J C Newton
Sgt W R Boivin	Sgt A E Hurd	Sgt Harry Knight Olive
Sgt Arthur Bertram Clynick	Sgt Lawrence	Sgt Joseph Albert Reid
Sgt H V Coombes	Sgt McAra	Sgt W A Scharf
Sgt R A Dow	Sgt W M McDougal	Sgt H L Strangeways



Sgt Adrien A Dube	Sgt Major E A McInnis	Sgt John D Swift
Sgt O DuMagnee	Sgt R W McPhail	Sgt Jacob (John) Towe MM
Sgt J W Eden	Sgt Edward John Yost Menzie	Sgt R Watt
Acting Sgt J Ibbetson	Acting Sgt L Royle	
L/Sgt Joseph Pierranico Andreoli	L/Sgt B B Holmes	L/Sgt H C Moorhouse
L/Sgt William Arthur Bannier	L/Sgt A Hope	L/Sgt M H M Rabey
L/Sgt L Berthieme	L/Sgt H G Husted	L/Sgt M F Smith
L/Sgt Joseph Chapatis	L/Sgt Glen (Pike) L Leachman	L/Sgt M C Thornton
L/Sgt C T Craig	L/Sgt McIntosh	L/Sgt Douglas Arthur Whitticks
L/Sgt O DuMagee		
Bdr R A Bennett	Bdr K W Fraser	Bdr M K McLaughlin
Bdr Cardiff	Bdr R B Hamm	Bdr B A Rutledge
Bdr John Wilson Clark	Bdr A Kulakowski	Bdr Charles Stankus
Bdr W J Doucette	Bdr W T Malone	Bdr H Williams
Cpl R Leclech		
A/ Bdr Keith Chesly Kimball		
L/Bdr Wilson Henry Annett	L/Bdr Arthur Harold Leigh	L/Bdr R V McKeachie
L/Bdr D Bemrose	L/Bdr Earl Fraser Lippiatt	L/Bdr A J Moore
L/Bdr Clarence Wainwright Green	L/Bdr S Y MacDonald	L/Bdr C H Stewart
L/Bdr R Hammerbeck	L/Bdr Albert Murette	L/Bdr R W Upton
L/Bdr J F Horsman		
Gnr P H Adams	Gnr J Geddes	Gnr C E Morrel
Gnr P L J Adams	Gnr R E Gillman	Gnr Robert Morton
Gnr Ray Adamson	Gnr R I Goodine	Gnr T Mullaly
Gnr E C Aebly	Gnr William Orlando Jorheim	Gnr Lloyd E (Moon) Mullins
Gnr R E Alexander	Gnr Edward (Eddy) J Grace	Gnr D I Newell
Gnr J A Allan	Gnr Albert Greening	Gnr Delbert O'Hara
Gnr J W Allen	Gnr A Grenier	Gnr James Osborne
Gnr Ralph Ellsworth Amos	Gnr K E Griffin	Gnr J E Peters
Gnr Raymond John Ashe	Gnr Laurier J R Groulx	Gnr H W Pollock
Gnr George Barthelette	Gnr M L Hancock	Gnr William Raymond Porteous
Gnr Leo Bedard	Gnr E Harbar	Gnr N J Porterfield
Gnr Arthur Romuald Belzil	Gnr Arnold John Higgins	Gnr P E Proulx
Gnr L A Blais	Gnr Jack Allen Hoggan	Gnr J Quinney
Gnr J D Breeze	Gnr L G Holmes	Gnr J H Realff
Gnr G D Brown	Gnr Rufus Manning Hooper	Gnr J M Reid
Gnr G P Brown	Gnr W H Hume	Gnr Edgar Joseph Richard
Harold D Brown	Gnr Alexander Montgomery Jack	Gnr William Guy Rosenthal
Gnr Robert Eric Brown	Gnr Bruce Johnson	Gnr G Royle
Gnr L Brunet	Gnr K A Johnson	Gnr L D Ryan
Gnr John Lewis Burns	Gnr K M Johnston	Gnr Philip Ryan
Gnr William Ernest Catral	Gnr Leslie Tilson Patrick Keogh	Gnr G Sackett
Gnr Walter John Champion	Gnr Elias William L'Italien	Gnr W A Scharf



Gnr Jasper Stanley Chase	Gnr J F Lamer	Gnr Hazen N Seaman
Gnr Bertram Michael Clarke	Gnr H J Langen	Gnr Howard Benjamin Seifert
Gnr James Gordon Clarke	Gnr Frank Lloyd Larabee	Gnr J A Sigouin
Charles Neville Clarke	Gnr I Larocque	Gnr W L Silverthorn
Gnr R O Collins	Gnr E J LeBlanc	Gnr A Sitter
Gnr F Condo	Gnr F J LeBlanc	Gnr Dow Elwood Sleep
Gnr Donald Copeman	Gnr Arthur Henry Lewis	Gnr C E Smith
Gnr R Cousins	Gnr H E Lloyd	Gnr P Smith
Gnr Robert Cousins	Gnr A R Lockwood	Gnr W G Smith
Gnr D Critchlow	Gnr A F Lofstrom	Gnr Hubert (Bert) Joseph Snow
Gnr C C Cronk	Gnr R A Long	Gnr S Stefanyshyn
Gnr J E Crosby	Gnr William Thomas Loreno	Gnr Eric Milton Stevens
Gnr C G Crowell	Gnr A S MacDonald	Gnr W S Stoddart
Gnr M R Curry	Gnr H W MacDonald	Gnr Frank Gordon Strome
Gnr Neil McNeil Cuthbertson	Gnr D L MacDougall	Gnr H W Sturgeon
Gnr D G Desmond	Gnr William Hayward Mahaney	Gnr Ernest Whydam Suddard
Gnr J R Dessau1t	Gnr Marcel Maisonneuve	Gnr A Sudicky
Gnr Howard John Devlin	Gnr Mansfield	Gnr Taylor
Gnr M Dolbec	Gnr Frank Boyers Martin	Gnr Bruce James Tedcastle
Gnr J C Dorman	Gnr Samuel Victor Martin	Gnr David Douglas Terry
Gnr G A Dow	Gnr K C Matheson	Gnr F J Thomas
Gnr George Albert Dunkley	Gnr J P McCauley	Gnr W Thomas
Gnr W L Dunn	Gnr A S McDonald	Gnr E J Thompson
Gnr Joseph Roger Dussault	Gnr William John McElheron	Gnr J J Thompson
Gnr C Duxbury	Gnr R M McFarlane	Gnr M L Thompson
Gnr L H Exard	Gnr Francis McGinn	Gnr David Thomson
Gnr E W Fairbairn	Gnr H McGovern	Gnr W J Upton
Gnr Clifford Ernest Fairbarn	Gnr James Duncan McIntosh	Gnr R Vair
Gnr G L Ferris	Gnr Donald McLean	Gnr Henri Joseph Vincent
Gnr A E Fisher	Gnr J V McMahan	Gnr J J Ward
Gnr A B Flagle	Gnr Frederick McNeil	Gnr Roy Kenneth Warman
Gnr Alexandre Fontaine	Gnr Martin Orval McPhadden	Gnr R J Welburn
Gnr Ernest Forget	Gnr H Meyer	Gnr P Wetzel
Gnr Oliver Joseph Frigon	Gnr L Michaud	Gnr Harold Rosdwell Wheeler
Gnr H E Furlong	Gnr Trevor William Miller	Gnr G B White
Gnr J L Gagne	Gnr A Mohninger	Gnr Charles Thomas Windsor
Gnr E Gaudet	Gnr David Henry Moran	Gnr W R Wismer
Pte F W Davidson	Pte E G Dolan	
William (Bill) Mervyn Abbott	Samuel (Sam) Fredrick Fuller	James Aloysius Madore
Lloyd A Fraser		

Please forward any additional names that should be in the list or corrections to the listed names to the RCAA for future insertion.





Appendix V – Guns and Equipment

2-Pounder Quick Firing Mark X Anti-Tank Gun



The 2-pounder anti-tank gun was the standard British anti-tank gun from 1936 until 1942, when it was replaced by the 6-pounder. Canadian units used the gun until 1943, but never in operations, apart from the Littlejohn version used by 1st Anti-Tank Regiment in Italy.

Detachment: 1 NCO and four gunners

Calibre – 40 mm

Barrel length: 81.95" (2.08m)

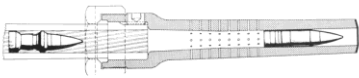
Breech mechanism: vertical sliding block with semi-automatic mechanism. Percussion ignition.

Weight in action: 1,852 lbs (842 kgs)

Maximum range: 6,500 yds (5,940 m)

Effective anti-tank range: 500-1,000 yds (460-916m)

Littlejohn Adapter



An attachment at the end of the 2-Pounder barrel reduced the diameter of the specialized shot and significantly increased the muzzle velocity. High explosive ammunition could not be fired without removing the adapter, which was not ideal in combat. The advantage in Italy was that the lighter 2-pounder gun was more mobile in the mud, and the adapter gave it a reasonable capability against the German tanks. Source: Barnes, Leslie W.C.S. *Canada's Guns*. Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, 1979.

6-Pounder 7-cwt, Quick Firing Anti-Tank Gun



The 6-pounder anti-tank gun was designed in 1938 as a replacement for the 2-pounder gun.

Detachment: 1 NCO and four gunners

Calibre – 57 mm

Barrel length: Mk II 96.2" (2.44m), Mark IV 11.95" (2.97m)

Breech mechanism: vertical sliding block with semi-automatic mechanism. Percussion ignition.

Weight in action: 2,521 lbs (1142.5 kgs)

Maximum range: 5,500 yds (5,940 m)

Effective anti-tank range: 1,000 yds (916m)



17-Pounder, Quick Firing Towed Anti-Tank Gun



The 17-pounder anti-tank gun was designed in 1938 as a replacement for the 6-pounder gun as a more powerful gun was needed to face the larger armour on the battlefield.

Detachment: 1 NCO and six gunners

Calibre – 76 mm

Barrel length: 180.35" (4.58m)

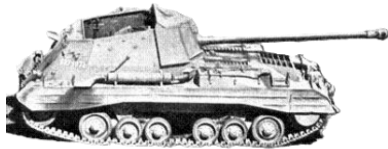
Breech mechanism: vertical sliding block with semi-automatic operation. Percussion ignition.

Weight in action: 6,526 lbs (2,960 kgs)

Maximum range: 4,000 yds (3,650 m)

Effective anti-tank range: 1,000 yds (1,370m)

Self-propelled 17-Pounder, Valentine, Mk I, Archer



The Archer was a British tank destroyer based on the Valentine infantry tank chassis fitted with an Ordnance Quick Firing 17 pounder gun. Designed and manufactured by Vickers-Armstrongs, the gun weighed 15 tonnes, carried 39 rounds of ammunition and was manned by a 4 man detachment. It had a maximum speed of 20 mph

(35 kph) with an operational range of 140 miles (230 km).



Appendix VI – Illustrations

Page 7 – Poster Tête du Pont Barracks 1939; LCol William Simcock, RCHA-Right of the Line, page 72

- Cover 17-pounder anti-tank gun of the 57th Battery, 1st Anti-Tank Regiment, RCA near Campobasso, Italy, 25 Oct 1943 -
- Pg 2 Maj John A Gillies, Sergeant Major Paul Trudel, circa 1942 - *Family fonds, Arnprior & McNab/Braeside Archives.*
- Pg 3
- Pg 4



Appendix VII – Definitions

Battery Assignments - One anti-tank battery was normally semi-permanently assigned to each of the brigades in the division, with the fourth battery in reserve.

Detachments - Artillery guns are served by detachments of soldiers for their operation and maintenance.

Commander Royal Artillery (CRA) - A military appointment in Commonwealth infantry and armoured divisions given to the senior artillery officer. He commanded the regiments of field, anti-aircraft and anti-tank artillery, and provided specialist artillery and offensive support advice to the divisional commander. The term Commander Royal Artillery was used to mark this appointment (rather than Commander Royal Canadian Artillery - CRCA) for consistency between the allies. The CRA was usually ranked as a brigadier, and if he held this rank was usually referred to as the Brigadier, Royal Artillery (BRA). At Corps Headquarter level there was a Commander, Corps Royal Artillery (CCRA), also a brigadier, who fulfilled the same role within that Headquarters.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) - The usual title given in the armies to a general officer who holds a command appointment.

Little John attachment – This item squeezed the shot to a smaller diameter on leaving the muzzle of the gun. This resulted in a very high muzzle velocity and correspondingly greater armour penetration.

Reconnaissance – commonly referred to as recce. The term relates to the exploration of an area to obtain information about enemy forces and the terrain, usually for the purposes of seeking a suitable placement for the guns. The recce party lays out the gun position with gun markers and initiates the survey.

Scheme – Training Exercise

Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWTs) - Refers to training methods used to teach and practice tactical theory without the need for actual soldiers, focusing on decision-making and problem-solving in simulated scenarios.

War Establishment - The document that listed the unit organization and its entitlement for personnel, weapons, and vehicles.





The Royal Canadian Artillery Association (“The RCAA”, “The RCA Association” or simply, “the Association”) was formed in Ottawa in 1876 as the Dominion Artillery Association with the object of developing and distributing gunner skills and conducting competitions. In 1895, it became the Dominion of Canada Artillery Association. It was incorporated by Act of Parliament as a not-for-profit organization in 1904 with the same object. The Act of Incorporation was amended in 1949 to change its purpose to, “The promotion of the efficiency and welfare of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and of all matters pertaining to the defence of Canada” and, to add “Royal” to its name.

The RCAA fulfills its mandate in several ways. It advocates on behalf of The Regiment through its participation in the Conference of Defence Associations, it supports the Regimental welfare through its Gunner Peer Support Program and it assists in the celebration of our regimental heritage through such programs as the production of The History of the 1st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.

All serving members of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery are members of the RCAA. There is no fee to join. A registration on the Regimental website rca-arc.org assists The Association in maintaining communication with its membership and demonstrates the strength of The Association voice.

All retired members, and Friends of The Regiment, can be members of The Association by applying individually through the rca-arc.org website or by their enrolment in any of the local affiliated artillery associations. The RCA Association strongly believes in the adage:

Once a Gunner, Always a Gunner

and in the motto of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

**Ubique
Whither Right and Glory Lead**

