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20 Dec 43

Situation of the Canadian Military Forces Overseas, Autumn, 1943 : II.

Growth of the Canadian Army Overseas, October 1942 - October 1943.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: DHD 3-3
by Cox for DHist NDHQ
Date: 7 AUG 1996

1. This Report deals with the growth of the Canadian Army Overseas since the preparation of Report No. 85 (30 Oct 42). The tables attached as Appendices are in part a continuation of those submitted with No. 85.

2. During the period under review, the establishment of a "manpower ceiling" of 233,200 all ranks for the Canadian Army Overseas, and the decision to pattern that Army after British War Establishments, have occasioned considerable reorganization of the force. These, combined with the fact that actual strength today is somewhat greater than the total authorized under the ceiling, are indications that the Canadian Army Overseas has reached or is approaching the final phase in its development.

3. A momentous development of this period has been the deployment of a large Canadian force in the Central Mediterranean area (C.M. Force). This force (strength indicated in Appendix "B") was composed as at 31 Oct 43 of the following formations: 1 Cdn Inf Div; 1 Cdn Armd Bde (formerly 1 Cdn Army Tk Bde); Increments to Corps Troops for 1 and 5 Cdn Divs. The following were represented in part: 5 Cdn Armd Div (part of which still remained in England at this date); 1 Cdn Corps Basic Troops; Army Basic Troops; and G.H.Q. and L. of C. Units. Reinforcements are also included.

INCREASE IN NUMERICAL STRENGTH

4. The important increase in the strength of the Canadian Army Overseas which has taken place since 30 Sep 42 may be traced in Appendix "A", showing the total strength at intervals of one month since that date.

5. It will be noted that the total shown for 31 Oct 43 is 237,716 all ranks, as compared with 159,000 all ranks at 30 Sep 42 (Report No. 85). A "breakdown" of strengths by formations for 31 Oct 43 is attached as Appendix "B". The discrepancy between the totals of Appendices "A" and "B" results from the former being drawn from Manpower Control Statistics, whereas the latter is taken from Strength Returns. Manpower Control Statistics are an accurate computation of the strength of the Overseas Army, comprising all casualties (in the broadest sense) to that strength, whether caused by new arrivals, return of personnel to Canada, losses suffered in action, etc. Strength Returns are a compilation of returns submitted by units and inevitably contain a small error.

REORGANIZATION OF CANADIAN ARMY OVERSEAS

6. Substantial progress had been made with the Canadian Overseas Army Programme for 1942-1943 (cf. Report No. 69, paras. 6 and 25), when it was seen to be necessary to alter further the composition of the force. An early reference to the proposed reorganization of the Canadian Army Overseas is found in Lieut.-Gen. McNaughton's cable of 21 Dec 42 (GS 4182, McNaughton to Stuart, C.M.H.Q. file 1/Cdn Army/1/2):

6. As a long term objective I propose that Cdn Army should comprise two corps with three Infantry Divs (three Inf Bdes) two Armd Divs (one Inf and one Armd Bde) and three Army Tank Bdes.

7. Approval of the War Committee of the Cabinet was granted 6 Jan 43 (Cable CGS 16, Stuart to McNaughton, 7 Jan 43, file 1/Cdn Army/1/2). Actual reorganization began at 0001 hours 11 Jan 43 (C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order No. 2, 10 Jan 43), following a conference held at H.Q. First Cdn Army on 10 Jan 43, at which General McNaughton stressed the necessity of meeting manpower demands and of adopting British War Establishments so as to facilitate effective co-operation. Authority to form new units and to revise War Establishments as required by the reorganization was given on 6 Mar 43 (Cable CGS 139, Defensor to Canmilitary, file 1/Cdn Army/1/2).

8. Since that time changes have been introduced; the present state of the Proposed Composition can best be studied in the revised statement dated 1 Jul 43 (file 1/Cdn Army/1/3), although there have again been subsequent minor modifications. In the main, British War Establishments have been taken as the model. The actual composition of the Canadian Army Overseas is given in Overseas R.O. 3844, 24 Sep 43, as amended by Overseas R.O. 4001, 10 Nov 43. Numerical strengths are not shown in these Routine Orders, however.

9. In approving the reorganization, the War Committee of the Cabinet made provision for the despatch overseas of 8,000 reinforcements per month for the first eight months of 1943, giving a total of 64,000 by 31 Aug 43, and "thereafter the despatch of 5,000 personnel per month as battle casualty replacements and wastage" (Cable CGS 16, Stuart to McNaughton, 7 Jan 43, file 1/Cdn Army/1/2). According to calculation, this plan was to "permit a maximum establishment including C.M.H.Q. units and reinforcements of approximately 226,000".

10. The "maximum establishment" was later raised to 232,100 (Cable CGS 139, Defensor to Canmilitary, 6 Mar 43, cf. para. 7 above). Finally, the inclusion of 1 Cdn Para Bn raised the "manpower ceiling" to 233,200 all ranks (see Cable AG 3811, Defensor to Canmilitary, 4 Jun 43, file 1/Manpower/2). This is the figure taken into account in the Proposed Composition, which (numerically) is based on War Establishments, plus three months' reinforcements, plus 3% non-effectives. It should be noted that the manpower ceiling includes all female Army personnel and Army personnel employed with other services, such as Dental personnel with the R.C.A.F. (Cable GSD 1307, Defensor to Canmilitary, 7 Oct 43, file 1/Manpower/2).

11. Although neither wastage (exclusive of battle casualties) nor battle casualties themselves have yet equalled the figures projected (see para. 9 above), the despatch of

5,000 troops per month continues to be followed out as proposed. Thus the actual strength of the Canadian Army Overseas is greater than the total strength of the Proposed Composition. This situation is clarified by the Adjutant-General's cable of 17 Sep 43 (AG 5252, Defensor to Canmilitary, file 1/Manpower/2) :

1. We estimate that on arrival A.T. 64 you will have a strength of 238350 less any returns subsequent to 31 Aug and less total fatal casualties...
4. It does not mean that an increased ceiling has been authorized but simply that in view of the present availability of shipping we propose to supplement somewhat the reinforcement pool in the U.K. for battle casualties...

REORGANIZATION OF ARMoured FORMATIONS

12. The adoption of British War Establishments for 4 and 5 Cdn Arm Divs meant the substitution of one Infantry and one Armoured Brigade in each Division for the previous two Armoured Brigades, and a consequent surplus of six Armoured Regiments. Three of these were absorbed as corps and divisional troops. It was proposed by General McNaughton that the three remaining Regiments should form a third Army Tank Brigade (Cable GS 4182, cf. para. 6 above).

13. In view of the fact that 2 Cdn Army Tk Bde (at that time still in Canada, see Report No. 85, para. 6) was already formed and authorized, the Cabinet did not approve formation of 3 Cdn Army Tk Bde, which was to be maintained merely on an ad hoc basis as potential reinforcements for armoured units (Cable GCS 38, Defensor to Canmilitary, 18 Jan 43, file 1/Cdn Army/1/2). It was, however, agreed in a conversation between Generals McNaughton and Stuart, 25 Jan 43, that 3 Cdn Army Tk Bde should have priority over 2 Cdn Army Tk Bde in joining the Order of Battle (Memorandum of conversation, file 1/Cdn Army/1/2).

14. Eventually the arrival of 2 Cdn Army Tk Bde in the United Kingdom in June 1943 made more urgent the question as to which of the two brigades should fill the vacancy authorized. The decision was made in favour of 3 Cdn Army Tk Bde which was redesignated a Cdn Arm Bde (C.M.H.Q. Admin. Order No. 108, 22 Jul 43). The three regiments of 2 Cdn Army Tk Bde (i.e., 20, 23 and 26 Cdn Army Tk Regts) were disbanded, being surplus to the Proposed Composition (C.M.H.Q. Admin. Order No. 163, 10 Nov 43).

15. The surviving formation bore the number 2 rather than 3 because only the former title had been authorized by Privy Council (Cable GS 466, Defensor to Canmilitary, 11 May 43, file 1/Org CAC/1).

DESPATCH OF TROOPS OVERSEAS

16. The general nature of the new arrivals during the period may be seen in Appendix "C". Earlier flights were designed to complete the Canadian Overseas Army Programme for 1942-1943 (cf. Reports Nos. 69 and 85). Disposition of more recent arrivals has been dictated by the demands of the reorganization of the force.

17. Many of the arrivals were new units to bring 4 Cdn Arm'd Div up to strength. Amongst these may be noted the following: Algonquin Regt on A.T. 49; 1 Bn Lincoln and Welland Regt on A.T. 55; Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and 23 Cdn Fd Regt (S.P.) on A.T. 56; and N.B. Rangers on A.T. 64.

18. Units taken under command 5 Cdn Arm'd Div included Irish Regt of Canada and 11 Cdn Inf Bde Sp Op (Princess Louise Fus) on A.T. 23; and 19 Cdn Fd Regt (S.P.) on A.T. 56.

19. Non-divisional units arriving in the United Kingdom included 27 Cdn Arm'd Regt (now under 2 Cdn Arm'd Bde); 6 Cdn LAA Regt and 6 Cdn A Tk Regt (under 2 Cdn Corps Troops); and 1 Cdn Rly Wksp Coy and 1 Cdn Rly Op Coy, R.C.E. Amongst R.C.A.M.C. arrivals may be noted 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 18 General Hospitals. 1 Cdn Para Bn, which disembarked in the United Kingdom in July, 1943, is now with 6 (British) Airborne Div.

20. Arrival of 2 Cdn Army Tk Bde on A.T. 30 has been referred to above. The reorganization has necessitated disbandment of several other units disembarked during the period under review. Amongst these may be mentioned 21 Cdn Fd Regt (C.M.H.Q. Admin. Order No. 137, 25 Sep 43); and Les Voltigeurs de Quebec, ~~reduced to full strength~~ (C.M.H.Q. Admin. Order No. 163, 10 Nov 43).

21. The first contingent of the Canadian Women's Army Corps to come to the United Kingdom arrived on A.T. 23; this first party consisted of 8 officers and 101 other ranks. Strength of the C.W.A.C. overseas as at 31 Oct 43 is 25 officers and 635 other ranks (Appendix "B"). The inclusion of the C.W.A.C. under the manpower ceiling (see para. 10 above) probably means that few more will be despatched overseas.

RETURN OF PERSONNEL TO CANADA

22. The reduction in strength between 31 Jul 43 and 31 Aug 43 (Appendix "A") is explained by the fact that no A.T. sailing arrived in the United Kingdom during that time; consequently the strength decrease, owing to battle casualties and the return of certain personnel to Canada, is not compensated by new arrivals in the total for 31 Aug 43. The arrival during September of A.T. 61 and A.T. 64 is reflected in the substantial rise between 31 Aug 43 and 30 Sep 43.

23. The number of low-category and overage personnel returned for duty in Canada (as outlined in Cable AG 3811, Defensor to Canmilitary, 4 Jun 43, file 1/Manpower/2) has not been as great as was originally expected. Up to 31 Oct 43 only 793 all ranks had been returned (files 8/XUK/74; /75; /79; /81; and /82). This figure does not include category "E" personnel destined for discharge, whose return has always been a matter of course. The policy of the recently established Reallocation Centre has been to send back to Canada only unemployable personnel, so that the majority brought to the Centre have been posted either to static units in Great Britain or to other field units. (Documents on file 6/Realloc. Centre/1.)

24. Likewise the decision to reduce the Canadian Forestry Corps in the United Kingdom (file 1/Forestry/1/3) has not as yet involved large numbers. 1953 all ranks departed on 11 Oct 43 (file 8/XUK/80).

NOTES ON SEA TRANSPORT

25. Previous to September 1942, it had been the custom for Canadian Troops to be embarked at HALIFAX and to sail thence in troop convoys. In that month the British Government proposed the temporary cessation of convoy traffic and the substitution of fast unescorted sailings of individual ships, including the "Queen Mary" and the "Queen Elizabeth", these two vessels to sail from NEW YORK (cf. Report No. 85). This was objected to by the Canadian Government on the grounds of inconvenience and it was requested that one of the "Queens" should "make one call each month at Halifax to embark Canadian personnel". The Canadian proposal was thought to be not feasible; accordingly many sailings during the period were from NEW YORK (e.g. A.T. 33a, 33c, 34a, 38, 39 and 42). All sailings were made by single vessels (cf. Appendix "D").

26. The War Office later decided, however, to sail the "Queens" from HALIFAX when Canadian troops were to be embarked (Cable 84409, Troopers to Milstaff, Washington, 28 May 43). Thus more recent sailings, both of the "Queens" and of other unescorted vessels, have been from HALIFAX. (Documents on files 1/Move/1/2 and 1/Move/1/3.)

27. The employment as troopships of the great Cunard-White Star liners "Queen Elizabeth" and "Queen Mary" is a matter of special interest. These two ships, believed to be respectively the largest and third largest in the world, are able to convey thousands of troops with greater speed than convoys composed of many ships, and without need of escort. It is an interesting fact that the largest body of Canadian troops to arrive in this country during the present war came on a single vessel - A.T. 56 ("Queen Elizabeth"). Previously T.C. 15, a convoy of eight ships, had borne the largest number (November, 1941, cf. Report No. 59). A description of the passage of A.T. 61, containing some details of the manner in which these ships are utilized as transports, may be found in Appendix "E".

28. Ports of disembarkation have normally been LIVERPOOL, or GOUROCK on the CLYDE. The latter port is the normal destination of the "Queens", and is now more frequently used than LIVERPOOL.

29. The phrase "A.T." (Atlantic Transit) is now applied to sailings, replacing the earlier "N.A." - the term used for troop convoys. Gaps in the series A.T. 28 - 70 may indicate that the sailing was cancelled, that no Canadian personnel were aboard, or that for reasons of security certain numbers were not used.

30. All sailings during the period proceeded without mishap, although ss. "Thysville" (A.T. 34a) met with a strong gale and was forced to put into Iceland where one officer was taken ashore with head injuries sustained during the voyage. This caused the vessel to arrive considerably later than schedule. (W.D., D.Q.M.G. Branch, C.M.H.Q., 6 Feb 43.)

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APPENDIX "A"

STRENGTH, CANADIAN ARMY OVERSEAS

at monthly intervals, October, 1942--October, 1943.
Extracted from Manpower Control, Canadian Army Overseas, prepared by A.G. Statistics, C.M.H.Q. Includes Women's Services (Nursing Sisters and C.W.A.C.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>
31 Oct 42	9891	157098
30 Nov 42	10307	161387
31 Dec 42	10786	166200
31 Jan 43	10881	169392
28 Feb 43	11271	170867
31 Mar 43	11878	175684
30 Apr 43	12334	181766
31 May 43	12693	184329
30 Jun 43	13461	190286
31 Jul 43	14684	205308
31 Aug 43	14840	203827
30 Sep 43	16224	221344
31 Oct 43	16175	221541

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APPENDIX "B"

STRENGTH BY FORMATIONS
as at 31 Oct 43

Prepared for the War Office by A.G. Statistics, C.M.H.Q.
(C.M.H.Q. file 22/STRENGTH/2/2).

	Male Personnel		Female Personnel		
	O.	OR	N/S	C.W.A.C.	
	O.	OR	O.	O.	OR
(A) LOCATED IN U.K.					
2 Cdn Inf Div	889	17241			
3 Cdn Inf Div	902	17376			
4 Cdn Armd Div	674	12896			
5 Cdn Armd Div	258	5243			
2 Cdn Armd Bde	169	3759			
1 Cdn Cps Basic Troops	105	2368			
2 Cdn Cps Basic Troops	408	7632	16		
Cps Inc Two Inf Divs	44	1693			
Cps Inc Two Armd Divs	24	852			
Army Basic Troops	1025	15254			
GHQ & L. of C. Units	426	7873	8		
Rear Party Iners	75	66	232		
Forestry Corps	186	4198			
Under Command GHQ	2341	25126	614	25	629
Reinforcements	3470	38353			
Para Bn	32	879			
NETD (In Transit)	26	890			
TOTAL in U.K.	11054	161499	870	25	629
(B) C.M.FORCE	1787	28943	158		
Less Fatal Casualties	8	137	158		
TOTAL	1779	28806			
In Transit	1772	26035	159		
TOTAL C.M. FORCE	3551	54841	317		
(C) "Q" LIST					
(Loaned to British Forces)	142	70			4
(D) "X" LIST					
(Missing Personnel)	122	1877			
(E) TOTAL CDN ARMY OVERSEAS					
viz. (A) (B) (C) (D)	14869	218287	1187	25	633

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APPENDIX "C"

CONDENSED INFORMATION RELATING TO
TROOP SAILINGS FROM CANADA
A.T. 28 - 70

Note. The figures here given for the total Canadian Army personnel of troop sailings derive from A.G. (Statistics), C.M.H.Q., and may be considered reliable.

The basis of computation is the same as that adopted for Appendix "B" of Report No. 85. Only Canadian Army personnel are included, though many other groups, and in particular Air Force personnel, travel in troop convoys from Canada.

It should again be stated that while these troop sailings carry the great majority of Canadian troops arriving in the United Kingdom, parties of military personnel continue to arrive by independent sailings, as has been the case from the beginning, and there is some movement of personnel by air. In this Report no account is taken of these means of transport, although personnel arriving by these means are of course included in total strengths given for the Canadian Army Overseas.

TROOP SAILINGS FROM CANADA

Condensed Information extracted from M.Fs.M.33 and Movement Control files,C.M.H.Q.

SAILING	NO of SHIPS	DATE OF DISEMBARKATION	TOTAL CDN ARMY PERSONNEL, ALL RANKS	GENERAL NATURE OF COMPOSITION.
A.T. 28	1	5/9 Nov 42	5178	New Units: 27 Cdn Armd Regt (Sher.Fus), 6 L.A.A. Regt, R.C.A.; Princess Louise Fus. (Motor); Irish Regt of Canada; Misc. Rfts; C.W.A.C.
A.T. 31	1	18 Dec 42	7027	10 Gen Hosp, R.C.A.M.C.; Misc. Rfts.
A.T. 32	1	7 Jan 43	3122	Reinforcements
A.T. 33a	1	14 Jan 43	52	Reinforcements
A.T. 33b	1	14 Jan 43	250	Reinforcements
A.T. 33c	1	23 Jan 43	249	Reinforcements
A.T. 35	1	4 Feb 43	764	Reinforcements
A.T. 34a	1	5 Feb 43	175	Reinforcements
H.X. 225	1	14 Feb 43	214	Reinforcements
A.T. 36	1	13 Feb 43	1210	Reinforcements
A.T. 38	1	17 Mar 43	2866	Reinforcements

TROOP SAILINGS FROM CANADA (CONT'D).

APPENDIX "C"

SAILINGS	NO of SHIPS	DATE OF DISEMBARKATION	TOTAL CDN ARMY PERSONNEL, ALL RANKS	GENERAL NATURE OF COMPOSITION
A.T. 39	1	31 Mar 43	3665	Reinforcements
A.T. 40	1	4/5 Apr 43	6188	Reinforcements
A.T. 41	1	17 Apr 43	786	Inf. Reinforcements
A.T. 42	1	12 May 43	14	Reinforcements
A.T. 43	1	16 May 43	3	R.C.A.M.C.
A.T. 44	1	22 May 43	3767	Reinforcements
A.T. 49	1	18 Jun 43	4008	Alq R; Reinforcements
A.T. 50	1	24 Jun 43	3893	20 Army Tk Regt (16/22 Sask Horse); 23 Army Tk Regt (Hal Rifles); 26 Army Tk Regt (G & S Fors); HQ and HQ Sqn 2 Cdn Army Tk Bde; 2 Cdn Army Tk Tps Wksp; 2 Cdn Army Tk Bde Sigs; 17 Lt Field Amb, R.C.A.M.C; Reinforcements
A.T. 51	1	1 Jul 43	10	Reinforcements

TROOP SAILINGS FROM CANADA (CONT'D)

SAILING	NO of SHIPS	DATE OF DISEMBARKATION	TOTAL CDN ARMY PERSONNEL, ALL RANKS	GENERAL NATURE OF COMPOSITION
A.T. 54	1	7/8 Jul 43	5	Adv Pty H.Q. Cdn Ry Op Gp
A.T. 55	1	22 Jul 43	2679	1 Bn Line & Welld R; No.5 Fd Coy for 2 Corps No. 20 Fd Coy for 2 Corps; No.23 Fd Coy for 2 Corps; 1 Cdn Para Bn (Adv Pty); Reinforcements
A.T. 56	1	28 Jul 43	14311	1 Cdn Para Bn; 19 S.P. Regt, R.C.A.; 30 Recce Regt; 6 Fd Amb; 66 Cdn Tk Trans Coy; 86 Bridge Coy; 1 Rly Wksp Coy, R.C.E.; 1 Rly Op Coy, R.C.E.; A & S Highr 23 S.P. Regt, R.C.A.; Les Voltigeurs de Quebec; 13 Gen Hosp; 18 Gen Hosp; 84 Coy (Army Tk Bde Coy), etc.; Reinforcements
A.T. 61	1	1 Sep 43	12218	6 A Tk Regt, R.C.A.; 21 Fd Regt, R.C.A.; Reinforcements
A.T. 64	1	19 Sep 43	7599	N B Rangers; Nos. 2, 3, 6, 9, 11 and 12 Gen Hosps; Reinforcements
A.T. 67	1	16 Oct 43	129	Reinforcements
A.T. 70	1	30 Oct 43	3220	Reinforcements

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APPENDIX "D"

TRANSPORTS

A.T. 28	"Queen Elizabeth".
A.T. 31	"Queen Elizabeth".
A.T. 32	"Andes".
A.T. 33a	"Banfora".
A.T. 33b	"Capetown Castle"
A.T. 33c	"Rangitata".
A.T. 35	"Andes".
A.T. 34a	"Thysville".
* H.X.225	"Largs Bay".
A.T. 36	"Empress of Scotland".
A.T. 38	"Queen Elizabeth".
A.T. 39	"Empress of Scotland".
A.T. 40	"Queen Elizabeth".
A.T. 41	"Pasteur".
A.T. 42	"Queen Mary".
A.T. 43	"Empress of Scotland".
A.T. 44	"Andes".
A.T. 49	"Empress of Scotland".
A.T. 50	"Andes".
A.T. 51	"Pasteur"
A.T. 54	"Queen Elizabeth".
A.T. 55	"Pasteur".
A.T. 56	"Queen Elizabeth".
A.T. 61	"Queen Mary".
A.T. 64	"Queen Elizabeth".
A.T. 67	"Queen Mary".
A.T. 70	"Aquitania".

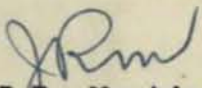
The above information was obtained from
Strength Returns on Disembarkation (M.F.M.
33) at Records Office, and files of Move-
ment Control.

* There were four other HX convoys carrying C-47s in this period

NOTES ON THE PASSAGE OF A.T. 61

1. I left SHILO CAMP, Manitoba, by troop train on 22 Aug 43 in charge of some 50 gunners. We formed part of a large group of reinforcements, which included artillery, engineer and parachute troops.
2. Arriving at HALIFAX some days later we at once went aboard the "Queen Mary", whose towering shape could be seen for some time before the train drew near the pier. She had recently brought to HALIFAX Mr. Churchill and his party on their way to the Quebec Conference.
3. Several days were required to take aboard her passengers, who numbered in all 14818. Of these 12218 were Canadian Army personnel, including two artillery regiments. In addition there were 2300 Air Force personnel, and various smaller parties including members of the Belgian, Polish, Netherlands and Fighting French Forces.
4. Early in the morning of 28 Aug 43 we sailed.
5. We were given to understand by the ship's staff that administrative arrangements aboard were being handled by Canadian authorities for the first time. We observed some confusion especially in the berthing and messing arrangements. Apparently these matters had previously been in the hands of U.S. officials.
6. For greater convenience the ship was divided into three areas -- Red, White and Blue, forward, midships and aft respectively, each under charge of an area commander. Orders were issued over a loud-speaker system. Other ranks were issued with large coloured buttons and ordered to remain in their own area, the buttons providing an easy indication to the Military Police if this was being complied with. But it was common to see soldiers who had become lost, wandering through the ship.
7. Accommodation was crowded. Even the ship's swimming pool was filled with bunks of the three-decker variety. Small cabins normally contained fifteen bunks. The supply of water was limited and restrictions were placed upon its use.
8. A curious contrast to the otherwise uncomfortably crowded conditions aboard was the retention of the Ballroom as an Officers' Lounge. This was of course pleasant enough, but it was frequently remarked that it was inconsistent with the evident determination to use all available space for accommodation, a determination which resulted in many troops being quartered on deck.
9. Only two meals were served per day, but each one involved many sittings, very carefully regulated as to timing. This reduction in the number of meals was not unpleasant, but the hurried serving of other ranks, and the long queues trailing through the narrow corridors, left much to be desired.
10. The ship was thoroughly armed, but the voyage was quiet and without untoward incident. There was no surface escort, but aircraft were often seen flying close by. Although her course was not the most direct (as was evident even from her wake) the "Queen Mary" took only 4½ days for her voyage, so it was not long before the Northern coast of IRELAND came into view.
11. We then sailed through the NORTH CHANNEL, past AILSA

CRAIG, and up the FIRTH OF CLYDE to our berth at GOUROCK. After a seemingly interminable period, during which both troops and equipment were being taken ashore, we disembarked on 2 Sep 43.


(J.R. Martin) Lieut.