

# the **TANK** CANADA

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## Bigger and Better . . .

That's what we think you'll say about this and future editions of your favorite C.A.C. publication.

It is only to be expected anyway, for we hope to keep pace with the growth of the Corps. The recent doubling in size of the C.A.C. is an exciting event, and we welcome all the new members of the black-beret fraternity, and hope to establish a firm friendship with them through these columns.

Originating a new series this month, we have a splendid article on the Recce Troops by Major M. M. Philpott. This is a "must" on your reading list.

It is with real pleasure that we publish the first of our overseas news budgets, which will increase in number from month to month.

No one in the Armoured Corps should miss the article outlining the U.S. Army conversion to a new tank destroyer battalion idea. Have the Sammies found the answer to the steel monsters? Read it yourself and decide.

Think you could identify a Nazi soldier if you saw one? "Would You Be Able To Tell" will give you some idea on that score.

A new feature, and there's lots more to come, is the letter writing contest for C.A.C. personnel.

That's a sample of the store of good things in this month's edition. We hope you like it.

This publication is the official organ of the Canadian Armoured Corps, and will be devoted to advancing the interests of that Corps. However, the Canadian Armoured Corps does not necessarily assume responsibility for opinions expressed in articles appearing herein, these being those of the authors only. Any officially authorized statements of the Corps on any subject will be so designated.



# Editorial . . .

## ARMoured CORPS GROWTH

The constantly growing importance of the Canadian Armoured Corps in the eyes of army authorities is strikingly illustrated by the doubling in size of the Corps, which is by the new organization to comprise two armoured divisions and two army tank brigades.

Canada, some time in the near future, will have overseas a full army of three infantry divisions and two armoured divisions. The percentage of armoured troops to infantry is by far the highest in any army in the world.

The Germans, considered top hands in the Blitzkrieg tactics, have their armored formations on a basis of about one to ten in organization, and about one to five in combat use. The U.S. army, according to present figures, has a setup of about one armoured division to twelve, or perhaps more, infantry divisions.

Canada's role in this war has been changing, and militarily it appears that the Canadian Corps, with its percentage of two to three, might reasonably be welded into the mechanized spearhead of the eventual United Nations blow on the European continent.

Certainly there is some justification for the theory that Canada's contribution should place emphasis on armoured formations. This is a most highly industrialized country for its population. A tremendously high percentage of the male population has been familiar with motor vehicles since adolescence, so it is no great task to make them happy in armoured formation work.

There is no doubt that the job for which the C.A.C. is being groomed is going to be one of the big jobs in this war. The growth of the corps has been phenomenal, but the future looks even brighter.

## U.S. TANK TRENDS

Armoured formations of the United States are following the universal trend to heavier tanks, it is revealed in an informative article on the armoured forces of that country, which appeared in a recent issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

As is the case with virtually all important tank armies the light tank appears to be less favored. The U.S. division, armoured formation, up until recently was composed of 108 medium and 273 light tanks. This has been reversed in the new establishment which calls for 232 medium tanks and 158 lights.

There is still one school of thought that contends that light tanks can fill a useful reconnaissance function. It should be remembered however, that the U.S. light tank weighs 13 tons, and is armed with a 37 mm. cannon, which makes it more in the class of the older British mediums, except possibly for armour.

Another significant development in the United States is the increase in heavy guns in the armoured divisions. Guns and howitzers, of calibres from 37 mm. to 105 mm. are increased in number in a division from 429 to 752.

Finally our allies to the south are busy on the task of improving and developing a gyro-stabilizer device which enables fire during rapid movement. This

follows the principle used in battleship control setups. If this device can be worked out satisfactorily, and its success is still a matter of some debate among those testing it, the advantage of being able to discharge heavy weapons with accuracy while the tank is moving around at high rates of speed can easily be realized.

Finally, as another article in this issue outlines, the U.S. army has adopted an entirely new conception of anti-tank fighting, and has completely mobilized its A.T. weapons into tank destroyer battalions.

The engineering brains of the greatest industrial nation in the world are now being wholly used to the advantage of our side. Results in this sort of research cannot be seen over night, but they will become evident as the months pass, and as long as the United Nations can maintain their situation with some semblance of balance they can be certain that they will eventually attain a mechanical superiority that will be overwhelming.

These events across the border are of immense interest to Canadian armoured corps personnel, for our tank production is tied up very largely to that of the United States, and we shall benefit directly from any of their discoveries, as the U.S. will from those made in Canada.

## GUN CALIBRE AGAIN

Sitting in a nice warm office some thousands of miles away is no qualification for expediting the current Libyan reverses.

Naturally the British authorities are not saying too much about what has happened, but there appears little doubt that a portion of the 8th Army has been withdrawn in face of the Japanese threat to Singapore and the Dutch East Indies. As Churchill remarked, you can't have the same equipment in two places at once, which is paraphrasing him rather broadly.

Despatches from the swirling desert battlefield also make clear that the German resurgence is due to the arrival of new tanks and troops. These models, which decisively outgun the British armored opposition have made possible the turn of the tide.

Matthew Halton, who is doing a fine reporting job for the Toronto Star, was permitted to cable that the difference between the two forces is the firepower difference between British two-pounders and German 75-mm. weapons.

It is no secret that British tank guns will have to be heavier and larger, and it is breaking no military confidence to say that this point is being looked after.

Halton's report that man-to-man the British tankers are a corps elite and superior to Rommel's crack Afrikakorps is nothing more or less than we expected, but it is still nice reading matter.

The whole campaign has again stressed the need for bigger and better weapons—plus more men. It is curious, to say the least, to think that Britain was able to spare only 45,000 men for this important offensive after two year's of war.

## THE RECCE ROLE TODAY

By MAJOR. M. M. PHILPOTT

To fully understand the role of the "Recce" Battalion it is necessary to appreciate the general war situation of 1939. At that time, it will be all too sadly remembered, great faith was placed in the Maginot Line, and in the opinion of a large majority it was felt that the war would be more or less one of position in which superiority of fire power would be the deciding factor. How false this theory proved to be needs no elaboration here. It should suffice to remind readers that the German Army in a few score of days that shook the world and the world's military thinking to its roots, swept through Poland, the Lowlands and France.

In this dramatic series of events A.F.V.'s were used to the maximum extent on a scale never before imagined. Such campaigns demanded for early success, swift and accurate information. This the German Army obtained in many ways, one of which was by means of motorcycle units moving well ahead and feeling out the enemy for "soft" spots. Their success is a matter of history and is only too well known to our side.

The day of the fortified line had apparently gone for the time being, and the expression "fluid war" became common. Of course, our armies had to be re-organized to fit the new conditions. Astonishingly it was found that conditions were really not new, but that it was an old form of warfare with a new method of transport.

The horse had to a great extent disappeared from the battlefields, but he was quickly replaced with a vehicle of one sort or another. It had become apparent that all the motor cycle units were doing was what had been done in the past by the Divisional Cavalry. The studious officer spent his spare time studying famous cavalry actions only to find such actions were being reproduced using horse power in the I-C x engine instead of a horse. The exploits of the famous U.S. Southern cavalry ace, Jeb Stuart became a common topic, and such exploits as his famous ride around the Federal Army were exhumed from dusty tomes to become once more the wonder and admiration of inquisitive soldiers.

As the Canadian Divisional Cavalry Regiments had not been despatched overseas in 1940, something had to be done and done quickly to take their place. Each infantry brigade was authorized to form a Reconnaissance Squadron. All officers with past cavalry experience were immediately posted to these squadrons. In place of horses, combination motor cycles were used. Each machine carried a crew of three, the driver, and L.M.G. gunner in the side-car and a rifleman riding pillion. These squadrons became famous, or infamous, for the manner in which they raced about the narrow English roads. The accident toll was terrific but as training advanced and the units learned to realize the dangerous possibilities of such vehicles this was in time overcome. However, for a while there appeared to be some truth in the assertion of Lord Haw-Haw in his German broadcast when he said that there was no need to fight the Canadian army; all you had to do was give them motorcycles and they would all

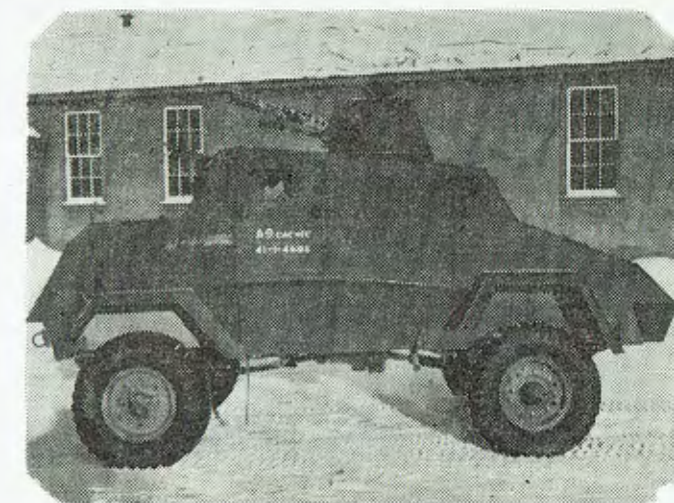
commit suicide. Brigade commanders quickly realized the value of such squadrons, and these units soon were known as the "eyes" of the infantry brigade.

To centralize control and to allow divisional commanders to make full use of these squadrons, it was then decided to form them into battalions. These battalions were to be divisional troops working directly under the divisional commanders. When this was done certain auxiliary troops such as mortar, anti-aircraft and anti-tank troops were added, making these battalions very mobile and well-armed units.

The motor cycle proved all too vulnerable when defences were prepared against it. This led to introduction of the armoured scout car and the Bren carrier, for these units. Mobility and cross-country performance was maintained with a fair amount of protection for the crews. The use of radio facilitated the means of control.

Consequently it might be truthfully said that the Div. Recce. Bn. is the unit which performs the previous functions of divisional cavalry and which forms an integral part of the infantry division. In personnel, weapons and equipment the characteristics are that of infantry with the inclusion of mechanized speed and mobility, tracked protected manoeuvrability in the form of carriers plus swift road and track reconnaissance in the form of armoured recce cars.

The Divisional Recce, Battalion is a large and powerful command and its tactical handling is of extreme importance to, and will have far reaching effect on, all divisional operations. The great mobility and strong fire power of these units enable them to carry out any task which may be included in the role of fighting reconnaissance. The primary role is that of reconnaissance, including liaison with armoured divisions. They can also be used to advantage to seize and hold ground for a limited period in anticipations of the arrival of the infantry division. During a pursuit Recce. troops should prove of great value in maintaining contact with the enemy, at all times keeping the division informed of changing positions and conditions. During an attack these battalions might be used on a flank or to form a mobile reserve.



This is one type of armoured Canadian-made reconnaissance car now being used in training at Camp Borden. The machine, entirely a Canadian product, stresses cross-country speed and mobility, and is being given a thorough testing in the district.



## The Recce Role Today (cont'd)

The uses of such battalions are almost unlimited in the hands of a commander who is bold and thoroughly understands the capabilities and power of such a unit. A high degree of intelligence is of necessity a requirement demanded in all ranks. Junior leaders must at all times be ready to make bold and decisive decisions.

The method of employment of such battalions needs to be carefully studied not only by Div. Recce. personnel but also by all other commanders to ensure proper handling in fitting tasks and to avoid unnecessary wasteful casualties.

### JUNIOR OFFICER BURDEN

It has been often said that the troop leader of a Recce. Bn. has by far the most important job in the army when it is considered that he is a subaltern. The scout troop is comprised of three sections, one of armoured cars and two of Bren carriers, with a vehicle total of 14 per troop. The low proportion of men per vehicle and the high proportion of weapons per man imposes heavy duties on all ranks. Throughout a battalion the average is less than three men per vehicle with four weapons to every three men.

Commanding a troop of fourteen vehicles capable of moving 45 miles per hour, armed with such a variety of weapons as pistols, rifles, L.M.G.'s, mortars, anti-tank rifles and grenades imposes a responsibility on a subaltern that only the really alert, determined and self-sacrificing officer can hope to carry.

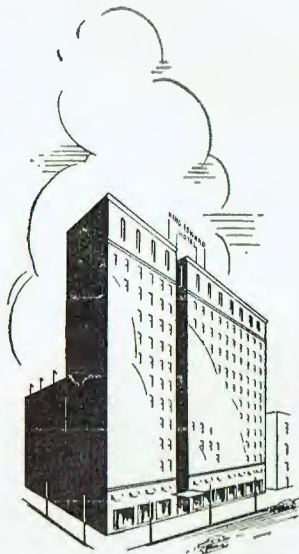
In battle such officers can hardly ever hope to have either the time or opportunity to refer to higher authority. They will therefore be flung on their own resources and will have to depend primarily on the cooperation of their N.C.O.'s. These N.C.O.'s in turn are likely to be called upon to bear an individual burden of responsibility not less formidable than the officer's. Such ability can only be attained through thorough knowledge.

The Recce. Battalion may be considered new with little or no tradition, so that the Recce. troops of to-day have the onerous but privileged responsibility of creating a "Recce. Tradition" that will prove worthy of the great traditions of the British army.

Finally it is encouraging to find that Canadian industrial skill and ingenuity is being utilized for the production of weapons and equipment specially suited for reconnaissance work.

Several types of armoured cars are in production and special attention to equipment particularly adapted to Recce. work is another facet of constant consideration.

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## Tanks Firing Range To Aid C. A. C. Training . . .

Another forward stride in the task of training Canada's armoured formations was taken with the recent opening near Camp Borden of a tank firing range.

The project, completed after many months of negotiation, provides a fine new range for the firing of all weapons found on modern tanks. It will be extensively used for the present in Besa machine gun and 2-pounder practice.

Opening day was a typical February day, with a cold wind but bright sunshine. In attendance at the ceremonies were leading officers of the C.A.C. and from camp headquarters, including Brig. - Gen. McCuaig, camp commandant, and Col. (now Brigadier) E. L. M. Burns, officer administering the Armoured Corps.

It was with genuine interest that they watched the first firing from one of the infantry training tanks now in extensive use at Borden. Firing continued all through the day, and some good shooting was seen from a large number of all ranks, most of whom were firing their first two-pounders.

The actual ground on which the range is located is several thousand acres in extent, and buildings on the property will be partially utilized for accommoda-

tion of a permanent range staff. One large barn has been turned into a control station, a new tower being built on top and towering high into the sky.

Practices fired were from moving and stationary tanks at both moving and stationary targets. The moving target is mounted on a chassis and runs along a rail line. The firing course for the moving tanks will be a zig-zag pattern route of more than half-a-mile.

Representatives of "The Tank" who were present saw several absolutely green hands get behind the two-pounder and register on an "ant" at 500 yards with their first round of fire.

One of the sadder sights for speculation is what will happen to a large red brick farm house situated about 1000 yards from one portion of the firing range and partially in the line of fire.

Range officials have little doubt as to its fate. They predict that it will be a pile of rubble by the end of the summer.

Extensive plans for improvement of the new tank firing range have been laid down, and this practice ground will soon be one of the best equipped on the continent, marking as it does another milestone in the forward progress of the C.A.C.



SCENES AT OPENING OF TANK FIRING RANGE

Busy loading two-pounder ammunition into a tank on this happy occasion were the men seen on the left. Left to right they include, S.S. Morgan, S.S. Clay, Q.M.S. Williams of the R.C.O.C. and Lieut. Pratt. The three not

designated are from A-8 training centre. Adaptation of present buildings on the grounds can be seen in the picture on the right which shows the control tower, built on top of a huge wooden barn.



## News From Overseas Units

(This new department will be a monthly feature of this magazine in the future. It is hoped to have budgets of newsy items from all regiments overseas from time to time from duly accredited correspondents.)

### 6TH ARMoured REGIMENT

(First Hussars)  
By PUNJAB

Shortly after our arrival in England, the Brigadier announced that he would test all the units of his Canadian Armoured Brigade in basic training. The Lieutenant-Colonel immediately ordered a regimental quiz to assure himself that the faith he had placed in his First Hussars had not been misplaced. The results were gratifying. Major F. W. K. Bingham's "B" Squadron shone like a brilliant star among other bright planets. When the smoke from the Brigade test cleared away, it was shown that the First Hussars were tied with the Westminster Regiment (Motor) for first place, with Major E. L. Booth's "A" Squadron leading the regiment and tied for Brigade supremacy. Since 50% of our Regiment had less than eight months' of military experience, we were justly proud of the achievement.

A few days later, we had a thrilling surprise. The Hussars were selected to do a march-past which was to be filmed by movie photographers for release in Canada. Everyone cheerfully went to work putting the finishing touches to their clean clothing and well-kept equipment. Even the irrepressible wags like Troopers Sherwin, T.W.; Goodman, C.L. and Shea, P.M., accomplished the hated "blanchoing" with a minimum of sarcasm and grumbling. When our Colonel, in his crisp military manner, thanked his regiment for their splendid performance it was felt by all that it was a job well done.

Now, a brief resume of the more common-place but vitally important training. As soon as we arrived, a small trickle of men proceeded on A.F.V. courses throughout England. This small trickle soon developed into such a rushing stream that, when combined with the problem of arranging landing and seven-day leaves, it is a wonder that our Adjutant, Captain W. D. Brooks and his assistant, Lieutenant R. Wildgoose, do not have perpetual headaches. However, the Adjutant managed to keep a large number of irons in the fire at once. As a result all of our tanks have a crew of experienced men assigned to them. Each member of the crew is a master of his job whether he is the commander, driver, gunner or loader-operator.

Feeling that the day is not far distant when we may be called upon to assume an operational role, there has been an almost fanatical devotion to physical training. One hour's strenuous physical training and a route march form a part of each day's training. At 1630 hours, all ranks go for a run. The length of these runs is being gradually increased until eventually it will reach the maximum of five miles. It is surprising that one can almost like this after the first week. Yes, I said "almost."

In our unit, everyone looks forward to our weekly church parades to the magnificent old, ivy-covered cathedral in which thousands of soldiers have worshipped since the Crimean War. This beautiful edifice, with its marble walls festooned with battle-standards

and bronze plaques commemorating heroic men and valiant deeds, provides a sacred link between our modern mechanized army and the "thin, red line" of Kipling's time.

An account of our activities abroad would be incomplete without a kaleidoscopic picture of our social life. Our first Christmas in England was celebrated in the best "First Hussar" manner. That explanation should be sufficient. Mr. Shea, our cheerful, hard-working Auxiliary Officer, has proven himself a real magician. He can pull any type of social entertainment out of the cap which covers his Irish head. His sleight-of-hand tricks to date have varied from "scrounging" new American movies for all ranks, twice a week, to organizing a dance on two days' notice and stocking it with a hundred pretty English girls. In this he has been aided and abetted by our jovial medical officer, Major W. K. Bice and assisted nobly by our popular second-in-command, Major G. W. Robinson. Naturally, our landing leaves come under the heading of entertainment. Although all ranks had a "hell of a good time," their deportment was such as to make them welcome anywhere. This, in itself, is one of the greatest tributes we can pay our senior officers and our country.

We were told in Canada that our rations would be scanty here; but we are satisfied. We were told that our barracks would be poor in comparison to Canadian accommodation. Still we are satisfied. We are in England—our last training ground before we too get at crack at this @\*\*†\$††, power-crazy, dictator who was christened Schickelgruber. For that reason, above all, we are satisfied.

"There's something I like about the real thing"

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TRADE MARK REGISTERED

# Solving the Tank Problem . .

By TACTICUS

A most radical innovation in anti-tank defence is now decided upon by the United States army. Last year's very extensive manoeuvres introduced a new wrinkle in utilization of weapons to the major task of halting the thrusts of armored enemy columns. In general the defending army tried out self-propelled anti-tank guns, and there was wide approval of the success of the trials under conditions that as closely approximated real warfare as this type of training will permit.

As a result of study of the returns from these trials and constant consideration of the subject since, the United States army will replace almost all of its anti-tank units now in existence with "tank destroyer battalions."

Full details of the new organization are given in the January edition of "The Infantry Journal," outstanding service publication of the U.S. The changes are so wide and sweeping in conception that they will bear close scrutiny from Canadian tank authorities.

It has long been conceded that while tanks have given the offensive a flaming sword and a distinct edge on defensive warfare, this would in the nature of things eventually be evened up by some new discovery or new adaption and utilization of improved existing weapons and equipment.

Judging by what is contemplated by our U.S. allies, they feel they have the answer or are at least on the royal road to success in the matter of anti-tank defence.

For the broad outline of the new organization we quote several paragraphs from the Journal.

"It will be noted," it says, "that there are three types of tank destroyer battalions. These are light battalions with towed weapons, that operate with foot infantry divisions; light battalions with self-propelled weapons, for attachment to the motorized cavalry divisions; and heavy battalions with self-propelled weapons, for attachment to the armoured divisions, army corps, and armies.

"For the time being the tank destroyer battalions will be organized on a basis of four battalions—or the equivalent — per division and they will be General Headquarters units. The new battalions are to be formed—both as to personnel and material—from the present antitank units of the Infantry, Field Artillery and Cavalry. However, the infantry regimental anti-tank companies will remain as organic parts of the infantry regiment. Although most infantry antitank battalions will be organized as light tank destroyer battalions, eight of the presently constituted infantry antitank battalions will become heavy destroyer units. In general, each new unit will be identified with the arm to which its personnel is now assigned. For example, the destroyer battalions that get their personnel and material from the antitank components of the Field Artillery will be Field Artillery units.

"A tank destroyer tactical and firing centre will be organized with the over-all directive to formulate and develop the tactical doctrine for the tank destroyer

units. The centre will contain a tank destroyer board, a tactical and firing centre, and a tank destroyer school."

### THE LIGHT BATTALION

Before discussing the organizational and armament considerations of the announced establishment it might be well to briefly outline what the U.S. army plans for its new units.

The organization for the light tank destroyer battalions, both self-propelled and towed is precisely the same in structure so both can be dealt with as one. The only difference is in the method of conveyance, and one additional item, that the towed battalion has 33 officers and 828 enlisted men, while the self-propelled unit comprises the same number of officers but only 792 enlisted men.

Having stressed these differences, it can be said that the units are organized on the basis of a battalion hdqts.; headquarters company; 3 tank destroyer companies; 1 pioneer company; and an attached medical group of two officers and 22 men.

Organization of the headquarters company includes a communication platoon, staff platoon, motor maintenance platoon and transportation platoon. These are broken down into sections, but it is not necessary here to go further in that regard.

The body of the unit is composed of the three tank destroyer companies. These are identical, and can be individually broken down into a company headquarters and three platoons. Coy. Hdqts. embraces 2 officers and 30 men. The platoons are a large command for one officer, no fewer than 43 men.

Platoons further break down into a platoon headquarters and two sections, each of two guns.

Armament for the light destroyer battalions is the 37-mm. antitank gun. It also appears that each section of two guns has extra armament of one M.G.—A.A. dual mounted of .50 calibre. The total for the battalion is 36 guns of 37 mm. calibre, and 18 ack-ack guns."

### THE HEAVY BATTALION

Considerably more elaborate is the armament of the S.P. heavy battalion, which totals in all 24 guns of 75 mm. calibre; 12 37-mm. guns and 18 ack-acks of 37 mm., also self-propelled.

Organizational structure is similar to the light battalions. However, in place of a pioneer company there is a reconnaissance company of 6 officers and 132 men, making it a major item.

The Recce. company breaks down into a coy. hdqts., three recce. platoons and a pioneer platoon.

Once again the meat of the unit is found in the three tank destroyer companies. Company strength of 5 officers and 165 men breaks down into a company headquarters, and three platoons.

These platoons consist of a light platoon and two heavy platoons. Each platoon, regardless of whether



it is heavy or light, is made up of a headquarters and three sections. There is an Ack-ack section of two guns, and two tank destroyer sections of two guns, giving of course four A-T guns and 2 A-A guns per platoon.

#### PROBABLE ROLES

Examination of the foregoing organization will give some hint of the roles that the battalions are to play. The light destroyer units are well equipped with pioneer troops, indicating an extensive role for destruction of tank causeways, establishment of road blocks and similar defensive obstructions.

In the light of tank fighting developments in various theatres of the war, there is grave doubt as to the efficacy of the 37-mm. antitank gun. In fact, it can be said quite definitely that this weapon is not heavy enough to deal with the better model German tanks. All information thus far, however, would indicate that it might be quite effective against the more archaic models under operation by the Japanese.

The futility of forecasting the future has been demonstrated for so long in so many allegedly informed places that there is no desire to add to the list of failures in prophecy here. It can be regarded as reasonably sure, though, that the U.S. army will eventually have to face the German tank forces in Europe, and in that event their reliance on the lighter A-T weapon might prove a costly mistake.

All the reports pouring out of Libya these days emphasize that it is in failure to match the Germans in armament that the British army has been found wanting. Two-pounders and 37-mm. guns cannot out-range and outduel 75-mm. weapons no matter how well served the lighter guns may be.

Since the light destroyer battalions are to operate with infantry and motorized troops, generally regarded as the "soft" troops of any army by the armoured corps, there is some real danger that these troops may not get sufficient protection from the armament as presently outlined.

However, the writer feels that the U.S. General Staff undoubtedly has much wider plans for the situation than shown here. We therefore suggest that the armament as laid down at present will be changed, and is merely so constituted because 37-mm. guns are the only calibre currently available in really large numbers.

#### IMPRESSIVE SET-UP

The heavy destroyer organization appears impressive at first sight and on closer examination. The 3-inch A-T weapon should be able to duel with most tanks on an even basis. The lighter 37-mm. will do for close-range work. Protection against dive bombing looks adequate in the 37-mm. ack-acks.

Evidently the method of using these self-propelled weapons will be to cover tank approaches, starting the action when ready from camouflaged positions, and getting away to alternate defensive zones if the attack gets too hot. The mobility of the defensive weapons on S.P. chassis should be immensely increased.

Conversion of the United States to this type of antitank defence represents the first swing of a major power to this thought. The Russians and Germans

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have both tried similar weapons but not in any great quantity it would appear.

The United States is tossing all its eggs in one basket here. As with every other weapon of warfare, the quality of the contents can only be determined when the "eggs" are opened in the frying pan of battle.

The trend to heavier tank, and antitank guns is a noticeable feature of tank thinking the world over, and it is quite certain that these new units and their armament will be only in the embryo stage of development if the testing ahead shows their worth.

Most tank men still feel, however, that the only answer to a tank is a better tank.

## Your Ideas Are Worth Money

This publication is interested in finding out what members of the Canadian Armoured Corps feel is most interesting in their training here. This is a war of ideas, and we want your ideas, constructive of course on how you think your training could be improved.

To stimulate your interest "The Tank" is starting a special feature with this issue. All you have to do is to write us a letter, of not more than 300 words, outlining your thoughts on the subject "What I Have Learned From My Armoured Corps Training Course."

Fill out the form to be found on this page, printing your name and unit, and mail it to The Editor, The Tank, C.A.C. Headquarters, Camp Borden, Ont.

You may send in as many letters as you wish, the only stipulation being that they must be submitted one at a time in individual envelopes. All letters must be in the hands of the editor by midnight of March 12th, 1942.

Those submitted will be judged and the letter selected as the best will win a cash prize of \$3.00 for the writer. Two further prizes of \$1.00 each will be paid to the writers of the next two chosen. We cannot undertake to return any entries, however.

Letters will be judged for originality and constructiveness of suggestion as well as general content. The three prize-winning letters will be published in the April issue of the magazine.

Here is your big opportunity to become a contributor to these pages. Tell us how you are getting along and get paid for it. We suggest you write your letter at once.

All members of the Canadian Armoured Corps are eligible to submit letters.

Fill out this form and attach to letter

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The Tank,  
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Please accept this entry in your letter writing contest. I am,

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(Name)

.....  
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## 26th Canadian Army Tank Battalion

(GREY AND SIMCOE FORESTERS)

By Sgt. W. J. Carmichael

Since the Grey and Simcoe Foresters are new in the "Ranks of the Tanks," perhaps our first contribution to the official organ of the Canadian Armoured Corps should be in the form of an introduction to the readers of the "Tank."

The Foresters were officially mobilized as an active unit in June, 1940, and for the past twenty months we have wandered all over Central and Eastern Canada during the course of our infantry training. Infantry training was becoming a bit boresome to the Foresters when a bright light beamed out from behind a very dark cloud and the powers that be selected the Grey and Simcoe Foresters to form a part of the Second Canadian Army Tank Brigade.

We were in Debart, N.S., when the welcome news was told and the lads just naturally cut loose with a celebration that made all other celebrations pale into obscurity.

Getting back to the history of our unit since mobilization—On the evening of June 1st, 1940, the daily newspapers throughout the country published the information that the Third and Fourth Divisions would be brought up to full strength.

No definite information was released until June 7th. On this date, Col. T. J. Rutherford, E.D., now Brigadier T. J. Rutherford, in command of the First Armoured Brigade overseas, was called to Camp Borden by the District Officer Commanding, and asked to assume the command of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters. Colonel Rutherford was asked to give representation to the Sault Ste. Marie—Sudbury Regiment and the Algonquin Regiment. This was agreed upon and it was decided that each of the above mentioned units would be permitted to contribute a company to the unit. Two companies were already in the making around the area of the Georgian Bay District and Colonel Rutherford made a tour of the Northern parts of Ontario and the Sault Ste. Marie—Sudbury district to organize recruiting and to select the new officers for the unit. Recruits from all walks in life readily answered the call and the Battalion was raised to full strength in record time.

The unit then moved into training camp in Camp Borden. Our stay in Camp Borden was a lengthy one and the unit, now whipped into a well groomed infantry battalion, started to feel their first restlessness. Rumours started to fly thick and fast and Part IV. Orders had us going to Iceland, England, Newfoundland, the Middle East, China and even guard duty at Bermuda and Jamaica. After almost ten long months in Borden we did finally make a move but it was not so far as Europe, Asia or the West Indies—we moved to the Horse Palace in the Canadian National Exhibition grounds in the city of Toronto on April 17, 1941. Previous to this move Major N. E. McDonald 2 i/c of our unit was promoted to the rank of Lieut-Col. in command of the Second Battalion of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters. Major E. I. C. Wagner, O.C. of "A" Company, took over the duties of 2 i/c.

The lads had a very good time in Toronto but

—Please see page 11



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### 25th Canadian Army Tank Battalion

the stay was quite short and served as short breather for a long spell on the East Coast.

It was in Toronto that Lieut-Col. Rutherford left the Foresters to accept the appointment of brigadier in command of the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade. The announcement was made public on May 18, 1941.

Major V. R. Fell, M.M., former O.C. of "C" Company was appointed to the command of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters and Major Fell took his first battalion parade as Commanding Officer on May 18, 1941. At the same time Captain E. M. Wilson left the duties of Adjutant and assumed the command of "C" Company. Lieut. R. E. Buell, Intelligence Officer, took over the Adjutant's duties.

On May 20, 1941, the Grey and Simcoe Foresters started on a long march that will long be remembered by every member of the unit that tramped along that blistering highway from Toronto to Trenton—a distance of 110 miles.

Lead by the Battalion Bugle Band, the Foresters marched through the Prince's Gate at the C.N.E. grounds at 0900 hours.

For eight long days the Battalion tramped along, stopping for a one-day rest at Cobourg on Sunday, May 25. At Cobourg, Brigadier Rutherford paid a visit to the Battalion and took the salute following a church parade in the town.

We moved off again by train on May 27 and arrived at Camp Aldershot, N.S. Here we spent ten days in tents under adverse weather conditions.

We were glad to pack up again on June 9 and entrain for Mulgrave, N.S., on the Canso Strait. The Unit relieved the Halifax Rifles in the Canso Defense Area. The Reserve Company under Lieut. S. C. Dunbar carried on with recruit training at Sand Point under canvas.

Here at Mulgrave and the other centres in the vicinity of Canso Strait the Foresters gained a reputation of excellent discipline on and off duty and gained the high favor of the civilian public.

On August 7 the Grey and Simcoe Foresters were on the move again—this time to Camp Debert, N.S.

Camp Debert was our home for six months and then came the glorious news that we were going "back home" to Camp Borden. And to think that we were glad to get out of Camp Borden ten months ago. Well, well, we are glad to be back and we are proud to be part of the "tanks." We appreciate the invitation to join the contributors to the official organ of the Canadian Armoured Corps, "The Tank."

### C. A. C. Women's Auxiliary

#### BARRIE AUXILIARY

The first annual report of the women's auxiliary made its appearance in January, and here are the highlights. Mrs. George Farmer, treasurer, reported total receipts of \$1,615.13 with disbursements of \$1,271.42 which leaves a balance of \$343.71. Mrs. G. Y. Mas-

son, welfare convenor, reported that friendly calls had been made on a great number of wives at their homes and in hospital, and new babies welcomed into the Corps. About one hundred and twenty-five letters have been received from next-of-kin all across Canada, and all have been answered and either given information desired or directed to the proper channels for advice. Sometimes a little help has been needed, but on the whole everybody is getting along pretty well, but contact with each other is to be encouraged among next-of-kin, so that news about husbands and sons overseas can be exchanged. (And by the way, mail going both ways is subject to non-arrival but don't let it get you down!)

Mrs. Jack Wallace, convenor for Soldiers' Services has been very busy because at first we knitted sweaters and socks and mitts, made twenty pairs of curtains for messes and recreation rooms, packed and dispatched a small Christmas parcel to all the men in the Headquarters Squadron of the Army Tank Bde., refooted socks for some of the men, and found dance hostesses for dances given by the training centres. Last but certainly not least, up to December 31, 164,000 cigarettes have been sent over to numerous detachments and units not served by any other auxiliary or group, and continue to go forward every month. (We've stopped knitting for the men now, and concentrate on sending cigarettes. Any knitting is for the coming generation.)

Mrs. J. G. Andrews has had her hands full too because being ways and means convenor she has had to find the money to finance all this spending. That she has done a wonderful job of it is evident in the Treasurer's report.

But in spite of the fine work all these ladies and others on the Executive have done, nothing would have been accomplished without the hard work and loyal support of the members, who have always been ready and willing to give their best, and are responsible for making our first annual report one to be proud of.

Plans are afoot for a dance in March to raise funds so that a regular supply of cigarettes will continue to be shipped monthly. It is surprising how much it takes to send so many so few?

Cheerio for the time being.





# Armoured Corps Doubled In Strength

Training of officer and N.C.O. instructional personnel is proceeding with despatch at the two C.A.C. advanced training centres at Camp Borden for the new division in the Canadian Armoured Corps, which was announced last month.

Transformation of the 4th Division from infantry to Armoured Corps troops, and the raising of a second Army Tank Battalion was the big news for the C.A.C. as parliament resumed its sessions towards the end of January.

This new move, which will give Canada by far the highest proportion of armoured troops to infantry to be found in any army in the entire world, had been a subject of speculation for some time, but confirmation of thoughts along that line were greeted joyously by the boys in the black berets both here and overseas.

Personnel from the 4th Division arriving here all expressed their appreciation at the change. This unanimity of opinion from all ranks rates as a high tribute to the regard with which membership in the C.A.C. is held.

Senior commands in the new division go to a number of officers who have merited their posts by constant service on behalf of the C.A.C.

Perhaps the most popular promotion was that which fell to Brig. F. F. Worthington, Canada's "original" in the armoured corps sponsorship. He moves from command of the 1st Army Tank Brigade to the job as

## NEW BRIGADE COMMANDERS



Brig. A. M. Thomas



Brig. E. L. M. Burns, O.B.E., M.C.

boss of the new Armoured Division. There could have been no happier choice with all ranks, in the consensus of the tankers.

Major-General L. F. Page, who formerly commanded the 4th Division as an infantry organization, has gone to an important command in Newfoundland. Brig. R. A. Wyman of Edmonton has been announced as Gen. Worthington's successor overseas.

The 3rd Armoured Brigade will be commanded by Brig. A. M. Thomas, who headed the 11th Infantry Brigade of the 4th Division. The 4th Armoured Brigade will be commanded by Brig. E. L. M. Burns, who has more recently been employed as officer administering the C.A.C. in Canada.

Command of the support group goes to Brig. Walter C. Hyde, commander of the 4th Divisional Artillery. The other senior command announced at the same time was that of the 2nd Army Tank Brigade in process of formation now, which falls to Brig. G. R. Bradbrooke.

In every instance the new senior appointments have fallen to younger men of wide experience. Major-General Worthington is 52, Brig. Thomas is 47, Brig. Burns 44, and Brig. Bradbrooke 45.

## FULL-FLEDGED ARMY

This conversion will provide Canada with an overseas army of five divisions before many months have passed, it is expected. This will be an infantry corps of 3 divisions, and an armoured corps of 3 divisions, an armoured corps of the two now extant.

The program more and more exemplifies, in the opinion of many army observers, the shock troops role of the Canadian forces for the eventual push on the continent. Gen. McNaughton has said that the Canadian Army is a dagger pointed at the heart of Nazi Germany, and the new developments add even more steel to the tip of the dagger.

The training program for the new division is ready, and no time will be lost in hastening the transition from infantry to cavalry, 1942 variety.

In the task of training the new division no small share of the responsibilities will fall on the instructional leaders and departments of A-8 and A-9 training centres at Camp Borden. These have been fully mobilized to handle the double job of training their regular quota of reinforcements and recruits, plus added personnel in large numbers from the new units in the C.A.C.

## Brief Sketches of Senior Officers

### MAJOR-GEN. F. F. WORTHINGTON

Brigadier F. F. Worthington M.C., M.M., appointed on February 3rd to take command of the newly announced 4th (Armoured) Division, with the rank of Major-General, takes to his new command twenty-five years' service and experience in the Canadian army.

A native of Peterhead, Scotland, the new divisional commander went to California at an early age, graduated from the University of California, and then for some time was a prospector, miner and marine engineer. In South and Central America he fought in several revolutions and helped to crush Pancho Villa.

The new major-general comes from the ranks. He enlisted as a private in the Great War, going overseas in March 1916 with the 73rd Battalion C.E.F. He was wounded in April 1917, transferred to the 85th Battalion in May 1917, and appointed lieutenant, C.M.G.C. in November 1917. His promotion to captain came with acting rank in August 1918, and was confirmed in January of 1919. He returned to Canada in April of that year.

Subsequent to his return, General Worthington served with the 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade N.P.A.M. as captain and adjutant and was appointed to the Canadian Permanent Machine Gun Brigade as captain in January 1920. He transferred to the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry in September, 1923 and was promoted in his regiment in April 1939.

His instruction background is wide. He attended the Machine Gun School at Netheravon, England in 1915; Official Instructor's course in D. and M. at the Royal Tank School, Bovington, England in 1937-38. He was detailed for duty as chief instructor at the Canadian Tank School on termination of that unit in December 1936. He became Lieut.-Colonel in command of the Canadian Armoured Fighting Vehicles School at Camp Borden in May 1938, and was promoted commandant C.A.F.V.T.C. September 1939.

Later he became brigadier in command of the 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade and took them overseas in the summer of 1941.

For services rendered during the Great War he was awarded the Military Cross and Clasp, the Military Medal and bar.

### BRIGADIER E. L. M. BURNS

Brig. E. L. M. Burns, O.B.E., M.C., was born at Westmount, Que., June 17, 1897, and graduated from the Royal Military College in 1915. Commissioned as a lieutenant in the Canadian Engineers, he went to France as signals officer of the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade, commanded by the present Major General Odlum, and was awarded the Military Cross for his services on the Somme.

After the Armistice he was appointed staff captain of the 12th Infantry Brigade in Belgium, commanded part of the time by Col. J. L. Ralston, now Minister of National Defence. Since the war he has studied at the School of Military Engineering, Chatham, England, the Staff College at Quetta, India, and the Imperial Defence College at London.

A pioneer in the work of the Geographical Section of the Canadian General Staff, he collaborated with the Royal Canadian Air Force in aerial mapping as far back as 1925, later headed the section and was convenor of the sub-committee on methods of plotting aerial photography of the National Research Council. He is the inventor of three machines

for plotting maps from aerial photographs and for this and his development work in general he was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1935. During the present war he has served at Canadian Military Headquarters in London as General Staff Officer to Lt. Gen. Crerar during negotiations with the War Office which preceded the arrival of the 1st Canadian Division, commanded details of Canadian troops, reinforcements and other units, was Special Assistant to the Chief of the General Staff, Assistant Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Brigadier, General Staff, Canadian Corps, and now commander of the 4th Armoured Brigade.

### BRIGADIER G. R. BRADBROOKE

Brig. G. R. Bradbrooke, M.C. was born in Bucks, England, Nov. 1, 1896, and enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Oct., 1914, at the age of 18, just two years after he had come to Canada. He was a trumpeter with the 18th Canadian Mounted Rifles, served with the 32nd Battalion, C. E. F., at the Machine Gun School at Shorncliffe, England, with the 28th Battalion and with the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was commissioned in 1917 with the Canadian Machine Gun Corps and was awarded the Military Cross.

After the war he was appointed to the Permanent Force with a commission in the Royal Canadian Machine Gun Brigade. From it he went to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and later to the Lord Strathcona Horse. Then he held staff appointments at London, Ont., Ottawa and Calgary, obtained his Staff College certificate at Quetta, India, and returned to the L.S.H. He was with this unit when the present war broke out and held the rank of Major. In Feb. 1941, he was selected to command the Calgary Regiment (Tank) and vacated his appointment as General Staff Officer at Royal Military College to take the unit overseas with the rank of Lieut. Colonel. The following December he was appointed one of three Canadian Army officers sent to the Middle East to act as observers with the British Army there and his selection as commander of the 2nd Army Tank Brigade was announced in February, 1942.

### BRIGADIER W. C. HYDE

Brig. Walter C. Hyde, D.S.O., V.D., was born at Beaconsfield, Que., Aug. 18, 1892, and has had more than 26 years experience as an Artillery Officer. He served through the Great War with the Royal Canadian Artillery with an excellent record and afterwards was associated with reserve units. In civil life he is a contractor and architect.

Commissioned as a lieutenant in Dec., 1914, he went to England a few months later with the 6th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery and served in France and Belgium from June, 1915, to Oct., 1917. From Sept., 1918, to June 1919, he served in North Russia. His record was brilliant. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, mentioned in despatches for his work in Flanders and was brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for valuable service in Russia. He also was awarded the Order of St. Stanislaus with Swords, 2nd Class.

On demobilization, he continued with the Non-Permanent Active Militia, finally rising to the command of the 2nd Montreal Regiment, R.C.A. Later he was Camp Commandant at Petawawa Military Camp and then was appointed Commander of the Royal Canadian Artillery of the 4th Division. His appointment as Commander of the Support Group of the 4th (Armoured) Division was announced Feb. 2, 1942.

### BRIGADIER A. M. THOMAS

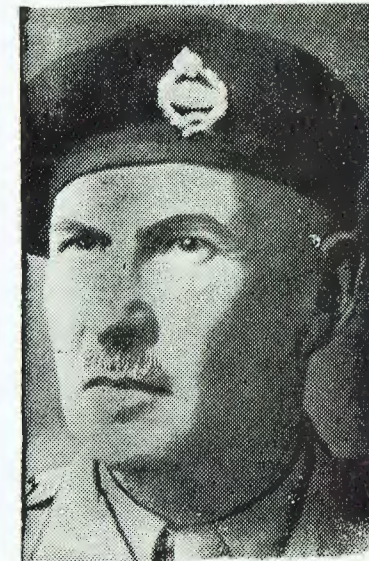
Brig. Alan M. Thomas, M.B.E., V.D., was born at Toronto, April 14, 1894, and was a lieutenant in the University of Toronto Officers Training Corps when the First Great War broke out. Joining the 4th Field Brigade in 1915, he was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps and shortly afterwards proceeded to France, rising to the rank of Flight Lieutenant with the R.F.C.

At the end of 1916 he was invalided back to Canada and was attached to the Royal Air Force (Canadian) Headquarters until his demobilization in 1920. He was awarded the M.B.E. France and Canada in December, 1919.

In 1922 he joined the Toronto Scottish with the rank of Captain, became Major in 1924, second-in-command of the unit four years later and Lieut. Colonel in 1931. In 1936 he was transferred to the Reserve of Officers and in March, 1939 was appointed to the command of the 6th Infantry Brigade.

During the three years he was on the Reserve list, he was Hon. Lieut. Colonel of the Toronto Scottish, President of the Infantry and Machine Gun Associations of Canada and chairman of the Conference of Defence Associations.

In December, 1940, he was appointed to command the 11th Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division, and in February, 1942, to the command of the 3rd Armoured Brigade.



Maj.-Gen. F. F. Worthington



## Would You Be Able To Tell?

The serio-comic aspect of recent reports from England telling how several Scotland Yard detectives dressed up as Nazis and paraded the streets of London unmolested for hours is only too evident.

However, before feeling too superior to the residents of embattled Britain, who evidently aren't too sure just how to identify a German soldier, have you ever asked yourself if you could tell a Heinie if you saw one?

Well, try it and see if you can arrive at an answer.

Remember, too, that in Britain all the exiled governments have thousands of men in uniform training for the day of retribution. They wear many types of fighting garb, and their diversity of style and color is bound to be confusing. Do you think you could tell a Czech from a Nazi, or a Netherlander, or a Pole, or a Norwegian without some intensive concentration on the differences between their garb.

Some of them, it is true, have adopted British battle dress, but they retain enough badges, and other distinctions of their national services to make it dreadfully confusing.

It is suggested, therefore, that almost any of us would have plenty of trouble in telling the sheep from the goats, the good eggs from the bad.

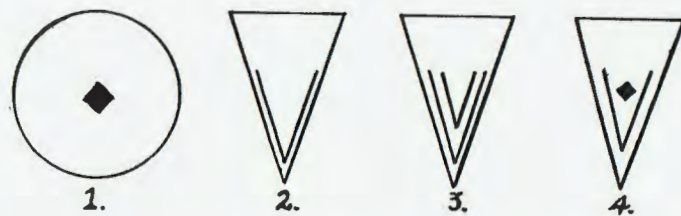
There are certain rules that can be followed in identifying Nazi soldiers which can be a pretty general guide as to rank, unit and branch of the service.

To begin with, German markings to indicate formations are in colored piping on the outside edge of the shoulder straps, and as a background to the collar patch. The various colors and what they indicate are as follows:

- Pink—Armored formations.
- Pink or Orange with letter "A" on shoulder straps—Recce units.
- Black—Engineers.
- Red—Artillery.
- Maroon—Smoke or offensive poison gas units.
- White—Infantry.

Numbers on the ordinary soldiers will be found on the buttons and shoulder straps. The number on the button is in Arabic numerals and indicates the company. The Roman numeral on the collar indicates the battalion.

A plain button means a member of regimental staff or higher headquarters.



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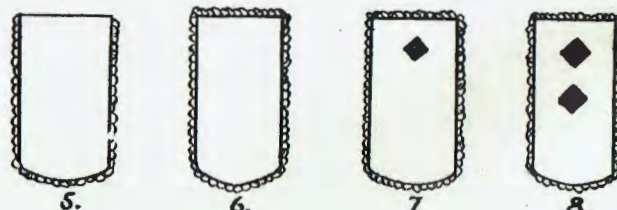
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### Arm Badges—

Only lower non-commissioned ranks wear badges on the arm, beginning with the first-class private (Oberschutz) (one year or more of service). This is indicated with an arm badge of a circle with a star in



the centre. See illustration 1. Illustrations do not show colored outer piping on shoulder straps.

The next rank, acting lance-corporal (Gefreiter) is a V-shaped arm badge, with a small V inside. (No. 2). The lance-corporal (Obergefreiter) indicated in the same shaped badge with two V stripes No. 3). A lance-corporal with more than six years of service drops the inside stripe and replaces it with a star (No. 4).

These are the only badges worn on the arm.

Higher non-commissioned ranks are indicated by piping inside the colored piping on the shoulder strap. A full corporal is shown by the wearing of a silver piping around the top of the horseshoe leaving the bottom open (No. 5). On the shoulder strap of a lance-sergeant this silver piping is extended to go completely around the shoulder strap (No. 6). A full sergeant has the same complete circuit of silver piping with one star (No. 7), and a sergeant-major, that exalted being, is shown by the wearing of two stars (No. 8).

All ranks up to and including Lance-Sergeant carry their regimental number in cloth in the color of their arm of the services.

Officers may be identified as follows:

Second Lieutenant — Shoulder strap covered in plain braid.

Lieutenant—Shoulder strap as above plus star.

Captain—Same shoulder strap with two stars.

Major—Knotted braid on shoulder strap.

Lt.-Col.—Knotted braid on shoulder strap plus one star.

Colonel—Knotted braid on shoulder strap plus two stars.

Generals have knotted braid shoulder straps of alternate gold and silver braid. As with N.C.O.'s, all officers carry piping of their arm of the service around the edges of the shoulder strap.

So if you happen to capture a Heinie prisoner with braid-covered straps, edged with pink piping and wearing plain buttons you will probably have a high staff officer from some crack German armored division.

Even in the Armored Division, where we can't afford to waste too much time seeing that prisoners are turned over to the I.O., this is one type of bird you should see gets back to intelligence at once. He is a very rare specimen.

If you study this chart and fix matters in your mind you should have a considerably better idea of how to pick out a Nawsty soldier in a crowd. Perhaps when you get to England you'll be able to spot any masquerading flatfeet that might want to test you out. And if they should happen to be the real thing, so much the better.

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TORONTO



# Tank Fighter Team

By LIEUTENANT ROBERT M. GERARD

Reprinted from "Infantry Journal"

## PART FOUR — RETREAT TO THE SOUTH

After we blew the bridges on the Risle River on June 15, we headed full speed south to rejoin our column, and we found it just above Lisieux. Our two armored cars and our tank were acting as the rear guard of our little column, and we found the column halted by a terrific traffic jam in Lisieux itself.

Every little while Nazi bombers came over and machine-gunned the town, and naturally this didn't help any to solve the traffic problem. The bombs seemed mainly to hit refugees rather than troops, particularly women and children, simply because these people did not take cover fast enough. As our column advanced slowly through the town, every time the German planes came at us with machine guns I simply ran into the nearest house, the sturdy stones of which gave men adequate protection against the German planes. By now we were not firing any more at planes with our machine guns because the results of such fire had been too disappointing.

After we crawled through Lisieux, in accordance with orders received from the division headquarters, we let all the other vehicles pass, and then became the rear guard of the column ourselves, with our remaining motorcycle troops, of which I now had command since the motorcycle-platoon commander had been wounded at Bourtheroulde the day before. And all day on June 15 we retreated slowly, and closely behind us were the advance elements of the German panzers. We wondered where and how they had crossed the Risle so quickly with their armored cars.

Several times the one medium tank we had left and our armored cars came to grips with them. My motorcycle detachment stayed with the armored cars, in that rear-guard echelon. The Germans would only harass us by shooting and then running. Not once did they try to attack our small column, or even take us from the flanks.

Our tank always counterattacked boldly, and it put several armored cars out of action. The only thing we really didn't like was the 88-mm. artillery which followed closely behind the enemy advance and shelled us every time we halted for as long as an hour.

These small actions were simply incidents, except perhaps for one in which I thought we would certainly lose one of our two remaining armored cars. The road had descended to the bottom of a steep ravine with woods on both sides. In the bottom of this valley, a German 150-mm. shell struck the stone bridge across the stream and made a great hole in it. At the moment, the two armored cars at the rear of the column had not yet crossed the bridge and were busy answering the fire of enemy motorcycles in the edges of the woods farther back on both sides of the road. Other enemy troops had left their vehicles and were advancing slowly by short rushes along the road. The machine guns of my own motorcycle platoon were adding their return fire from positions taken up along the road between our tank and our armored cars.

The first armored car didn't make it around the hole and slid into it and tipped up at a high angle.

The crew inside the car kept the wheels spinning but to no avail. It seemed plain enough that we could consider the car and its crew both lost. German 77's or 88's began to shell us about that time and we were getting plenty of machine-gun fire in the bargain.

But perhaps there was a way to get out of the jam. I signaled to the medium-tank driver to go back and attack the enemy along both sides of the road, and he headed to the rear to cover the work of rescue. Then the other armored car headed toward the bridge and stopped near it while its commander got out and crawled out on the bridge under fire to hook his car to the one in the hole.

The enemy were still firing, but with less intensity, for our tank was letting them have it with shells from its gun, and my platoon was supporting it with its own machine-gun fire. The armored-car commander got safely back to his car and began to try to pull the other car out of the hole. But his engine simply stalled again and again. Not enough power.

Next the tank came hurriedly back, and the tank commander hooked onto the free armored car, the tank still covering its operation with its own fire. Both vehicles finally pulled the third one out of its hole, and then, with great care, made their way around it. Hardly a minute afterward an 88-mm. shell brought the bridge down entirely.

We arrived in Argentan by evening on June 15, and immediately moved east of that town to the Forêt de Gouffern, where we took up another defensive position, working all night to prepare roadblocks and a good position for our last antitank gun. The place was extremely well-suited to antitank defense. This time we did not set our defense up behind a stream. From Trun, a little town about six miles north of Argentan, to Argentan itself, the main road lay straight across a plateau. This whole plateau was perfectly open without a single tree. Argentan itself, however, lay in a depression, and on both sides of it were thick forests on ground somewhat higher than the plateau.

Our antitank unit was assigned the forest on the east, from the edge of which we could see the entire barren stretch of land for the whole six miles to Trun. The thick woods gave us protection against mechanized attacks, and our antitank gun could be placed to do a marvelous job of destruction. Any tank that rolled across the plateau would be under its direct fire, and could not hope to find any ground whatever which would give it a defiladed position to fire from. On the main road into Argentan, an artillery unit had emplaced two 47-mm. antitank guns and a battery of 75's. To the west of Argentan another artillery unit had another antitank gun in position. A few miles south of the town the artillery of the division was in position ready to open with concentrations on the plateau. The rest of the division was farther to the south in bivouac.

On the morning of June 16, it seemed as if the

division could make a real stand in this new position, with some chance of repulsing any mechanized attack, surely for a while. The divisional artillery had prepared a heavy barrage to fall on the plateau several hundred yards ahead of our position along the woods. The headquarters and vehicles of the Groupe Franc were south of the forest in the village of Uron in a big estate, where there was security for them.

All day of June 16 we waited for the enemy to show up. But strangely he did not. The Germans always seemed to be well informed of where we were prepared to make a real stand and preferred not to attack, but to wait for the order to retreat to be given the French forces because somewhere else, at a weaker point, a breakthrough had succeeded. Then, as soon as we were on the move again, they would advance and harass us. They knew that our lack of tanks and armored cars would make our column vulnerable during any rearward movement.

At 3.30 on the morning of June 17 we received an order to retreat toward Mayenne and install ourselves near Ernee. This meant a backward jump of sixty miles to the southwest. And again our Groupe Franc was to be the rear guard for the entire column. It was only an hour after we began our withdrawal that the enemy came up again and gained direct contact with light reconnaissance elements. They did not press us hard, however but kept continuous contact, probably to keep their German High Command informed as to where our column was heading.

Our retreat was slow, around ten miles per hour, and it was interrupted by halts from time to time from traffic jams farther to the south. All the men of the Groupe Franc were completely exhausted, but we had to keep going just the same or be taken by the enemy. One of our armored cars developed motor trouble, which our own mechanics could not fix. The division we were covering was an infantry division and it had neither the time nor the equipment to effect the major repair that was needed. But we decided not to abandon the vehicle, as it had a 25-mm. antitank gun mounted in its turret, a weapon vital to the move. And so one armored car towed the other. This seriously limited mobility, but it was the only way. And it nearly lost us both vehicles.

The two armored cars had been given the mission of staying at the entrance of a village to cover the column as its rearmost elements. The sergeant commanding the towed car left his vehicle to go forward into the village, hoping to find there some bread for his men. The men of the crew stayed inside the car, half sleeping, overcome by the cumulative fatigue of days of fighting.

Suddenly one German motorized infantry vehicle followed by some motorcycle troops came in sight on the road. They saw our French armored cars, halted at the edge of the village, and stopped to observe them. But, seeing no signs of life, they came cautiously right on up almost to the armored cars. Then, apparently deciding to investigate, the enemy infantrymen in the truck jumped out of it into the ditches along the road.

Just then somebody inside one of our armored cars set up a shout, "The Boches are coming!" This woke up everybody dozing, a machine gun of one

car went at once into action, and the commander of the other opened with his 25-mm. gun.

Next the German motorcyclists plunged into the ditches, but not before several were casualties from our heavy machine-gun fire. The enemy infantry, however, already in the cover of the ditches, opened fire at almost point-blank range with their antitank rifle, and sent several shots through the armor of the cars, seriously wounding the back driver of the towed car. In the other car, the towing vehicle, the commander was slightly wounded at the right shoulder but continued firing his gun. His back driver was seriously wounded. The commander of the towing car decided it was time to retreat. Because of the noise of the battle, however, he was unable to warn the other vehicle what he was going to do.

He decided to try just the same. His driver stalled his engine several times, but at last got away, but only by breaking the towing cable between the two cars. This car now retreated full speed toward the village, but just as it reached the top of an arched stone bridge at the entrance to the village, it hesitated, and then slowly slipped back down the slope of the bridge and hit the stone railing. The front driver had received a wound this time, but not a serious one. But the car stayed where it was on the bridge.

The other armored car, of course, could not move. The Germans, seeing that it stayed where it was, stopped firing. Cautiously the front driver of this car raised the top of his turret from the inside and peeked out. Then he stepped out of the car with his wounded comrade over his shoulder, and carried him to the nearest enemy troops. A German noncom disarmed him and bawled him out in German for something, he didn't know what. The enemy troops, however, took the wounded French driver to a first-aid station not far back and the other driver followed. He helped dress the wound, but watched constantly for any chance of escaping. A moment came when all the Germans were busy, and he dashed to a nearby house, locking the door behind him. While the Germans were forcing the door, he ran out to the back and into the fields behind, rejoining the Groupe Franc that same evening, pale, dirty, and exhausted.

But as the driver with his comrade on his shoulders had headed for the enemy first-aid station, the last tank of our Groupe Franc, whose crew had heard the firing, came tearing out from the village and began firing at the enemy wherever he could be seen. The enemy returned the fire, but the tank commander, when he reached a point near the seemingly abandoned car on the bridge, got out of his tank and crawled to the car to find out just what had happened. The wounded front driver inside waved his hand to show that at least some of the crew were still alive.

The tank commander now dragged the wounded out of the car and brought them to the rear, all the time under the fire of the enemy. Then he went back to his tank, and with it pushed the armored car out away from the stone rail of the bridge.

About that time the commander of the armored car now in German hands came back out of the village with his arms full of bread. He saw the situation at once, crawled toward the armored car on the bridge,



## Tank Fighter Team (Contd.)

started the engine and drove the car back to the village. As he did so, the tank commander attacked straight toward the enemy with his tank and killed several of them. One armored car was lost, but the other saved. We still had one tank and one car. Our retreat continued.

Just before we reached Carrouges, a town half-way between Argentan and Mayenne, our column received a sudden air attack. We caught sight of the planes, five Stukas, only at the last moment, and my captain and I had just time to jump from our command car and into the ditch. They bombed us first and then, apparently because they noticed that our troops had taken cover in the ditches along the sides of the road, came back at us with their machine guns. My captain and I and those near us escaped the fire entirely, however, simply because we were on the curve of the road. The enemy flyers, following the road as they machine-gunned our men, couldn't turn to the right as sharply as the road. A couple of hundred yards beyond the curve the planes had swung in again over the road. Thus every vehicle within the curve was untouched, but the others took something of a beating. And our supply truck was set on fire and destroyed. My trunk locker was in that truck and now I had nothing left except what I had on. But far worse, our last antitank gun was smashed by a direct bomb hit. And altogether there were a number of casualties.

These were not to be our only serious losses on that day. In the afternoon just after we passed through Mayenne, we had to abandon and blow up our tank. All during the day the oil in the transmission had been heating up so much that smoke could be seen coming out of the tank. And it was so hot inside the tank that it was no longer possible to stay in it. The tank commander was even afraid that his 47-mm. shells might explode because of the heat. But I didn't think there was anything to worry about as far as that was concerned, though it was a fact that the shells were so hot you could hardly touch them with your hand! Finally things got so bad that the tank couldn't keep up with the column any more. And so we salvaged all we could from it, the gasoline, the antitank-gun sight, and the ammunition, and then blew it up. Our only armored vehicle left now was an armored car.

When the Groupe arrived in Ernee, it was sent from there to a hamlet called La Meule, on a little road six miles to the south of Ernee. For the first time now for days we were to be somewhere behind the front of the division as a reserve. The general had finally decided that our Groupe needed a real rest. At La Meule, the Groupe Franc built four staggered barricades with some abandoned vehicles. It was left open to let the traffic pass but we were ready to close it if the enemy came in sight. We placed one machine gun to defend each barricade and what was left of the motorcycle platoon stayed in the centre of the hamlet, together with the armored car, ready to move in any direction.

At 4.00 o'clock on the morning of June 18 we were directed by the division commander to send a patrol out on the road from Ernee to the northeast.

The general had received information to the effect that the Germans had already passed Mayenne, and he wanted to be sure. My captain decided to send the armored car reinforced by the motorcycle detachment, and the patrol left at 4.30.

About 5.00 a single German sidecar came speeding toward our unit with two men waving big white flags. The motorcyclists came on through the barricade waving their flags to indicate that they had no intention of firing, and our machine gun covering the barricade stayed silent. Arriving in the middle of the hamlet, the Germans made a U-turn and then stopped. The one in the sidecar said, "Pastirer, guerre finie. Francais et Allemands amis." ("Don't shoot, the war is over. The French and the Germans are friends!") Then, just as suddenly, they dashed away at full speed.

But the moment the motorcycle had passed through the barricade, the machine gunner opened up and mowed them down. This struck me as the wrong thing. The two Nazis had come to our unit alone and had not molested us. And at the moment it struck me as next door to plain butchery to open on their backs as they were leaving. I told the gunner so and asked him what officer had given him the signal to fire. He ket silent while I bawled him out, and then simply said that his fingers were itching too much when he saw the two Germans pass squarely into his line of fire. Then the captain arrived, and he admitted that the gunner's action was not exactly sporting, but said that at least the Germans would never be able to report that a French motorized unit was on this little road. Besides their machine was unharmed and this gave us one more badly needed motorcycle for transportation. We also found a submachine gun in the sidecar.

It was wrong. It wasn't till later that I learned how this "don't-shoot-the-war-is-over" business had been used extensively by the German Army that day to advance in many places through the French Army without having to fire a shot. The war was not over yet, but there had already been rumors that old Marshall Petain had asked for an armistice.

A few minutes after we killed the German motorcyclists one of the privates from the motorcycle detachment came back wounded in the shoulder so badly he could hardly talk. But he managed to say, after a drink of brandy, that the Germans were coming, they were practically in Ernee then, on the main road. His patrol had been annihilated, he said, and he was the only man who had escaped the enemy fire.

A short while before, we had sent our gasoline truck to Juvigny, the supply centre, about seven miles west of La Meule. It was now 5.15 and it hadn't come back. This was cause enough for worry. The captain decided to send two scouts on motorcycles, one to go east to division headquarters in Chailland and report what had happened; the other to head for Juvigny, and find out what had happened to the truck. In fifteen minutes the first scout was back. It was impossible to get to division headquarters, for a German column was on the road a few miles east that lay between us and Chailland. The column was a mechanized one and was heading toward the southwest. But we hadn't heard any firing from the troops of the infantry division. Probably, the "don't-shoot-the-war-

is-over" system was working in that direction.

A few minutes later the other scout came back. The gasoline truck must have been captured, he said. There was an endless column rolling south through Juvigny.

So there we were between two enemy columns, one to the east and the other to the west. We hadn't the strength to tackle such columns now. "If I only had one or two tanks," said my captain. "We could bring enough confusion in one of the columns to get our vehicles through it." But we had no tank, no armored car. Only a few trucks, and a few sidecars and solo motorcycles, with not more than fifty men. Things seemed hopeless and the war was a matter of days. But we felt less ready than ever to be taken prisoners.

Perhaps the road to the south was still open. Perhaps if we kept always between the two enemy columns we might go faster than we did, and get out ahead of them and away. So a scout was sent to Bourgneuf, a small village about six miles to the south, but he soon came back. There was another column going through Bourgneuf, heading right to the west in the direction of Vitre, Rennes and Brittany. We were closed in on three sides. The north side was out, unless we wanted to head straight for the main German forces.

There were two things left. We could either hide in the woods and hope the enemy wouldn't find us until an armistice became effective, or we could try to get through one of the German columns and rejoin the

French forces. Since we weren't at all certain how long it might be until an armistice would be signed, and since we had little chance of staying undiscovered by the bulk of the German Army for any length of time, all officers of the Groupe Franc were of the opinion that we should try to get through, whatever might happen.

The Groupe was quickly put in order of march with the solo motorcycles in front, followed by the few sidecars, then the command car for my captain and I, and finally the trucks. At first we headed toward Juvigny. In a sidecar, my captain and I made a rapid reconnaissance to the front of the column. At the last curve of the road before it went into Juvigny we stopped at the top of a little hill to observe. The enemy column was still there, moving rapidly toward the south, apparently with the traffic control well organized. At one curve of the road a German soldier was indicating the right direction to the column by using a small white disc with a handle. Every vehicle also had such a disc, and they were used to change speed or distances, and for other signals. We could see one tank there in Juvigny guarding the crossroad on which our Groupe Franc was advancing, protecting the flanks of the German column. It was a medium tank with its 77-mm. gun pointing right in our direction, and we could see it clearly through our field glasses about 400 yards away. It was very close to the column. Time must have been essential for the German tank didn't even bother to travel the 400 yards in order to post itself at the top of our little hill, a

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## Tank Fighter Team (Contd.)

point from which it could have had a much better view.

We had no chance of surprising the German column here against a good tank. My captain therefore decided to try it somewhere else. He ordered the column to make a U-turn and head back toward La Meule, which it did undetected. If the enemy tank had been better posted it could have destroyed us.

We figured now that the Germans were probably posting one tank at each important road crossing. My captain and I accordingly left the Groupe Franc again, after hiding it in a woods, and went to find a crossroads small enough for the Germans not to expect an attack from it—one where there was no tank on guard. Our map showed a small trail leading south, which cut through the big east-west road at the south base of the triangle formed by the three German columns surrounding us. This would be just the thing, for we would be able to head for the south if our breakthrough was successful.

We found the little dirt road and reconnoitered it, and here again a small hill prevented the enemy from seeing a long stretch of the dirt road near the road on which the enemy column was moving. In fact, this time the terrain was even better than at Juvigny. The hill lay very close to the main road, and from a point just behind its top, only 150 yards from the German column, we were unseen. And there was no German tank.

My captain and I came back to the place where our column was under cover, and led it forward over the narrow track. Some of the trucks had trouble at places where the trail was overly narrow, but we finally got every vehicle up near the main road on which the German vehicles were heading toward the west. We ran the vehicles into the woods that lay on both sides of the trail and camouflaged them so that any German motorcyclist who happened to make a rapid reconnaissance toward us wouldn't see them. But we spotted the vehicles near enough the trail to hit it quickly when the order to advance was given.

Our idea was to cross through the enemy column without firing a single shot. We figured and hoped that, in such a long column, there would be at least one or two gaps in the flow of traffic, long enough in time to enable our column to pass. To signal back when such an interruption began, we sent a volunteer scout crawling toward the road where the Germans were passing. He managed to crawl up to a point only five yards or so from the column, using bushes, weeds and irregularities of the ground for cover. He had with him four white handkerchiefs knotted together and was to give this improvised flag as soon as he saw a break in the column.

From 8.00 in the morning on we watched the column anxiously and, so it seemed, endlessly. There must have been at least the equivalent of a whole panzer division passing along that road. Several hundred tanks passed by and thousands of motor vehicles containing infantry. We could see that the march discipline of the column was excellent. Distances appeared to be rigidly kept to lessen the effects of a possible air attack. The enemy seemed, however, to be disregarding all flank protection. They probably knew by

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this time that our French forces had lost practically all their tanks and antitank guns which, of course, were the only real threats to the security of such a column. We knew that rifles and machine guns by themselves had no chance here, so we kept quiet all day long without firing a single shot. We could, of course, have picked off a few of the enemy, but this would only have revealed our presence, and then it wouldn't have taken long for a detachment from the strong column to clean us up.

With my field glasses, lying flat on the grass, I could see every detail of the enemy column. After observing at some length, it seemed to me that what

## Tank Fighter Team (Contd.)

was passing was probably a task force. I saw that all the tanks, the motorcycle units, the artillery guns and the engineer vehicles, and the motorized infantry vehicles, were not advancing as organic units. There was instead a succession of small groups or teams, each including several tanks, motorcycles, guns, truckloads of infantry, and supply trucks. Gasoline trucks often travelled between two tanks, but sometimes between two other vehicles. I had a fast glimpse of 105-mm. gun howitzers on self-propelled mounts, each with a big shield of armor in front to protect the crew. I saw the boats of the engineers, and also their flamethrowers. A number of the vehicles had markings painted on their sides, probably for identification of the units. Some of the trucks and motorized infantry vehicles had bright-colored red or yellow cloths over their radiators, probably so they could be identified by their own planes from the air.

The men themselves appeared to be well disciplined, sitting erect in their vehicles, their uniforms in good condition, looking fresh and clean and rested. It was certainly a striking contrast to the unshaven, dirty, and exhausted men in what I had seen of some of our French columns, with little or no traffic discipline and sometimes individual drivers trying to pass each other's vehicles in order to retreat faster to the south. The enemy column was fresh, of course; but it showed the difference between a disciplined, trained, and winning army, and a poorly disciplined and beaten army. More than any other time in my combat experience it struck me forcibly, as I lay there watching the enemy column advancing with precision and order, how greatly the French and the British had underestimated the strength of our Nazi enemies.

The column kept passing, without a single interruption. About noon a few of the enemy stopped along the road and got some water in a farm a hundred yards or so from us, but still we remained unseen.

At last, about 4.00 o'clock of the long day of watching, our scout signalled back with his handkerchiefs that there was a break in the column. We jumped in our vehicles. My captain and I were leading the Groupe Franc in our command car, with the others following behind us. And we stepped on the gas and cleared the main road not more than a few hundred

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# ZELLER'S



## Tank Fighter Team (Contd.)

yards behind the rear of the long German column. As we tore across the road I had a quick glance of German tanks coming up from the other way in the distance. And suddenly I could hear tanks firing somewhere not far off. We raced ahead. But only the first half of our column gained the other side of the main road. The other half was caught and completely smashed by the fire of the oncoming enemy tanks.

The rest of us kept on at full speed toward the south thinking we would be pursued. But the enemy didn't give chase. Our unit was too small to interest them, and they kept to their main objective, heading farther into French territory.

We sped on for a few miles and then slowed down. My captain now sent out three solo motorcycles as a point. We followed right behind them in our command car which we now called our "tank" because we had installed a machine gun on its top. The five sidecars that had managed to break through free we used to make short but continual reconnaissance out to our flanks. The three trucks left in the Groupe followed right behind my captain's car. In all we had now only some twenty-five men, with four machine guns and our rifles. Our ammunition truck, supply truck, kitchen truck, gasoline truck, all had been lost.

As we neared the village of St. Pierre la Cour, I suddenly saw the three motorcyclists jump from their machines into the ditches by the road. At the same time we could hear firing, very close ahead. My captain and I dived into the ditch from our car and a moment later a volley of machine-gun bullets hit the front of it shattering our windshield. We tried raising our heads a bit to see something, but at once bullets would whiz past our heads and make us duck again.

Meanwhile, however, the three motorcyclists had advanced by crawling to determine the strength of the enemy. Suddenly one of them jumped up on the road and yelled, "We are French, you damned fools!"

The French troops ahead had seen a motorized column advancing on the road with motorcycles and all, and had thought at once that we could be nothing but Germans. And so at least once in my life I had heard French bullets whistling past my ears as business-like as any others.

This incident made us change the way our unit was advancing along the road. My captain decided to put all the motorcycles and sidecars in the rear of the column. We also took the machine gun off our command car, which without it looked very much like any regular French passenger car, except for its gray-green color. The car now became our point. In this way we hoped that no other French troops would fire at us. They did not I'm glad to say. But each time we passed or came near a friendly infantry unit in retreat, we acted with particular caution.

To be concluded.

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## FROM BEHIND THE 8-BALL AT A-8

### AMONG THOSE PRESENT

Current arrivals from Brockville's O.T.C. are the following: 2nd Lieuts. S. W. Bone, E. W. Caron, F. N. Clifford, A. M. Cloutier, D. J. Cowley, P. V. Crear, T. S. Foster, D. F. Hughes, J. R. Jewell, J. Looney, G. M. Miller, C. R. Neil, C. L. Porteous, G. L. Rawlinson, N. L. Robertson, N. R. Rushforth, E. F. Barnard, R. Fortier, J. J. LeClerc, P. P. H. St.-Hilaire, L. Turcotte, B. Lafleur; and Lieuts. A. M. Janes, E. C. Talbot, C. W. P. Lunderville, and G. S. Murray.

For 2nd Lieuts. Bone, Porteous, Rawlinson and Robertson, it is a bit of a homecoming. They were "other ranks" at A-8 before going to Brockville. Mr. Robertson was well-known as a sergeant in the Tech Wing. The centre is glad to see them back with a hard earned "pip" hoisted.

### AT THE SERGEANTS' MESS

In spite of all the "hustle and bustle" connected with army life in Borden we still find time to spend the odd hour in the comfort of our Mess. Of course not to forget our Mess meetings which always turn out to be of great interest to the members. I believe at our last meeting we established a new record of longevity. We can say that our members have the right to express their minds on such occasions and do so to the utmost of their ability.

We are looking forward with great anticipation to the dance which is being held in the Mess on Friday, February 27. The Mess committee has not spared themselves in an attempt to make it one of the most outstanding events of the year. It has been many months since we last had the opportunity of welcoming the "fair sex" into our "home" and the members are all out to make the visitors feel right at home and see that one and all thoroughly enjoy themselves.

As we all know, Maj.-Gen. F. F. Worthington, M.C. with Bar, M.M. with Bar, is returning to Canada. We here in the A-8 are looking forward to meeting our original C.O. again. We sincerely hope that he will be able to find time to break away from his tremendous task and pay us a short visit. The members would greatly appreciate having the Major-General in our midst again. May we congratulate you, sir, on the wonderful job you are doing and to wish you all the success in your endeavours to rid the word of the terrible menace which threatens it today. "Through the mud and blood to the green fields beyond!"

We would like to mention here the bowling league which this Mess participates in. Every Wednesday night you will find the bowling-minded members in Barrie "knocking 'em down." Now we find, as the league comes to a close, that the A-11 is on top. Two teams which represent that outfit are in first and second place with a team from A-8 right on their heels. All the fellows take their game quite seriously

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and it will be "nip and tuck" until the final bowl. On looking over the statistics we find the "pitching" rates with the best. The Hi-single is 333, the Hi-three is 793 and the Hi-average is 223. That is bowling in any league. It's a great sport and every hour thoroughly enjoyed. We hope that with the new alleys being built in camp, next year there will be a bigger and better league. Not only does it provide good entertainment but also brings the boys together and I think this is more important. We must have harmony, understanding and fellowship to enable us to reach a final victory.

We would like, at this time, to welcome a new addition to the corps. The No. 3 Canadian Armoured Corps Holding Unit, which, as we all know, has been operating now for several months. They, too, have no mean task to perform and to the Officers, Senior N.C.O.'s, Junior N.C.O.'s and men, we wish the very best in what ever they may be called upon to face in the future. We also say "Cheerio" to several of our own unit who have departed to their ranks. So long, fellows, and keep your chins up!



# REVELLE TO RETREAT and Later

AT A-9 C.A.C.-A.T.C. (A.F.)

## THE BUSY BEES

The training centre task for the Canadian Armoured Corps assumes a bigger aspect than ever with the announced increase in the size of the Corps. Personnel from the new armoured units are steadily arriving here for courses, and the prospect of accommodation bids fair to provide a job for the officer in charge of allotting quarters.

## HERE FROM B.M.A.

Recent arrivals from the O.T.C. at Brockville who are now attached at A-9 for training include the following officers: Lieuts. J. G. Currie, R. A. Hastings, C. E. Henry, W. D. West, T. W. Meredith, M. H. MacKenzie, J. E. Purslow, J. C. Staples, H. M. Street, and 2nd Lieuts. J. S. Garrett, L. Murphy, H. W. MacDonald, C. B. Mackenzie, A. K. Paton, S. G. Patterson, G. A. Sackville, D. E. Stewart.

Also arriving recently were three former staff members of the C.A.C. wing in Brockville, Lieuts. Moores, Hodgins and Levanston.

## IN THE SQUARED CIRCLE

Possession by A-9 of "another Ray Robinson" was triumphantly announced the other day by Tpr. Al Roberston, well known instructor of A-9 leather pushers. The "new find and coloured sensation" is none other than Tpr. Roscoe Moore, weighing around 160 pounds and likely to win a title for A-9 in either the middle or light-heavy divisions, depending on how his weight develops.

Tpr. B. J. Crook, welter, is another of Robbie's discoveries. Mr. Crook is a fast, two-handed puncher, and seems in a fair way to become another Kid Dynamite. Tpr. E. S. Hunt, in the same weight class, is developing remarkably well and may be heard from this season.

Youse guys are hereby notified, however, that the A-9 boxing team is (at the most) only at 50 per cent strength, and is willing to enlist any likely fancy Dans or heavy sluggers. Drop in at the gym, evening, and let Robbie show you some of the fine points.

## TANKS SINK SHIPBUILDERS

The A-9 puck hawks from Camp Borden trounced Collingwood's "outlaw" entry by a 6-5 score in a very hot shinny match staged in Collingwood Wednesday, Feb. 18. The unpractised wonders from A-9 Training Centre of the Canadian Armoured Corps displayed a lot of crowd-rousing prowess as they outscrambled the smooth-performing Shipbuilders.

The Tankers went out on the Collingwood ice with exactly two games and two practice sessions under their belts. The only obvious deduction is that the Tankers don't need to practise like ordinary hockey teams. The Shipbuilders will certainly be on the spot when they meet A-9 in a return match in Barrie on March 4.

Right now the A-9 puck chasers are brushing up on some of the finer points as they aim to sink the Navy, February 25. The R.C.N.V.R. team will steam

north from Toronto for an elephant-and-whale tussle in Barrie Arena. After they finish the game and bury the dead, the combined units will proceed to a local spot for a bit of cheer.

It should be a big evening for all concerned as A-9 Tankers rely largely on that boys-out-of-school spirit. The lads are fast and tough, and the way they pep-up between periods is really amazing. Collingwood held the Tanks to a 2-2 score in the first period and seemed to have the game well in hand. After that, the action was largely confined to the home team's ice. The Tanks took three goals in the second period while the opposition got one. Collingwood came stronger towards the last, but the Tanks held their lead with the game's neatest goal: Lt. G. Bell stole the puck from a turning defenseman, drew the goalie like a professional, and topped a hard game by a surprising team.

Sgt. Ringrose was the dominant factor in the Tankers' victory, shooting three of those six goals. Sgt. McLeod and Tpr. Chomyshyn each scored once. Sgt. Maguire was a stand-out on the Tankers' defence, receiving lusty co-operation from Tpr. Meyer. Goalie Tpr. Maynard aided the cause with some sensational saves.

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