

good fortune that again under your leadership our collective military strength is being built up in order to secure the peace which we hoped had been brought with the end of the war. These men from Canada, who are now placed under your command, join you in your great task to build up our common strength to preserve the peace so that the men, women and children of Europe and all free peoples everywhere may enjoy a better life than they have ever known.

General Eisenhower welcomed the Canadian contingent in the following words:

It is my privilege this morning to represent every member of the North Atlantic Treaty Forces allocated to SHAPE in extending to this great Brigade a warm welcome to your new home. Every individual from Field Marshal to military recruit welcomes you, not only because of yourselves, your gallantry in action, your proved record on the battlefields, but because this means that Canada is with us not only with her productive factories, and with all the resources that she has within her borders, but actively, in the area where danger could be incurred.

This morning as I drove within this square someone turned to me and said: "General, what do you think of meeting your old friends the Canadian Infantry in red berets?" and my answer to him was: "I am glad to meet the Canadian Infantry anywhere. I know them. Moreover, if there is any unit, any organization that has ever earned the right to wear a headgear of its own choosing it is the Canadian Infantry." And that is the kind of feeling that you are going to encounter everywhere you go. For your part, I know you will be a working representative of your own great country in this great organization designed to preserve the peace and security for freedom loving people. There shall be nothing provocative on the part of this organization or any individual in it, but we stand secure in the knowledge that in strength we can protect ourselves. We do not wish to do more and we could never in justice to ourselves do less.

To all of you, again our warm welcome, a good tour of duty, great success and good luck.