

Canadian Armed Forces — 1976

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a civil nature.

During the same period, Forces search-and-rescue aircraft flew 6,838 hours looking for lost people, planes and boats. Other government-owned and private aircraft flew another 1,368 hours.

Of 931 alerts triggered by electronic locator transmitters in aircraft during the first three-quarters of the year, only 18 were real emergencies, and military aircraft flew more than 500 hours tracing false alarms.

Women in uniform

The spirit of International Women's Year still flourished in the Armed Forces in 1976. Two qualified as fire-fighters and now are serving in Comox, British Columbia, and Edmonton, Alberta. Although several work in air traffic control, Lieutenant Sue David of London, Ontario, was the first to become an instrument flight rules controller.

Both married and single women performed United Nations peacekeeping duties in the Middle East, and 140 have completed six-month tours of duty there since March 1975.

In a mixed class of 191 students at a junior leadership school at CFB Borden, Ontario, Corporal Jeannie Boon of Lethbridge, Alberta, won the top student award.

Women represented 4.9 per cent of the Regular Force, and 19.1 per cent of the Reserves. They also took part in all of the Forces' university training plans, and now are employed in 16 officer classifications and 52 trades for other ranks.

During 1976 the Forces numbered about 80,000, including 13,000 officers, 2,300 officer cadets, and 64,700 non-commissioned ranks. Included in this

number are some 700 women officers and 3,300 other ranks.

The Reserve Force has about 33,000 men and women, approximately 21,000 of which are in the Primary Reserve, of whom 400 are on full-time duty with the Regular Force in Canada, Cyprus and the Middle East.

The Defence Department employs about 33,000 full-time civilians, about 120 part-time, and about 5,000 on an irregular basis.

Peacekeeping

Canada's peacekeeping operations continued at a relatively quiet pace in 1976 in Cyprus, the Middle East and elsewhere.

There are about 500 Canadians in Cyprus, about 1,000 on various assignments in Middle East countries, nine in Pakistan, and one officer and one NCO with the UN's command in Korea.

Combat readiness

A series of rugged training exercises throughout the year, to maintain a state of combat readiness for navy, army and air force elements, took place at home and abroad.

In Europe, Canadian soldiers and airmen were among 42,000 troops from 15 countries taking part in Autumn Forge, a series of exercises to test NATO's flexibility and quick-reaction capabilities.

In September, Maritime Command ships and aircraft were committed to Teamwork 76, one of NATO's largest exercises in its 27-year history.

A fleet of 275 allied warships and 200 aircraft provided support when 7,000 U.S., Dutch and British marines landed in northern Norway in a mock landing "opposed" by other NATO forces. More than 80,000 men were involved in the show of solidarity and co-operation on NATO's isolated northern flank.

Earlier in the year, Canadian soldiers and airmen were in Norway for Exercise Atlas Express, a major eight-nation manoeuvre 200 miles inside the Arctic Circle.

Foreign troops

British infantry, artillery and engineer units, German tank units and Dutch pilots trained at bases in Canada during the year, and an agreement was signed with Portugal to train small numbers of Portuguese troops with Canada's mechanized brigade group on NATO service

in West Germany.

For the second year in a row, Canada and Australia took part in training exchanges. For a six-week period, 150 soldiers from CFB Valcartier, Quebec, underwent jungle and coastal warfare training in Australia, while a similar number of Australians came to Canada to undergo training in peacekeeping operations.

News briefs

- Housing prices fell in a number of major cities at the end of 1976 and in many areas prices levelled off, according to a survey by Royal Trust. In nearly every part of the country, with the exception of Quebec where prices were already among the lowest in Canada, prices either fell or remained unchanged. The most dramatic fall in prices was recorded in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The price of an average bungalow in Edmonton, Calgary and Regina fell by as much as \$4,000 between August and December.
- Mortgage interest rates for some federal housing programs have been reduced to 10.5 per cent from 11.5 per cent, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation announced on January 6. The rate reduction is the second in just over two months and follows similar mortgage rate reductions by private lenders.
- Six Ontario manufacturers recently completed a trade mission visit to Britain that will result in significant sales of industrial and commercial products to British customers from 1977 onwards — amounting to an estimated half a million dollars by this time next year. They appointed four agents and distributors on the spot and began negotiations with ten more for a range of products from automotive chemicals and accessories, printing and bindery machines, to labels, looseleaf office folders, store and library fixtures, and automatic vehicle-washing systems.
- Statistics Canada reports that the unemployment rate in December rose to 7.5 per cent of the work force from 7.3 per cent in November.
- Petro-Canada Exploration Inc. and Mobil Oil Canada Ltd., plan to spend from \$25 million and \$45 million for oil and gas exploration in the Sable Island area off Nova Scotia.

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