

Authorized by Order in Council P.C. 76-1656, of March 3, 1942, to fill an urgent need for blitz fire fighters in the United Kingdom, the organization of the Corps of Canadian Fire Fighters overseas marks the first occasion on which a firefighting unit from North America has proceeded to the British Isles for wartime duty. The Corps is carrying out its duties in four target cities of southern England, attending to both blitz and lulltime fires.

Organization, recruiting and training in Ottawa became the responsibility of the Department of National War Services, with the Minister directly in charge. From among several hundred volunteers across the Dominion, the authorized strength of 400 was selected, representing 107 municipalities. Through the courtesy of the City of Ottawa, the men were billeted at an Ottawa fire hall, free of charge, while training and being equipped. They were posted overseas in groups from 40 to 80 men, between June and December of 1942.

Two-thirds of the strength is composed of trained firemen, including fire chiefs, assistant fire chiefs and all degrees of lesser ranks. The unskilled personnel, including several university graduates, were selected for adaptability to firefighting work.

The personnel is made up of five men from Nova Scotia, three from Prince Edward Island, four from New Brunswick, 30 from Quebec, 287 from Ontario, 27 from Manitoba, 22 from Saskatchewan, 12 from Alberta, and 32 from British Columbia. Flight-Lieutenant Gordon E. Huff, M.M., formerly fire prevention officer for the Winnipeg Command of the R.C.A.F., and prior to that fire chief of Brantford, Ontario, was made commanding officer of the Corps, commencing duties February 16, 1942.

On arrival in England the men attended a fire college course and now maintain their efficiency by constant training and competition, as well as through active duty. In addition to specialized wartime training, the Canadian firemen are taking commando courses and army and marine school lectures.

While in England, the Corps members are billeted in lodgings taken over by the British Government, and are under Army discipline and rationing. Members of the Corps receive the same pay and pension benefits as members of the Canadian Army, and rehabilitation after the war in former civilian occupations is subject to the same conditions as prevail for the armed forces.

More than 64,000 Girl Guides throughout Canada are now contributing to the national war effort in numerous ways, in addition to carrying on their regular peacetime activities.

Their activities include the collection of vital salvage, helping in Red Cross workrooms and in day nurseries, aiding with Victory Loan campaigns, making donations to war relief funds, and in general contributing to the successful prosecution of the nation's war effort. Older girls are giving their services in canteens, blood-donor clinics and in local voluntary service centres. Since 1940, Canadian Girl Guides have been making clothing for the children of bombed areas and for refugees in Great Britain. They have already contributed more than \$11,000. to an Empire Guide Gift Fund, which has provided two air ambulances, a motor lifeboat, 20 motor ambulances, five mobile canteens, and a number of huts and quiet rooms for Empire and Allied armed forces.

The Girl Guides Association in Canada maintains an Emergency Service Training Program for all girls over 15 years of age, involving training in discipline, life saving, physical fitness, message corps and A.R.P. work, emergency cooking, and specialized study on home service, child care, transportation and land work.