

CANADA'S NATO FORCES ARRIVE IN EUROPE

On September 18, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced that, subject to the approval of Parliament, the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade would move overseas to form part of the NATO Integrated Force under General Eisenhower.

In his statement, Mr. Claxton said:

Late last week General Eisenhower sent word expressing deep satisfaction that the Canadians could be available in the autumn of 1951 and stressed the great importance which he attached to a Canadian contribution to the Integrated Forces of NATO at this juncture. For military reasons he was of the opinion that the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group should be deployed in the Northern Army Sector in association with the United Kingdom, Netherlands and Belgian forces, and where suitable accommodation and training areas could be made available. General Eisenhower also stated that he would take a personal interest in the arrival and arrangements for accommodation of the Canadian force.

Mr. Claxton also said that, subject to Parliamentary approval, Canada would contribute an air division of eleven fighter squadrons to the forces under General Eisenhower. The first three of these squadrons would remain in the United Kingdom until facilities are available for them on the continent.

On October 23, the House of Commons adopted the following resolution, which indicated its approval of Canadian participation in the Integrated Force. The resolution, which was also approved by the Senate, reads as follows:

That this House approves the continuance of Canada's participation in the efforts being made through the United Nations to establish international peace, and in particular to defeat aggression and restore peace in Korea, and by the North Atlantic Treaty nations to deter aggression and promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area.

Following this, the actual movement of the Brigade to Europe was carried forward.

Troops Welcomed in Rotterdam

On November 21, Mr. Claxton and General Eisenhower welcomed 1,500 men of the Brigade in the square before the *Stadhuis* of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. This contingent was the third to arrive overseas and brought the strength of the Brigade elements in Europe to about 2,350 men. It consisted of the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion; the 58th Independent Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers; the 194th Infantry Workshop, RCEME; an advance party of the 79th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery; a base repair section; members of the Provost Corps and a dental detachment.

The full Brigade, which comprises 5,500 men, has been moving to Europe in six separate sailings during November and December, and is expected to be in barracks near Hanover by the end of the year.

After a salute taken by General Eisenhower and inspection of the troops, Mr. Claxton spoke as follows:

This is an historic day, when the Canadian forces return to this land of Europe; this time, not to help to win a war, but to prevent a war, protect peace and preserve freedom. They are proud to join their comrades of the other North Atlantic Treaty countries in this great endeavour.