

THE ROYAL CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS

The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals came into existence on October 24, 1903, as the "Signalling Corps (Militia)". It was created as the result of a prolonged campaign by a young staff officer, the late Captain Bruce Carruther of Kingston, Ontario, and had an establishment of eighteen officers and sixty men. This Canadian Signalling Corps was the first in the British Empire.

In 1913 the Corps was renamed the Canadian Signal Corps and, upon the outbreak of the First World War, a signals company accompanied the first Canadian Infantry Division overseas. By the time the Armistice was signed the Corps was represented in France by four divisional Signals units, a divisional Artillery Signals Unit, a field artillery brigade Signals section and a Corps Signals unit. It was during the First Great War that one of the Corps' most illustrious officers rose to prominence, Colonel Elroy Forde of Kingston, who convinced the General Staff that a need existed for Signals in peace time. It was Colonel Forde also who sought and finally gained a permanent home for the Corps at Vimy Barracks in Kingston. The Title Royal was granted to the Corps in 1921 by His Majesty the late King George V. The Corps moved to its permanent home in Kingston in 1937.

The Second World War with its unprecedented demands for communications caused a tremendous increase in the size and scope of operations of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. Each of Canada's five fighting divisions was supplied with a signal unit of nearly one thousand men and Signals units were also supplied for Headquarters of the First Canadian Army, the two Canadian corps and another for the Lines of Communications area. Hundreds of trained Signalmen served in base signals units and others served in North Africa, Hong Kong and Australia. The Corps has been represented in Korea by an Infantry Brigade signal troop and an artillery regiment troop. In Germany an infantry brigade signal squadron, an artillery regiment Signal troop and a base troop have served with the 27th and 1st Canadian Infantry Brigades.

The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals in 1923 built the vast radio network that unites the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. This system which is operated by Signals personnel consists of twenty stations and provides reliable radio communications throughout the northwest. It also sends out daily weather reports which form the basis of the Dominion Observatory's national forecasts.

When Canada's first airmail service was inaugurated in 1927 the Corps established radio beacons across the country for this. In Canada the Corps operates the Army component of the National Defence communications system and the Northwest Territories and Yukon Radio system, it perfects improved types of communication equipment at the Canadian Signals Research and Development Establishment at Ottawa, its members serve in field training units and operate the signals school at Kingston for both active and reserve armies. The Corps is proud of its famous band and its spectacular despatch rider display team.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal has been Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps since 1940 and visited most of the units of the Corps in England. This is her first visit to her Corps in Canada.

It is at the invitation of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, that their Colonel-in-Chief is coming to Canada.
