

guarded the sea route of the convoy carrying the second contingent, the Prime Minister was unable to send his Christmas message, or to communicate with the Officer Commanding the contingent.

Immediately the Prime Minister was informed by the High Commissioner in London of the second contingent's safe arrival, a message was sent to the now complete First Overseas Division in England.

The message follows:

"I have just learned with deep satisfaction of the safe arrival in England of the second contingent of your command. I should be grateful if you would express to its officers, non-commissioned officers and men, my regret at not having been able to communicate with them while at sea on Christmas Day. I had prepared a communication to the Officer Commanding the contingent asking him to kindly accept and convey from myself and other of their fellow citizens in Canada, to the officers and men under his command, a message of heartiest Christmas greeting. For reasons which all will understand, it was thought, at the time, unwise to have this message transmitted.

Now that they have safely joined their comrades in arms at Aldershot, I should like, in the closing hours of this Old Year, to send to you, as General Officer Commanding, and to all the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the First Overseas Division of the Canadian Active Service Force, my very best wishes for the New Year. These wishes I extend in equal measure on behalf of all the people of Canada. Our thoughts and our prayers accompany our wishes. Throughout the days of the New Year, may a protecting and merciful Providence guide and guard your lives".—W. L. Mackenzie King.

(c) *General McNaughton's reply:*

"The New Year message from yourself and the people of Canada has just been received and read to a gathering of all ranks at Aldershot which have assembled to hear the New Year rung in by the band of Kneller Hall, the Royal Military School of Music. All ranks deeply appreciate your message and we join you in your prayers to a merciful and protecting Providence that the scourge of despotism which has afflicted the world may shortly be brought to an end."

2. APPOINTMENT OF AIR MARSHAL BISHOP AS DIRECTOR OF RECRUITING FOR THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

On the 23rd of January, 1940, the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable N. McL. Rogers, announced the appointment of Honorary Air Marshal W. A. Bishop as Director of Recruiting for the Royal Canadian Air Force in connection with the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.