



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has appointed Major-General E. L. M. Burns, DSO, OBE, MC, of Canada Chief-of-Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine, to succeed Major-General Vagn Bennike of Denmark.

For the duration of his service with the United Nations General Burns will be on leave of absence from his position as Deputy Minister of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

When General Bennike's appointment expired on June 17, 1954, the Secretary-General requested him to continue in office until a successor was appointed and had arrived in Jerusalem. General Burns will reach Jerusalem shortly.

In announcing the new appointment, the Secretary-General paid special tribute to "the conscientiousness and the high sense of duty" with which Major-General Bennike discharged his heavy responsibilities as United Nations Chief-of-Staff during the period of his tenure. "His impartiality, his judiciousness and his personal courage won for General Bennike the admiration of the members of the Security Council and of the Secretariat. He made a real contribution during a period of severe crisis in Palestine. His efforts have earned him the gratitude of all Members of the United Nations."

MAJOR-GENERAL EEDSON LOUIS MILLARD BURNS was born in 1897 in Westmount, Quebec, and received his education at Lower Canada College, Montreal, and the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario.

General Burns was commissioned in the Royal Canadian Engineers in 1915 and served during the First World War (1914-1919) with the Signals and on the Staff. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1916. Between the wars he held various staff and regimental posts in the permanent force including that of Officer-in-Charge of the Geographical Section, General Staff, Ottawa, in which position he directed extensive experimental work in air photo survey. He was President of the Canadian Institute of Surveying, 1936-1937, and was an associate member of the Committee for Survey Research of the National Research Council. He was awarded the OBE for his services in air survey development.

During the Second World War (1939-1945), General Burns held various senior staff appointments and commands. In Italy he commanded the 5th Canadian Armoured Division from January 1944 and from March 1944 the 1st Canadian Corps during the operations in the Liri Valley when it broke through the Hitler line and during the operations on the Adriatic coast when it broke through the Gothic line and captured Rimini. Later, he was General Officer-in-Charge, Canadian Section, Headquarters 21st Army Group, in Northwest Europe.

In 1945, General Burns was appointed Director General of Rehabilitation, Department of Veterans Affairs. He became Assistant Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs in 1946, and in July 1950 was appointed Deputy Minister.

General Burns has been active in the affairs of the United Nations Association in Canada, having been President of the Ottawa Branch in 1947 and 1948, and National President in 1952 and 1953. He attended the Fourth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 1949, as an alternate delegate for Canada and served mainly on the Fourth Committee.