

NOTE

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HISTORICAL SECTION (G.S.)

ARMY HEADQUARTERS

31 May 1962

Historical Activities within
the Canadian Army

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31 May 1962.

Historical Activities within
the Canadian Army

1. This brief account of the Historical organizations serving the Canadian Army from 1915 to 1962 is based on Central Registry files H.C.S. 2-121-6, H.C.C. 650-16-6, H.C.C. 1456-1, H.C.C. 6-C-188, H.C.C. 6-D-119 and H.Q. 2267-1; C.E.F. files Min. 10-8-11 and Min. 10-8-11A; C.M.H.Q. files 5/C.M.H.Q. G.S./1 and 6/HISTORICAL/1.

Lord Beaverbrook's Organization

2. In January 1915 Sir Max Aitken was appointed Canadian representative at G.H.Q., B.E.F. to deal with "records generally appertaining to the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Forces". The Canadian Prime Minister expected him to give "the people of Canada an account of the performance of Canadian troops". He generally referred to himself as the "Canadian Eye-Witness". In January 1916, now Lord Beaverbrook, he was authorized to create a Canadian War Records Office, which would be the "home of the History of Canada's War", as distinct from the Canadian Record Office of the A.G. Branch of the Overseas Headquarters in London. Popular publications included pamphlets, booklets, books and a daily newspaper for the troops, illustrated by its own photographers. The Canadian War Records Office also administered the war artists employed by a separate Canadian War Memorials Fund (of which Lord Beaverbrook was a member).

3. The principal task of the Historical Section within the Canadian War Records Office was the collection of documents and maps. The Public Record Office in Chancery Lane provided three rooms to hold war diaries and members of its staff tendered professional advice. Two Canadian officers were sent to France to suggest improvements in the compilation of war diaries and to collect any material relevant to the operations of the C.E.F. The sketchiness of the documents for 1915 was demonstrated by an officer who undertook a narrative of the Second Battle of Ypres. During the summer of 1917 the Dominion Archivist, Dr. A.G. Doughty, paid a visit overseas, as a lieutenant-colonel. He recommended that, until the cessation of hostilities, all parcels and boxes of documents collected from units and headquarters should be held intact by the Canadian War Records Office.

4. Lord Beaverbrook wrote two popular volumes entitled Canada in Flanders. These were published in London, as was a third volume written by Major Charles G.D. Roberts. A fourth volume was drafted. During the demobilization period a separate War Narrative Section was formed to write a detailed narrative of Canadian Corps operations during the last 100 days of fighting. Headed by Brig.-Gen. R. Brutinel, it comprised four majors, two captains and two lieutenants who had been engaged in active operations. This work was still incomplete, however, when the Canadian War Records Office was disbanded in the summer of 1919 and all personnel and historical records returned to Canada.

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Brig.-Gen. Cruikshank's Organization

5. Order in Council P. C. 19 of 17 January 1917 entrusted Brig.-Gen. A. E. Cruikshank with the task of collecting "material and records necessary to compile the history of the present war so far as the same more particularly relates to the work undertaken and carried out in Canada". This record was to include "the work and services" performed by such bodies as the War Purchasing Commission, Imperial Munitions Board, the Pensions and Claims Board, and various national charitable organizations. Born on 29 June 1854, Lt.-Col. Cruikshank had had nearly 22 years commissioned service in the N.P.A.M. before he was taken into the Permanent Force on 1 May 1909 to become District Officer Commanding, Military District No. 13. Since his new task seemed to be mainly concerned with records, Brig.-Gen. Cruikshank was specially employed under the Adjutant General. Effective 1 April 1917, he was seconded to the Public Archives of Canada. Apart from a trip overseas during April-July 1918, he spent his time examining files in Ottawa.

6. On 28 October 1918 Brig.-Gen. Cruikshank proposed, in a personal letter to the Minister of Militia and Defence, the immediate formation of a Historical Section of the General Staff. The main function of such a section would be "not the preservation and classification, but the study" of documents. Continuing, he wrote:

As regards the present war, the great mass of documents in possession of the Militia Department, are Administrative, rather than Historical, but when eventually the war diaries and other documents relating to active military operations accumulated in France and England are sent over, the quantity of Historical matter will unquestionably be very large.

As I think you know I have given considerable study for many years past, to the documents preserved in our Archives relating to the military history of Canada, and the creation and maintenance of its military forces, and have acquired some reputation by my writings on those subjects, not only in Canada, but in the United States and Great Britain. The work of accumulating materials for an authoritative history of the Canadian Militia from the conquest of Canada to Confederation based on contemporary official records is well advanced, and I shall be prepared very shortly to proceed with its compilation, with a view to publication.

Order in Council P.C. 2814 of 15 November 1918 authorized Brig.-Gen. Cruikshank to be transferred from the A.G. Branch to become "Director of the Historical Section of the General Staff".

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7. Verbal approval was given by the Minister for the preparation of A History of the Organization, Development and Services of the Military and Naval Forces of Canada from the Peace of Paris in 1763, to the Present Time, With Illustrative Documents. Five small volumes were compiled by Brig.-Gen. Cruikshank. The first two volumes were printed by the press then belonging to the Department of Militia and Defence. The third volume was published by the King's Printer. This ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The draft of two volumes dealing with the Maritime Provinces before 1783 are still held in this Historical Section.

8. The members of Brig.-Gen. Cruikshank's Section attempted to write the history of military activity in Canada. They were, however, civilian clerks with neither military nor historical training and made little progress. Attached C.E.F. officers made better progress with special studies of Medical, Dental, Nursing and Chaplain Services, and Canadians serving in the Royal Air Force. (The medical studies were the basis for Col. A.E. Snell's volume, The C.A.M.C. with the Canadian Corps during the Last Hundred Days of the Great War, published by the Department of National Defence in 1924 in the interests of medical training.)

Col. Duguid's Directorate

9. Order in Council P.C. 1736 of 22 August 1919 authorized the retention of three majors, two captains and two lieutenants returned from the War Narrative Section in London until such time as they might complete an account of Canadian Corps operations. These officers now endeavoured to complete their narrative of the last 100 days and to produce an account of the operations of the 1st Canadian Division prior to 4 May 1915. Work was directed by Major M.F. Duguid, D.S.O. Late in 1920 the first volume of Canadian War Records: A Narrative of the formation and operations of the First Canadian Division, to the end of the Second Battle of Ypres, May 4, 1915 was printed. Similar in format to the Cruikshank volumes, it contained 28 pages of inadequate text and 234 pages of miscellaneous documents. After reading it, General Currie and the C.G.S. (now Maj.-Gen. J. H. MacBrien) felt that a "much fuller work was desirable". The latter proposed that the work of the War Narrative Section be extended to provide a complete history of the part played by Canadians in the war. The Minister agreed. He directed that the 1500 copies already printed of Canadian War Records, Vol. I should not be issued.

10. A proposed peacetime organization had already been submitted for the Historical Section, absorbing Major Duguid's small staff and making him Deputy Director of Historical Section. The depressed Canadian economy and consequent Government determination to curtail military expenditure still further must be held responsible for the lesser Historical Section authorized by Order in Council P.C. 1652 of 27 May 1921. Apparently the Minister and the C.G.S. believed that the tasks envisaged could be completed in from three to five years, so it was considered to be a temporary organization. Its duties were set forth as follows:

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- (a) The collection, classification, co-ordination, preservation and safe custody of all war diaries, reports, official and other correspondence, maps, plans and other documents or material containing information and data relating to the participation of Canada and the Canadian Military Forces in the Great War.
- (b) The compilation and publication of a complete official history of the Recruiting, Organization, Mobilization, Equipment and Services of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Canada from the 4th August, 1914, to the completion of demobilization and the further records as defined in the aforesaid Order in Council of 17 January 1917 (P.C. 19).
- (c) The compilation and publication of a complete official historical account of the services of the Military Forces of Canada in the Great War out of Canada. This History will be supplemented by more detailed histories of certain technical branches of the Service.
- (d) The preparation and publication of Historical monographs, as required, on special military subjects connected with the History of Canada.
- (e) The compilation of such military historical information and data relating to Canada as may be required from time to time by the Historical Section (Military Branch) of the Committee of Imperial Defence.
- (f) The preparation of location ledgers for Canadian military units serving in the Field during the late War and the supply of necessary data to the Imperial War Graves Commission and the Honours and Awards Branch of the Record Office.
- (g) The supply of information from the records in its custody to properly accredited historical investigators and the facilitation of their researches.

Brig.-Gen. Cruikshank was retired to pension. Major Duguid was appointed to the Royal Canadian Artillery as a major and seconded for duty as Director of the Historical Section with the temporary rank of Colonel, to place him on the same footing as all other Directors. Col. Duguid's temporary establishment comprised Capt. J. F. Cummins, C.M.S.C., Lt. J.I.P. Neal, R.C.E. and the following civilians:

Head Clerks	2
Principal Clerks	2
Clerks (Grade 4)	2
Clerk (Grade 3)	1
Clerk (Grade 2)	1
Stenographer (Grade 2)	1
Typists (Grade 1)	2

With the exception of one principal clerk, who had become a permanent civilian servant in his previous position, the civilians were paid from the "Adjustment of War Claims" vote and were engaged for only six months at a time.

11. After considerable thought, Col. Duguid proposed an Official History in 11 volumes:

General History

Ypres, 1915	August 1914 - September 1915
The Salient, 1915-16	September 1915-August 1916
The Somme, 1916	August 1916 - January 1917
Vimy, 1917	January 1917 - October 1917
Passchendaele, 1917	October 1917 - March 1918
Amiens, 1918	March 1918 - August 1918
Arras-Bapaume, 1918	August 1918 - November 1919

Other Arms and Services

Engineer Services	1914-1919
Medical Services	1914-1919
Chaplain Services	1914-1919
Nursing Services	1914-1919

12. Sir Andrew MacPhail of McGill University wrote a one-volume history of Medical Services, which was published in 1925, and it was hoped that his brother, (onetime C.R.E. of the 1st Canadian Division) would write a similar volume on the Engineers. Such a storm was raised by those attacked personally in the Medical History, however, that other special volumes were never attempted.

13. Born on 31 August 1887, Col. Duguid was a graduate civil engineer from McGill University and had held artillery staff appointments during the war. His approach was to break down each of the proposed seven volumes of General History into chapters and sub-sections and then create separate folders for each of the latter. After a monograph, buttressed by appendices, was compiled for each, a narrator would write the text. Capt. Cummins, Lt. Neal and the senior civilians (W. Douglas, W. Davidson, A.C. Wiltshire and J.J. Seanlon) had been employed with the Headquarters of the Canadian Corps in the Field. There they had "acquired an intimate knowledge of the Operations and Intelligence Branches of the General Staff and of the Administrative branch of the Staff, and familiarity with the mass of documents which accumulated in connection with the operations, which makes them most valuable for the research work which will be involved in the preparation of the material for the History". Lt. Neal had been employed drawing maps. With the exception of Mr. Douglas, who had lost an arm in action, the others were clerks who had been commissioned for duties which did not call for staff training. None had had any training in historical research. To make matters worse, the preparation of monographs was only part time work, when they were not involved in ordinary administrative work, assisting regimental historians, preparing lectures for officers on courses, answering queries from the Minister, other directorates and the public, checking drafts of the British Official History, or preparing location ledgers for field units (when any specific enquiry could have been answered from the war diary, as is the present practice). Some 135 tons of documents, returned from overseas in 1919, collected from units in Canada, and personal papers donated by individuals, were unpacked, indexed, arranged, and rearranged during the years 1921-1928, but approximately 10 tons still remained to be examined. Membership on the Battle Honours Committee, and the meticulous checking required to rule on claims, however, was work these individuals performed creditably.

Col. Duguid spent considerable time helping with the Memorial Chamber for the Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings. Although he had paid two extended visits (1924 and 1926) to the Historical Section of the Committee of Imperial Defence in London, Col. Duguid does not seem to have been impressed by the amount of time required by the author or authors to write a volume on British military operations after the preliminary work was finished. Thus there was no reality to Col. Duguid's contention of 5 January 1928 that the first volume of the General History would be available by January 1929 and subsequent volumes at yearly intervals thereafter. The C.G.S. accepted Col. Duguid's explanation, however, and in his letter of 17 January, explaining to the Deputy Minister "the causes of delay in writing the History", wrote that "Colonel Duguid is not only an enthusiast in the work, with an accurate mind and a sound and discriminating judgment, but can also bring to the task a literary style that ensures the matter being treated with distinction as well as historical accuracy".

14. Late in 1928 the Minister of National Defence, Hon. J. L. Ralston, appointed a committee to investigate. Dr. H.M. Tory (President of the National Research Council) headed the Committee, whose members were Major-General H. C. Thacker (C.G.S.), Dr. Adam Short (Chairman, Historical Documents Publications Board, Public Archives of Canada) and Professor N. McL. Rogers (McGill University). On 2 January 1929 it recommended that the Government appoint a competent historian to write a history of "Canada's Effort in the War". Separate volumes should be devoted to the military campaigns and individual services. The historian should be accorded complete editorial freedom, subject to the right of an Advisory Board to express a contrary opinion. This Advisory Board should be responsible to the Prime Minister or another member of the Cabinet. An immediate start was essential, so that documents might be amplified or supplemented by the personal knowledge of participants. It was the opinion of the Committee that:

...the existing organization of the Historical Section of the Department of National Defence should be retained, but should be transferred to become a separate Branch of the Public Archives.

...the services of the officer in charge of this Section, Col. A.F. Duguid, D.S.O., be utilized in connection with the preparation of all material to be used in the writing of the military history of the war.

15. In December 1929 the Government approved the Committee's recommendations in principle. Negotiations between the Department of National Defence, Dominion Archivist and Civil Service Commission during the next six months led to the drafting of an Order in Council which would transfer the historical records and civilian staff to the Public Archives, and second the existing military staff for employment there. A change of Government delayed action and then there were administrative problems to settle. The new C.G.S. (Major-General A.G.L. McNaughton) was opposed to the transfer, since he thought that a Military History should be written by serving officers. The new Conservative Government was not prepared to

sanction a comprehensive historical programme when Canada was in the depths of a severe financial depression, so the whole matter was shelved.

16. During the winter of 1932, the Canadian Legion began a campaign for an Official History. Various members asked questions in the House of Commons. On 16 May the Minister of National Defence told questioners that "Work will be started on the first volume immediately.... I hope that before Parliament meets next year one volume will be ready.... Colonel Duguid will write the history". On 18 May the C.G.S. advised Col. Duguid that other tasks hitherto undertaken by the Historical Section could be curtailed in order to expedite the production of the Official History. Messrs. Wiltshire and Scanlon had managed to secure better positions elsewhere in 1930 and their duties had been assumed by subordinate clerks. Efforts to fill the establishment were now discouraged by the Deputy Minister, who advised the C.G.S. on 23 July that the "situation regarding the Historical Section is that there is no authorized establishment in existence and, therefore, there are no vacancies to which anyone can be appointed". Early in 1933, however, the A.G. was able to detail a W.O.I. for duty and lend a civilian clerk (later replaced by a W.O. II).

17. In 1938, Volume I of the General History (From the outbreak of War to the formation of the Canadian Corps, August 1914-September 1915) was published, by the King's Printer, with a companion volume of appendices and maps. Somewhere along the line Col. Duguid had added an eighth volume to his project, to cover C.E.F. demobilization, sideshows and the Royal Canadian Navy. Another attempt to obtain a permanent establishment for the Historical Section was made early in 1939, but the outbreak of war postponed action. Order in Council P.C. 39/537 of 8 February 1940 contained "blanketing regulations" making it finally possible for all eligible civilian members of the Historical Section to be permanent civil servants.

18. Ill-health brought about the retirement of Lt.-Col. Cummins. A considerable military staff was gradually created - 19 officers and 24 other ranks (including C.W.A.C) - to handle the war diaries received from units in Canada and overseas (triplicate copies returned by sea in periodic batches), other documents, and to compile reports of military activities in Canada. The officers were mostly overage or of too low a category for overseas service. Major G.W.L. Nicholson, who joined the Section in 1943, was a 41-year old high school teacher from Battleford, Sask. War artists commissioned to provide a pictorial record were placed under Col. Duguid's aegis while employed in Canada. In consequence, the continuing pre-war civilian employees withdrew behind the filing cabinets containing C.E.F. documents, where they were presumed to be preparing monographs for the empty folders labelled for volumes II-VIII of the General History. Col. Duguid was responsible for the whole to the D.C.G.S. (C).

Col. Stacey's Regime

19. During the spring of 1940 Maj.-Gen A.G.L. McNaughton and Brig. H.D.G. Crerar (Senior Officer, C.M.H.Q.) agreed that an officer should be appointed to collect and prepare material overseas for future use by an Official Historian. Following his return to Canada and appointment as C.G.S., Maj.-Gen. Crerar arranged for the appointment of Major C.P. Stacey, A.M., Ph.D., then on the Reserve of Officers of R.C.C.S. and an Assistant Professor of History at Princeton University. Major Stacey was then 34 years of age. After spending a short time with the Historical Section at N.D.H.Q., he proceeded to C.M.H.Q., in London, England where he assumed the appointment of Historical Officer on 26 December 1940, initially as a G.S.O. II within the Staff Duties section of the G.S. Branch. In accordance with his instructions, he compiled and returned to Ottawa reports on the contemporary scene. During October 1941, Major G.F.G. Stanley, a history professor who had been commanding a bilingual company at 70 C.A. (B) T.C., in Fredericton, N.B., arrived at C.M.H.Q. to write a narrative of overseas events during 1939-1940. During the subsequent Canadian operations, a historical officer and a war artist were attached to each divisional H.Q., under the direction of a historical officer at each corps H.Q. Another historical officer wrote the Army Commander's despatches. Additional historical officers at C.M.H.Q. wrote reports while waiting their turn in the field. During the winter of 1944 Lt.-Col. Stacey secured control of the War Diaries section: he was already responsible for a War Artists sub-section. Promotion to the rank of col. (Class 5) during the autumn led to him becoming responsible directly to the D.C.G.S. at C.M.H.Q.

20. During Col. Stacey's liaison visit to N.D.H.Q. (5 December 1944-8 January 1945), D.C.G.S.(C) suggested seeking a directive for an Official History. Col. Stacey drafted the submission made by Col. Duguid. This proposed publication of a Sketch History (100,000 words) a year after the end of hostilities in the Pacific, and a four volume Official History five years after the end of hostilities in the Pacific. Personnel already employed in army historical work were considered competent to undertake this. It was agreed that Lt.-Col. Stanley would be returned from C.M.H.Q. to commence writing a Canadian narrative and to assume other responsibilities in connection with the War, so that Col. Duguid could resume work which had been suspended on vol. II of his General History. On 25 April 1945 the Minister (General McNaughton) approved this programme. The Chief of Staff, C.M.H.Q. wrote the Army Commander on 16 May 1945 that "Stacey is the logical and by far the best qualified person to undertake this task". The Army Commander agreed.

Col. Stacey's desire to be appointed Official Historian by order in Council, so that he might have academic freedom as a writer and the right of access to Government circles, was not acceptable, however, and delay ensued.

21. On 17 August the C.G.S. wrote from N.D.H.Q. that the Minister had "decided that the work will be carried out within the framework of the Active Army and by Army personnel as an Army project". Col. C.P. Stacey would be employed in his present rank and grading as Official Historian. Other personnel would be employed under similar conditions. Permanent military employment was not offered, however, and Col. Duguid would remain Director of Historical Section. Col. Stacey was not impressed. He had already pointed out that no competent officer was likely to "give up the prospect of permanent safe employment in civil life, in a university or elsewhere, for the sake of a temporary writing appointment which may leave him unemployed at the end of five years - perhaps in the middle of a depression like that of the thirties". Within a few days, however, there was a new C.G.S. (Lt.-Gen. C. Foulkes) planning the organization of a post-war Canadian Army, and a new Minister (Hon. D.C. Abbott). On 25 September the C.G.S. signalled C.M.H.Q. that historical officers could be employed with the Interim Force until 30 September 1947, and that "special consideration for continuing employment in PF when formed" could be given "if otherwise suitable". Col. Stacey should be despatched to N.D.H.Q. to settle details.

22. On 18 October 1945 the Minister approved Col. Stacey's programme, with minor changes. Work was to begin immediately on the Historical Sketch, now envisaged as being primarily a story of events overseas. With "adequate staff" it was hoped to write the following Official History "within five years unless unforeseen obstacles arise":

Volume I: The organization and training of the Canadian Army in the United Kingdom, and operations based on that country to July 1943. This will include France (June 1940), Defence of England, Spitsbergen, Gibraltar, North Africa, Dieppe.

*

So far as the present writer could discover from official correspondence, Col. Duguid referred to his having been appointed "Official Historian in 1932" only in submissions made during his final weeks as C.E.F. Historian. The Preface to his Volume of General History published in 1938 had managed to mislead readers, however, both as to the contents of Order in Council P.C. 1652 of 27 May 1921 (see para 10) and statement by the Minister of National Defence on 16 May 1932 (see para 16): "The threefold object of the writer, who since May 1921 has directed the work of collecting, sorting, indexing, extracting, and compiling, and who in May 1932 was named historian and made responsible for what is here produced in print, has..." appears at the bottom of page viii.

Volume II: Sicily and Italy. To be a comprehensive account of the Canadian Army's participation in the war in the Mediterranean Theatre, from the planning of the Sicily assault to the withdrawal of Canadian troops from Italy.

Volume III: North-West Europe. To be a comprehensive account of the Canadian Army's participation in the campaign, from the planning of the Normandy assault to the German surrender. A very brief account of the Canadian share in the subsequent occupation of Germany might advantageously be included.

Volume IV: General Military Policy, Events in and around Canada, Operations based on Canada. (Preparations for war; mobilization and development of the Army; home defence arrangements; garrisons in Newfoundland, Jamaica, etc; operations at Hong Kong and Miska.)

To further his work as Official Historian, Col. Stacey was given the privilege of direct access to the C.G.S. whenever the need should arise. Otherwise the Director of Historical Section reported to the B.G.S. (Plans) (later the D.G.P.O.).

23. On 21 October Col. Duguid vacated the appointment of Director of Historical Section and became C.E.F. Historian, with a special increment to the Historical Section to complete his General History. Col. Stacey became Director of Historical Section. So that his writing should not be interrupted, there was to be an Executive Officer (Lt.-col.) and staff to handle all other matters. Major C.F. Lynn-Cress (O i/c War Diaries, C.M.H.Q.) assumed this appointment early in 1946. Lt.-Col. Stanley, who had commenced the preparation of a preliminary Canadian Narrative in August 1945, temporarily acted as Deputy Director. Neither he nor the particularly capable officers still at C.M.H.Q. were interested in this appointment on a permanent basis. Several historical officers were returned from C.M.H.Q. That Historical Section was continued until September 1947, with vacancies filled by battle experienced officers who were in no hurry to return to Canada. Col. Stacey began writing his Sketch History from the historical reports and narratives already completed, alternating between N.D.H.Q. and C.M.H.Q.

24. The Canadian Government's desire to pursue a policy of greater economy caused a new Minister of National Defence (Hon. Brooke Claxton) to order drastic reductions to Navy, Army and Air Force establishments in early January 1947. He directed that the three historical programmes be completed by 31 March 1948, by which time the Sketch History and popular naval and air volumes should be ready for publication. Work on the History of the C.E.F. should terminate on 31 March 1947 (as C.G.S. had earlier recommended since there was no hope of completing it before 1955). On 31 March 1948 the existing Historical Section, A.H.Q. was to be reduced to a smaller Historical Section (General Staff) which would continue other historical work, including instructional studies. Alone of the service historians, Col. Stacey had a definite commitment to produce an official History.

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The C.G.S. was very interested in this and supported Col. Stacey during the course of a personal interview with the Minister of National Defence. On 29 January the Minister told the Defence Council that "certain commitments having been made by his predecessor to Colonel Stacey of the Army Historical Section it was necessary to review the decisions made in regard to histories". Public announcement was later made of an amended programme of the Historical Section, A.H.Q.:

- (i) Preparation and publication of the Official Historical Sketch, "The Canadian Army, 1939-1945".
- (ii) Preparation and publication of an Official History of the Canadian Army, 1939-45, in three volumes.
- (iii) Preparation and publication of one volume on Canadian Military Policy, 1939-45, covering the organization and employment of all three Services.
- (iv) Preparation and publication of a two-volume History of the Canadian Medical Services, 1939-45, covering all three Services and civilian departments.

25. This last was to be written on a part-time basis by Dr. W.R. Feasby under the direction of the Director, Historical Section, A.H.Q. Detailed narratives were written by a temporary medical sub-section (major and captain) attached to the Historical Section and using its clerical facilities. Vol. II was published in 1953; vol. I in 1956.

26. Col. Duguid commenced his retirement leave on 31 March 1947. All C.E.F. records were transferred to the Public Archives of Canada, where they might be available to civilian historians. Two of Col. Duguid's original civilian staff accompanied them. Only Mr. E. Pye and his typist were retained in the Historical Section, to answer general military enquiries. Plans for a staff of all-military narrators were amended when Capt. A.G. Steiger (to work on German documents) and Capt. J.M. Hitsman were rejected for the post-war army on the respective grounds of age and health, and positions were created for them as Civil Servants. Three majors, two captains and one lieutenant were, however, employed as narrators in the final establishment. A Historical Liaison Officer (major) was attached to C.A.L.E. to obtain information from British sources and to supply British historians with Canadian material. The cartographer was a lieutenant (later major) R.C.E. The Executive Officer was assisted by two captains. The appointment of Deputy Director went to Major Nicholson, who became a lt.-col.

27. Col. Stacey and the C.G.S. several times discussed the creation of an Inter-Service Historical Section, in view of the Minister's desire to amalgamate functions common to the Navy, Army and Air Force. Since Col. Stacey's Official History was already partially tri-service in nature, he suggested that key personnel of the Naval and Air Sections be added to his Section to work on Volume IV. The Chiefs of Staff Committee postponed a decision on 17 February 1948, however, and the other two Sections were shortly disbanded (only to be revived later).

Recent Changes

28. The Canadian Army, 1939-1945 was published in May 1948. Col. Stacey then commenced Vol. I of the Official History, while Lt.-Col. Nicholson began work on Vol. II. These were published in 1955 and 1956 respectively. These officers had been relieved of the responsibility for reviewing and revising draft narratives and reports prepared within the Section as early as May 1952, when Major T.M. Hunter was designated "Editor". Agitation by the Canadian Legion led the Cabinet to decide on 21 June 1956 that a one volume history of the C.E.F. should be undertaken by the Historical Section. Col. Stacey had earlier stated that Lt.-Col. Nicholson could commence work towards the end of 1956 and that no additional staff would be required. It was estimated that "it could be carried to the point of publication within about three years". Col. Stacey completed the draft of Vol. III of the Official History early in 1959. He relinquished the appointment of Director on 31 July 1959, but he was agreeable to writing Vol. IV on a part time basis, while lecturing at the University of Toronto. Ministerial approval was given and arrangements were made for members of the Historical Section, A.H.Q., the Naval Historian and the Air Historian to provide narratives. This work still continues, but there was no need for the new Director, Col. G.W.L. Nicholson, to have the privilege of direct access to the C.G.S. The special appointment of Executive Officer was ended. The new Deputy Director, Lt.-Col. H. F. Wood, began work on a history of the fighting in Korea, where he had commanded 3 P.P.C.L.I. Early in 1960 the A.E.C. recommended that the establishment be reduced by a major and a captain. Two officers due to retire shortly were not replaced. On 1 September 1961 Col. Nicholson retired, but arrangements were made for him to complete the C.E.F. history on a part-time basis. The cartographer also retired and further work was left to a sgt. Col. G.M.C. Sprung became Director of the Historical Section.

29. Mention should be made of the increasing amount of work done for the Minister's office, senior officers and other directorates of D.N.D., other government departments, regimental historians and private citizens. Most inquiries can be answered fairly quickly by the Inquiry and Research staff, but several official questions have been answered only

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after detailed research by a narrator for periods of up to a month. Five paperback volumes have been prepared for D.M.T.'s military history programme. Lt.-Col. T.M. Hunter spends a great deal of time drafting examination papers and staff solutions, and presiding over its examination boards, in addition to his continued editorial duties as "Senior Narrator".

30. This report was written by J. Mackay Hitsman.

G.M.C. Sprung
(G.M.C. Sprung) Colonel
Director Historical Section..

CHART "A"
HISTORICAL SECTION (GS), 1939

Col. A. F. Duguid
(Director)

Capt. J.I.P. Neal
(Maps)

Major J.F. Cummins
(Ass. to Director)
Supervises clerical work, writes
monographs, works with Director
on Official History and other tasks

Mr. W. Davidson,
(Great War Archivist)
Custody war diaries,
furnishes information
for Official History
and outside historians

Mr. W. Douglas
(Head Clerk)
Also prepares data for
Official History.

Mr. E. Pye
(Clerk, Grade 4)
Military history inquiries
and monographs

W.O. I Boss, W.
Prepares monographs,
answers to queries and
routine work on Official
History

W.O. II Blyth, R.
Statistical Charts
for Official History

Mr. G.T. Bowen
(Clerk, unclassified)
Custody of C.E.F. documents
not held by Mr. Davidson

Mr. R.S. Meade
(Clerk Stenographer, Grade 2)

Miss E. Esdale
(Stenographer, Grade 2)

Miss I. Fortier
(Typist)

Orderly
(Cpl)

Miss I. Doland
(Typist, Grade 1)

CHART "B"

HISTORICAL SECTION, 1955.

Director - Col. Stacey
Steno & - W. O. II Lemay
Supt Clerk

Medical Sub-Section
Capt. - Blocked
Sgt Grindlay

Major Bissonnette
at C. A. L. E., London

D/Director - Lt.-Col. Nicholson
Steno - S/Sgt Woollam

Hist 1 (Executive)
Lt.-Col. Lynn-Grant
Steno Miss Meehan

Hist 2 (Narrators)
Lt.-Col. Carlisle
Steno - Mrs. Scott

Hist 1A
Capt. Cameron
Typist - vacant

General Office
Sgt Soucy
Pte Lanoue (Orderly)

War Diaries
Sgt Azar
Cpl Kilmartin
Cpl Allan

Hist 1B
Major Fenelon
W.O. I Fowler
S/Sgt MacDonald
Cpl Handley
Cpl Smith
Cpl Lanthier
Pte Richer
Clerk 3 (vacant)
Mrs. Fraser (typist)

Mr. Pye
Mrs Lapointe (typist)

Hist 2A
Major Hunter
Capt. Disher
Capt. McGuire
Capt. - blocked
Capt. - vacant
Mr. Hitsman
Mr. Steiger

Typing Pool
S/Sgt Wellstood
Sgt St.-Jean
Cpl Sigouin
Cpl Lamothe
Mr. Wallingford (typist)
Civilain steno - vacant

Hist 2B (Maps)
Capt. Bond
Sgt MacKay

CHART "C"
HISTORICAL SECTION, 1962

Director - Col. G. M. C. Sprung
D.D. Hist - Lt.-Col. H. F. Wood

