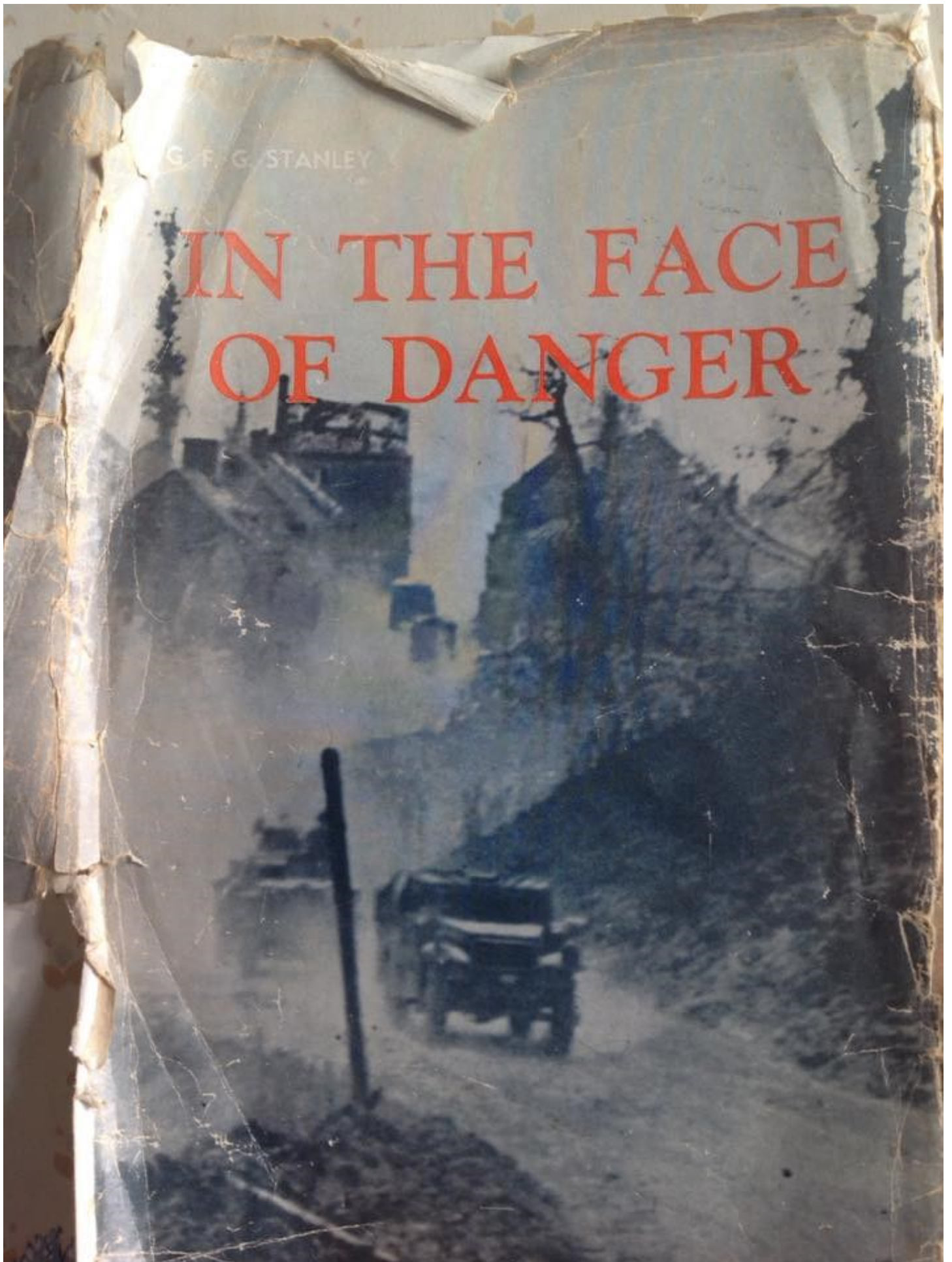


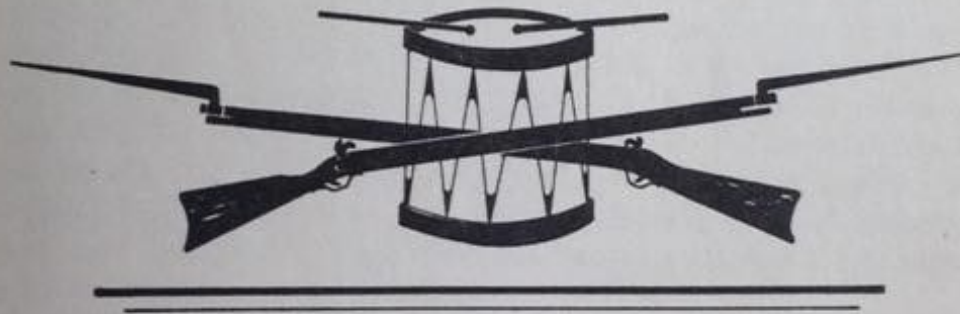
G. F. G. STANLEY

IN THE FACE OF DANGER



IN THE FACE OF DANGER

The History Of
The Lake Superior Regiment



By

Lieut. Colonel George F. G. Stanley

with an introduction by

COLONEL R. A. KEANE

and maps by

MAJOR C. C. J. BOND

published by

THE LAKE SUPERIOR SCOTTISH REGIMENT

PORT ARTHUR, ONTARIO

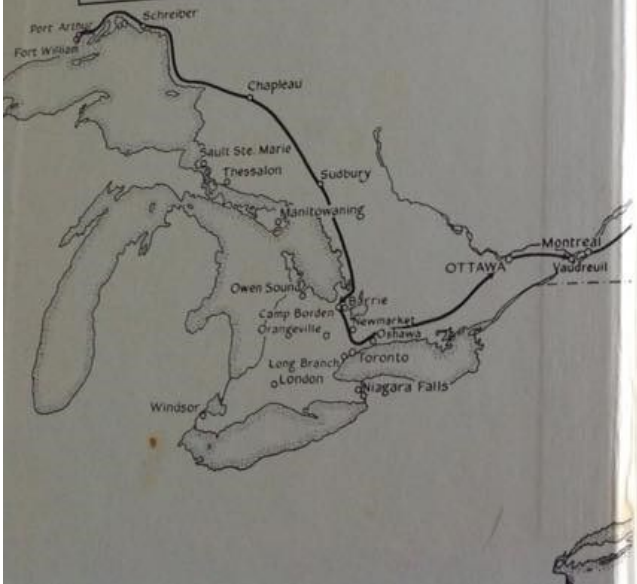
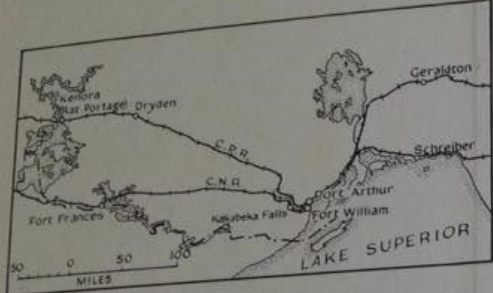
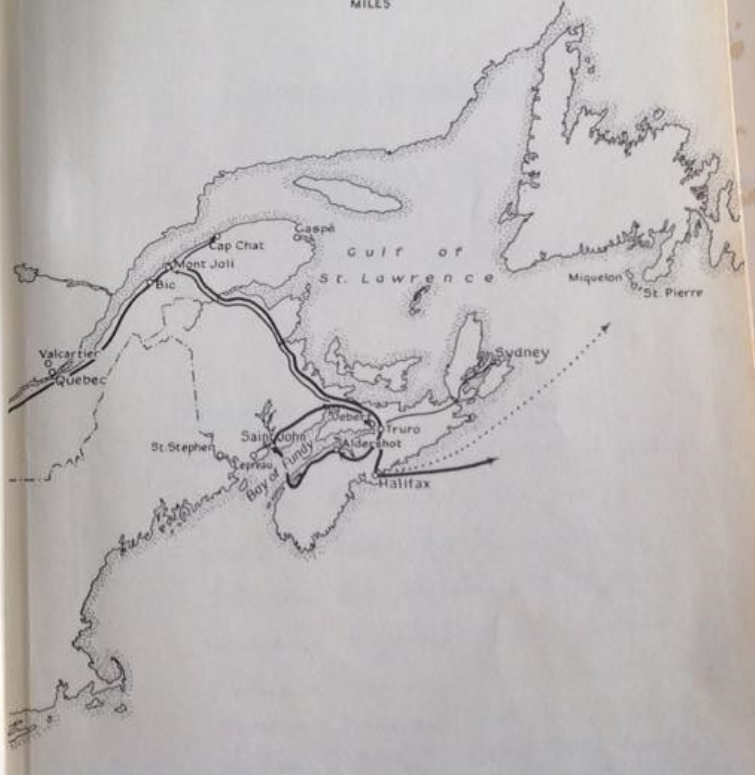
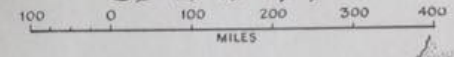
IN THE FACE OF DANGER

Ray Bennett was
Archie Bell Lt Col.

Presented to R. F. Ferguson.

when Chairman of the Cuckfield Urban District Council 1968. At a reception held for the visiting Veterans and relations etc., of the Canadian Regiment when visiting Britain & France - their war time stations. Hayward Heath Area being one of them. Also St. Mary's Hall Brighton!
see page 116 & 112.

THE LAKE SUPERIOR REGIMENT IN CANADA



THE LAKE SUPERIOR REGT
Dark Blue

CANADA
Khaki



Green



(By Permission of the Company of Military Collectors and Historians).
UNIFORMS AND WEAPONS OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR REGIMENT (MOTOR) 1944-55

CAPT. F. ... AND ... BELL, IN ENGLAND



ST. MARY'S HALL, BRIGHTON. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS,
"B" AND "C" COMPANIES WERE QUARTERED HERE, 1943

"B" COMPANY, THE LAKE



SUPERIOR REGIMENT (M) JUNE, 1944

Gale & Patten Ltd., Montreal



Row One—Pvt. G. H. Dorey, Pte. M. J. Dorey, Pte. E. J. Laird, Lt. Col. G. H. Wilson, Pte. M. S. McCreath, Pte. J. J. Wilson, Pte. A. D. Mather, Pte. A. O. Galloway, Pte. P. J. Harte, Pte. W. Deacon, Pte. K. Glendon, Pte. L. Buchanan, Pte. A. Deacon, Pte. C. W. Lumbard, Pte. E. Strathairn, Pte. S. Macdonald, Sgt. J. J. Barry, Cpl. T. M. Leonard, Cpl. S. Zander, Cpl. D. E. Kral, Pte. J. G. Whelan, Cpl. W. D. Gurney, Pte. A. J. Murray, Pte. A. G. R. McLaughlin, Pte. S. Buchanan, Pte. J. J. Tracy, Pte. W. B. Smith, Pte. A. Casterline, Pte. W. E. Greer, Pte. N. H. McLean, Pte. C. Simpson, Pte. J. G. Whelan, Pte. C. Popovich, Pte. J. R. Reid, Pte. J. E. Gray, Pte. L. Samson, Pte. J. J. Jones, Pte. N. D. Macdonald, Pte. M. A. Gillis, Pte. A. L. McKay, Pte. W. Grandbrant, Pte. J. Thompson, Pte. J. T. Kelly, Pte. E. Squire, Pte. D. E. Lynch, Pte. A. J. Christie, Pte. J. H. Fisher, Pte. J. G. Wilson, Pte. J. Lamer, Pte. H. T. Burns, Pte. E. Mac, Pte. A. T. Henderson, Pte. J. P. Powers, Pte. E. Agard, Pte. J. Toland, Pte. Brockhouse, Pte. J. B. Strathairn, Pte. C. D. Vankovitch, Pte. R. A. Foley, Pte. D. Dobson, Pte. R. Woodruff, Pte. S. A. Casterline, Pte. D. W. Deacon, Pte. J. J. Henderson, Pte. J. B. A. Thompson, Pte. J. B. Brown, Pte. N. Reid, Pte. W. B. Harrison, Pte. A. Cowan, Pte. D. C. Kishel, Pte. R. E. Dow, Pte. S. Doolan, Pte. J. L. Taffel, Pte. D. V. Jones, Pte. W. B. J. Smith, Pte. B. A. Thompson, Pte. J. B. Brown, Pte. D. R. Wilson, Pte. J. D. Dyck, Pte. E. Letendre, Pte. J. G. Topork, Pte. J. F. McCann, Pte. R. C. Gerson, Pte. A. Craven, Pte. G. D. Brown, Pte. V. A. Malander, Lt. Col. W. E. McKee, Pte. J. W. Langtry, Lt. Col. W. Lebrun.

Row Two—Pte. C. Brant, Pte. A. J. Harris, Pte. R. H. Nis, Pte. R. Stark, Pte. W. G. Tom, Lt. Col. K. Kozula, Pte. J. Vetrovich, Pte. B. Stewart, Pte. E. A. H. Gillis, Pte. E. C. McNeil, Pte. W. R. Orrin, Pte. M. H. O'Connell, Pte. A. G. Pate, Pte. S. Fisher, Pte. N. E. Wilson, Pte. J. L. Graham, Pte. W. W. Baird, Pte. V. Nelson, Pte. N. L. Skibik, Pte. R. Curran, Pte. W. S. Harrison, Pte. E. Wagner, Pte. A. A. Anderson, Pte. B. Richard, Pte. J. Kozula, Pte. M. R. Hiner, Pte. R. J. Koller, Pte. J. A. Gaudin, Lt. Col. H. Giffiths, Pte. R. A. Carrol, Pte. J. Kolar, Pte. F. J. Norris, Lt. Col. L. B. Lazenby, Pte. R. J. Harrison, Pte. A. A. Eckert, Pte. J. Kozula, Pte. M. L. Gault, Pte. T. Lavigne, Pte. W. J. Sealrock, Lt. Col. J. W. Cook, Pte. D. A. Mason, Pte. W. D. Smith, Pte. C. A. Stasick, Pte. L. A. Mellin, Pte. G. P. Green, Pte. W. D. Galloway, Pte. A. J. L. Fort, Pte. S. Kurik, Pte. O. L. Ferguson.

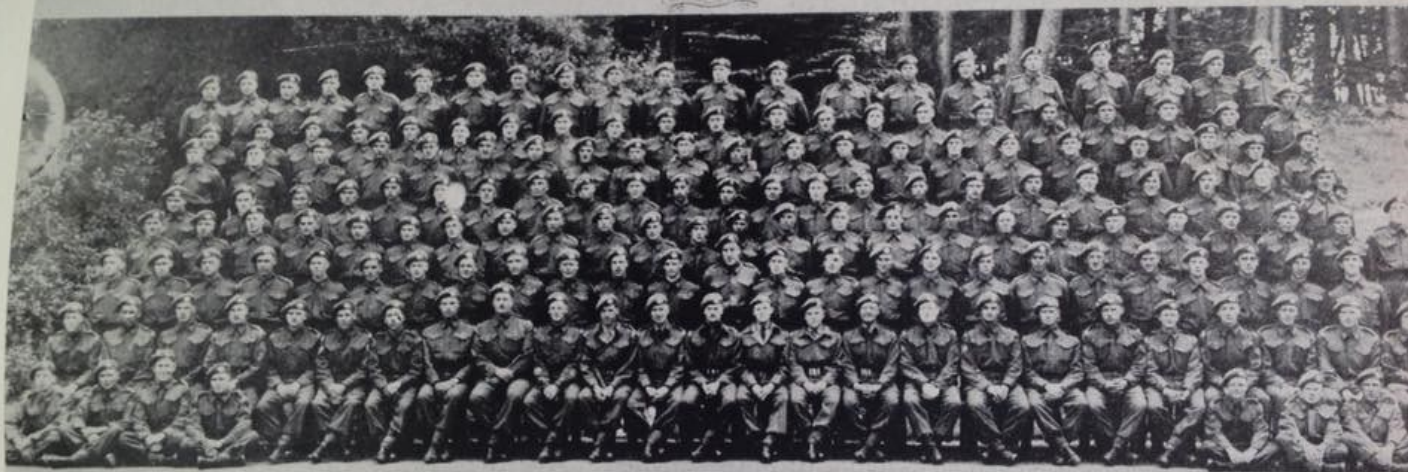
Row Three—Cpl. R. E. Bannock, Cpl. H. Redmond, Cpl. A. J. Crnkovich, Sgt. G. E. Anderson, Sgt. P. M. Doolan, Sgt. A. Ryan, Lt. Sgt. A. Johnson, Lt. Sgt. R. G. Crawford, Sgt. A. J. Emery, C.S.M. H. W. Coker, Lt. J. A. Brown, Cpl. T. H. Kavanagh, Sgt. O. F. Dipietro, Lt. R. Myhr, Lt. B. E. Purvey, Lt. A. Bell, Sgt. K. Walston, Sgt. L. Ballough, Sgt. J. L. Reynolds, Sgt. H. O. Woodcock, Sgt. R. J. Genette, Cpl. J. T. Power, Cpl. M. Rywick, Cpl. W. R. Cox, Cpl. M. B. Shadle.

Gale & Patten Ltd., Montreal

"C" COMPANY, THE LAKE



SUPERIOR REGIMENT (M) JUNE, 1944



Squad One—Pvt. D. E. McLaughlin, Pvt. J. M. West, Pvt. C. J. Lindblom, Pvt. E. J. McLean, Pvt. S. Dorylik, Pvt. C. A. Woodward, Pvt. D. L. Lilley, Pvt. K. N. Graham, Pvt. G. Kordelinski, Pvt. S. R. Tyerman, Pvt. H. J. P.
 Pvt. L. Lantry, Pvt. I. P. Legary, Pvt. M. Norton, Pvt. G. J. LeBane, Pvt. L. Nysson, Pvt. W. A. Perling, Pvt. J. F. Adams, Pvt. P. Schmidt, Pvt. O. A. Pize, Lt. Col. B. E. McKinn.
 Squad Two—Pvt. T. Mohr, Pvt. C. G. Hanny, Pvt. O. A. Wells, Pvt. G. Yandok, Pvt. B. J. Robertson, Pvt. W. McConnell, Pvt. J. H. Viet, Pvt. L. Larose, Pvt. W. W. Walker, Pvt. E. J. Jelen, Pvt. C. A. LaFendahl, Pvt. T. J.
 Pvt. D. J. Ginn, Pvt. E. F. Miller, Lt. Col. H. K. Munro, Pvt. R. Treloar, Lt. Col. A. A. Brown, Lt. Col. W. A. Floty, Lt. Col. T. M. Gorman, Cpl. W. Yandok, Lt. Col. W. G. J. Simpson.
 Squad Three—Pvt. D. Baker, Pvt. W. H. Moore, Pvt. H. W. Mitchell, Pvt. A. Gorman, Pvt. J. Wind, Pvt. E. Chelakovich, Pvt. S. W. Morris, Pvt. M. J. Gilliam, Pvt. J. E. T. Bright, Pvt. W. A. Ritchie, Pvt. H. E. Tandy, Pvt. A.
 Pvt. M. J. Ginn, Pvt. K. A. Wansley, Pvt. H. B. DeWinstler, Pvt. F. W. Tapp, Pvt. J. B. Santa, Pvt. A. G. MacLean, Pvt. S. G. Lee, Pvt. L. Vogel, Pvt. G. W. Hiles.
 Squad Four—Pvt. V. O. Larkson, Pvt. J. D. Campbell, Pvt. A. Warren, Pvt. J. J. Watson, Pvt. E. T. Alpert, Pvt. E. J. Butler, Pvt. H. E. Maahum, Pvt. J. Charrand, Pvt. M. J. Fyvie, Pvt. W. Tye, Pvt. G. A. McKay, Pvt. F. C. J.
 Pvt. J. Ginn, Pvt. J. J. Lee, Pvt. W. Lind, Pvt. S. W. Wright, Pvt. A. F. Jeffrey, Pvt. J. C. Goshin, Pvt. E. J. Beck, Pvt. R. J. Gurr, Pvt. C. P. Helm, Pvt. J. MacDonald, Pvt. A. J. Charrand.
 Squad Five—Pvt. C. Moore, Pvt. B. Tinsley, Pvt. D. DeWinstler, Pvt. J. H. Propp, Pvt. M. Kuller, Pvt. W. L. Hough, Pvt. B. Goff, Pvt. S. Lawinski, Pvt. H. Griffith, Pvt. D. Park, Pvt. D. W. Hovatt, Pvt. M. Loomis, Pvt. S. J. Lee.
 Pvt. J. E. Ginn, Pvt. C. A. Simpson, Pvt. G. Leber, Pvt. J. H. Krywak, Pvt. M. J. Mearns, Pvt. F. Wohlman, Pvt. F. J. Richards, Pvt. W. L. Ginn, Pvt. F. M. Linton, Pvt. A. B. Beck, Lt. Col. E. H. Clark, Cpl. R. D. Greening.
 Squad Six—Pvt. J. Ginn, Pvt. L. K. Hovatt, Pvt. J. Lee, Pvt. H. E. DeWinstler, Pvt. J. F. Larier, Pvt. J. P. Wright, Pvt. E. W. Cassell, Pvt. W. Ginn, Pvt. D. W. Campbell, Pvt. D. Pollard, Pvt. R. T. Barr, Pvt. J. W. G.
 Pvt. E. F. Hovatt, Pvt. R. A. MacDonell, Pvt. A. Wanda, Pvt. A. K. Tyrona, Pvt. R. J. McCann, Pvt. E. H. Gurr, Pvt. E. A. Hovatt, Pvt. W. J. Ginn, Pvt. A. H. Walker, Pvt. L. Schindler, Pvt. J. Yalock.
 Squad Seven—Pvt. R. Lee, Cpl. E. T. Lantry, Cpl. J. Mitchell, Lt. Col. B. J. G. Connor, Sgt. J. V. Bennett, Sgt. E. R. Hill, Lt. Col. W. Moore, Sgt. P. G. Hovatt, Cpl. R. W. D. Clark, Lt. Col. V. H. Clark.
 Lt. Col. R. D. MacKinn, Major E. W. Ginn, Lt. Col. F. H. Smith, Lt. Col. B. A. Anderson, Lt. Col. G. E. Murray, Cpl. M. S. H. W. L. DeWinstler, Sgt. C. J. DeWinstler, Sgt. H. Hovatt, Sgt. R. J. Dugal, J. Sgt. P. T. Hovatt.
 Squad Eight—Cpl. W. J. Ginn, Cpl. E. W. Tyrona, Cpl. G. H. Hovatt, Cpl. K. W. Mark, Cpl. W. T. Johnson, Cpl. J. E. Mitchell, Cpl. F. Hovatt, Cpl. M. J. DeWinstler.

In the middle of February instructions were issued that The Lake Superior Regiment, along with the regiments of the 4th Armoured Brigade, would move from the Farnham-Aldershot-Hindhead area to new billets on the coast of Sussex. Every effort was made by the Lake Sups to keep their change a complete secret, but, with the unit lines crawling with officers and men from the South Alberta Regiment (29th Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment), the news was soon common knowledge to all ranks. On February 19th the battalion moved in convoy to Brighton. The actual move was something of a Quartermaster's nightmare. It was not so much that the drivers forgot their training and bunched their vehicles, or that the road was blocked and the convoy was obliged to follow an uncharted detour; but rather that the number of vehicles available was scarcely sufficient to carry both the men and their accumulated equipment. In the end it proved necessary to make two journeys, the last being to pick up three truck loads of live ammunition which had, only two days before, been sent to the battalion by the headquarters of the 4th Armoured Brigade.

In Brighton the Lake Superiors were quartered at St. Mary's Hall (Battalion Headquarters, "A" and "B" Companies), Arundel House (Headquarters Company), Hilary House ("C" Company) and the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb ("D" Company). The battalion parade square was in the grounds of Brighton College.

The new location was something of a contrast to what the men had known at Frensham. With its sandy beaches, its long piers, its King's Road and its Marine Drive, and its absurd oriental pavilion erected by a dropsical George IV, Brighton was a town of new sights and new interests. With its multitude of pubs, its cinemas, and its night clubs, it was a town of new entertainments, and new temptations. Distractions and discipline never go well in double harness. Associated in the minds of both its pre-war visitors and its war-time occupants, with kings and mistresses, lords and ladies, Brighton was, however, not without its military memories. Here was buried the fabulous Phoebe Hessel, a woman who had served for years in the ranks as a private soldier; here had been located the batteries that protected English fishing craft from the depredations of the French

privateers; here were stationed the 10th Hussars when the long French wars had begun in 1793; here were still to be seen the evidences of more recent threats, the tank traps, the barbed wire, the mines, and the many anti-aircraft guns with their muzzles forever pointed towards the skies. On a clear day, from a tall building, one could catch through the blue haze, a filmy glimpse of the coast of German-held France.

But the threats of invasion in the spring of 1943 were no longer very real. The 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade was, according to its instructions, responsible for the defence of Brighton and the surrounding area. But the Lake Superiors and the infantry regiments were there for training and not for garrison duty. They were responsible merely for the protection of their own billets and their own vehicle parks. The real emphasis was upon training. During March and April Lieutenant-Colonel Ibbott bore down heavily upon the officers and men of every company in the battalion. With the exception of a few individuals, none of the units of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division was in a state of readiness to participate in the army manoeuvres known as "Spartan". These manoeuvres, described by the *Times* as "the greatest offensive exercise ever staged in the military history of these Islands", were, in fact, a dress rehearsal of the role that the Canadians had tentatively been assigned in the invasion of Europe. But the 4th Division was not yet prepared to take its place alongside the other formations of First Canadian Army. The various battalions were still carrying on training on a unit basis, and some, like the Lake Superiors, were in fact, obliged to return, for a brief period, to individual training in order to finish the task which ought to have been completed by the end of 1942. However, in May came a return to collective training with assault boat exercises on Pilt Down Lake; firing the new P.I.A.T. and the British Sten with which the American Tommy gun had been replaced; digging weapon pits and stringing wire under the biting comments of the Royal Canadian Engineers; bivouacs on the Downs; and demonstrations of German weapons and techniques.

That training had not made greater headway, and more rapid, was not entirely the fault of the officers and the men of The Lake Superior Regiment. It may be true that more pressure could, and ought to have been applied, both upon the men and the instructors during those early months in Great Britain; but it was equally true that the continual shortage of manpower hung like a weight upon the progress of the training schedule. The battalion had almost reached

its full establishment immediately prior to its departure from Canada; but every week in England saw a steady drain upon the unit strength through postings on command or courses, injuries,¹ hospitalizations, and the return to Canada of overage or unfit personnel.

This manpower problem was by no means peculiar to the Lake Superiors. In more or less degree it troubled every unit in the whole of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division. Canadian Military Headquarters had laid it down as policy that the units of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Canadian Divisions, as the formations most ready to take the field, were to receive preference in the matter of reinforcements. For the present the 4th Armoured would have to get along as best it could. Visits by the Adjutant to No. 2 Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit, and by the commanding officer and Major Murrell to London, had no appreciable effect upon the flow of men to the Lake Superiors. From time to time small drafts were received, or men who had previously been posted from the battalion finally returned to it, but some months were to elapse before reinforcements arrived in real numbers to strengthen the dwindling ranks. And this was not a problem which was to be limited to a few months in 1943. It was one which plagued the regiment during the whole of its three years overseas.

There were interludes — breaks from the steady routine of training. Breaks when the men of the battalion were paraded for the benefit of some Distinguished Visitor; breaks when the new brigade commander, Brigadier J. D. B. Smith, held brigade sports competitions; breaks when enemy aircraft darted overhead gunning and bombing as they went; breaks that came from a too ready yielding to the pleasures and temptations of a town whose lively Georgian history belied the staidness of its Georgian architecture.

Towards the end of April Lieutenant-General H. D. G. Crerar, commanding the 1st Canadian Corps, visited Brighton to watch a demonstration of a company in quick attack, and motorcycling across country. He declared that the Lake Superiors put on the best of any such demonstrations that he had seen throughout the Division. Two days later, Lieutenant-General E. W. Sansom, commanding the 2nd Canadian Corps, along with ten mayors of neighbouring towns, came to watch another demonstration. They, too, went away

¹ During February, 1943 the battalion averaged one motor accident every two days. In March there were ten accidents, eight of them involving motorcycles. On May 11th Pte. V. G. Laitila was killed in a motorcycle accident. He was buried in Brookwood Canadian Military Cemetery.

pleased. Then, on May 19th, came H. R. H. the Duke of Gloucester, to witness a demonstration of tank warfare put on by the Canadian Grenadier Guards. He could not see very much for the dust; but he did see the sunburned faces of the Lake Superiors as they lined the route along which he travelled. The Duke could hardly have been aware of the fact, but these were the first cases of sunburn in the battalion since the days of the long march from Ottawa to Vaudreuil.

Early in June the first of several brigade track and field competitions was held. It was a welcome change and one which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the troops. The event was held at the Hove Dog racing track, and all units of the 4th Armoured Brigade were represented by two teams. Both the "Bearcats" and the "Thistles", entered by The Lake Superior Regiment, did well. The first team, in particular, fought a ding-dong battle with the "Grenadiers" of the 22nd Armoured Regiment; and, when the dust had settled, it was found that the "Bearcats" had edged out the "Grenadiers" by 175 points to 166 for the brigade championship. The "Thistles" took fourth place in the brigade standing. These achievements were received with tremendous enthusiasm by the boys from the Lakehead — although, as they were disposed modestly to admit to one another, it proved what they already knew of their athletic prowess from the competition at Debart. The members of the winning team were, Sergeant Essery, Captain; and team members Sergeant C. J. Barnes, Corporals W. Fox, R. H. Reeve, M. Krewiak, and Privates J. Vost, E. Pruden, D. P. Gaunt, T. Janaska, D. Nisbet and R. J. Ditchfield.

The Brighton stay was not all a matter of work and games. Situated as it was on the south coast of England within a few minutes flying distance of the Continent, the town was exposed to frequent hit and run raids by German fighter-bombers. It was a simple matter for planes to speed, low, across the Channel, their wings almost touching the water, then to swoop upwards over the town, to loose their bombs, fire a few bursts from their machine guns, and then hurry away again before the defending planes could take to the air. During March and April there were several alerts in Brighton. There were some casualties, but none among the Canadian soldiers stationed in the neighbourhood. On April 29th Private C. P. Repp of "C" Company emptied his rifle at a speeding raider. His flying bullets may not have come any nearer their objective than did the shots fired by the cooks and clerks still en-

deavouring to qualify on the range, but at least he could claim the distinction of being the first Lake Superior to fire a hostile shot at the enemy.

Of all the raids upon Brighton, and they were frequent enough during these mid-years of the war, one of the most serious was that which occurred on May 25th. The German radio had announced several weeks previously, through the nasal, penetrating voice of William Joyce, Lord Haw Haw, the American-born Irishman who had left England to join the National Socialist Party, that German planes would soon make it hot for "Worthington's circus". And they did. Shortly after the noon hour had sounded, some twenty fighter-bombers, F. W.s 190, struck at Brighton. The vehicles of the Lake Superiors, Bren carriers, trucks, cars, motorcycles, were packed in the streets and in the parking areas and there was no time to move them to shelter. For about ten minutes the German planes flew up and down, bombing and strafing as they went. The area immediately adjacent Battalion Headquarters was badly jarred and the building adjoining St. Mary's Hall was damaged by a falling bomb. Headquarters Company at Arundel Place was also mauled by cannon and machine gun fire.

The men were at lunch when the raiders arrived. But no sooner did the planes depart than they went into action. The local A. R. P. took some time to get organized, and it was a group of Lake Superiors under Sergeant C. J. Barnes who first began to dig the victims out of the ruins and the rubble. So feverishly did they work that, at St. Mary's Hall, they managed to extract three casualties from the pile of jagged brick, crumbling plaster and broken glass, before the A. R. P. men had arrived upon the scene. Similar incidents took place in other parts of Brighton as the officers took hold of the situation and organized rescue squads. The work continued throughout the afternoon and well into the night. The following day a party under Captain Mackenzie was still digging. They unearthed an old man, 79 years of age, but "still alive and swearing a blue streak". The civilian casualties were numerous, estimates of those killed running as high as two hundred. Fortunately, only fourteen Canadians lost their lives, and of these none were members of The Lake Superior Regiment. Neither soldiers nor civilians would readily forget the raid of May 25th; and the people of Brighton gratefully expressed their thanks for the help and friendly sympathy given them by the Canadian soldiers in their midst.

IV

The Lake Superiors, like all other Canadian troops in England, were greatly stirred by the news that the 1st Canadian Division had landed on the wind swept shores of southern Sicily. The very fact that Canadian troops had finally come to grips with the enemy seemed to those still training in England, to bring a little closer, the day when they too would be in the battle line.

Meanwhile, there was the endless round of exercises, demonstrations, range firing, lectures, and the other daily routines of postings and orderly room parades. And, finally, the preparations for another move. Not that another move was unpopular with the officers of the Lake Superiors. Brighton had provided them with its own special set of problems, not the least of which were the scattered quarters and the consequent heavy drain upon each company of men for daily fatigue duties. Under the goading of the commanding officer, every effort had been made to cut these to the limit, for there could be no let-up in training. But, training or not, there was a point beyond which no further reductions in the fatigues could be made consistent with the maintenance of satisfactory living conditions. The new move did not, however, involve much in the way of change, either of scenery, or of conditions. On August 12th the Lake Superiors mounted their vehicles and travelled west along the coastal road, as far as Worthing. The latter town was only ten miles distant from Brighton, and so could be reached easily and without delay.

In its early days Worthing had been a small and insignificant fishing village. Only after the patronage of the Princesses Amelia and Charlotte at the beginning of the nineteenth century, did it develop into the fashionable watering place it later became. Encircled on the north and north-east by the Sussex Downs, and on the south by the white sands of the English Channel, it was, when war broke out in 1939, a staid little place, filled with old ladies and retired colonels, the even tenor of whose ways was maintained with the greatest difficulty in the turmoil of threatened invasion and constant movements of soldiery.

The new quarters in Worthing were not to the liking of the troops. Not only were they in a filthy condition when the Lake Superiors moved into them, but there were all too few washing facilities available for the men. But they did have certain advantages. The billets were near enough to each other to make possible a closer supervision over training and discipline. The men were located in

the Cavendish and Cumberland hotels while the officers' quarters were to be found at Greypoint on Heene Road, and at No. 6-10, Wordsworth Road. A battalion officers' mess was established at Greypoint, enabling all the officers to dine together for the first time since the departure of the battalion from Debert, just twelve months before.

The change in location meant little as far as the routine of training and administration was concerned. It was back again to a period of individual training, with special emphasis upon mine clearing, practical first aid, and motorcycling. But this did not last long. The battalion had been promised its full quota of vehicles before mid-September when it was expected that the Lake Superiors would begin formation training at all three levels, battalion, brigade, and division. This would be the final phase before the unit would see action. And as if to emphasize the serious nature of the new phase, Canadian Military Headquarters began the task of finger-printing and photographing each and every man of the battalion.

On August 26th came a surprise. Lieutenant J. W. Maltby and a detachment of seventy-five reinforcements arrived from No. 2 Canadian Reinforcement Battalion.

They had been much impressed with the exercise and they felt that, perhaps, the constant hammering upon the fundamentals during so many long months had not, after all, been wasted effort. The men from Thunder Bay had proven themselves battleworthy.

III

The 4th Canadian Armoured Division was now finished with Norfolk and the damp, fern-covered wastes of the Brecklands. On November 10th, the various units of the division began making their way southwards to several different destinations in Sussex. A few days later the Lake Superiors moved into quarters at Borde Hill, near Hayward's Heath. Here the battalion was to spend its last winter in England. It was a muddy spot; but that did not matter greatly, for Hayward's Heath was not far distant from Brighton, and that fact, in itself, was sufficient to commend the new camp to the men.

The second Christmas overseas was a comparatively quiet one. Few there were who questioned that it would be the last that the

