

# More Troops Reach Italy To Bolster Canadians

By DOUGLAS AMARON

**With the Canadian Forces in Italy, Nov. 13 (Delayed) (CP). —** Shipboard meals with white bread, fresh eggs and fruit, steaks and other appetizers provided a welcome change from rationed Britain to Canadian Army formations sailing to Italy to join their comrades of the 1st Division in a newly formed Canadian Corps.

The Canadians, including nursing sisters for a general hospital, sailed directly from Britain to Italy and proceeded to camps to await their turn to go into battle.

I travelled in one of the many troopships which brought the large contingent through the Atlantic and the not-so-blue Mediterranean. Personnel from the general hospital, miscellaneous specialists and reinforcement troops were aboard the same ship.

During the first few days of the voyage on the stormy Atlantic probably half the men and women missed at least one meal, but after that the weather was fine and, despite cramped quarters, regular day-to-day shipboard life prevailed.

## **They Get Sauerkraut,**

Movies, concerts and quiz competitions helped pass the time while passengers kept posted on world news through a daily newspaper. A church service was conducted daily by one of the several Canadian

padres aboard. Lecture courses on languages of Mediterranean countries filled many long hours.

The senior officer was a brigadier from Toronto, while the officer commanding the hospital was a Montreal colonel. Major Blanche Herman of Lunenburg, N.S., who celebrated her birthday en route, is the matron of the hospital. Nursing sisters included Esther Hopper, Evelyn Elliott, Madeleine Taylor, Francis Skeep, Lillian Payne, Margaret Redman and Ida Mackay of Montreal, Elsa Turnbull of Ottawa and Gerry Fitzgerald of St. John's, Nfld.

Capt. Monroe Bourne of Montreal, a former Olympic swimmer, was one of the hospital medical officers aboard. Others included Majors G. W. Halpenny, Gordon Copping, Eric MacNaughton and Jules Gosselin of Montreal and Capts. Stanley Reid and Tam Fyshe, also of Montreal.

Copping had to leave behind in England his bride of a few days.

Major Eddie Bourke of Montreal looked after dental ailments during the voyage and was helped by Capt. Dan Harper of Waterloo, Ont., whose happiest moments came when sauerkraut was served at two meals. Major Palmer Howard, another of the many Montrealers aboard, headed a field hygiene unit.

## **Help Man Ship's Guns.**

Reinforcement personnel included Captains Don Hastings, Winnipeg; Cecil Green, Brockville, Ont.; Norman McMillen, Sarnia, Ont.; J. G. McCubbin, Chatham, Ont.; Lieutenants Ray Williams, Medicine Hat, Alta.; George Kerwin, Ottawa; J. B. Meunier, Montreal.

Included in a public relations detachment were Capt. J. E. R. McDougall, Montreal; Lt. Bob Campbell, Ottawa. Also in the contingent were Art Holmes of Toronto and Lloyd Moore of Richmond, Que., both CBC technicians. The public relations party and correspondents were in charge of Capt. M. W. Rawlinson of Toronto. He also had many reinforcement officers under his charge.

Another larger battalion for the reinforcement depot had as adjutant Lt. John Bassett of Montreal.

Capt. Alan McKay of Montreal commanded one of the companies of this battalion, while the NCO's included L. Cpl. Eugene Bruetsch of Montreal, Staff Sgt. A. T. McLean, Tottenham, Ont.

Among the padres was Capt. G. W. H. Medley of Simcoe and Paris, Ont., who was an artillery sergeant before joining the chaplains service. Nelson McMurde of Kamloops, B.C., was one of the auxiliary officers who issued free cigarets to the troops during the voyage.

The Canadians helped man the ships' guns, with the officers in charge Lieuts. Paul Brunet and George Walter, Montreal; Bud Green and Joe Forbes, Toronto; G. C. Russell, Moose Jaw, Sask., and John Brooks, New York.

Their men included Sgts. H. C. Winterford, Vancouver; Louis Black, Toronto; George Herrod, Yorkton, Sask.; Tprs. Robert Grant, Debec, N.B.; Edwin McDonald, Moncton, N.B.; Abe Leibson, Fred Damour and Bud Champaigne, Montreal; Rene Marcotte, Verdun, Que.; Clarence Hoffman and Herb Berthelot, Toronto; Harold Clark, Hamilton, Ont.; Lloyd Dennis, London, Ont.; Ellis Hansen and Morris Cretain, Winnipeg; Walter Bell, Estevan, Sask.; Bill Harper, Calgary; Bert Goodwin, Taylor, B.C.; Bill Bowen and Walter Goodall, Vancouver.

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