

CANADA'S "PANZER MEN" HERELARGEST CONVOY YET

Sanson's "Rough-Riders" - Canadian panzer men - have landed in Britain from the largest convoy of Canadian troops that has so far crossed the Atlantic.

The convoy had an uneventful passage, and in landing these highly trained men a new victory in the Battle of the Atlantic was achieved.

Completing Canada's Armoured Division in Britain, and bringing far beyond the hundred thousand mark the number of Canadian volunteers who have left their country for service overseas, this new contingent represents the Dominion's grim determination to fight this war to a finish.

The men are likened by their General Officer Commanding - Major-General E.W. Sanson, D.S.O. - to a professional Rugby team in which there is no place for the weak or faint-hearted, but only for the tough, the keen, and the strong.

In the convoy were thousands of men for the Armoured Units and for the many specialised services. There were engineers, artillerymen, signalmen, doctors, pay clerks, Army Service Corps personnel, ordnance men - men from every Province in Canada. In addition there were reinforcements for Units of the three Canadian Divisions already in Britain, more Canadian nurses and Canadian girls trained and experienced as drivers to join the F.A.N.Y.s and R.C.A.F. personnel.

The scene resembled the landing of many other Canadian troops. There were the cheers, the impromptu band concerts on board ship, the wisecracks and questions flung from the tightly-packed decks. There was the usual scramble for Canadian "pennies".

Those welcoming the Canadians included Rear-Admiral Sir Arthur Bronley, representing the Secretary of State for the Dominions, General Sir Robert Gordon-Finlayson, for the Secretary of State for War, and Trade Commissioner A.E. Bryan, representing the Canadian High Commissioner.

The following is a statement made by General Sanson on disembarkation in Great Britain:

"In reporting the safe arrival in the United Kingdom of the final flight of Canada's Armoured Division, I desire to express the sincere and heartfelt thanks of officers and soldiers alike to all those who assisted in our safe conduct across the Atlantic.

"The steadfast devotion to duty of our comrades in the Royal Navy, Royal Canadian Navy and the Mercantile Marine has been an example and an inspiration to us all which we shall not soon forget.

"We thank then and also the Royal Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force for their untiring watchfulness and protection.

"We, whom they convoyed and guarded so securely, are a group of professionals. An armoured division is like a professional rugby team in which there is no place for the weak or faint-hearted, but only the tough, the fit, the keen and the strong. Knowing this, and as free and freedom loving individuals, these men voluntarily relinquished their amateur status, turned professional and joined the training camp of the Canadian Armoured Division.

"With an abiding faith in the justice of the cause upon which we are embarked, which is the cause of all free peoples in each hemisphere, they resolved to submit wholeheartedly to the tough training required to prepare the team for the fight to come.

"There is still much to be done, much hard training to be endured, much skill to be acquired to enable us to handle the 500,000 horsepower which impels the division's fighting machinery and to keep it all in operation.

"It is to this task we now apply ourselves in preparation for the day when our training is completed and we are called upon to break the German line as the spearhead of Canada's armed forces side by side with our allied comrades-in-arms.

"Knowing the spirit of my men and their skilled quality I am confident that when the whistle blows for the kick-off, Sanson's "Rough Riders" will be ready to tackle any Panzer aggregation. They will open holes in the enemy's lines, hit hard and often, manoeuvre, fight and endure until the enemy is driven battered and beaten from the field resolved to fight no more."