

# Island Artillery Units Achieved Fine Record In Service Overseas

The following account of the two Island Batteries, the 2nd Medium and the 8th Medium, has been prepared in connection with the return of the units from overseas before World War II, in which they took creditable part, the two Medium Artillery Batteries, the 2nd and 8th formed the 1st P. E. I. Medium Brigade with headquarters in Charlottetown. At the time of mobilization for war, which took place on Sept. 2, 1939, the officer commanding the Brigade was Lt.-Col. P. S. Fielding, M. M.

### 2ND MEDIUM BATTERY

On mobilization, the 2nd Medium Battery, as did also the 8th, trained and were quartered for a short time at the Exhibition buildings and grounds. From there they proceeded to Beach Grove Inn, where general training was carried out until January 24, 1940, when the 2nd Battery left for England to embark for overseas. The officers at this time were: Major George W. Craig, Capt. (now Major) J. W. Andrew, Lt. (now Major) D. L. Mathison, Lt. (now Major) Archibald D. Douglas, Lt. Stewart G. Ives. The 2nd Battery, on leaving Charlottetown, was 175 all ranks. They sailed on S. S. Aquitania, landing at Grenock, Scotland, February 8th. En route overseas the 2nd Battery together with the 7th from Montreal, the 3rd from Toronto and the 3rd from Kingston, a Permanent Force Battery was organized into the 1st Medium Regiment, consisting of two batteries, 2/7th Battery and the 3/23rd Battery. From Grenock they proceeded to Borden, Hants, England, where they did basic training. In May they left Borden for Redesdale where the battery spent three weeks in training manoeuvres and shooting. It then went to North Park Sandstead, Surrey, where it spent from June till September on combined schemes and battle practice. From there they went to billets in East Hoveley, Sept. 26th, where they continued to train. Here the members of the battery were treated royally by the people whom they came to know and like very well indeed. The battery was recognized with 58 guns and thence in June, 1940, to Caterham near Croydon. Here an inter-regiment competition was held in general effect, snipe shooting practice, etc. In this the 2nd Medium Battery took top honours, winning a regimental challenge cup and 2nd Battery challenge cup. The gun crew was composed wholly of Islanders commanded by Sgt. J. B. Shelton, now Battery Sgt.-Maj. Shelton.

### Tough Training

September, 1942, the Battery moved to Burton on the outskirts of London. It may be said in passing that the hospitality of the Cook Hotel in Sutton was much enjoyed by the Islanders. In July, 1942, they went to Donley Hill, near Donnington, for a shortening-up course. This, it may be said, was more than usually "tough" training. Finally on October 23rd the unit packed out for Grenock where they boarded S. S. E. B. Alexander, an American vessel of 10,000 tons, on October 26th and sailed the same day for the Mediterranean. On this ship the battery had the best food they had since they left the Island, and received the first white bread they had seen in two years. "Never was there a happier group of men," he said. The voyage was without incident until just after they had passed Gibraltar. The convoy was attacked by German torpedo bombers. The attack lasted twenty minutes and a "seesaw" and one of the troop ships were hit and sunk. They disembarked in Augusta, Sicily, Nov. 26th, 1942. Here they took over the worn and battered and worn equipment of the 51st Highland Division, a formation of the famous "Desert Rats". This equipment had been used all through the North African Campaign from Alexandria to Sicily. They received this equipment at a place called Forlia. They then went into action with the American Fifth Army at Velletri, ten miles from Cassino, where, as will be remembered, the fighting for this town which was strongly held by the Germans, and very difficult to take, was extremely heavy. Sgt. Bill Bennis fired the first shot from the battery and indeed from the whole 1st Medium Regiment. Here, too, they received their first dose of hostile shell fire which wounded two signallers. The food here also, which was served by the American Army, was excellent. They passed from the Fifth Army on December 21st and camped near a place called Lariano, a typical smelly Italian town, where they spent Christmas. They went into action again, this time on the Eighth Army (Desert Rats) front at San Leonardo, on Jan. 8th, 1944, just a little late for the great battle of Ortona. From now on, the battery received a good deal of heavy shelling.

### At Cassino Line

The next position was at the Cassino Line facing Aquino, opening fire on May 11th. At this time Lt.-Col. P. S. Fielding won the Military Medal. They followed along with the 8th Army through Italy, to the Gothic Line where severe battles were fought, and went out on rest at a place called Cesenatico. They again went into action on Nov. 26th at a place called Cecina, where they continued in action till Christmas, 1944, and again went out to rest to Riccione on that day. On March 11th the unit boarded the French Luxury Liner Ville d'Oron at Naples, where they sailed on the same date, landing at Mar-

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### into action against German air craft.

After quite a long time at Tilbury the battery left for Colchester to take mobile training again, this time with the 1st Canadian Anti-Aircraft Brigade. From there they went to the south of England where they were alternately on various training and operational commitments. They also did a good deal of anti-tank training in the role of regular Medium Artillery. Towards the end of July, 1944, they went to France and were in action at various places in France, Belgium and Germany. For some time they took part in the siege of Dunkirk, at this time occupied by a hold-out garrison of Germans who, it will be recalled, put up quite a stubborn defence.

### Notes

Lt.-Col. Peake became 2 1/2 of the Regiment in February, 1942 and was succeeded by Major J. R. Hyde, Montreal, as O. C. 8th Battery. Major Eric looked over the Regiment to France and remained in command till the spring of 1945 when he was succeeded by the 3rd Lt. A. A. Regiment to the command and was O.C. of this unit till a month ago. Lt. (now Major) Gordon Williams left the Battery in June, 1941, to become Battery Captain of the 11th A. A. Battery in the same Regiment. He left the Regiment in February, 1942, to command the 4th Light A. A. Battery which was armed with 40 m.m. Bo guns. Capt. (now Major) Howard Courty returned from England to Dartmouth, N. S., in 1942. Here he commanded an anti-aircraft battery. Lt. (now Capt.) R. Arsenault left the Battery in Petawawa where he became Battery Captain of the 11th A. A. Battery in the same Regiment. Lt. Winston Smith remained with the 8th Battery until some time in 1942 when he was posted to Medium Battery reinforcement group in the Mediterranean theatre.

### LOYAL PATRONS GIVEN PARTY

LONDON, Sept. 25. (CP) — Dark memories of the dince years when sirens wailed and flying bombs fell were wiped away for a group of London women when their group threw a party. And what a party it was! Miss Esther Gibbins of Walworth and her partner, Miss Florence Lee, decided they should do something for the customers who had stuck with them all through the rocky storm. At nine o'clock the door opened, and in trooped the customers, and they had their ration books, but this time they did not mean as

## Province Of Prince Edward Island PROCLAMATION

2nd Medium Battery  
8th Heavy A. A. Battery  
2nd Cdn. Corps Def. Plat.  
(P. E. I. L.H.)

HOME COMING OF

These two Island Batteries and the detachment from the P. E. Island Light Horse are returning home after long years of strenuous service overseas. The gallant officers and men of these units who have so worthily represented our Province in the Canadian Army are now entitled to the warmest welcome we can give them. I therefore call upon all citizens of our towns and city to decorate their homes and places of business with flags, hunting, streamers, etc., and I request that all public buildings, banks, etc., be suitably decorated. I particularly desire that flags be flown on all homes on the dates of arrival of these units.

Public Notice will be given as to such dates. At the present time it is expected the units will arrive separately and plans are being made for a welcome for each.

I therefore call upon all citizens to co-operate with the Reception Committee to participate in welcoming home these gallant and famous units.

Dated this 26th day of September, A.D., 1945.

(Signed) J. A. BERNARD,  
Lieutenant-Governor.

9-27-31.

### CANADA PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

#### IN THE PROBATE COURT

The 8th day of September, A.D. 1945.

In Re Estate of Mary Jane McMillan late of Charlottetown in the County of Queens County of the said Province, Widow, deceased, testate.

To the Sheriff of the County of Queens County or any Constable or Literate person within said County.

GREETING:

WHEREAS upon reading the petition on file of James J. Johnston of Charlottetown aforesaid, Barrister, the Executor of the above named Estate praying that a citation may be issued for the purpose hereinafter set forth: You are therefore hereby required to cite all persons interested in the said Estate to be and appear before the Judge present at a Probate Court to be held in the Court House in Charlottetown in Queens

County, in the said Province, on Thursday the Eighteenth day of October next coming, at the hour of eleven o'clock forenoon of the same day to show cause if any they can why the Accounts of the said Estate should not be passed and the Estate closed as prayed for in said petition and on motion of James B. Johnston, Esq., Proctor for said Petitioner.

And it is hereby ordered that a true copy hereof be forthwith published in some newspaper published in Charlottetown aforesaid once in each week for at least four consecutive weeks from the date hereof and that a true copy hereof be forthwith posted in the following public places respectively: namely, in the hall of the Court House in Charlottetown aforesaid, at or near the Bank of Nova Scotia in Charlottetown aforesaid, and at or near the Royal Bank of Canada in Charlottetown aforesaid so that all persons interested in the said Estate as aforesaid may have due notice thereof.

WITNESS His Honour Harold Leonard Palmer, Judge of the said Probate Court at Charlottetown aforesaid, the day and year first above written.

By the Court,  
(SGD.) E. MARGARET PALMER,  
Registrar.

(SEAL)  
9-14, 21, 28, 10, 5, 4.



K. T. Jutila, above, former Finnish minister of agriculture, has been approved by Washington as Finland's new minister to the U.S. The White House sent to the Senate the nomination of Maxwell Hamilton to be U. S. minister to Finland in re-establishment of diplomatic relations broken in the summer of 1944.

## NOTICE

### 2nd and 8th Battery Members

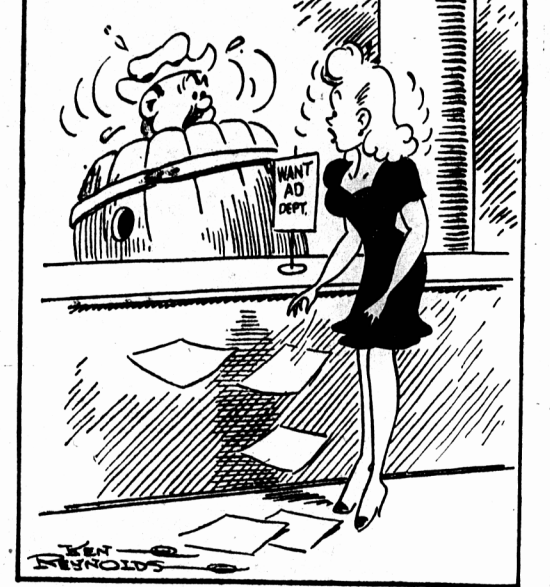
All returned members of the above two batteries, both those discharged and those still in the service, are asked to parade on arrival of the batteries from overseas at a date to be announced later this month. You will receive 12 hours' notice at least by newspaper and radio. Since this may be the last time the full batteries may ever be together, every man is asked to make a special effort to attend this final parade in honor of our units.

Dress: Officers, serge; other ranks, battle dress.  
NOTE:—Place of parade for former members: If fine, at the Forum; If wet at Drill Shed. Time of parade will be announced over radio and through the press.

9-21, 24, 26, 28

### QUICKIES

By Ken Reynolds



"My wife placed a Guardian Want Ad to sell some old clothes — I want to cancel it before it's too late!"

# SENSATIONAL JET PLANE

## FUELED BY IMPERIAL OIL



The British "Meteor" jet fighter plane now in Canada for experimental work by the R.C.A.F. is the first plane of its kind to be seen by Canadians. The Meteor is literally pushed through the air at terrific speed by a tornado of hot gases escaping behind it. The gases are produced by the combustion of fuel and compressed air.

The power plant of this revolutionary type aircraft is a Rolls Royce Derwent jet turbine engine. The special Intava Turbo Fuel which is burned in the engine was produced in the laboratory and refinery of Imperial Oil Limited and is the first such fuel used in aircraft in Canada. Intava Lubricants, supplied by Imperial Oil, are used exclusively in the Meteor.



# IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED

**INDIGESTION**  
After over-eating—take  
**ABBEY'S**  
Health Salt

The battery was for some little time in that position before it came