

Reception Committee

F/O F. B. Moore, Chairman

Mayor H. W. Halladay

Captain J. Drever

Captain R. W. E. Tetley, O.C. 2-78th (R) Battery, R.C.A.

Lt.-Col. R. C. Lister, M.C., M.M., E.D.

Q.M.S. R. W. Morton

Mrs. Isobel Sim

Mrs. Mary Harvie

Major R. S. Gillespie, M.C.



Arrival and Procedure

Arrive C.P.R. Station, Red Deer.

Form up on Station Platform.

Address of Welcome by His Worship the Mayor.

Short Parade Down Ross Street.

Introduction of Members of the Executive of the
13th Field Regiment Auxiliary.

Dismiss to Canadian Legion Club Rooms, where a buffet
lunch will be served to the members of the
Battery and their relatives.

Address of Welcome

Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men
78th Battery, R.C.A.

It is five and a half years since this unit left Red Deer en route for the European theatre of war.

Many changes have taken place since that time. These years so recently past, were trying years. They were years of hardship, doubt and uncertainty. You met the test on the battlefields of Europe, from Normandy's beaches to the Rhine. You acquitted yourselves like men. We are proud of your record. We rejoice with those of you who have returned to us. We mourn for those who shall never return again. It is our sincere hope that the sacrifice that they have made shall not have been made in vain, but will usher in a newer and brighter day and a better way of life.

We pay a deep and lasting tribute to the men who so nobly answered Canada's call-to-arms, that our institutions, our home and our liberties might be forever freed from the scourge of dictatorship, and from the unholy laws of international bandits.

We must uphold our democratic way of life. We must remain free to establish social progress and economic security as the foundation of a lasting peace.

Gentlemen, I speak for the citizens of Red Deer, and say to you "Welcome, welcome home!"

H. W. HALLADAY,
Mayor.

Message of Capt. Tetley

The Officer Commanding
78th Battery, R.C.A.

It is with feelings of great pride that we, of the 78th Reserve, who, on the home front, have endeavoured to keep alive the name and traditions of the 78th Battery, extend to you a very cordial "Welcome Home", and we trust that, on your return to civil life, you will find that peace for which you fought so gallantly.

R. W. E. TETLEY, Capt.,
A/O.C. 78th (Res.) Battery, R.C.A.

13th Field Regt. Auxiliary

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT—Mrs. F. W. Sim.
VICE-PRESIDENT—Mrs. W. MacFarlane.
SECRETARY—Mrs. R. H. Edgar.
TREASURER—Mrs. A. Milne.

Members

Mrs. Lula Oldford
Mrs. Mary Harvie
Mrs. Stella Stewart
Mrs. Grace Stenback
Mrs. Mary Morton
Mrs. Eleanor Morton
Mrs. Margaret Tetley
Mrs. Carrie Mowatt
Mrs. Addie Van Slyke
Mrs. Olive Lund
Mrs. Sarah Dale

Miss Una Dale
Mrs. Hazel Prendergast
Miss Jean Sim
Mrs. Gretchen Spicer
Mrs. Agnes Bevin
Mrs. T. Matheson
Mrs. E. Blades
Miss Janet Milne
Mrs. E. C. Brodersen
Mrs. R. E. Jones

History

OF THE 78th FIELD BATTERY, R.C.A.

By Lt.-Col. R. C. Lister, M.C., M.M., E.D.

The Battery was formed in 1921, and localized in Red Deer as a part of the 20th Field Brigade, Royal Canadian Artillery. It carried out annual training at camp that year and each year thereafter until 1940, when on June 10th of that year it was mobilized for active service under the command of Major T. L. Sounness, who had served in the 20th Brigade and "came up from the ranks."

With the 22nd Battery from Gleichen and the 44th Battery from Prince Albert, Sask., it was formed into the 13th Field Regiment, R.C.A., and trained at Camp Shilo, Man., and Debart, N.S. It embarked for overseas and landed at Gourock, Scotland, on Friday, November 13th, 1941. For the next two and a half years the Battery took part in the intensive programme of training of the 3rd Canadian Division, which consisted of schemes and exercises in various parts of Great Britain.

About the end of May, 1944, the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division was put behind barbed wire and cut off from the outside world. On the afternoon of June 5th, 1944, the Battery embarked in Assault Landing Craft and sailed down the Solent to the strains of the Royal Artillery Regimental March, "The British Grenadiers," and next day, the historic 6th of June ("D" Day), took part in the assault on the shores of Normandy, firing as their landing craft swept toward the beaches. In the assault, and for the next few weeks, the Battery provided close artillery support for the infantry, through most of the bitter fighting which took them to the outskirts of Caen; after Caen, on to Trun and the closing of the Falaise pocket, up the coast of France to Boulogne and Calais, after which they had a short rest in Belgium before moving on to the Leopold Canal and the Battle of the Scheldt, which cleared the approaches to Antwerp, the worst fighting encountered during the war.

From November to February the Battery went into a static role in the Nymegen Salient, then proceeded to Wyler, Cleve, Uden, Wissell, crossed the Rhine at Emmerich, on to Doesburg, Deventer, Zutphen (of Sir Phillip Sidney fame), Zwolle, Sneek, and finished up the war near Aurich and Emden, after crossing the Ems River at Leer.

The record of service of the Battery was such that six members were awarded decorations for bravery and gallantry in action, and nine were mentioned in despatches, and one received the Certificate of the Commander-in-Chief.

The casualties suffered by the Battery throughout the war were: 15 killed, 3 prisoners of war, and 19 wounded.

On its return to Red Deer, its home station, the Battery will be commanded by Major Earl A. Olmsted, and will have in its ranks a few of the old originals: BSM K. E. Ray, BQMS A. E. Carter, Sgt. N. Sim, and Gunner W. Cannon, the vicissitudes of war having taken many of the original members from the Battery and brought in others to take their places.

It is fitting that Red Deer should be honoured by having the Battery return as a unit, to receive a civic welcome and the thanks of the citizens for having performed such outstanding service.