

## The Canadian Forestry Corps

*Much of the information included here is from William C Wonder's article on the CFC in Scotland, published in the Scottish Geographical Magazine in 1987. Wonders is also author of a book on the Canadian Forestry Corps entitled 'The Sawdust Fusiliers'*

As had happened in World War I timber rapidly came to be in short supply as trade routes were blocked and overseas supplies cut off or heavily curtailed. Once again Britain had to look to her own forests and endeavour to use more home-grown timber. Man-power was also an issue and so the UK government once again turned to overseas woodsmen to help swell the workforce and dramatically increase production.

Given their impressive record in World War One it was natural that Britain looked to Canada to provide forestry units again. The initial request was made as early as October 1939. In May 1940 the Canadian government decided to form a new Canadian Forestry Corps. The collapse of France reduced the initial British suggestion of 80 companies to 20 (with ultimately an additional 10 to follow), The financial agreement between the two governments was similar to that in World War One Canada was to bear the cost of pay, allowances and pensions of officers and men, all initial personal equipment, transport to and from the United Kingdom, and some minor matters, while the British Government paid for all other services connected with equipment, work or maintenance and certain others including medical services. Canada provided and paid medical officers for the Forestry Corps, but the British authorities paid the cost of 'hospitalization'. The arrangement was unusual in that it resulted in a Canadian military unit working for the British Government. Timber operations were directed by the British authorities, through the Home Grown Timber Production Department of the Ministry of Supply, which arranged the areas where the Canadians were to work and the disposal of the product. Control of military operations of the CFC was never surrendered by the Canadian authorities to the United Kingdom however, and the Corps came under the command of Canadian Military Headquarters London. Despite the potential difficulties of serving two masters, the arrangement worked well and no serious problems resulted.

The picture to the right shows Canadian Women's Army Corps staff working at the London HQ

Source: <http://www.warmuseum.ca>



The photo to the left shows the silver maple leaf pin that was given to those who had worked in the London HQ during the war.

Source: <http://www.thememoryproject.com/stories/1990.maurice-nowosad/>



### ***Movement Overseas***

Mobilization centres for the original 20 companies spanned all Canada (Table 1, Figure 1) and were located either in major wood producing regions or in urban centres close to the same, in order to secure the experienced personnel necessary. All provinces contributed men to the CFC, but as might be

expected, the leading wood-producing provinces dominated. The Corps included both English-speaking and French-speaking personnel.



The photo to the left shows the Canadian HQ in London after a very near miss following a bombing raid.

Source: 'Official History of the Canadian Army in the Second World War' p.338

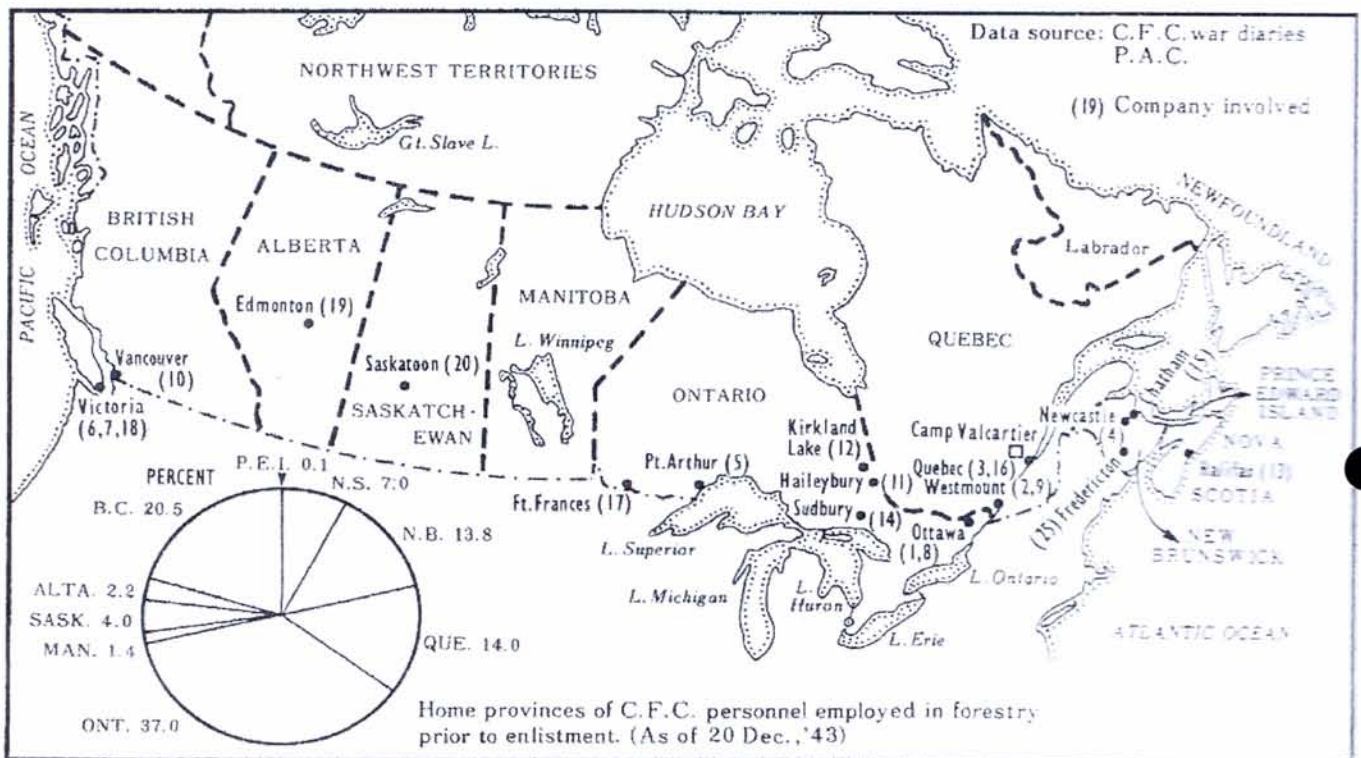


Figure 1. Canadian Forestry Corps, World War Two Mobilization Points. (Data Source: P.A.C.).

Many of the volunteers were veterans of World War One, including the Corps' Commanding Officer, Brigadier-General J.B. White, who also had commanded the unit then and subsequently was active in the militia as well as being a senior forestry company executive. Many men performed the same duties in the Corps as they had in civilian life, e.g. loggers, sawyers, mill operators, storemen, mechanics and cooks. Unlike their role in World War One when they played a non-combatant role, during World War Two they received military training and were considered combatant troops.



**Come On, pal  
... ENLIST!**



The poster above is one of the WWII Canadian Recruitment Posters while the photograph to the right shows The Queen inspecting the Canadian Forestry Corps at Balmoral Castle. Brigadier-General J.B. White, GBE, DSO, ED, Commander, CFC is on her left.

On reaching their establishment numbers, companies proceeded by rail to Quebec City for military training at nearby Valcartier Camp. Most companies were there for 5-7 months, though 2 were there for a shorter time and two longer. Because of the effect of the Battle of the Atlantic and the demand for shipping in other theatres of war the British Government requested additional forestry companies in 1941, and the Canadian Government sent 10 more companies, formed from the Training Wing of the CFC at Valcartier Camp.

On completion of training and as shipping space was available, the companies travelled by train to Halifax for embarkation, where they joined other units to make the crossing of the North Atlantic in convoy. The crossing itself averaged nine days. All companies disembarked at Clyde Estuary ports (except for Company No 21 at Liverpool) when they proceeded by trains and lorries to their Scottish camps. The map on the following page shows the distribution of CFC camps across Scotland. Lloyd was sent to Skibo C, Clashmore which is No 5 on this map, situated close to Dornoch on the East coast.

Table 2: Canadian Forestry Corps, World War Two

Unit No (Cty.)	Canadian Mobilization Point	Mobilization Date	Arrived in Scotland	Ceased Operations in Scotland	Camps Occupied in Scotland (relocation dates indicated)
1a	Ottawa, Ont.	16 Jul 1940	28 Feb 1941	14 Jun 1944	Cawdor North (Dallachyrie), Croy, Skibo B, Spinningdale (28 Oct 43)
2*	Westmount, Que.	Jul 1940	1 Mar 1941	1 Oct 1941	Hallogie No 7, Aboyne
3*	Quebec City, Que.	12 Jul 1940	20 Apr 1941	30 Sept 1943	Balgownie No 1, Aboyne
4	Newcastle, N.B.	15 Jul 1940	20 Apr 1941	20 Mar 1945	Glenanar, Dinnel, Couperhill, Forres (23 Nov 44)
5a	Port Arthur, Ont.	10 Jul 1940	26 Dec 1940	1 Apr 1944	Black Island, Blue Adrell, Insh, Kircraig (16 Dec 43)
6	Victoria, B.C.	12 Jul 1940	1 Mar 1941	25 May 1945	Bog of Shandon, Avocic, Abernethy, Boar of Garden (10 Jul 43)
7*	Victoria, B.C.	14 Aug 1940	1 Mar 1941	7 Oct 1943	Highwood (Feabate), Culloden
8*	Ottawa, Ont.	17 Jul 1940	1 Mar 1941	7 Oct 1943	Cawdor South (Inchtybble), Cawdor
9a	Westmount, Que.	2 Aug 1940	20 Apr 1941	9 Jun 1944	Lamington Park, Tain; Berriedale (27 Jan 43); Lamington Park, Tain (24 Nov 43)
10	Vancouver, B.C.	1 Aug 1940	2 Jul 1941	16 Jun 1945	Dunblair, Inverness
11	Haliburton, Ont.	10 Aug 1940	20 Apr 1941	26 May 1945	Dall, Kintoch Rannoch, Carbridge (11 Dec 43)
12*	Koblesh Lake, Ont.	17 Aug 1940	2 Jul 1941	1 Oct 1943	Insh, Kircraig
13	Halifax, N.S.	17 Aug 1940	2 Jul 1941	17 Mar 1945	Southesk, Brechin; Orin Bridge, Muir of Ord (8 Nov 43); Skibo B Spinningdale (15 Jul 44); Orin Bridge, Muir of Ord (14 Nov 44)

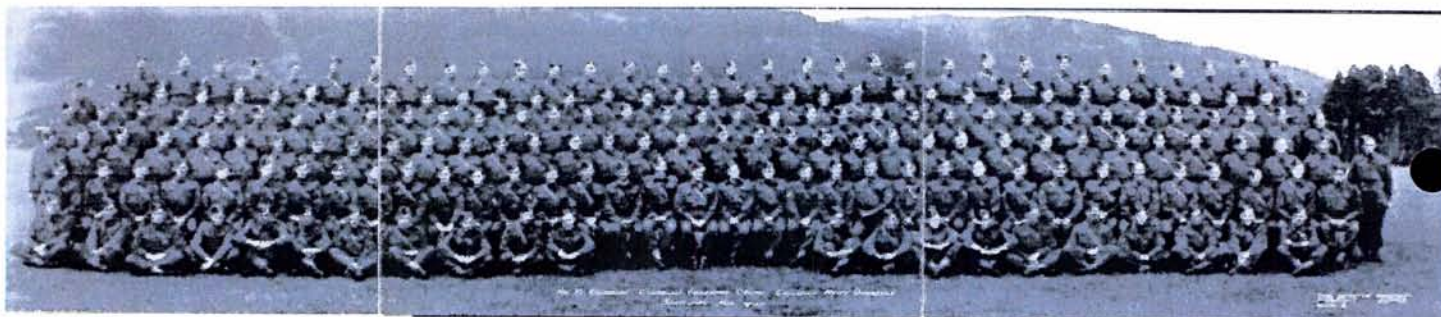
The table shows the distribution of CFC Units raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

An advance party of six officers and 52 other ranks arrived at Blair Atholl on 26 October 1940. Discussions were held with senior British officials in Edinburgh to review arrangements in hand, camp locations and their varying degrees of completion, operational needs and procedures etc. This was followed two months later by the Corps Headquarters and No 5 Forestry Company, and during the winter and spring by additional units; by May 1941 there were thirteen forestry companies overseas with the remaining seven companies arriving by July. The companies brought with them the most up-to-date logging equipment then available in Canada. Logging equipment included TD9 caterpillar tractors, lorries, sulkies (pneumatic-tyred arches), angle-dozers for road making, and two and three drum winches for high-lead logging.

### *The Scottish Setting*

By the time of the arrival of the CFC advance party, British authorities had already identified and requisitioned the major forestry resources to be harvested. These lay mainly on privately owned land, many of whose owners had a long tradition of scientific forestry and were again generously willing to assist in the wartime emergency despite the cost to their long-range forestry programmes. Some 20 estates were proposed locales for the operations of the Canadian Forestry Corps. Camp sites already had been selected on most and five camps were in varying degrees of completion at the end of October 1940.

In addition to civilian contractors, the Pioneer Corps assisted in camp construction. Of the initial 20 companies, nine found camps ready for occupancy and five partly completed. Torwood and Skibo B camp locations were considered excellent, that of Dochfour particularly beautiful, Cooperhill efficiently laid out, and the immediate readiness of a hot dinner at fully completed Ballogie No 1 camp was appreciated by the weary new arrivals. On the other hand Boblainy's boggy site needed drainage and Highwood was poorly laid out with huts scattered over a large area devoid of concealment and poorly constructed. South Cawdor camp elicited the most scathing assessment when seen for the first time: "Daylight revealed the fact that the partly constructed camp was located in a wonderful rock, mud and stump area, it being impossible to take five steps in any direction without falling over boulders into mud or over stumps. The floor of the cookhouse was twelve inches below water level with many inches of water covering the same. The men's dining hall was 200 feet away from the cookhouse... a terrible exhibition of camp construction".



The photo above shows No. 10 Company Canadian Forestry Corps Dochfour, Inverness, District 5, Camp 13.

Source: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~jmitchell/cfc29.html>

The camps were usually located on estate property, near a road to permit vehicle access. Buildings were mostly frame, often of lumber cut in Corps sawmills. Some Nissan huts were usually erected, and often housed shoemakers, armourers, carpenters as well as serving other purposes. A cookhouse, mess hall, ablution hut with hot and cold showers, sergeants' quarters, officers' quarters, quartermaster stores, garage, workshop etc, were present in each camp. Recreation halls were built in each camp. While electricity was usually available, at Mar Lodge Camp the Canadians installed their own water-powered generator.

# SCOTTISH GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE

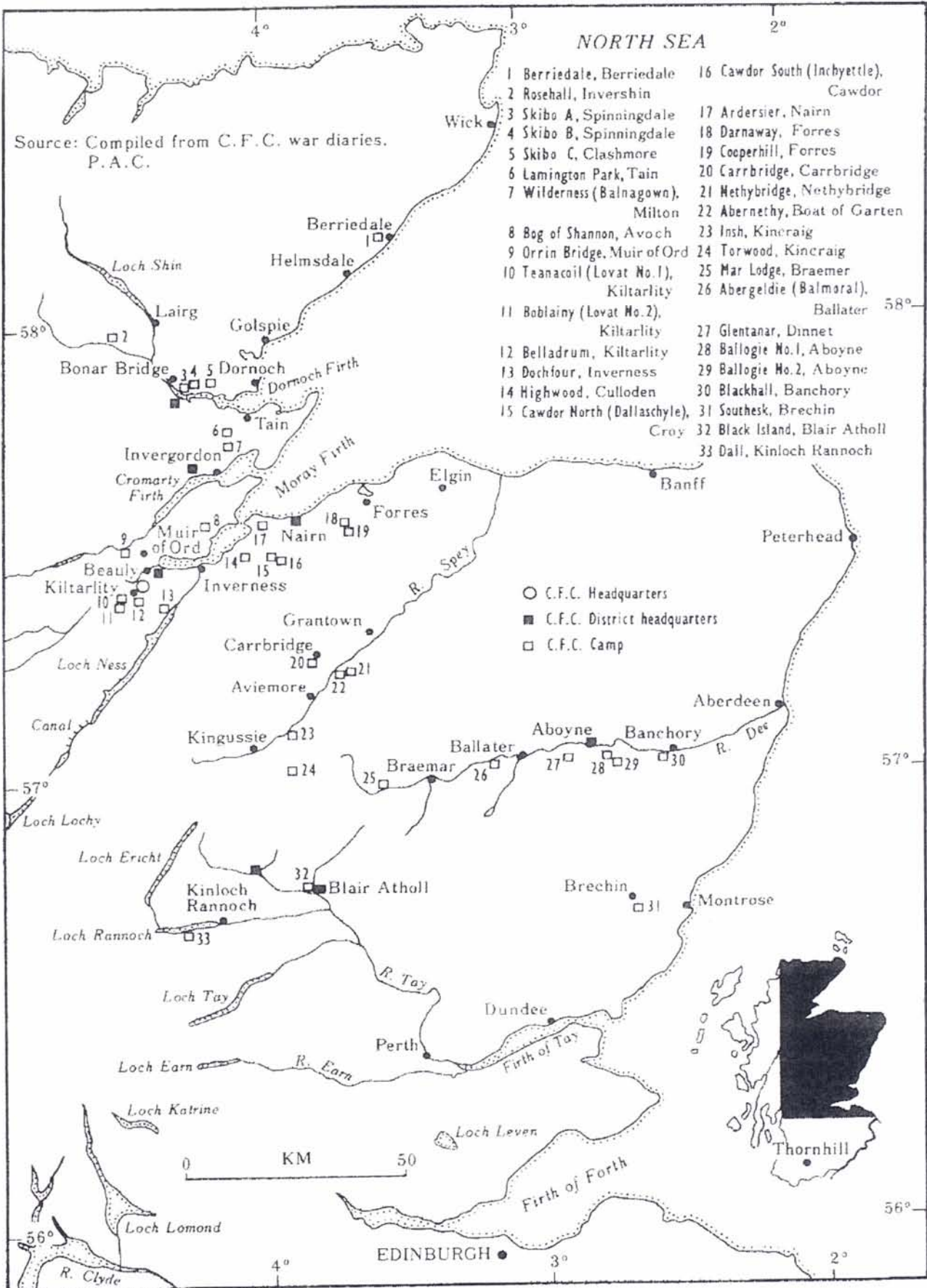


Figure 3. Canadian Forestry Corps World War Two Camps in Scotland.

Each company's sawmill usually was nearby the other buildings, as was the lumber stacking yard. A mill-pond for immersion of logs was adjacent each "Canadian" mill, from which a powered jackladder transported the logs into the mill. Most Canadian mills were diesel-powered (though a few were later converted to steam) so that sawdust piles persist even to the present time in some places. In the earlier phases of operations sawdust burners, however desirable, were ruled out because of blackout regulations. Each company also had a smaller "Scotch" mill or bench provided by the Forestry Commission. These were not viewed with approval by the Canadians!

The focus of operations for the Canadian Forestry Corps in World War Two was in Scotland, and except for Southesk the camps all lay north of the Highland Line. The distribution of camps also shows the emphasis on the eastern rather than the western part of the Highlands, with its more favourable environment for forestry. Several estates had more than one camp and Skibo Estates (where Lloyd was) had three.

The major concentration of CFC camps was around the lowlands of the Inner Moray Firth and Dornoch Firth. The majority of companies (18 or 30) remained at the same camp throughout their entire time in Scotland but others operated in 2 or 3 different camps.



For administrative purposes companies were grouped into five forestry districts for which individual headquarters were established as well as there being a Corps Headquarters. The latter first operated from Black island Camp at Blair Atholl, with officers billeted at the Atholl Arms Hotel (pictured left – source 'Atholl Arms Hotel, Pitlochry') when it first arrived in late December 1940. On 12 February 1941 it relocated permanently to Phoinias House, south of Beaulieu. Besides the 18 officers and 98 other ranks of the Corps there in the fall of 1942, there were 22 attached officers

from other corps. Most of the Corps' support facilities remained at Blair Atholl: general workshop, quartermaster warehouses, construction and maintenance section, and technical equipment and supply. This necessitated regular lorry trips between Blair Atholl and the camps for technical equipment, clothing etc. Rations were transported by CFC lorries from NAAFI establishments near the respective camps.

The much smaller district headquarters were each commanded by a lieutenant-colonel, and were responsible for six to eight camps each. District No 5 (Lloyd's District) included Orrin Bridge and Bog of Shannon Camps as well as the Camps of the Aird south of Beaulieu and Dochfour at the outlet of Loch Ness. Its headquarters was originally at Teanacoil Camp but moved on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1942 to Balblair House, Lord Lovat's residence east of Beaulieu.

### ***Scottish Operations***

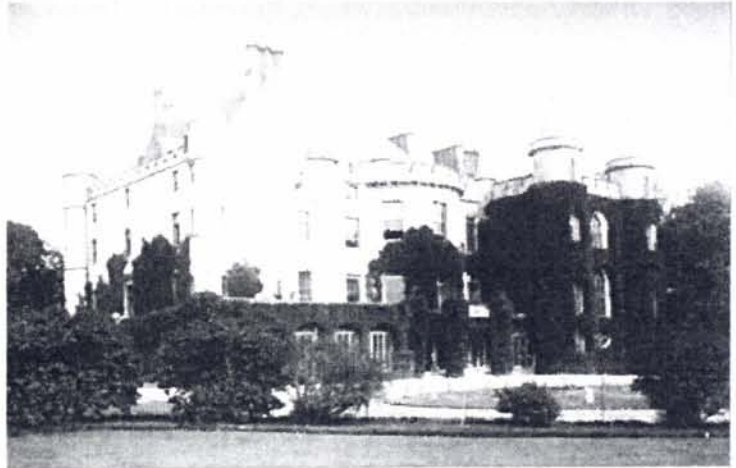
The time lag between arrival at the camps and start of logging or of milling operations varied considerably between companies – anything from one day to a maximum of 97. Various factors accounted for the longer start up times. Several companies had to complete camp construction, construct roads and bridges. Company No. 8 not only found conditions at South Cawdor unsatisfactory but basic tools lacking: 'Examination of the equipment on hand revealed we had axe handles but no axes, crosscut saws but no handles, Swedish saw frames but no saws; no picks, axes or shovels, and no equipment to work with'. For most companies, however, logging operations usually started about a week after arrival and the Canadian mills began to function a week later. At Wilderness Camp missing parts for the mill delayed

start-up considerably for Company 14, until they found they were able to manufacture a number of the needed parts in the machine shop of Balnagown Castle.

Balnagown Castle is pictured to the right.

Source: <http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk>

Companies usually worked in two sections, "one cutting 'in the bush' and bringing out the timber, the other sawing it into lumber in the company mill, and both using mostly Canadian mechanical equipment. The relative openness of the cultivated Scottish forests in contrast to the tangled undergrowth of most natural Canadian forests pleased the CFC. Nevertheless, pressure had to be applied to the Canadian



fellers to cut trees close to the ground in Scottish fashion, rather than higher up, which left the unsightly stump-fields so common in home forestry operations. The felling crew consisted of three men, two sawing down and one trimming or limbing. Hand saws and axes were the tools employed. The trees involved reflected the variety of Scottish plantations with Scots pine, spruce and larch particularly common but also Douglas fir and hardwoods on occasion. Most were 60 – 70 years old, but some were over 100 years and at least one 200-year old beechwood were felled.

Even before felling could begin most companies had to introduce an access road network in the forests to enable their mechanized equipment to be used, in contrast to the widespread use of horses in pre-war local forests. Three-men caterpillar tractor ("cat") teams moved the trees to roadside landings, either by dragging them with chains or by sulkies. High-lead logging using a spar tree and a donkey engine was



employed on particularly steep slopes. At the landings the trees were sawn up into log lengths and transported to the mills by lorries. In a few instances narrow gauge Decauville railways were used to transport logs and lumber but generally were not favoured, with frequent complaints about engine start-up difficulty and unreliability.

Sir Charles Ross was one of the first people to use caterpillar tractors to harvest trees, as can be seen in this image from his estate. Later the CFC instigated the widespread use of this machinery in Scotland.

© Tain & District Museum Trust. Licensor

Source: [Scran](#)

Right - Light railway in use by men of the Canadian Forestry Corps. LAC Photo.

Source:

[www.canadiansoldiers.com/corpsbranches/forestrycorps.htm](http://www.canadiansoldiers.com/corpsbranches/forestrycorps.htm)



The Canadian Forestry Corps also made use of logs from sources other than their own fellings. About eight percent of the total logs processed at their mills came from such sources, mainly from the fellings of the Newfoundland Forestry Unit (NFU).

The NFU badge pictured right is from [www.britishbadgeforum.com](http://www.britishbadgeforum.com)



Because of their professional skills the companies' production of sawn timber ("National Stock") was their major emphasis, but they also assisted in meeting the demands for other forest produce: mining timbers (Lagging and pit props) for the vital coal mines, tonnage wood, pulpwood, slabs for heating, poles for post office telephone/telegraph lines and for the RAF, boatskins, etc. As in World War One, CFC personnel also assisted in construction of new military airfields on occasion.

The Canadian Forestry Corps was called on for other things besides the actual production of various timber products. They assisted in the transportation of those products, mostly in moving them by lorries to the closest railway shipping points and in loading railway wagons. In addition, parties were detailed to assist in loading coaster steamers with timber products at nearby ports. Nearby timber merchants were supplied with timber products, including those in Muir of Ord, Inverness, Ballater and Aberdeen.

Environmental conditions, chiefly climatic, caused the most serious problem for CFC operations in Scotland. Although many loggers from the West Coast of British Columbia were familiar with similar, dull, wet winters, the majority were not and found them troublesome for work and perhaps even psychologically until they adjusted. Initially at least they found even the summers wet. At Dochfour Camp No 10 Company's diarist was of the opinion that "this country doesn't know the feeling of 24 hours of clear weather" in August 1942. By October 18<sup>th</sup> of the same year, Company No 26 (Lloyd's company) at Skibo C Camp, Clashmore, noted "another very rainy day. It looks like the second flood is on the way". In early February 1944 No 5 Company at Insh Camp noted "Wet, heavy rains. What a country! Rain is not rationed!"

Wet ground conditions at several camps forced the provision of drainage ditches and laying down of duckboards. At times even summer rain necessitated the use of four-wheel drive lorries on logging roads. In October 1943 No 15 Company at Boblainy Camp was reminded by renewed rain after a fairly dry period "that once more we must face a winter of rain, rain and more rain, with heavy semi-liquid mud slowly and relentlessly moving down the hill sides behind the tractors". No 4 Company at Glentarnar Camp also was forced to shut down its mills after the heavy rains "because it was impossible to haul logs on the remains of our roads".

When colder weather did arrive there were some problems for a time because of a shortage of gloves or mitts, with purchases even being made from civilian sources in Aberdeen for issuance in the nearby camps. Greatcoats provided welcome comfort. Sawdust and slabs were added to huts for increased insulation. Despite some inconvenience most personnel appreciated the change: "Weather remaining

cold and crisp and the ground hard. A welcome relief from the mud of the past few months, and the men from the Prairie Provinces feel more 'at home'", according to Company No 19 at Belladrum Camp. Further insight into the reaction at that camp is perhaps provided by the comment, "The weather being obligingly inclement and the required stock being on hand, the troops were saved from probable colds by receiving their first rum ration".



The picture, left, of Glen Garry Mist is from Flickr © All rights reserved by [Michael~Ashley](#)



Along with colder weather came snowstorms in the Highlands. These were sufficiently heavy that they temporarily interrupted operations. CFC bulldozers and lorries fitted with ploughs were invaluable in clearing away snow around the camps and in the logging roads. They also provided major assistance locally in clearing snow-blocked roads in many parts of the Highlands. The frequent alternation of rain and snow proved unexpected for many of the Canadians, accustomed to a more continuous snow season. The longer winter darkness period in Scotland was an inconvenience for the felling teams at the extreme ends of the working day, and working hours had to be adjusted.

The press cutting is from **Evening Express Aberdeen**  
Source: Paul McKay Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire included on the CFC pages on 'Rootsweb'.

Transportation problems were the other major complication for CFC operations. Besides the absence of local logging roads essential for its mechanized equipment and, once in place the damage to such roads by rain and snow, other impediments did occur. These ranged from inadequate rail loading facilities to dockside civilian strikes at Aberdeen, to a shortage of railway wagons. Sometimes delays reflected traditional Highland characteristics, as when it was noted that "the big sheep sale at Lairg is temporarily disrupting our rail shipping schedule". Confusion also occurred at times because of the unique requirements of forestry troops. No 15 Company at Boblainy Camp was amused when "British sources supposed to supply us with 100 double-bitted axes could not obtain the double-bitted variety and so sent us 200 single-bitted in their stead!"

As combatant troops the Canadian Forestry Corps devoted Saturdays to additional military training after their week's work in the woods. This involved work on the rifle ranges, tactical exercises with other military units, etc. Cordial friendships developed with many other units. During the period of German invasion threat they were assigned specific defensive roles within their own areas such as manning road blocks at strategic road points and bridges and defending airfields in the Cromarty Firth area. In the earlier period a shortage of weapons and ammunition proved frustrating.

In Scotland CFC companies were not directly involved in actual hostilities, but often were not far distant. (Casualties, including deaths, were experienced by the CFC, mostly by accidents in its normal operations.) Ballogie Camp No 2 and the whole area around was shaken by the bombing of Aberdeen on the night of 21 April 1943, and several members of No 16 Company on overnight passes in the city had narrow escapes. Enemy aircraft aiming for an ammunition dump near Alness overshot the target and bombs fell near headquarters of No 1 District, CFC, on the night of 24 October 1941. As allied invasion preparations increased in late winter and spring of 1944 the CFC also prepared for movement across the Channel. On 8 March 1944, three officers and 60 other ranks of the Canadian Forestry Corps departed for Southampton at the request of the War Office to assemble American piling timber into Davis rafts for transport to the Normandy coast.

There was much interaction between CFC personnel and the Scottish civilian population. For the most part the relationship was excellent. The local people extended warm hospitality to the Canadians from the time of their arrival until their departure. For their part the CFC reciprocated with invitations to their



● **BALLOGIE CAMP:** CFC men at work on Deeside.

## Snow ploughs and dances remembered

MY sister in Aberdeen sent me a cutting from the Evening Express on the Canadian Forestry Corps (Memories, March 3).

We lived on Deeside, near Aboyne, and I worked in the railway office and met many of the lumberjacks at No2 Ballogie Canadian Forestry Corps also No3 Aboyne CFC.

There was also the No16 CFC.

As my gran lived in Banchory and I went to Banchory Academy, my girlfriends and I went to the dances in Aboyne and Banchory and met quite a

lot of the Forestry Corps. I always remember the fantastic snow ploughs they had to clear our roads near Aboyne.

Also the lovely entertainment they put on, especially the dances.

I am now over 70 but have lots of lovely memories.

The picture above is one I took from a very old photo album.

It was nice reading all about the CFC after all these years.

● Mrs FM Stuart  
Pilmuir  
Forres  
Moray

**WRITE:** Raymond Anderson, Evening Express,  
Lang Stracht, Mastrick, Aberdeen, AB15 6DF

entertainments and parties in company recreation halls and turned out readily to assist local landowners fight forest fires and local farmers harvest their crops. A large number of Canadian foresters married Scottish women who returned with them to Canada at war's end.

### ***Later Developments***

The Canadian Forestry Corps was affected greatly by a major reassignment of its personnel in the latter part of 1943. In July and August a proposal was made to return all or part of the CFC companies to Canada to continue to produce there the forest products for United Kingdom and Canadian consumption. Amongst the arguments put forward in favour of the move were the greater output of larger timber possible for the same effort, the reduction of the drain on British resources, the relieving of the Canadian fuel wood shortage, and the improved shipping situation which permitted transport of increased amounts of Canadian timber to the UK. Despite the Commanding Officer's initial assessment of the proposal for CFC companies' operation in Canada as "impractical" the plan was put into operation on short notice. Ten companies and one District Headquarters were returned to Canada from Scotland in mid-October 1943.

Considerable temporary confusion occurred as a selection board decided which individuals would return and which stay rather than transferring the complete existing personnel of the companies affected. Some men accepted the decision willingly, some even happily, but these were in the minority. At the muster parade to inform Company No 2 that it was to return to Canada "the men were very disappointed and not at all pleased to hear the news. The majority did not like it at all".

The 20 companies remaining in Scotland continued on with operations, but they had lost much of their original Canadian regional identity. The number of camps was cut back, due both to consolidation of the CFC and to exhaustion of local timber supplies. No 9 Company at Berriedale Camp rather overstated the case, however, on 4 November 1943 when it noted "the last standing tree of commercial value left standing in Caithness was cut today on the estate at 1545 hours. And you may well be assured the three cheers plus were given by the boys".

Beginning in the spring of 1944 further Canadian Forestry Corps companies were withdrawn from Scottish timber operations in preparation for the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Those selected were sent to Carronbridge Camp just north of Thornhill, Dumfries-shire, for further military training. In some cases they returned briefly to CFC camps while awaiting rail transport south. In other cases they proceeded directly to staging camps in southern England. From there they moved with the Canadian armed forces in the advance across north-western Europe. In all, 10 companies were involved.

The 10 remaining companies in Scotland continued timber operations until or almost until the end of hostilities in Europe. Tye manpower shortages caused by heavy Canadian casualties in the late phases of the war resulted in the CFC as well as other sources being drawn upon for replacements, and this was reflected in its operations. Company No 4 at Cooperhill camp noted "This unit is entering 1945 with a very different set of personnel from a year ago. During December alone we lost 66 men. Their place was taken by casualties and nervous cases evacuated from the fighting forces in France and Italy. Very few of the original members of the company are left after four and a half years service. Needless to say the newcomers are not comparable with the men we are losing". Beginning in March 1945 operations ceased for these remaining companies: three shut down in March, two in April, four in May and one in June. No 10 Company shut down the Dochfour mill on 29 May 1945 and on 11 June 1945 helped move No 13 Company from Orrin Bridge to train at Beauly before its own close down on 16 June 1945, the last CFC company to operate in Scotland. Mills were boarded up or dismantled and within a month usually the companies had been disbanded and were on trains on the first stage of their return to Canada. Little physical evidence remains today of CFC structures in Scotland – an occasional shed, an estate mill which began as a Canadian mill, a camp site now converted into a vacation campground. Many camp sites have long since been reforested and only partly overgrown sawdust piles remain.

The photographs on the following page are from Sheila Swanscot's blog 'Rambling On' [www.swanscot.wordpress.com](http://www.swanscot.wordpress.com) and picture her visit to the remains of Teanacoil Camp on 4 April 2011



The accommodation block is still standing, but looks very unstable.



Right: All that remains standing of the sawmill itself is the one concrete block wall. Below: There is a trough structure (with what looks to be asbestos) close to the edge of the sawmill. There is also an old truck cab.



### **Conclusion:**

The Canadian Forestry Corps' operations in World War Two differed in several respects from those in World War One. Almost all their operations during World War Two were based in Scotland, while in the earlier conflict more were based on the continent than in the UK, and those that were located in Britain were more numerous in England than in Scotland. At its peak in World War Two in February 1943, the Corps strength was 6991 all ranks, less than one-third of its strength at the World War One peak (which reflected the greater use of mechanized equipment in the second conflict). During World War Two the Canadian Forestry Corps produced about 80 per cent as much sawn timber as it had in World War One, despite the much fewer number of personnel.

While the major significance of the activities of the Canadian Forestry Corps must be in the contribution it made to the total war effort through its provision of desperately needed timber products, its impact was obviously greatest in Scotland. Militarily it was there to assist, however modestly, in time of need. Socially it made itself felt in many of the smaller Scottish communities (favourably in most instances). The final entry in Company No 4's war diary reads, "In less than four years in this country it not only stamped a vivid impression of Canadians upon the minds of the inhabitants of Scotland but it also cut and shipped over 20 million feet of lumber". Ancestral ties for many Corps members were renewed and large numbers established new links with Scotland through marriages with Scottish women.

Through its felling operations the Canadian Forestry Corps played a major role in the clearing of 68,400 forest hectares in Scotland during the war (out of a total high-forest area of 231,900 ha), thereby contributing to the urgency of reforestation in post-war Scotland. On the other hand it demonstrated newer, more efficient techniques and equipment which were to be adopted in Scotland in the post-war years and extended and improved the Highland road net. Finally it reflected once more the many ties between Scotland and Canada which have existed over time.

### **CFC Marriages:**

The photographs are all from Robert Briggs CFC pages on Ancestry's 'Rootsweb' site.



**Cpl John George Brown No.5 Coy CFC married Mary Ferguson Reid in October 1943**

She was born in Perth Scotland, Nov 8th 1918. Mary travelled to Fort William (now Thunder Bay) in 1945. Leaving Liverpool and arriving approx June 18th 1945 on the Troopship Queen Elizabeth. However it carried both War brides and soldiers back to Canada. John returned to Fort William (now Thunder Bay) in 1946 where he died on Feb 4, 1985. Photo and info courtesy of Michelle Brown – grand daughter

Lt. Oliver Clouthier No.1 Coy CFC married Jean Armstrong This large group is the send-off for Lt. Oliver and Jean Clouthier (Armstrong) after their marriage. They are at Inverness Station to go travelling to Edinburgh for their honeymoon. The central couple in this photograph is Oliver and Jean. Oliver had his uniform cap removed and his hair ruffled by his army friends.





Margaret Anne, was a Scottish War Bride from Beaulieu who had married a Canadian forester, Arnett Edward Cook, came to Canada as a War Bride, and then turned around and went right back! - with husband in tow of course. They lived in and around Beaulieu their entire lives and raised a large family, all of whom have been to New Brunswick, Canada to meet their Canadian relatives.

Form CMHQ 1800-1106

**E**  
**CERTIFICATE OF PERMISSION TO MARRY**

Unit HQ, 5 COY, C.F.C.  
Date 6 Jan 44

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Permission has been granted by  
The Commander, Canadian Forestry Corps  
(Higher Authority as to D.)

*Henry  
Kin Craig*

to  
S 110236 Pte. Pilon Emil  
NUMBER RANK NAME (Full Christian name)

to marry Miss Iris Annie Bowers Spinster  
(Full Christian name) (SINGLE WIDOW OR DIVORCED PERSON BACHELOR WIDOWER)

Club House, Medstead, Alton, Emsw.

ADDRESS

on or after (but not before) 24 Feb 44 as published in Part II Order No. 3  
Date

of 10 Jan 44 or notified in APW 2011a of N/A  
Date Date

**No. 5 COY.**  
CANADIAN FORESTRY CORPS.  
FORESTRIAR ARMY  
**ORDERLY ROOM**

(ORDERLY ROOM STAMP)

*C. A. MacLennan* Major  
(Signature of Officer Commanding Unit)

Soldiers needed official permission to marry. Above is one such certificate of permission to marry.

Of course while some of Lloyd Lionel's comrades were courting Scottish girls who they would later take back to Canada one George Florence Fife was courting Lionel's daughter Elsie, would marry her and bring her from Canada to England!!