

Militia Cuts Won't Affect Canadian Rangers Unit

By DAVE McINTOSH
OTTAWA (CP)—The Canadian Rangers, a shadowy, far-flung para-military group which helps patrol Canada's most remote regions, won't be affected by reductions in the militia, an army spokesman said here.

One good reason: The Rangers are unpaid civilian volunteers who only charge on the public treasury is a rifle when they join and 100 rounds of ammunition a year.

There are nearly 2,500 men in the Rangers organized in 42 so-called companies or platoons in 17 separate locations: 98 in the north and west, 25 in northern Quebec and 24 in the Atlantic.

The Rangers for the most part are trappers, woodsmen, hunters, prospectors, miners, frontier farmers and employees of a few government agencies such as the RCMP. They are a department who live in sparsely-settled regions of Canada, mainly in the north and along the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

The government and the defence department have always been reticent about saying anything about the Rangers. In 1958, for the first time, it revealed the personnel strength of the organization—and previous little else.

SERVED AS WATCHDOGS
As originally constituted, the Rangers were lookouts for any enemy landings in Canada for the purpose of setting up beacons to guide bombers or submarines or knocking out small but vital defence installations, such as remote radar stations.

This role has become less important in recent years but, authorities say, the Rangers still perform a variety of useful roles. They assist the RCMP and provincial police and participate in army winter exercises by acting as guides or taking the part of the enemy. They aid in rescue work of all kinds.

The Rangers have the status of organized militia, though they take no organized training, and their activities are known only to the heads of the various army commands in Canada.

MAINTAIN PARATROOPS
Meanwhile, authorities say there has been no indication whether army paratroop training, Darlene and Kathy left in January to spend New Year's with Mrs. Hendrick's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Boyd, Antigonish, N.S.

Each battalion has a company group of about 200 paratroopers.

Parachute training now is limited to keeping these three companies at full strength—that is, about 350 trainees a year.

The mobile striking force for Canadian defence is formerly comprised paratroops entirely. The Canadian army has trained some 11,000 paratroops since the Second World War.

Curbs On Seal Slaughtering Expected Ready Next Year

OTTAWA (CP)—The International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries is on the verge of adopting a Canadian proposal that harp and hood seals, now slaughtered by the hundreds of thousands each spring on Canada's east coast, be brought under international control and protection.

Scientists have been warning for years that these valuable fur seals are heading towards extinction because of modern killing methods.

Dr. W. M. Sproules of Ottawa told the annual meeting of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada Wednesday that 13 member nations of ICNAF are in the process of ratifying an amendment to the North Atlantic Fishing Treaty that will add the harp and hood seals to the treaty's coverage.

It was learned later that 12 nations have filed the ratifying papers. The 13th, not identified, has indicated it will follow suit within a few weeks.

RESEARCH BY CANADA
Dr. Sproules, special assistant to Deputy Fisheries Minister A. W. H. Neidler, said most of the research on seal conserva-

tion measures will be done by Canadian scientists.

Scientists indicated there was little hope of getting detailed treaty regulations approved in time to set quotas for the 1964 seal harvest by Canadian, Norwegian and Russian sealing crews.

In early spring the seal herds gather on ice floes along the east shore of Labrador and Newfoundland and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. There the females give birth to their young, known as "whitecoats" in the sealing trade, and later mate before heading back into the Atlantic.

Under a "gentlemen's agreement" among the three nations concerned, a killing season has been observed in recent years. Last year it opened March 5 in the Gulf and March 10 on the coastal hunting grounds, closing in both areas April 30.

No quotas on the kill have ever been observed, however. The harvest has been increasing sharply due to higher fur prices and the advent of aircraft and helicopters which seek out the best herds and land killing crews on the floes beside them.

HARVEST TOO HIGH
About 25 years ago researchers estimated that a maximum annual kill of 100,000 seals would leave a breeding population sufficient to maintain the species in perpetuity. But in recent years the harvest has been over 300,000.

Between 1950-51 and 1954-55 studies showed that the popula-

FIRST OVERSEAS SHIP OF YEAR AT QUEBEC

The 6,000-ton Canadian Pacific freighter Beaver Pine nudges into dock in Quebec harbor, first vessel of the year to arrive from overseas with cargo. Earlier the Danish freighter, Hilda Dan, had passed up the St. Lawrence River, bound for Montreal.

Healthier Crops Are Produced With New Plant Hormone

VANCOUVER (CP)—Thirteen years of research by biologist T. J. Wort went into development of a plant hormone that is producing bigger and healthier crops for farmers in North America and Europe.

The hormone, known as 2,4-D, now is being produced and sold commercially on both continents. But the University of British Columbia professor didn't receive a nickel for his patents.

The companies profiting from the sales are meeting their responsibilities by establishing scholarships and research funds at various universities, says Prof. Wort.

The hormone was actually developed by scientists during the Second World War as a potential killer of enemy crops. It kills plants.

Prof. Wort discovered, however, that if used in precise amounts in sprays and dusts combined with certain plant minerals, 2,4-D actually stimulates plant growth and decreases the incidence of disease.

The most dramatic results have been achieved with potato crops. In some cases, farmers reported increases of up to three tons an acre after using Prof. Wort's formula.

NO LONGER KILLS
One of the keys to stimulating growth without killing, plant growth is the combined use of minerals such as iron, copper, zinc, manganese and boron.

"In some way which we don't yet understand fully the metals take away the killing power of 2,4-D and yet allow it to retain its proper concentration."

Until 1937, seven years after Prof. Wort began his research, UBC was the only centre in the world where the 2,4-D experiments were being conducted with hopes of achieving a plant stimulant.

Following Prof. Wort's initial successes, similar research was taken up at the University of California agricultural college at Davis, Calif., and at the University of Leeds in England.

Commercial manufacturers now have made money from Prof. Wort's experiments have been generous, he says.

"At UBC we have received about \$20,000 from manufacturers and processors for work in this field, and in England the makers are putting 10 per cent of their profits into research."

Prof. Wort's experiments are still going on, with the help now of five graduate students.

"We now are intent in explaining in terms of basic science that which by trial and error we found to work."

PISQUID EAST

Mr. and Mrs. George Jay were visitors in Lorne Valley Christmas Day with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Earle MacDonald.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jay had as guests for supper Christmas night Mr. and Mrs. Walter MacDonald, Ethel, Garfield and Arlene, Mr. and Mrs. Blair Bruce, Kevin, Gail and Caroline, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Matheson and Mr. and Mrs. Dewar Macdonald, and with son Roddie.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Macdonald with Blair, Ricky and Beverly, Mr. Mellick, were Christmas Day guests of Mrs. MacDonald's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jay.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jay were guests of Mrs. Jay's sister, Mrs. Earle MacDonald and Mr. MacDonald, Lorne Valley, Christmas Day.

Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Hendricks with son Dan were visitors in Charlottetown Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Leard, Lorne Valley, were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Jay.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jay visited Mrs. Jay's father, Walter Macdonald, who is a patient in the Prince Edward Island Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. David Birt, Charlottetown, were recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jay.

Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Hendricks, Darlene and Kathy left in January to spend New Year's with Mrs. Hendrick's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Boyd, Antigonish, N.S.

Year of Hardship Faces East Europeans in 1964

By HANS BENEDICT
VIENNA (AP)—The Eastern European Communist-led peoples, 1964 will be another year of hardships, but with glimmers of hope for more freedom and a better life.

Throughout the region there are grumblings of discontent the regimes can hardly afford to ignore. Communist leaders are exhorting the masses to work harder but their demands are weakened by promises of Western-style consumer goods and a revived market reserved for the elite—travel to the West.

In some countries, the regimes face staggering odds. Their economies are still reeling from shock waves from the hard 1963-64 winter. It caused food shortages and price increases at a time when food production was pushed into the background by industrialization. Bad harvests in the Soviet Union set off a chain reaction in countries dependent on Russian grain and forced them to turn to the West for help. The grain purchases to balance the currency reserves, thus adding woes for national budgets already sapped by forces due to underdeveloped countries.

APPRAISE PROGRAMS
Products badly needed on domestic markets in Africa and Asia. Some regimes are taking a hard business look at their plans to do more cuts here and there. But indications are that the 1964 level will be proportionally equivalent to the 1954-1962 period during which the East bloc poured out about \$4,100,000 worth of non-military technical aid and loans. Cuba is the leading beneficiary.

A diplomatic survey gives the following picture:
Czechoslovakia—One of the most industrialized countries in the Moscow orbit, Czechoslovakia is banking heavily on imports of key foodstuffs. The government sought to balance the loss of Russian grain by purchases of U.S. and Canadian wheat. Shortages of meat and milk are expected to continue next year. Industrial projects are hampered by insufficient electric power production.

To cushion these blows, the party's central committee has announced higher pay for good work, abolition of unnecessary bureaucracy, an elastic price system, and liberal travel regulations. For the first time since 1948 Communist takeover, Czechs will be allowed to travel West in increasing numbers while Westerners will be attracted by an unprecedented cut of red tape.

Bulgaria—In 17 years of Communist rule, Bulgaria has never once managed to reach the food production targets set by the planners. The government lowered its sights for 1964, cutting agricultural production to free money and labor for ambitious industrial developments.

To fill the food gap, farmers are encouraged to produce more meat, milk and vegetables on their tiny private plots—an approach that would have been heresy only a few years ago when private enterprise was raised a vestige of capitalism.

Hungary—As the only Soviet bloc country whose living standards have gone up this year (4.5 per cent according to United Nations statistics), Hungary has no food shortages, although the government had to buy 800,000 tons of Western grain for bread and fodder.

The government has announced that passengers will be "liberally issued" and the hard-currency allowance of \$70 a person will be raised. Western newspapers will appear on newsstands—they have been available only in hotels frequented by Westerners.

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