



Canadians on Radar Background

In 1940, Great Britain stood alone against the Nazi horde. Her greatest need was for trained technicians to service and maintain her rapidly expanding radar defences. She appealed to Canada and Canada responded. From December 1940, to May 1943, five thousand trained Royal Canadian Air Force Radar Officers and Airmen Radar Mechanics passed through Pier 21 on their way overseas to serve with the Royal Air Force. Dispersed in penny packets from North Africa and Malta, from Sicily and Italy to



Northwest Europe, from the Murmansk Run to Australia, from Burma to Britain and "neutral" Turkey, these Canadian radar specialists provided over one third of the RAF's expertise in this critical, war-winning area. In all, over six thousand RCAF radar specialists were sent to serve with the Commonwealth and other Allied Air Forces.

Angus Hamilton, WWII Veteran, Warwick Castle, departure November 12, 1941

I embarked on the Warwick Castle 12 November 1941. I have no memory of the pier itself but the memory of marching from Y Depot along the waterfront streets of Halifax on a chilly, foggy, November night is all too clear. We were all keen to get overseas but we were apprehensive about the U-boats that were waiting for us. However we were in a well-protected, fast-moving convoy; nine troopships had an escort of seven destroyers, 2 cruisers, and a battleship.

From *Canadian on radar in South-East Asian 1941-1945* by Angus Hamilton. Reprinted with the permission of the author.