

Canadian Foreign Intelligence History Project

DND DHH Finding Aid 91/476 - Operation Friction Collection

**Finding Aid to the
Operation Friction collection
(91/476)**

**Revised 1 March 2004 and 8 November 2011
by
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Operation Friction collection. – 1986-2000; dates predominant 1990-1992. – 93 cm of textual records

Administrative History

Operation Friction was the name attached to Canada's military commitment to the Persian Gulf crisis sparked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990. On 2 August 1990 the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously approved Resolution 661 imposing economic sanctions on Iraq. Many nations offered military forces to assist this effort. On 10 August the Prime Minister announced that Canada would contribute two destroyers and a supply ship to aid the multinational military effort in the Persian Gulf.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of material documenting OPERATION FRICTION, Canada's military commitment to the Persian Gulf War of 1990-1991. Includes administrative orders, signals and messages, and general reference documents, as well as draft chapters of the published work by Jean H. Morin and Richard H. Gimblett, "Operation Friction, 1990-1991: The Canadian Forces in the Persian Gulf". There are three series:

- I. Reference Files (1990-1992)
 - II. "Operation Friction, 1990-1991: The Canadian Forces Operations in the Persian Gulf" material (1990-2000)
 - III. Central Registry Files (1986-1991)
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Related Materials

The following records in the Document Collection deal with Operation Friction:

- [91/168] Dept. of National Defence. Canada's Forces in the Persian Gulf. 2nd ed. 23 Jan 1991. 101 pp., ill.
 - [92/211] Richard Howard Gimblett, Lieutenant (N). "Multinational naval operations: The Canadian Navy in the Persian Gulf, 1990-1991", Canadian Defence Quarterly, XXII (August 1992), 25-31.
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Other Notes

The following book is available in the Directorate of History and Heritage Library

- Operation Friction, 1990-1991: The Canadian Forces in the Persian Gulf / Jean H. Morin; Richard H. Gimblett (DS 79.724 C3 M67 1997).
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Classification

Series 1 is PROTECTED "A", Series 2 is SECRET and Series 3, except for 1 file, is Classified

Series 1: Reference Files

Series Description

Collection consists of general reference material documenting OPERATION FRICTION. Includes administrative orders and amendments, battle honours and distinctions, a nominal roll and lists of medical/dental team. Also includes records concerning record-keeping: preparation of war diaries; terms of reference for field historians; and list of war diaries re OPERATION FRICTION kept at the Directorate of History. There are also newspaper clippings, articles, a statement by the Minister of National Defence, and a bound volume "Canadian Forces in the Persian Gulf".

Classification

All files are Protected "A".

Folder	File	Title and Contents	Security	Dates
1	1	Finding Aid	Protected "A"	2004
1	2	Administrative orders and amendments	Protected "A"	1990-1991
1	3	Battle honors and honorary distinctions – Canforgens and press releases	Protected "A"	1991
1	4	<u>Canadian Forces in the Persian Gulf</u> . 2 nd ed.	Protected "A"	1991
1	5	Correspondence	Protected "A"	1990-1992
1	6	Critical Incident Combat Stress Intervention Team – Canforgen	Protected "A"	1990
1	7	Deployment – Canadian Forces – Programme, news releases, Canforgens and magazine	Protected "A"	1990-1991
1	8	Enquiry to DHist [Directorate of History] – Leave policy	Protected "A"	1991
1	9	"Grannies to Groupies Sending Gifts to the Gulf" – Article by Capt. Marsha Dorge	Protected "A"	1990
1	10	List of War Diaries held at DHist on Operation Friction	Protected "A"	1991
1	11	Medical / Dental teams – Canforgens	Protected "A"	1990
1	12	Miscellaneous – Memoranda, correspondence, reports and other documents	Protected "A"	1990-1991
2	13	Newspaper clippings on Forces	Protected "A"	1990
2	14	Nominal roll of Canadian Forces participants	Protected "A"	1991
2	15	Request for storeroom help files	Protected "A"	1991
2	16	Statement by the Minister of National Defence The Honourable Bill McNight on Supplemental Funding	Protected "A"	1990

Folder	File	Title and Contents	Security	Dates
2	17	Terms of reference; field historian CANFORME	Protected "A"	n.d.
2	18	War Diaries – Preparation – Memoranda and instructions	Protected "A"	1990
2	19-1	Women in the Gulf – Article by Sally Asrmstrong "Sharing the Danger Our Women in the Persian Gulf"	Protected "A"	1991
2	19-2	Women in the Gulf – Article by Sally Armstrong "The other side of the yellow ribbon, homecoming"	Protected "A"	1991
2	20	Backgrounder – "Canadian Forces Commitment to the Gulf War 'Operation Friction'"	Protected "A"	1991

Series 2: "Operation Friction, 1990-1991: The Canadian Forces Operations in the Persian Gulf " material

Series Description

Series consists of draft chapters of the published work by Jean H. Morin and Richard H. Gimblett entitled "Operation Friction, 1990-1991: The Canadian Forces Operations in the Persian Gulf". Includes some draft with comments and reviews, calendars of events and a synopsis covering the first 11 weeks of the operation. Also includes a contingency plan for Operation Broadsword that was prepared by Mobile Command Headquarters, St-Hubert, QC.

Administrative History

On 29 November, the Security Council passed a resolution authorizing "all necessary means" to evict Iraq from Kuwait by 15 January 1991. But a staff check, dubbed Operation BROADSWORD, had earlier determined that the despatch of an army brigade-group to the Gulf would take some six months to effect and would be too costly in terms of lives and material to warrant serious consideration.

Classification

File 1-1 is unclassified. The remaining files are SECRET.

Box	File	Title and Contents	Security	Dates
1	1	Synopsis of the NDHQ War Diary – Covers the first 11 weeks of the operation 1 Aug – 21 Oct 1990	Unclassified	2 Aug 2000
1	2	[6959] Chapter 1 "Joining the Coalition" – Includes Drafts 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9; Draft 9 includes	Secret	1991-1993

Box	File	Title and Contents	Security	Dates
		correspondence, comments and reviews		
1	3	[6960] Chapter II “MIF [Maritime Interception Force] Operations in the Gulf September – November 1990” (2 copies)	Secret	20 Jul 1993
1	4	[6961] Chapter III “L’Operation Cimenterre: La création du Groupe de mission aérien canadien au Moyen-Orient (GMACMO)” (9 copies)	Secret	1991
1	5	[6962] Drafts of the following chapters with comments and correspondence by Lieutenant-Commander D.M. McLean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter I: “Determining the Commitment August 1990” • Chapter II: “Off to the Gulf August-September 1990 • Chapter III: “The Multinational Interception Force September – October 1990” • Chapter VI: “The Calm Before the Storm November – December 1990” • Chapter VIII: “The Naval War: The Combat Logistics Force January – February 1991” 	Secret	1991
2	1	[6963] Chapitre 5: “Le Calme avant la Tempête 6 Nov – 1 Jan 1990” (4 ebauches) – Calendrier Chap 5, les narratives et un ebauche	Secret	1991
2	2	[6964] Chronology / Chronologie – Calendars of events and draft text	Secret	1990
2	3	[6965] Chapter 1: “Joining the Coalition August – September 1990” – Outline and drafts with comments and reviews; Chapitre 4: “Le Quartier-général des Forces Canadiennes au Moyen-Orient (OG FORCANMO)”– Ebauche avec des commentaires	Secret	1990
2	4	[7058] FMC Contingency Plan 1 Operation Broadsword – Prepared by Mobile Command Headquarters, St-Hubert, QC	Secret	1990
2	5	[7059] FMC Contingency Plan 1 Operation Broadsword – Prepared by Mobile Command Headquarters, St-Hubert, QC	Secret	1990

Series 3: Central Registry Files series

Series Description

Series consists of files arranged in numerical order according to the file numbers created by the Central Registry system. The files cover a wide range of military subjects concerning Operation Friction the Persian Gulf War of 1990-1991. Some of the subjects covered include: equipment and supplies, conferences and meetings, security, military intelligence, military transportation, military communications and military medicine.

Those files with no central registry number assigned to it are filed at the end of the series in alphabetical order by file title.

Administrative History

In 1950 National Defence Headquarters physically consolidated all the records operations under one organization, the Directorate of Central Registries. The three armed services and the Defence Research Board, maintained their own central registries within this structure, but a new registry was added to cover the administrative and operational activities that concerned all of the department. In effect, the Administration Central Registry were the records of Deputy Minister of National Defence, who was responsible for overall departmental administration, which included the continuing review of, and control over, the financial aspects of operations, logistics, personnel and administration.

Classification

One file is Unclassified (Box 3 File 7). The remaining files in Boxes 3-4 are Classified.

Box	File	Title and Contents	Security	Dates
3	1	[1020-1] Accidents Mobile Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages 	Secret	Mar 1991
3	2	[1045-1] Letters of Appreciation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages and correspondence 	Secret	Nov 1990 – Mar 1991
3	3	[1180-1] Conferences and Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages and memoranda Includes the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multinational Navies / GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Conference – Action Items • Minutes of 2nd Combined Multinational Naval Commanders / GCC Nations Conference 	Secret	Oct 1990 – Mar 1991
3	3A	[1775-1] Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages 	Secret	Dec 1990 – Mar 1991
3	4	[2000-2] Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages, memoranda and aide-memoire Includes the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aide-memoire – Prisoners of war • ACP [Allied Communication Publication] 125 Voice Procedure 	Secret	Nov 1990 – Mar 1991
3	5	[2100-1] Security – General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages and memoranda 	Secret	Oct 1990 – Mar 1991
4	9	[3000-2-4] Opstat [Operational Status] Helo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages [2 files] 	Confidential	Jan-Mar 1991
3	6	[5225-1] Documents and Records] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages, reports and memoranda Includes the following documents:	Secret	Oct 1990 – Apr 1991

Box	File	Title and Contents	Security	Dates
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance evaluation reports Personnel Tasking Operation Accord 		
3	7	[5545-1] Messes & Institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memoranda and minutes to meetings 	Unclassified	Nov 1990 – Mar 1991
3	8	[6600-1] U.S. Int [Intelligence] / Info [Information] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages, memoranda, articles and other documents Includes the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental medicine for support to Desert Operations: Practical guidance and suggestions for deployment and survival Aeromedical evacuation liaison team (AELT) procedures 	Confidential	Jul 1986 – Mar 1991
3	9	[7500-1] Transport – General Vol II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages and memoranda 	Secret	Mar 1991
3	10	[7510-1] Transportation Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages 	Secret	Oct 1990 – Mar 1991
3	11	[10000-1] Equipment and Supplies – General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages and memoranda Includes the following document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desired Equipment for Exploitation 	Secret	Feb-Mar 1991
4	1	[10000-2] Msg [Message] Demand Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages 	Secret	Nov 1990 – Mar 1991
4	2	[10001-1] Eqpt [Equipment] and Supplies – Naval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages 	Secret	Nov 1990 – Mar 1991
4	3	[10001-2] Equipment and Supplies – Air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages 	Secret	Nov 1990 – Feb 1991
4	4	[12300-1] Motor Vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages 	Secret	Oct 1990 – Mar 1991
4	5	[15800-1] Communications Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages 	Secret	Nov 1990 – Feb 1991
4	6	[17510-1] Office Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memoranda 	Secret	Dec 1990 – Feb 1991
4	7	[18400-1] Clothing – General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages and memoranda 	Confidential	Nov 1990 – Mar 1991
4	8	[18900-1] Rations and Spirits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages 	Confidential	Nov 1990 – Feb 1991
4	10	Ex [Exercise] Candid Hammer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages 	Secret	Dec 1990 – Jan 1991
4	11	SMO [5 Month File] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports, messages and correspondence Includes the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management of wounds contaminated by a chemical agent The efficiency of Milton Solution as a 	Secret	Sep 1990 – Jan 1991

Box	File	Title and Contents	Security	Dates
		decontaminant for open wounds contaminated with thickened sulphur mustard		
4	12	Hospitalization – Admission – Discharge – General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages, memoranda and report Includes the following document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation of patient management and sit-reps 	Confidential	Oct 1990 – Mar 1991
4	13	Imminent Thunder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages and briefing note 	Secret	Nov 1990
4	14	Med [Medical] Int [Intelligence] – Gen [General] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical brief, articles, messages, memoranda and handbooks Includes the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Intelligence Handbook • Management of stress in army operations • Psychological aspects of desert operations What to expect 	Confidential	Aug 1986 – Dec 1990
4	15	Op [Operation] Friction Catchall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memoranda, reports, messages and other documents [2 files] Includes the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada/US Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning mutual support • Preventive medicine summary report Operation Friction November 18 to February 5 	Secret	Jan-Feb 1991