

HISTORY OF THE DENTAL REPAIR TRADE

2007 By CWO (Ret) Cliff Beauchamp

The dental repair trade was one of the smallest, if not the smallest, in the CF, growing from three to four during the war to a high of 21 established positions just prior to its disbandment in 1996. During this time the trade went through a number of name and organizational changes as it evolved.

Documentation as to when Dental Repairers were first employed is pretty scarce, the first and only mention found was in Lieutenant- Colonel HM Jackson's book entitled "The Story of the Royal Canadian Dental Corps" which covers the history of the Corp from its establishment in 1915 to 1947. The book indicates that three dental repairers, one Non Commissioned Officer and two other ranks were employed in Ottawa in the instrument repair department during WW11 and in the post war corps repairing and overhauling mobile equipment, the work produced monthly was considered so satisfactory that it was decided, in the interest of economy to increase the staff by one.

Farewell Party - Mr WAW Brampton Retires



Mr Brampton, Col AT Roger

A unique record of service with the Royal Canadian Dental Corps which commenced in Dec 1939 with the CA(AF) and was terminated on 29 Nov 64 when Mr WAW Brampton retired from his Part V position in the repair section at this HQ. On 18 Nov 64 a farewell dinner was held, attended by approximately forty 13 Dental Coy personnel and a good representation from No 1 Dental Equipment Depot, at which best wishes were extended to Mr Brampton for a happy future. An engraved tray was presented. Mr Brampton plans to participate with his two sons in an electronics business in Grimsby, Ont.

Mr. William Brampton who was with the RCDC in 1939 is believed to have been one of the dental repairers during the war and continued as such as a civilian until his retirement in 1964.

In 1947 Mr. Brampton and Eddie Church who had remustered from the Service Corps (rank at this time unknown), are believed to be the only two employed maintaining and repairing dental equipment at the No 1 Central Dental Stores located at Plouffe Park in space made available by No. 26 Central Ordnance Depot RCOC. (Prior to this, the Central Dental Stores had been located at the Elgin Annex Building until the winter of 1945, then to the National Grocers Building on York Street until the latter part of 1946 when it was moved to RCAF Rockcliffe and then on to Plouffe Park sometime in 1947).

In 1948 Eddie Church attended a course in Bethesda MD, conducted by the U.S. Forces, for the Maintenance of Dental Equipment. This provided him with the knowledge and expertise to provide in house technical training for Dental Repairers and Equipment Maintenance for Dental Assistants. With training commencing in 1950, the structured



No 1 Equipment Depot Ottawa 1953: Front L to R: Bill Morris, Jim Powell, Bob Stewart, Ab Nixon, Harvey Lubitz. Back L to R: Jack Mullins, Red Gardiner, John Hall, John Hutchinson, Merv Conkey, Ernie Carpenter, Ed Church

post war dental repair trade/occupation was born, and Dental Equipment Repairers (DER) were then stationed in each Dental Company in the technical repair section of the Coy Dental Stores, and for the next 46 years would keep abreast of changing technology and provide repair services, both in garrison and the field, keeping equipment related downtime to a minimum.



In 1960, No 1 Dental Equipment Depot was relocated to a brand new purpose built building in Petawawa to house both the Dental and Medical Depot. All technical equipment and stores training were then conducted from this location

On the 16 Dec 1953 the name of the Central Dental Stores was changed to No 1 Dental Equipment Depot.)

In 1966, the Integration of the Forces led to changes in the Personnel Management system and trade structures and the dental trades were greatly affected.

STAFF NO 1 DENTAL EQUIPMENT DEPOT 1962



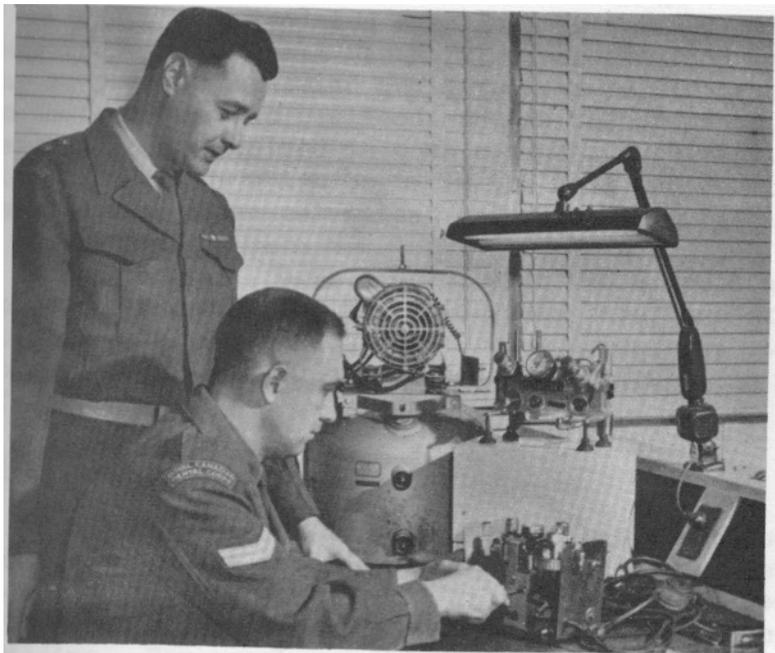
Front Row: L to R: Thelma Gendron, Rita Little, Ssgt AF Davison, WO1 WD Morris, Lt EA Church, Maj JW Fletcher, Lt M Kostyniuk, WO1 VO Bergland, Ssgt JW Hutchinson, Helen Boisvert.

Back Row: L to R: Sgt A Tait, Mr Luke Faught, Cpl EA Duve, Cpl DT McRoberts, Pte H Snutch, Pte HE Lubitz, Cpl PJ Dumas, Mr Bob Mills, Pte LJP Nadeau, Ssgt TW Sullivan, Cpl ES Beattie, Mr M Dick.

Up to this point there had been seven dental trades; dental assistants, dental technician clinical, technical dental therapist, dental repairers, dental storemen, clerks

administrative. This was reduced to five, the clerks admin disappeared as a dental trade and the dental storemen were amalgamated with the dental repairers. To reflect the change, as well as to better identify the function of the trade with the use of more sophisticated equipment in the Corps, the trade name was changed from Dental Equipment Repairer (DER) to Dental Equipment Maintenance Technicians (DEMT). To facilitate the amalgamation of the two trades, special conversion courses were held between 1966 and 1969 for all DEMT tradesmen. 1966 saw the last Dental Storeman GP 3 course and the first Pay level 4 DEMT providing the new combined training to new members of the trade.

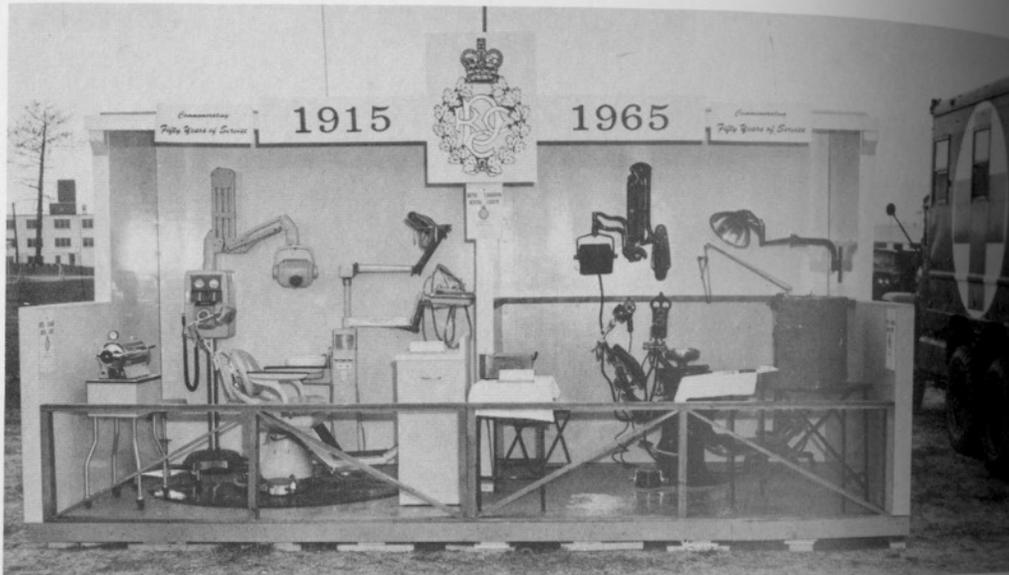
This was not the end of changes for the new DEMT trade or 1 Dental Equipment Depot. In 1969, a new modern technical training facility was built at CFDSS to accommodate DEMT training, consolidating all dental trade training in one location and bringing an end to training at 1DED. The first course was conducted 14 Apr -26 Sept of that year. To keep abreast



Lt Church and Cpl Duve – 1 DED Petawawa 1962

1 Dent Eqpt Dep

Anniversary Celebrations



This display showing today's modern static clinic equipment (left) and field equipment (right) was prepared by 1 Dent Eqpt Dep for the Corps anniversary and Camp Petawawa Diamond Jubilee Day.

of modern technology, electronic training was introduced at the TQ 6A level with the first course undergoing Performance Oriented Electronics Training (POET) in Kingston in 1971. Given the nature of this course and the difficulty, it was deemed more appropriate to have the electronic training as a prerequisite to the TQ 4 course rather than a few years later as part of the TQ 6A. The change was implemented in the late seventies.

The next big change occurred in 1976 with the conversion from the existing CFDS supply system to the Canadian Forces Supply system. This conversion led to another split of the DEMA trade, with all original stores personnel being remustered to Logistic Branch and another name change to Dental Equipment Technician (DE Tech) for the remaining 20 technicians. Then in 1978, No 1 DED ceased to be a CFDS unit and came under the control of the Assistant Deputy Minister (Materiel). All dental supply activities were to be consolidated in Petawawa and the two remaining

Training

1 Dent Eqpt Dep

Special Conversion Course Dental Storeman Group 3 - 8 Jan-28 Mar 68



Back L to R: WO2 JW Hutchison, WO1 Carpenter. Front L to R: SSgt Al Strub, SSgt EA Jermain, SSgt. AH Green, Sgt Schmelzle



Conversion Course Circa 1966
 SSgt Sullivan, Sgt Parker, WO2 Carpenter, Sgt MacDonald, Sgt Kennedy

regional depots in Montreal and Edmonton were to be closed. This also brought a change to the procurement cell at the directorate where the LCMM position had been traditionally filled by a tradesperson with a supply background was now to be filled by a tradesperson with a repair background. For the most part, from 1979 to when the trade was disbanded in 1996, this position would be filled by the senior DE Tech. Also with the closure of the

Company/Unit stores and later the regional stores, the majority of DE Techs were now part of the HQs with repair shops co-located on the same base as the HQ. In some instances due to the large geographical area covered by the unit or the workload additional workshops were located on some of the larger bases (Edmonton, Valcartier and Gagetown)



Conversion Course 6 Jan - 28 Mar 1969
 Front L to R: Pete Nadeau, Paul Dumas, Ernie Everett, Don McKay
 Back L to R: Ted McRoberts, Hugh McKinnon, Matt Hall, George Wadden

The revamped trade held their first ever workshop on 19-21 March 1979 at CFB Trenton. Fourteen tradesmen were in attendance with CWO EMB Everett in the chair. The main topics discussed were training, administrative procedures, workshop accommodation and equipment, responsibilities and working conditions and establishment and organization.

In late 1980 ADM (Mat) directed that 1 Dental Equipment Depot was to be closed and the

complete operation including the repair facility was to be relocated at 1 Canadian Forces Supply Depot (CFSD) in Toronto. In early 1981 a designated Dental Supply Area was

created within 1 CFSD and a Dental Equipment Workshop (DEW) was built. These sections were staffed with supply and dental personnel transferred from Petawawa and began functioning in March 1981. The designated dental supply section gradually disappeared with supplies warehoused according to the SAC concept (size, activity and characteristics) throughout the depot.



The workshop was a great success and provided stability and guidance on the way ahead after all the changes turmoil of the past ten years. Attendees were MWO E Duve, WOs G Cliché, P Harkins, JNC Beauchamp, M Longford, Sgts R Gratton, D Morphett, Habberjam, LKallman, JCornett, W Wilson, Gallager and MCpl C Shave.

The DEW became a sub section of 1CFSD Technical Service Branch but took its direction from the Director Treatment Services for major taskings and third line responsibilities. It was staffed by three technicians whose main function was repair and overhaul of all unserviceable dental equipment across Canada and Europe, however, when the designated dental supply section disappeared along with the supply personnel with dental experience, the DEW personnel were often tasked to provide Quality Assurance assistance on materiel deliveries or to trace down/rectify dental supply issues.

The next 13 to 14 years were relatively quiet for the trade in that no major changes occurred to the trade structure. With the introduction of the Illumination and Photo Polymerizing Unit Sci Can Dual Lux and Fibre Optic Handpieces in 1984 a training session was held at CFDS by the manufacturer's representatives. With 22 attendees, the event marked the first time that such a large number of dental equipment technicians had gathered in one location.

Opening Ceremonies 1 CFSD Dental Equipment Workshop (DEW)



BGen W.R. Thompson cuts the ribbon with help from Col J.G. Goguen (left) and Col I.H. Firth (right). In the forefront, Sgt Cornett (left) and Cpl Muir (right) stand prepared to greet the visitors.

On 29 January 1981, the Dental Equipment Workshop at 1 Canadian Forces Supply Depot CFB Toronto was officially opened by the Director General Dental Services, BGen W.R. Thompson. The Director General Supply Systems BGen J.P. Leclerc who was convalescing at the time of the opening was represented by Col J.G. Goguen, Director Supply Management, Col I.H. Faith, Base Commander CFB Toronto, Col G.G. Waddell, Commanding Officer 1 CFSD, and LCol W.A. Freeman, Material Control Officer, also officiated at the opening. Those individuals responsible for the daily operation of the DEW and for supply support to the CFDS were also in attendance, namely Sgt Cornett, Sgt Hubley and Cpl Muir.

During the ceremonies the assemblage was briefed on depot operations and afforded a tour of the facility. After the opening all attending were treated to a delightful "working luncheon".

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L & Z Training Session CFDSS Borden March 1984

Back L to R: Ross Pease, Jim Cornett, Lou Roussy, Bill Bodfield, Paul Charbonneau, Jackson, Skip Solomon, John Bouchard, Dick Gratton, Tom Rocco, Sue Brine, Rick Carnegie, Theo Leclerc, R-Laplante, Bill Quine, Vick McLean, Mario Fournier

Front L to R: Cliff Beauchamp, LCol. Keith Morley, Bob Shroen, Col JMA Donely, Rejean Girouard, Malcom Longford, Doug Morphett.

Another Dental Equipment workshop was held at CFB Trenton in November of 1985 to study various aspects of the trade and make recommendations to equipment repair services to the CFDS.



Attendees included CWO JNC Beauchamp, MWO DJ Morphett, WO TC Rocco, WO JLT Leclerc, WO JR Gratton, WO RL Solomon, WO WA Quine, Sgt. JMM Fournier, Sgt RW Pease, Maj Shore, LCol Craig, BGen Wright

In the early nineties it was announced that 1CFSD was to close with all activities to be relocated to 25 CFSD in Montreal. This meant relocating the DEW ,dental equipment and any remaining consumables stores(by this time consumables dental supplies were being procured locally by each detachment after existing stocks were used up) Design was started on a state of the art DEW, complete with classrooms and extra workstations for training. The move to the new facility took place in 1994/95 which unfortunately was at the same time that the CF was directed to reduce cost and staffing with the resulting production and acceptance of the CFDS 2000 proposal. This was quickly followed with direction that the medical and dental HQs functions were to be combined where it was mutually beneficial. The interpretation of mutually beneficial varied greatly resulting in the CFDS being placed under a new organization – Chief of Health Services – ending 58 years of dental autonomy.

Under the proposed force reduction the Dental Equipment Technician trade was already being reviewed for possible downsizing and consolidation of workshops. With the proposal to place CFDS under Chief Health Services the occupation came under further scrutiny. The trade was deemed to be too small to be viable and not cost effective this and the presentations from senior medical personnel that the medical BIO Med Techs (who up to this time had been an OSQ of the Medical Assistant trade) were fully trained to repair dental equipment and could take over the function. (This declaration was later

proved to be an exaggeration as all those involved in the repair of dental equipment had to receive additional training) sealed the fate of the occupation.

After further review and much discussion it was decided to disband the Dental Equipment Technician occupation, contract out all repair services for the garrison dental clinics, create a new MOC for the BIO Med Techs (with approx the same establishment as the DETech trade that was deemed to be not viable or cost effective) and with three dental established position being transferred, they would take over the responsibility of the repair and maintenance of all field operational equipment. Four or five of the DE Techs remustered to the new MOC with the proviso that they would undertake additional training while the remainder took the buy out package.

PERSONNEL

THE WO1/ CWO OF THE TRADE:



**EA Church - ? – 1961
WO1,**



**WD Morris WO1: 1961-1964,
WO 1968 1974. (He was depot WO
in Petawawa and reverted back
WO1 upon returning to the trade
and moving to Borden)**



E Carpenter – 1964 – 1968



EMB Everett – 1974 – 1979



E Duve 1979-1982



M Longford 1982 – 1984



JNC Beauchamp 1984 – 1988



D Morphet 1988- 1989



B Quine 1990 – 1995



T Rocco 1995- 1996

Members of the trade - 1947 to 1996

The dates and rank shown reflect the rank held at the time of initial dental repair training and not the date when the individual joined the forces, the rank obtained on release or how long the individual served or whether he/she successfully completed the training. . One of the major issues that continually plagued the trade was retention, as can be seen by the number of courses conducted just to maintain an established strength of 21. The numbers may not seem significant but to a trade with an establishment of 21 personnel it was a substantial problem.

Originals

1947 - Mr. Brampton and E Church

DER GP 1

1950 – 1957 – Sgts Conkey, Morris, Carpenter, Gardener, Nixon, Stewart,
Cpls Hutchinson, Posylusny, Macomber, Adams, Hall, Charbonneau, Hopkins,
Ptes Lubitz, Powell

1958 Sgt Everett

1960 Sgt Tait

1962 Cpl Duve , Pte Whynott

1963 Cpls Green, Strasdin

1965 Cpls Longford, Harkin, Deveaux, McRae, Gratton, Boulianne, Highfield,
Ptes Russell, Violette

DEMT Level 4

1966 Cpls Cliché, Clint, Palmer, Schultz

1967 Cpls Duffield, Wesley, Pte Burt

(First course at CFDSS)

1969 Cpls Shave, Wilson, Timleck, Kallman

1971 Cpls Duffield, Bowman, Beauchamp

1974 Cpls Oakley, Hopkins, Morphett, Gallagher, Cornett, Habberjam

DETech

1978 Cpls Solomon, Leclerc, Quine

1980 MCpl Muir, Cpls Rocco, Fournier,

1981 Cpls Plante, Mclean, Pease

1982 Cpls Roussey, Laplante, Charbonneau, Corney

1983 Cpls Weiers, Carnegie Pte Burke

1984 Cpls Bodfield, Bouchard, Jackson, Brine

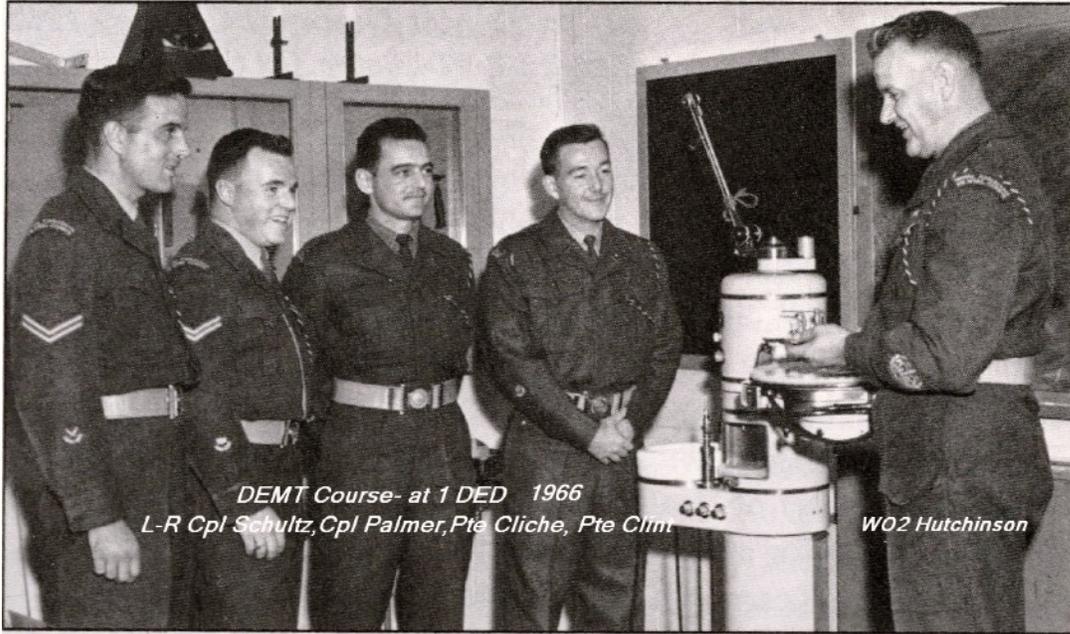
1987 Cpls Lessard, Langlois, Rogers, Poirier

1989 Cpls Tapp, Polino, Mitchell, Perry, Conlon, Guillemette

1991 Cpls Martel, Webber, Ford, Scoville



1962- Maintenance Training (L to R) WO 2 Carpenter, WO1 Morris, Sgt Posylyzny, SSgt Conkey, SSgt Everett, SSgt Hutchinson, SSgt Stewart, Lt Church and kneeling SSgt Nixon



*DEMT Course- at 1 DED 1966
L-R Cpl Schultz, Cpl Palmer, Pte Cliche, Pte Clint
WO2 Hutchinson*

DEMT Level 4 Course –Petawawa 1966



DEMT Level 4 Course – CFDSS 1971
Back L to R : Cpl R Duffield, Cpl G Bowman, Cpl C Beauchamp
Front L to R: MWO W Parker, CWO WD Morris, LCol N Andrews, Cpl Schultz



DEMT Level 6A Course – CFDSS 1974

L to R: MCpl Wilson, MWO Parker, LCol Andrews, Col Richardson, CWO Everett, MCpl Beauchamp, Cpl Bowman



Opening of the 12 Dental Unit DETech Workshop in Willow Park Halifax NS, Jan 1984

I would like to thank Col Becker, Director of Dental Services and his staff for providing access to the dental archives. To Ernie Everett, Ernie Duve, Doug Morphett, Cathy Corny and Dick Gratton for providing photos and background info.

Giving the passage of time and with the documentation that was available I have endeavored to accurately depict the history and the personnel of the trade. I regret any errors or omissions.

JNC Beauchamp