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When is a Man Actually a Conscript?

The authority vested by P.C. 8891 in the Minister of National Defence to despatch N.R.M.A. personnel overseas compulsorily will not be invoked until the men reach the point of embarkation, and are on the point of embarking. Until that stage, the Minister has adequate powers under the law as it stood before this Order in Council was passed.

Every man who volunteers up to the point of receiving the order to go on board ship will cross the gang plank as a general service man, not an N.R.M.A. man.

As to the point raised about "compulsion to volunteer", it can be said that until he receives the order to go on board ship, no man will know absolutely certainly that he, as an individual, will in fact be despatched. What he will know is that his unit has been selected for despatch. But it will be obvious that the units selected must contain numbers considerably in excess of those who will actually go on to the ships. Right up