

11-2-40
A/G. Finlayson
C 278710

Minister of National Defence for Air

Ottawa, October 12th, 1940.

SECRET

Memorandum to A. D. P. Heeney, Esq.,
Clerk of the Privy Council:

Re: Canadian Firemen for the United Kingdom:

In pursuance of instructions received from the War Committee of Cabinet, I consulted separately the Honourable Mr. Mackenzie and the Honourable Justice Davis, Deputy Minister, Department of National War Services.

Conclusions arrived at may be summed up as follows:

- (1) A substantial number of trained fire fighters could be raised from the Municipal Fire Brigades across Canada;
- (2) Such personnel, if recruited, should not form part of any of the Service Departments, but should be under the control of the Department of National War Services;
- (3) No training, other than that which they normally receive as firemen, would be required. Recruiting and despatch overseas could, therefore, take place within a very short period of time;
- (4) No training in Canada is either necessary or desirable. In fact the Fire Brigades of a great many Canadian Cities have been mobilized as Air Raid Precaution Wardens under the various Air Raid Precaution Committees set up at the beginning of the war under the jurisdiction of the Department of Pensions and National Health.

The despatch from the Canadian High Commissioner does not indicate that there is any urgent desire of the part of the United Kingdom Government for Canada to assist by participating in that particular form of endeavour.

Honourable