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CANADA'S ARMED FORCES

A forecast of the future organization and activities of the Canadian Armed Forces was given to press and radio representatives by the Honorable Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence in the Parliamentary Press Gallery of Ottawa on January 16, 1947. A summary of his remarks and of information contained in previous official statements follows:

The year 1947 is one of reorganization for the Canadian Armed Forces during which practicable peacetime establishments will be set up and the machinery for technical development placed on a sound operating basis.

SERVICE PERSONNEL

In the period since the three services, Navy, Army and Air Force, were at their peak strength, there has been a rapid reduction in personnel. Repatriation and demobilization of Canadian forces has been completed much more rapidly than was anticipated.

The reduction in the personnel of the Armed Forces is given in the following summary:

	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>Air Force</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Strength at peak -	92,880	481,500	206,350	780,730
Reduction since -	84,399	460,027	193,401	737,827
Strength as of Dec. 31, 1946. -	<u>8,481</u>	<u>21,475</u>	<u>12,949</u>	<u>42,905</u>

There are less than 9,000 men still to be released, and of this number the majority will be out of the forces by March 31 and all by September 30 of this year. The "Aquitania" is en route from the United Kingdom to Halifax with the last 1,000 troops and some 650 dependent wives and children. Less than 100 Canadian servicemen remain in the U.K.

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

Civilian personnel employed by the Armed Forces totalled 33,426 on December 1, 1946. Of these 3,880 were at Ottawa headquarters.

Since the end of the war there had been an increase in civilians employed by the Armed Forces because of the work involved in demobilization of more than 750,000 personnel with accounts to be