

C227548

HQC 8151-20

2 Jan 47

CABINET DOCUMENT

(DWD) No. D/01

Copy No. 1

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE OF THE CABINET

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to seek approval for the reopening of the Royal Military College (RMC) in September 1947.
2. The plan for the provision of officers for the Canadian Army is based on an intake from three principal sources:
  - (a) University graduates who fulfil the requirements of the Canadian Officers' Training Corps (COTC) training programme;
  - (b) Promotion of Other Ranks (up to 20% of the annual officer requirement) who satisfy the necessary military and academic requirements for entrance to RMC or the university;
  - (c) Graduates of the RMC.
3. In April 1946 the Minister of National Defence (Army) appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Brigadier Lett to inquire into and make recommendations as to the system by which officers for the Canadian Army should be selected. (For details see Appx A).
4. Among the recommendations made by the Lett Committee was a recommendation to reopen the RMC and integrate the provision of officers from this source with that from the COTCs.
5. On 30 Sep 46 the Chief of the General Staff (CGS) appointed a committee of officers (hereinafter referred to as the Military Committee) to study the recommendations of the Lett Report with a view to their early adoption, if considered practicable and within our financial limitations, bearing in mind that our policy must be to get the most out of the "military dollar".
6. The Military Committee is in agreement with most of the Lett Committee recommendations.
7. It was unanimously agreed by the Military Committee that the recommendations of the Lett Report that all graduates of RMC enter the penultimate year of the university before being posted was not practicable because:-
  - (a) It would be necessary to pay, during the two years at university, those graduates of RMC, who had been accepted for the Active Force. This would mean an inequality of treatment between the graduates of RMC and graduates of universities entering the Army through the COTC. The latter could quite justifiably claim that they also should be paid during their last two years at the university. If both groups were paid, then approximately 60% of the officer intake of the Army would receive payment, while not performing a direct service to the government at an annual cost to the Treasury of approximately \$500,000.00.
  - (b) It would mean that the Army had established a Military College and would not accept the product of this college as officers in the Active Force without further academic training.