

in addition to being the granary of the British commonwealth, Canada might also become its arsenal. From the very outset, we took a broad view of Canada's tasks in this war and organized our national effort on all fronts. I turn now to what has been achieved.

First, as respects the navy: At the outbreak of war, there were some 20 ships and less than 2,000 men in the Royal Canadian Navy.

At the beginning of 1940 the navy had grown to 80 ships, and over 5,000 men; at the beginning of 1941 the numbers had risen to 175 ships, and 14,800 men. At the beginning of this year the navy comprised over 350 ships and 27,600 men.

From the beginning of the war, the navy has assumed a steadily growing share of convoy work in the North Atlantic. Canadian ships of war have shared in the protection of Britain from the threat of invasion. Sailors of the Canadian navy have served and are serving in all the seven seas, either in Canadian or in British ships. Canada's pride in the navy is reflected in the long waiting list of young men seeking to join the service.

As respects the army: At the outbreak of war the permanent active militia, as Canada's regular army was then called, included about 4,500 men. By the end of 1939, the Canadian Active Service Force, to give the army its name at that date, had increased to 64,000 men. The first Canadian division had just arrived in Britain.

At the close of 1940, the active army included almost 170,000 men. A Canadian corps of two divisions had already been formed in Britain. Canadian troops were also on active service in Newfoundland, the British West Indies and Iceland.

At the close of 1941, there were more than 260,000 men in the Canadian active army, enlisted for service in any part of the world. About half this number were on active service outside Canada. A third infantry division, an armoured division, an army tank brigade, forestry troops, and other specialized units, and thousands of reinforcements were in Britain, in addition to the original corps of two divisions.

Canadian troops continued to serve in Newfoundland and the West Indies. Two Canadian regiments recently added a new chapter of valour in the heroic defence of Hong Kong.

In addition to the active army, several thousand young men had, during 1941, been called up for military training and service in Canada under the National Resources Mobilization Act. Of this number, a considerable proportion had enlisted in the active army, the navy, and the air force. Some

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thousands more had been assigned to duties in Canada, thus relieving enlisted men for service elsewhere.

Mention should also be made of the reserve army, in which at the end of 1941, some 140,000 men were enrolled.

As respects the air force: At the outbreak of war the active strength of the Royal Canadian Air Force was some 4,000, all ranks. By the close of 1939, the strength had risen to over 8,000; by the close of 1940, it had reached 43,000; by the close of 1941, it exceeded 100,000 men.

In addition to the home defence duties which began with the outbreak of war, the air force was engaged, in the closing months of 1939, in planning and arranging the organizational details of the gigantic British commonwealth air training plan.

The year 1940 was a year of construction development for the plan. But, in spite of the strain which was then placed upon the force, Canada's three squadrons which were sent overseas did valiant service in the Battle of Britain.

In 1941, responsibilities of the home war establishment for patrol work in the Atlantic area and Newfoundland steadily increased. The outbreak of war with Japan added seriously to its tasks on the Pacific coast.

The duty of providing a trained air crew for the active theatres of war through the air training plan continued throughout 1941 to be the heaviest responsibility of Canada's air force. The magnitude of the air training plan was still further enlarged during the year, and the output of trained men accelerated.

The growing part of the Royal Canadian Air Force in air operations over Britain and the continent of Europe has found sombre reflection in the casualty lists. At the close of the year, from the original three, Canada's own force in the field was expanded to twenty-eight squadrons which had already been formed or were in the final stages of formation in Britain. Thousands more of the Canadian pilots and air crew, trained in the commonwealth air training plan, were serving as individuals with the Royal Air Force, not only in Britain but also in the western desert and other theatres of war.

Over and above any commitment under the commonwealth training plan, the call for highly qualified and scientifically trained personnel for very special duties, such as radio location, has been responded to by the dispatch overseas of thousands to fill this immediate and important need. Canada's share in the war in the air has reached a stage where Canadian airmen have become a major factor in the armed strength of the British commonwealth.