

16. The Minister of Munitions and Supply agreed that the maintenance of repair facilities on the West Coast was a civil matter. There would be no difficulty in having the yards maintained and available for repairs to R.N. as well as R.C.N. ships.

17. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of avoiding further unnecessary commitments in relation to the Japanese war, the conduct of which was primarily a U.S. obligation.

18. The War Committee, after further discussion, noted the remarks of the Minister of Munitions and Supply and agreed that the Naval Staff examine the possibility of providing for the manning of two escort maintenance vessels within the limits of the approved Naval programme for participation in the Pacific war.

Air; participation in European occupation;
Japanese war

19. The Chief of the Air Staff reviewed the Air Force proposals.

These now involved the employment of a total of thirty-three squadrons, eleven for Europe, twenty-two for the Far East. In addition, there would be required in Canada from six to fifteen, depending on the extent to which patrolling and escort work would be required in Western Air Command.

The R.C.A.F. in the Pacific would be employed with the R.A.F., which would eliminate the necessity of re-equipping with U.S. equipment, apart from transport aircraft.

20. Air Marshal Leckie felt it necessary to recommend, in addition, the provision of an aerodrome construction unit of some 6,000 men to meet the anticipated requirements of the probable theatre of operations. In earlier discussions, it had been thought that such a unit might be provided by the Army.

21. The War Committee, after further discussion, agreed that Air Force participation of eleven squadrons for European occupation and twenty-two squadrons for operations against Japan be approved, and that decision with respect to the provision of an aerodrome construction unit be deferred.

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