

4. Agreement between Canada and the United States concerning transfer of United States citizens from the armed forces of Canada to the armed forces of the United States, Exchange of Notes of March 18, 1942

PRESS STATEMENT OF MARCH 20, 1942

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Agreement with the United States on the transfer of United States citizens from the armed forces of Canada to the armed forces of the United States.

1. The Prime Minister tabled in the House of Commons this afternoon an exchange of notes with the United States setting forth an agreement between Canada and the United States for the transfer to the armed forces of the United States of certain present and former United States citizens now serving in the Naval, Military or Air Forces of Canada.
2. There are now in the Canadian armed forces at home and abroad about fifteen to sixteen thousand United States citizens; nine to ten thousand in the Army, six thousand in the Air Force, and forty-two in the Navy. Technically they are not all actual citizens of the United States. Some of them enlisted in the Canadian forces during the first months of the war when Canada required an oath of allegiance and by taking the oath they lost their United States citizenship and became stateless, that is to say, citizens of no country. The present agreement, however, covers these former citizens. It treats them just as if they were still United States citizens.
3. What the agreement does is to give every United States citizen in our forces an opportunity to transfer to the forces of his own country if he wants to. The only proviso is that the Canadian authorities may withhold permission for a transfer if immediate transfer would prejudicially affect the common war effort.
4. The agreement may be summarized as follows:-
  - (a) All United States citizens in the Canadian forces and all former United States citizens who have lost their citizenship as the result of taking an oath of allegiance will be given an opportunity to apply for transfer to the United States forces.