

Pacific war; postwar permanent forces; Air

17. The Minister of National Defence for Air enquired whether it would be appropriate to inform volunteers that service in the Pacific war would lead to preferment for appointment to the postwar permanent forces. Such an announcement would, of course, require some decision as to the nature and size of the permanent forces to be maintained in the postwar period.

18. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that a decision in this respect could not be made at the present time.

Service hospital accommodation in Canada

19. The Minister of National Defence referred to the decision taken at the meeting of March 22nd viz., that the general situation as regards hospital capacity, particularly in the Toronto area, be referred for consideration and report to the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Wartime Committee on Hospitalization.

In accordance with this direction, a meeting had been held on April 9th and the following conclusions had been reached:

(a) that the overall programme, when completed, would provide a sufficient number of beds but that there was some cause for concern with respect to immediate requirements;

(b) that the Department of Veterans Affairs should review their whole programme with a view to expediting its completion;

(c) that the present distribution of bed capacity required some adjustment; and, that the following action be taken with a view to improving the situation in the areas affected:

Toronto area

(i) the Air Force to take immediate action to increase bed capacity at St. Thomas to 1,100 and to keep under consideration the possibility of a further increase to the ultimate capacity of 1,700;

(ii) the Army to take over and convert available accommodation at Malton Airport to a convalescent hospital of 500 bed capacity;

Montreal area

(iii) Department of Veterans Affairs to explore possibility of acquiring increased