

Mr. GREEN: Then some statements were made earlier this week by some of your senior officers of the sixth Canadian division, stationed in British Columbia?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: In the press report I find this statement:

The whole of the sixth division, a large proportion of which is composed of home defence troops, is stationed in British Columbia. The officers said virtually all the home defence troops in the division have received full combat training.

Is that correct?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I would not answer that question, from my knowledge, quite as emphatically as the officer in question has done. I would say it stands very high.

Mr. GREEN: Have you any reason to question the statement made by this officer?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: That they have had full combat training?

Mr. GREEN: Full combat training.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: They have had a very high degree of combat training, but under the circumstances, since my return to Canada, I have not had an opportunity to visit them, so that of my own knowledge I cannot state whether that is the case.

Mr. GREEN: Yet under your policy these home defence troops who have had full combat training will not be put into action, but boys who have had five or six weeks of training will?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: No, I would not say that would be the result.

Mr. GREEN: Then have you any fault to find with that statement of fact?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I think all any of us can say is that the event will show.

Mr. GREEN: Oh, but this is not what the event will show; this is what the facts are at this very time. Do you question the accuracy of that statement? That is a simple question. Do you question the accuracy of that statement?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Would you repeat the statement?

Mr. GREEN: Under your policy men in the home defence army whom you admit have had full combat training will not be put into action, but young lads who have had only five or six weeks of training, or make it even seven or eight weeks, will be put into action.

Mr. MITCHELL: That is not true, and you know it.

Mr. GREEN: General McNaughton should answer the question.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: No, I will not answer that question in the affirmative.

Mr. GREEN: You will not answer that question?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I say I will not answer it in the affirmative. The answer is definitely, no.

Mr. GREEN: Then the Canadian people will see for themselves.

Mr. GRAYDON: Please let us have some order; I cannot hear what is being said.

Mr. GREEN: General McNaughton, with regard to the young Canadians in Great Britain who, without any say in the matter, are being remustered into the infantry, perhaps by thousands, what training will they get before they face the enemy?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I took the case of a man in a specific arm, the artillery, going into the infantry, for the purpose of giving the information. Of course it was in the United Kingdom that most of the remustering had to take place. There it was laid down that there should be a minimum of six weeks of training for a gunner going on to infantry.

Mr. GREEN: I cannot hear you.

Mr. GRAYDON: Be quiet while the general speaks.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order; may I ask hon. members to listen for a moment. I cannot hear half the questions and answers, and we must have the record clear. There must be silence rather than the conversation that is going on all over the chamber. As I have said already, while this may be somewhat informal, still the Speaker is in the chair, and I expect the same silence to be maintained as would be observed during an ordinary session of the house.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The question I was asked was what training a fully trained gunner would be given before going forward, if he were converted to infantry.

Mr. GREEN: Does it make any difference whether he is a fully trained gunner or a partly trained gunner?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Very much. On being remustered he would be given a minimum of six weeks of training; then, if he had not come up to the test standards which