

We are progressively providing single men with barrack accommodation in rooms holding 4, 3 or 2 soldiers each. They all have separate beds, good springs and mattresses, sheets and pillow slips. In some camps bed lights are issued and in others they are privately obtained. In most of the camps the men have wardrobes.

Our married quarters programme is well advanced. By the 31st March, 1949, we shall have completed or converted about 7,000 additional married quarters, a figure proportionately far in excess of anything achieved in any other country.

I mention these things because I don't think everyone knows them and they have an important bearing on the recruiting campaign that we are carrying on now. Last year and this, we have had nation-wide campaigns for the three Services for active and reserve forces together and at the same time have allocated substantial sums for expenditure in commands, by areas and by units.

There is a great change in the kind and quality of training offered to active and reserve forces alike. This year and last, as you know, cadres, consisting principally of officers and N.C.Os. of reserve units to the number of about 12,000, received 7 days' intensive training at the training camps and schools. I saw this going on, as many of you did, at Petawawa, when you were there. I believe you will agree that it was impressive. We had observers there from other countries and they were struck with the organization, which permitted the whole available time to be spent by all the officers and men on training. The housekeeping was done for them. It was surprising to find how much could be given and assimilated in so short a time by the up-to-date methods used. Troops who had never fired a gun were doing good artillery practice at the end of two and three days. Men were driving and firing from tanks and troop carriers and all such monsters under well-simulated war conditions. There was little or no drill on the square, but there was no absence of the discipline which comes from interest, a sense of responsibility, a devotion to a common purpose and the satisfaction of taking part in an important job which was being well-done.

The drill comes earlier on. Incidentally, I was shown at Borden a precision squad which carried out 47 movements, including marching and fixing bayonets and everything else, the whole of the manual, without a single word of command and without a single mistake. These men, I thought, must be the seasoned veterans of the R.C.Rs. or the Princess Pats. Not at all. They were the recruit squad of the R.C.A.S.C. Not one of them had been in the army more than ten weeks. I said I had never seen drill like it and at my suggestion they are giving exhibitions at various cities during Army Week. We are going to advertise them: "See what ten weeks in our Army does to a man!"

The men we are getting either as officers or in the ranks are joining because they see in service the opportunity for a useful career and a career with opportunity. Because our army is intended to be good as well as small, we have to have high educational standards and while we are making these just as flexible as possible in relation to the different jobs and posts, we have found it necessary to reject 4 out of 5 applicants. That has been a difficult decision to take, but it is going to pay dividends in the future. Had we not had such high standards, we could have had greater numbers in the regular forces today, but that would not have advanced us because we would have had to give the same men education and additional training in the services, which would have added greatly to the public expense and impaired the efficiency of the army generally because a larger proportion would have been employed on elementary training.

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