

*Supply—National Defence*

That incident occurred on March 21, 1801, at Alexandria, when Napoleon was making his bid to conquer the east and the British were stopping him. I need not go into detail except to say that the Glo'sters were surrounded at that time also; and ever since they have had the privilege, unique in the world, of wearing two badges on their head-dress, one in the front and the other at the back. I contend that tradition is a wonderful thing and is one of the ties that help to bind a good unit together.

There has been some criticism that the reserve army has not had sufficient equipment with which to train. As the hon. member for Nanaimo so well said the other day, no good officer ever has enough equipment, men and material with which to train or fight. Most reserve units have sufficient equipment. In the case of my own regiment there is nothing we need in the way of training equipment, neither do we lack accommodation or training areas. Perhaps we are more fortunate than many others, but even those units without sufficient accommodation have been able to carry on. All equipment and accommodation is useless without enthusiasm to make it work. I was surprised to hear the criticism yesterday that we have no tanks with which to train personnel. It is quite true that we have not the latest tanks coming off United States assembly lines, but the Sherman tanks we have were the best on the allied side at the end of the war; and like machine guns, if you learn one tank you learn them all. After that it is just a matter of a short course, and your men can go right on with them. So I do not believe this criticism is well founded.

It has been suggested also that reserve army regiments should train as units. This is practically impossible when there are a great many tradesmen in the unit. Like most reserve units, we like the school system we have been working under for the last three years. Units go to a camp such as Petawawa and everyone from the colonel down is put on a course. We have no housekeeping duties, and everyone goes home better trained. There is sufficient authority for special courses and exercises so commanders may exercise their units and get their administrative people into their jobs any time they wish to do so.

One of the mistakes that have been made in the reserve army, and we also made it, was recruiting numbers instead of quality. A large nominal roll does not in any way indicate a good unit. We found that by getting good types of soldiers we increased our efficiency and were able to qualify more tradesmen, and at the same time we built up

a better reputation. The reserve army has the big job of selling public relations, and that is important. Troops who do not behave give us a bad reputation, but fortunately such cases have been rare.

The reserve army has a few problems, too; everything is not perfect. I do not think it would be wrong for me to bring some of those problems to the attention of the house. Between the wars we had what was known as the transportation grant, which worked out in this way. A soldier was allowed to bring his car to local headquarters training and receive mileage for it, provided he brought three or four other troops with him. In other words every man who had a car assisted in recruiting and in having a good turnout for parades. This was discontinued in 1946; today we have to use army vehicles to transport troops. These vehicles are not sufficiently winterized to be comfortable, and I sometimes wonder why the troops continue to ride in them in cold weather. Then in rural areas like ours it is too expensive to send a large truck a long distance for perhaps two men. I feel that we should have mass transportation by army vehicles and local transportation for local headquarters training mostly by private cars. I believe one of the most important things the department could do for the reserve army would be to restore this transportation grant. The reason given for taking it away was the increase in pay we were given at that time. I fail to see how the increase in pay was related to the transportation grant, unless it was in the over-all cost of the reserve army.

I agree with the statement by the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Finance with respect to income tax and danger pay. I need not repeat it, because I think the hon. gentleman put it very well; and I believe that is the best solution that has been advanced so far. Today all units in Canada are having trouble finding sufficient pay for the handful of people who run them. We are allowed sixty days' training time, forty-five days at local headquarters and the remainder at summer camp. In addition there are special training exercises for which authority may be granted, and also ten days' administration pay.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am sure that no one wants to tie a dollar sign to the reserve army. Money cannot buy a reserve army. It cannot buy the loyalty, initiative or anything else it takes to make a reserve army. However, I do feel that personnel should not be asked to train and work without receiving pay for the time spent. Unfortunately, we have to talk about money in these days. Instead of turning