

to about 55,000. A considerable portion of the men called up during the year had volunteered for general service.

In the air force the number of men rose in 1942 from about 100,000 to about 150,000.

In addition to the armed forces, about 38,000 Canadian merchant seamen are serving on vessels of Canadian or foreign registry. Some 400 men are serving in Britain in the corps of Canadian civilian firefighters.

Just a word about the war effort of these forces. The Canadian navy has three tasks. It shares with the army and the air force in guarding Canada's shores. It shares with the British and United States navies in protecting merchant shipping on the Atlantic. It cooperates with the sea forces of the united nations. In engagements with the enemy, officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy have borne themselves gallantly. Several enemy submarines have been sunk by Canadian naval forces. I pause to ask hon. members if their pride and the pride of the country has not been stirred by the announcement made within the last few days that a Canadian corvette bearing the name *Ville de Quebec* had torpedoed a German submarine and sunk her in the waters of the Mediterranean, and the report which has been published to-day that another Canadian corvette bearing the name *Port Arthur* has sunk an Italian submarine. And, Mr. Speaker, while these announcements are not made from day to day, it is a fact that something like eight or nine or ten of our corvettes or other ships have succeeded in sinking U-boats during the course of this war.

That is only one phase, but I say it is something of which Canada may well be proud. I ask the members of my party and others in this house who come from the province of Quebec if they are not proud that a corvette manned by Canadians and bearing the name of the city of Quebec, the capital of old Canada, was able to sink an enemy ship in the waters of the Mediterranean. I see my hon. friends at the far end opposite, to whom I am addressing my remarks particularly, smiling. May I make this statement; may I say to them that proud as I have often been of this House of Commons, I was never prouder than when I heard two of our members in uniform speak as they did about the defence of Canada being accomplished through the defence of freedom in all parts of the world; coming here to this house while on active service to proclaim the larger vision, the only vision that counts for aught in a war like this, that the safety of Canada is bound up with the safety of freedom throughout the world. Yet at this critical time, of all times,

hon. gentlemen in the far corner opposite find it necessary to separate themselves from colleagues in their province in order to support an isolationist view with regard to the war effort of Canada! Their action does credit neither to themselves, nor to their province or to our country.

To continue with respect to Canada's war effort. A programme of expansion in the navy has been followed continuously since the outbreak of war. Only a part of Canadian shipbuilding capacity is devoted to the needs of the Royal Canadian Navy. The total shipbuilding capacity is divided between the construction of cargo ships and naval craft. A considerable number of ships of both kinds are constructed for Britain, the United States and others of our allies. At the same time British shipyards, as well as our own, are building ships for the Canadian navy. A considerable increase in the number of ships, including several destroyers, is anticipated in the present year. The enlistment and training of naval personnel is keeping pace with the increase in the number of ships.

The Canadian army in Britain has continued to guard that island citadel and to prepare for offensive action against the enemy. In the combined operations at Dieppe the valour and heroism of our troops as I have said has filled our country with pride. May I pause here to say that I sometimes think we do not sufficiently estimate the part which our troops in Britain have played from the beginning of this war. We have, for example, been attaching considerable importance to the visit which Mr. Churchill had with the President of the United States in North Africa. At different times we have been stirred by similar visits to Washington. How has it been made possible for Mr. Churchill to travel as he has to different parts of the world in this time of war? If you ask the people of Britain they will tell you to-day that this is due in very large part to the sense of security which Mr. Churchill and the government of Britain feel because of the presence of the Canadian forces, along with the British forces, in the British isles. Our men have not merely been prepared at any moment to meet the assault of the enemy should he seek to attack Britain. They have been equally prepared to cross the channel and be the spearhead of an attack upon the German forces there. Moreover, the effect of the presence of the Canadians in the British isles has been to keep locked up in the mainland opposite, in occupied France, divisions of German troops which would have been available for service in Africa or elsewhere.