

National Defence Act Amendment

other decorations conferred by governments here and abroad. He is a young man; he was born on June 12, 1913, in Ste. Monique de Nicolet, Quebec and commissioned in the non-permanent active militia in 1933. It is a matter of great pride to those who served, or still serve, with the militia that General Allard has got where he is today. I remember him as second in command of the Royal 22nd in 1943 while the regiment was serving in Italy. In December, 1943 he won the D.S.O. for gallantry, initiative and military skill in the battle of the Arielli River, near Ortona. In January, 1944, he has appointed commanding officer of the regiment and in September of that year was awarded the first bar to his D.S.O. for outstanding service during the breakthrough of the Gothic Line. In 1945 he was given command of the 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade in Holland where he won a second bar to his D.S.O. After a year at the Imperial Defence College in England, where he is still well remembered, he became vice quartermaster general for the Canadian army.

Jean Allard returned to the field of action in April, 1953 as commander of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group in Korea. He represented Canada at the truce signing ceremonies at Panmunjom on July 27, 1953. In 1965 he became the first commander of the newly created Mobile Command and in 1966 he was promoted to general and appointed Chief of the Defence Staff.

Or we could consider navy people such as Vice Admiral Ralph Lucien Hennessy, D.S.O. Born in 1918, Admiral Hennessy is still a young man. He entered the navy as a cadet in 1936 and joined the Canadian destroyer *Assiniboine* in 1939, serving in her for the next three and a half years. As executive officer he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in August, 1942, for his part in the sinking of the German submarine U-210. In 1944, while in command of the *Assiniboine* he served on North Atlantic convoy duty until the end of the war. When H.M.C.S. *Micmac*, the first Canadian built Tribal class destroyer, was commissioned in September, 1945, he took command. In 1956 he was appointed in command of H.M.C.S. *Niobe*, R.C.N. headquarters in Britain, and additionally as chief staff officer to the naval member, Canadian joint staff (London).

Admiral Hennessy served as director of naval training in headquarters from September, 1958, until he became deputy chief of naval personnel in June, 1960 with the rank of commodore. In August, 1963, he became

[Mr. Matheson.]

commodore, personnel, Atlantic coast. In July, 1966 he was appointed comptroller-general having been promoted to vice admiral. Let us bear in mind the influence, at least, that the party now in the official opposition used in the making of some of these important appointments.

I could go on. I could deal with the records of Commodore Fraser-Harris, or of Air Marshal Edwin M. Reyno, or of Air Commodore Gerald Gordon Diamond, or of Rear Admiral John Charles O'Brien, a man with a particularly brilliant list of achievements. O'Brien entered the Royal Canadian Navy as a cadet from the Royal Military College in 1937, he trained and served with the Royal Navy in monitors, battleships and cruisers. In October, 1940, he joined the Canadian destroyer *Saguenay* for North Atlantic escort duties. In 1942 he specialized in communications and served as flotilla signals officer in the R.N.'s fourth destroyer flotilla. After a period in command of the destroyer *Crescent*, which vessel I have visited at sea, and a year spent on the staff of the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, he became executive officer of H.M.C.S. *Stadacona*, R.C.N. barracks at Halifax in 1953 and was later executive officer of the aircraft carrier *Magnificent*.

Admiral O'Brien took command of the aircraft carrier *Bonaventure* in September, 1959. Two years later he became naval member Canadian joint staff (Washington) and commanding officer H.M.C.S. *Niagara*, R.C.N. establishment in Washington. He was appointed senior Canadian officer afloat, Atlantic, on August 24, 1964. In July 1966 he was promoted to rear admiral and appointed commander, Maritime Command.

So we have a pretty strong team.

An hon. Member: It was a lot stronger four years ago.

Mr. Matheson: I did not hear that interruption.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Would the hon. member tell us just what the purpose of all this irrelevant name dropping might be?

Mr. Matheson: I do not think it is irrelevant. Sometimes the admiral who makes the loudest criticism can be heard from coast to coast, in broadcasts and newscasts everywhere, while those able leaders who build day in and day out, year in and year out, are not heard from at all.