

by the R.C.A.F. when it was no longer required for their purposes, would place an additional burden upon the R.C.A.F. particularly in respect of skilled medical personnel required for demobilization centres.

As regards the broader problem, buildings could be made available at Malton for conversion for hospital purposes. It would be exceedingly difficult, however, for the R.C.A.F. to give up its only remaining quarters in the Toronto Metropolitan area.

34. The Chief of the Air Staff pointed out that continued maintenance of the hospital at St. Thomas placed an added burden upon Air Force manpower.

Acceptance of this and similar commitments outside of the Air Force's own requirements inevitably had the effect of retarding demobilization of R.C.A.F. personnel at a time when the government had emphasized the desirability of curtailment and directed demobilization at the maximum possible rate.

35. The War Committee, after further discussion, agreed:

(a) that the R.C.A.F. continue to operate the hospital at St. Thomas until September 1st, 1945, it being understood that the question would be reviewed further by the War Committee before that date; and,

(b) that the general situation as regards hospital capacity, particularly in the Toronto area, be referred for consideration to the Ministers of National Defence and the Minister of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Wartime Committee on Hospitalization, for report at the next meeting.

B.C.A.T.P.; proposed national ceremonies upon termination of training

36. The Minister of National Defence for Air, referring to the closing of the Commonwealth Plan on March 31st, 1945, reported that arrangements had been made for ceremonies to mark the occasion, including a nation-wide broadcast.

It had, however, been represented by our Ambassador in the United States and by the Wartime Information Board that the resultant publicity, outside Canada, might cause an unfortunate reaction. Plans had, therefore, been modified to eliminate broadcasts and certain other special features. It was proposed, however, to have the Governor General participate and possibly the Prime Minister as well, along with representatives of the other Commonwealth countries.