

With the probable shift of operations to the Pacific, this matter should receive a great deal of serious consideration. What form of training do the aircrews receive in air-sea rescue work? Are they trained on this continent, or do they receive their training on the other side?

This may be a post-war matter, but I wish to recommend the establishment of a Royal Canadian Air Force college. We have the Royal Military College at Kingston and the Royal Naval College at Esquimalt, and I should like to see established a Royal Air Force college which would operate along the same lines. We realize that after the war there will be a great reduction in our air force, but at all times we shall have to have a large and powerful air force. So far as I can see, no country will be safe in the future without adequate air defence, particularly a country so rich and as sparsely populated as Canada. The work being carried on by our air cadets is a step in the right direction, and their work in making this country air-minded deserves the highest praise.

The question has been raised whether air power will defeat the enemy. Every day that passes shows us that air power will do more to defeat the enemy than we thought was possible, even last month. In Coventry and Liverpool, which cities received heavy bombings, the destruction to industry was extremely great. The complete cessation of the production of certain items took place for a considerable time, and it is admitted freely in the United Kingdom that the bombing of the industrial centres of England was a serious matter indeed. But what happened in England is as nothing to what is happening to-day in the Ruhr and throughout Germany. Every day air power is bringing the war closer to a conclusion. Nothing that we can do to support the Royal Canadian Air Force is too much. The devastation and softening up of Germany by air power constitute an essential prerequisite to invasion. Air power alone is insufficient, but once the central channels of Europe have been destroyed by air power, the job of our land forces will be made infinitely easier. The degree that bomber command is contributing to the defeat of Germany and Italy is increasing daily. Air power is expensive, but it is infinitely cheaper than attempting to carry out an unprepared operation. Before we can consider landing an army on the shores of Europe, the devastation that must be brought about—and Dieppe showed this as well as anything else—must be immense. Consider the raid on Wuppertal the other evening, when we lost thirty-three bombers; consider what it would

[Mr. Adamson.]

have cost in men and material to have done that job by artillery. I think the committee will see how important air power has become.

I had some questions to ask the minister, but in view of his suggestion I shall wait until the items are taken up one by one. However, I should like to congratulate the minister upon his statement and to express my pride in what has been done by the Royal Canadian Air Force so far, and what will be done in future, to bring about the defeat of the axis.

Mr. ROSS (Calgary East): Before the outbreak of war, a number of young men from all parts of Canada enlisted in the Royal Air Force; at that time there was no place for them in the Royal Canadian Air Force. These young men took courses in aeronautics at their own expense; after completing those courses they went to Great Britain, at their own expense, and joined the Royal Air Force. Many of them would now like to transfer to the Royal Canadian Air Force, because they find themselves in this position. They see their friends from Canada drawing higher pay than they are drawing. The dependents of their friends from Canada are receiving much better allowances than their dependents receive. They are very much alarmed at what may happen when the war is over and they try to reestablish themselves in civil life; they consider that they will be handicapped because it may be held that at the time of their enlistment they were not ordinarily domiciled or resident in Canada, which might preclude them from many of the benefits that will accrue to those who were domiciled in Canada at the time of their enlistment.

I submit that for the duration of the war these boys should have the benefit of the higher pay which is given members of our air force; that their dependents should receive the higher allowances which are given in Canada, and that when the war is over, they should have an equal chance to rehabilitate themselves in civil life. I should like to ask the minister if anything is being done in the way of working out some plan to help these boys to transfer from the Royal Air Force to the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Mr. POWER: That question requires a very long and somewhat involved statement. I would be willing to make that statement at any time, but I know many other hon. members are intensely interested in this matter, and I should prefer to have as many as possible state their views. Then I shall be only too glad to make a statement.