

An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Secretary's memorandum, March 20, 1945 - C.W.C. document 957).

29. The War Committee, after discussion, approved an exchange of notes with the French, Belgium and Netherlands governments along the lines suggested.

R.C.A.F. hospital, St. Thomas, Ontario; use by Army

30. The Minister of National Defence submitted a memorandum, copies of which had been circulated, recommending the continued operation of the R.C.A.F. hospital at St. Thomas, Ontario, to September 1st next.

Existing hospital accommodation in the London and Toronto areas was being utilized to the full and additional capacity would not be ready for some time.

The Department of National Defence for Air no longer required the hospital at St. Thomas, containing 700 beds. If it were taken over by the Army or by the Department of Veterans Affairs, new staff would have to be organized, placing a further strain on Army commitments to Veterans Affairs hospitals.

The Minister's recommendation was supported by the Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Wartime Committee on Hospitalization.

(Departmental memorandum, March 21, 1945 - C.W.C. document 962).

31. General McNaughton emphasized the acute shortage of hospital beds for repatriated casualties and pointed out that, while the Army was bearing a heavy proportion of the burden in assisting Veterans Affairs, each branch of the Service should assume some responsibility.

32. The Minister of Veterans Affairs stated that it would be necessary to maintain the hospital at St. Thomas in order to meet requirements in the immediate future.

This case, however, was only part of a broader problem which, during the next few weeks would become particularly acute in the Toronto area. More accommodation would have to be provided in that area in the immediate future and various proposals were under consideration including the acquisition from the Air Force of the Eglinton Hunt Club property.

33. The Minister of National Defence for Air said that maintenance of the hospital at St. Thomas