

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Substantially.

Mr. RALSTON: Practically all, to furnish the 16,000. While I am on my feet I should like to clear this up, because I think it is very important for us to know about these 16,000. I have read the minister's statement carefully, and I find there is not one word in it that indicates positively that these men are being sent. I do not think it is put in this way purposely at all, but this would seem to be the way whoever wrote it thought would best indicate what were the needs.

I want to say, quite definitely, that all anxiety would be removed if we were able to find in December a total, above the numbers now arranged, of 5,000 infantry fully trained or in an advanced state of training, a similar number in January and a further 6,000 in the succeeding months.

If that were the case all our anxiety would be at an end.

Every possible economy in the employment of fit general service personnel in home establishments has now been made or is in process, and the men so made available are included in the figures of planned dispatches.

They are out of the way. The next sentence is:

In consequence, the only source from which this additional 16,000 can be secured is from the N.R.M.A.

Still we do not say they are going.

If we are to disnatch any considerable body of these men in time to ease the anxieties in the situation, arrangements for shipping must be initiated forthwith.

There is not one word from start to finish to indicate that one of these men is going; it is all hypothetical. Now I want to ask about the shipping arrangements.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: If there is any doubt, due to my lack of mastery of phraseology, I say now to the hon. member that these additional shipments of 5,000 in the month of December, 5,000 in the month of January and 2,000 in each of the three succeeding months, subject to some variation one way or another, to fit in with the ships as we can get them—I say to him that these numbers of trained infantry will go.

Mr. RALSTON: When would the first 5,000 arrive in the battle area? That is the important thing.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The December shipments, having regard to the estimated state of training, should be available for use close behind the units by the end of January. They are well trained. That number is 5,000. Then, taking the point in the pools, there should

be another 2,500 available in February, another 2,500 available in March, 3,000 available in April and 3,000 available in May.

Mr. RALSTON: That is, available in the battle area?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: That is right.

Mr. RALSTON: And shipping has been arranged, I take it?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Shipping is in process of arrangement.

Mr. RALSTON: Speaking of the number of N.R.M.A. men enlisted for July, you gave some figures to-night of the late enlistments. I think they show 117 for four days, 256 for the next week and 314 for the following week, which is 787 for a little more than half a month. I would just ask if you would check. The normal enlistments in July were 1,350, were they not?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The information requested is the number of N.R.M.A. men converting to general service in the month of June. That number was 2,976; for July, 1,342; for August, 1,350, and for September, 1,340.

Mr. RALSTON: Then for October the figure I have is 850.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The figure given here is 848.

Mr. RALSTON: So that the enlistments so far in November are on the order of the enlistments in July, August and September, and about fifty per cent higher than the enlistments in October?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Yes.

Mr. NEILL: I wish to ask the Minister of National Defence one question, and I do not propose to hitch a speech to it. I want to bring up a matter which as far as I have heard has not been touched so far, and which I think would have a direct bearing on the success or otherwise of the policy laid down this afternoon by the Prime Minister and emphasized or brought into being by the order in council which he quoted. In order to make my question intelligible, however, I must be allowed to lay a foundation for it, in as few words as possible.

As I see it, the situation is this. The former Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston), to whom I presume I must now refer as the hon. member for Prince, after some years in charge of the department, after several visits overseas, the most recent of which was within the last few months, and after a thorough investigation of the situation, comes to the conclusion that he must send overseas these