

*Privilege—Mr. E. W. George*

and on the fourth Sunday the officers, W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s trained on the equipment. If there was a fifth Sunday, this too was often used. During the Easter and Christmas recesses tradesmen courses were conducted with about one hundred personnel attending each course. This extensive training program was carried on over the regiment's large territory; and it will be understood that, in addition to the training time, a large amount of time had to be spent in administration by the senior officers of the unit in organizing these activities.

As commanding officer of the regiment, I also have under my command the army camp at Sussex which has sufficient accommodation for a regiment, in addition to a former R.C.E.M.E. workshop which we use as a tank hangar and for stores. In addition, I have on charge the Sussex armouries, which is used by "B" squadron. I also have on my charge accommodation at Hampton, St. Martins, Petitcodiac, Havelock, Salisbury and Sackville, the tank driving range at Camp Sussex and the Sussex rifle range. Altogether, I have on my personal charge over three million dollars' worth of buildings, tanks, training equipment, clothing, et cetera. While I have not seen all the training areas in Canada, I am sure that our reserve army training facilities are among the best in the country.

No hon. member would expect that the great responsibility of administering these extensive training facilities could be properly undertaken without the devotion of a large amount of time to it. I felt and continue to feel a real responsibility for the proper use of this property and equipment, and consider it to be a necessity to spare no time or pains in this task.

Unlike the situation under active service conditions, when one had a complete establishment of fully trained personnel and when the troops were always in camp, we as a reserve unit have to make all these administrative arrangements ourselves and to provide for the transport of our troops on Saturday evening from their homes to Sussex, feed, sleep and train them, and then transport them to their homes on Sunday evening.

In May, 1951, the regiment supplied its quota to the Panda recruiting program for the 27th brigade in Germany. Teams were entered in all rifle shooting competitions. During the year I attended many unit and area conferences on training and administration. Summer camp was conducted under unit arrangements at Camp Sussex with the tank shoot being held at Camp Tracadie in the northern part of the province.

[Mr. George.]

One who has not commanded an active reserve force unit has little idea of the amount of work required by the commanding officer and his staff. Naturally, the more training that is done, the more problems arise and the more personal supervision is required. As I think any other commanding officer who tries sincerely to run a truly good unit would find, I have found that running a modern reserve armoured unit absorbs virtually every bit of his spare time.

The days when commanding officers could satisfy themselves with relatively few weeks' work a year are, I believe, over. If our reserve army units are to be kept in a state of readiness to face potential wartime mobilization, then the job of the commanding officer is a big one indeed. My predecessor found it necessary in 1950 to expend the equivalent of 214 army days as commanding officer of our unit.

Regardless of whether I was in Ottawa, Sussex or at home, my officers continued to provide me with hours and hours of detailed work which I had to handle.

Whether I want to or not—and I do not want to—I cannot divorce myself from my unit during the half-year I am in Ottawa. I spend a good many hours every week doing army work such as reviews of boards of inquiry, endless correspondence, keeping in touch with my scattered sub units, and in general keeping my finger on the pulse of the regiment; all these things absorb hours of time.

For that portion of my reserve army work which I have done in Ottawa I have received the remuneration provided for by the regulations. I say that without shame or without apology. Many members of parliament, in these years when parliament has come to absorb so much time, find it necessary to conduct their affairs from Ottawa. I, too, found myself in this position in respect to my responsibilities toward the reserve army.

Like all armoured corps units in Canada, our regiment is a member of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps association. This association annually puts up trophies for competition and there are five which may be won by an armoured regiment. As I said before, in 1950, we won the Leonard trophy. In 1951, the year under discussion, my regiment won four of the five trophies and, in 1952, we won all five of them. Here I want to pay tribute to the officers, W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s and men of my regiment for their loyal and wholehearted support. Without them, and their untiring efforts and sacrifice, the regiment would not have reached this present high position in the reserve forces of Canada.