

General Sanson and Reinforcements

In the Fredericton Gleaner of May 31, 1945, General Sanson is quoted as follows:

"On my return to Canada, I submitted my report to the War Committee of the Cabinet but it has not yet been published. I don't think Prime Minister Mackenzie King liked my report any better than he did Colonel Ralston's. I was asked to file a report that would not be too voluminous to be published and did so but it has never been published and I doubt very much if it will be before the election."

The government has now published a summary of the report prepared by General Sanson himself.

What did his report disclose:

1. that the government followed the advice of its military advisers in making provision for reinforcements;
2. that Canadian provision for reinforcements was based on British experience until August 31, 1944 when, for the first time, there was enough Canadian experience to guide the army.
3. that there was never an over-all shortage of reinforcements, but only a shortage of infantry (as was stated in P.M.'s broadcast of Nov. 8, 1944).
4. that the problem disclosed in August was met "as was done in the other Allied Armies by the conversion, or re-mustering, of surplus reinforcements in other Arms".
5. that re-mustering was "a practical solution to the problem".
6. that the actual numbers of reinforcements despatched from Canada in the calendar year 1944 was 13,816 more than planned.