

Supply—National Defence

Mr. Hellyer: We shall certainly be glad to look into this.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Chairman, would the minister care at this time to answer questions respecting the enlistment age of persons entitled to pensions, which was mentioned earlier. I am sure the members of the committee would be interested to have that statement.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Chairman, this is in respect of ages of people who were retired. May I read my information in order to put it on the record.

Wing Commander W. G. Taylor was nine years of age, almost ten, or within a few days of being ten, when he enlisted in the non-permanent active militia on the eighth day of the seventh month, 1927.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Did he indicate that he was nine years old when he enlisted? What age did he give on enlistment.

Mr. Hellyer: I am afraid I shall have to ask my right hon. friend's indulgence in that. He left the non-permanent active militia on the fourteenth day of the sixth month, 1937.

Flight Sgt. J. C. Baker was 11 years old when he enlisted on the sixteenth day of the tenth month, 1926.

Mr. Herridge: With what regiment?

Mr. Hellyer: He left the non-permanent active militia on the seventh day of the second month, 1936. Apparently he rejoined the militia on the thirtieth day of the third month, 1936, and left again on the second day of the ninth month, 1939.

Lieut. Col. William Alton was aged 12—

Mr. Herridge: The church lads brigade.

Mr. Hellyer:—when he enlisted on the twenty ninth day of the eleventh month, 1927. He retired from the militia on the eighteenth day of the seventh month, 1938. Major R. W. Hampton was 12 when he enlisted on the first day of the tenth month, 1926. He retired from the militia on the first day of the seventh month, 1931. Sergeant D. W. Hopkinson was aged 12 when he enlisted on the third day of the fifth month, 1933. He retired from the militia on the thirty first day of the eighth month, 1939.

Mr. Herridge: What was his rank on enlistment?

Mr. Hellyer: I do not know what it was officially called. I suspect it would be private, or perhaps boy or apprentice.

Flight Sgt. C.F. Page was aged 12 when he enlisted for the first time on the fifth day of the fourth month, 1933. He retired from the militia on the fifteenth day of the fourth month, 1936. He re-enlisted on the nineteenth day of the first month, 1939 and then retired from the militia on the thirty first day of the eighth month, 1939, about when the war broke out.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the minister whether the regimental records or the battalion records are available with respect to these enlistments?

An hon. Member: You had better explain what you mean.

Mr. Hellyer: The units are on the statutory declarations, but I do not have them here.

Mr. Herridge: Are the units that you mentioned on the statutory declarations? What I really meant was, are the records of these battalions still in existence?

Mr. Hellyer: No, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Herridge: That is rather unfortunate.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that the minister owes to the committee and to the house a great deal more explanation than he has given. I know that in Winnipeg young people are joining the cadets, but I have not realized that the cadets or the militia permit people to join at ages of 9, 10, 11 or 12. I still do not believe that. I am rather skeptical about this report. I am sure the minister would not knowingly give wrong information to the house, but I want to say to him that I, for one, doubt every word in every illustration which he has given to the house. I think the house is entitled to an explanation which makes some sense, which the minister's statement certainly does not make to me.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, has the minister tabled the army regulations relating to dates of enlistment in the militia, of that time? They were in existence, I take it?

Mr. Hellyer: The regulations I quoted earlier, which applied, permitted enlistment at age 13 in special cases. Four of the men mentioned here were approaching their thirteenth birthday at the time they enlisted. One or two got in a little earlier than the others.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, last Friday I raised the question of the simulator for the CF-5. I pursue that again at this hour because we have not had any further comment about the simulator, other than at an earlier period