

clouds appeared on the horizon. Since then these squadrons have patrolled our coastal waters from the Gulf of St. Lawrence and its two entrances, from the open sea to the southern tip of Nova Scotia. Twin-engined bombers of great flying range, fast single-seater fighters, flying boats and pontoon equipped machines cruise over the Atlantic sea lanes, ready for swift action against any enemy on surface or aloft and acting as the eyes of our convoys and shipping off our coasts. In the same way, on the Pacific, the Western Air Command is engaged in the constant protection of our shores and ships at sea. At all stations the Royal Canadian Air Force is performing its duties with skill and efficiency: as a fighting force, on the one hand, and as the eyes of the Navy, on the other. Its present strength, I may add, is over 12,000 officers and men, and is growing rapidly. The Force also protects Newfoundland and St. Pierre, Miquelon. The total personnel at May 10 was: 1,389 officers, 10,926 airmen; 12,315 all ranks. The disposition of this personnel was:

Army Co-operation:

- One squadron overseas
- One squadron completing training in Canada
- Reinforcements trained continuously in Army Co-operation School.

Home Defence:

- Present establishment 9 squadrons
- Proposed establishment 12 squadrons.

Air Training Plan:

- Canadian share of instructional staff provided by R.C.A.F.

I will now refer to the Army. The first Canadian Division, our first expeditionary force, reached Great Britain in December last. It had been splendidly organized, and crossed the sea surrounded by all due protection. Its Commanding Officer and various staffs, brigade and regimental appointments were selected solely by consideration of merit. It was judged necessary to dispatch the division at that time so that complementary training could be received in a milder climate.

I might add that a division, as at present organized, is not a fully self-contained and self-supporting organization. The approximate strength of the First Canadian Division is 16,000. In the field it will function as part of an army corps, a formation which contains two or more divisions and a number of supporting units which serve the corps as a whole. These extra divisional units are referred to as corps troops.

Then there are ancillary troops. In order that the First Canadian Division may carry its full weight in the army corps of which it will ultimately form a part, the Canadian Government decided, in consultation with the British Government, to dispatch overseas a due proportion of corps troops, in addition to

the division itself. Further, to permit the First Canadian Division to be administered as a Canadian entity, certain administrative units have also been sent to Great Britain. The total of all these extra divisional units is between six and seven thousand men. They include medium and field artillery and an artillery survey unit; engineers, signal units, army service corps, ordnance corps, certain base details, and medical and dental units.

I should mention that in this war the country's existing militia formations have been used as the basis of recruiting men for active service. They are organized into eleven territorial regiments. Our battle units actually are the militia regiments, whose insignia they wear. What is more, units have been mobilized in such a way that representation has been given to all provinces. Every section of the country was given an opportunity to share the burden, and every section made a splendid response to the call.

Honourable members have been apprised of the selection for dispatch overseas of the first squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force, which is now abroad. It will serve in the field with the First Canadian Division, and is in command of Squadron Leader Van Vliet, of Winnipeg. The unit selected for this honour is No. 110 (City of Toronto) Squadron, the oldest of the auxiliary or non-permanent arm of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Several other units are associated with this army co-operation squadron in order to give representation to both Western and Eastern Canada, and to provide for the inclusion of personnel from both the permanent and auxiliary branches of our Air Force. This army co-operation squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force is in addition to the special Canadian Squadron of the Royal Air Force, which has been formed of Canadian pilots now serving with the Royal Air Force in England.

The Second Canadian Division has been organized for service abroad and is at present in training in Canada. It, too, will represent as fairly as possible our various provinces. There are also being recruited supporting elements for the First Canadian Division, which is now abroad, apart from the Second Canadian Division, which is still in this country.

I now come to the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, which will represent, perhaps, the main effort of Canada in this war. When announcing agreement by the several governments interested on the principle of the proposal, the Prime Minister stated:

The Government of the United Kingdom had indicated its opinion that with the facilities which Canada possesses, this co-operative effort may prove to be of the most essential and decisive character.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.