

whether he can go home. His mother writes me a pitiful letter; she herself is in ill health; there are two other brothers in the services; he has been retained in Halifax for some weeks and, as far as I know, is still there.

The other matter to which I wish to refer is that of hotel accommodation in Halifax. I have information that the Hillside hotel, which was mentioned this afternoon by the minister and the hon. member for York-Sunbury, has been vacated by the Canadian Women's Army Corps and is just barely occupied at the present time. In view of the scarcity of hotels and stopping places in Halifax, and the fact that the Halifax hotel and the Waverley hotel have also been taken over and that the King Edward hotel is used for military purposes, could not Hillside Hall be made available for the use of the public and transients, to accommodate private citizens? People who have business in Halifax, people who are going to Halifax to see members of their family sail, have no place to stay. Many of them have to stay up all night, and some are ordered not even to come to Halifax. If the facts are as represented to me, this Hillside hotel was taken over by the department at an initial cost of \$50,000, plus additional expenditures bringing the total at the present time up to \$89,868.63; and as I said, the information I have is that it has been practically vacated as regards the purpose for which it was first secured.

Mr. RALSTON: In reference to the case to which my hon. friend has referred, I would think that the only thing the young man can do is to make application in the regular way. It happens to be a different name, but it is the same individual.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): No; another individual and another number.

Mr. RALSTON: I did not catch it, then.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): His real number is G15419, and the number under which he is being held is G15883.

Mr. RALSTON: As I understood the matter, it was the same individual.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): I assume it is two men. He has his own number. He is not in the army with a uniform. The man is being held under another name and another number.

Mr. RALSTON: If my hon. friend will send me particulars of the case I shall look into it.

With regard to Hillside Hall, I do not know how many people it accommodates; I would think perhaps fifty at the outside.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): I think it accommodates more than that.

Mr. RALSTON: One hundred, say?

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): My return says, ten officers and 200 C.W.A.C.

Mr. RALSTON: It would not accommodate 200 civilians. I can say to my hon. friend that I do not think there is the slightest chance in the world of the department being able to give up that property. We have searched the city and done everything we possibly could in order to get accommodation for the personnel which is required there. We had a great many protests at the time this was done, but the war was on and the accommodation was needed, so that we just had to take it. My hon. friend knows we built on the cathedral grounds huts to accommodate personnel, rather than take more property of that kind. I generally try to hold out hope of consideration, but I am afraid I would not be justified in raising hopes in this case.

Mr. ADAMSON: The question came up just now about complacency. I think that is the term for it. We had a statement this afternoon in this chamber that thirteen basic training centres had been closed. Yet we are told by the Prime Minister, who goes into histrionics about it, that the war is certainly a long way from being won. I am prepared to agree, certainly, that most of the fighting is yet to come, but the statement that thirteen basic training centres have been closed simply defies analysis if we are yet to have our greatest number of casualties. It seems to me that some further statement as to the reason for the closing of these basic training centres is needed. Presumably we are to attack the fortress of Europe. This will be tough, tougher than we probably imagine at the present time. Yet we have decreased our recruiting in, I think, all three services. I am not sure about the navy, but certainly the air force has stopped recruiting aircrew. And we have closed thirteen basic training centres. It seems to me that there must be a further explanation of this very important point.

With reference to the question of internment operations, which comes under this item, the minister has given an explanation as to why we have a reduction in costs. The cost of operations is reduced five million dollars. Actually it is not reduced five million dollars, but the item is reduced by that amount because of the transfer of salaries. Are prisoners of war paid—the ones working in the lumber camps and those engaged in manufacturing operations? There are several plants in my riding—I am thinking of one in particular—where prisoners of war are actually working in industry. What base rates are they being paid, and what regulations under the Geneva convention does this come under?