

War Appropriation

the syllabus; it is perfectly all right; but I mentioned at the time that it might be only a paper syllabus, because it shows, at the advanced training centre, that the recruit fires a rifle 55 rounds, a machine gun 120 rounds, and an anti-tank rifle 32 rounds. On the day the minister was speaking about this matter, he stated, I believe, that he was not sure whether the recruit actually fired the number of rounds set out in the syllabus; but he spoke to the assistant chief of the general staff, who was present, and then stated that he was assured that the men did fire these rounds. I notice in looking over *Hansard* of Friday of last week that the minister stated that the recruit did not have a Lee-Enfield rifle on which to take musketry, but he remarked to the committee that in his opinion the recruit could be trained on the Ross or some other kind of rifle. I would point out to the minister that the only time the recruit has a Lee-Enfield rifle in his hand is when he lies down on a ground sheet at a range to fire his first group of practising.

Mr. RALSTON: Is my hon. friend talking now about basic or advanced?

Mr. WHITE: This is the advanced training centre. At the basic training centre he fires just a rifle. I should like the minister to have inquiries made at Camp Borden and to give the committee an assurance that every recruit who goes through Camp Borden advanced training centre actually fires the number of rounds on a rifle, machine gun and anti-tank rifle as shown in the syllabus which the minister put on *Hansard* at page 1890.

We have had one example of men proceeding from Canada overseas without being properly trained. I understand it was expected at the time the boys who went to Hong Kong were sent there that they would have time to continue and complete their training. At present, any recruit proceeding to England may find himself in action the day after his arrival. I do not think it is asking too much to request the minister to give this committee an assurance that every recruit who goes through any of our training schools does fire the actual number of rounds as shown on the syllabus. The minister, as an old soldier, knows that the firing of a rifle, a machine gun, an anti-tank gun or any other weapon is probably the most important part of the training.

I do not want to bring up again the question of allowances, because the minister has dealt with it quite fully, but there is just one question I should like to put to him. At the time the allowance board set up the rate of pay for the private soldier and the allowance to his wife, an advance was made in the

[Mr. White.]

soldier's pay from \$1.10 to \$1.30. What yardstick was used in setting the pay at \$1.30, and the wife's allowance at \$30 a month?

A few days ago the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) asked the minister with regard to the troops on leave who travel from the coast to the centre of Ontario, whether an allowance was made for the time spent in travelling. I am told that no allowance is made. The minister promised to ascertain the facts. If they are as I believe them to be, will he and his department give the matter consideration? I believe the minister will be the first to admit that a boy who lives in Ontario and has to travel there from the coast should not be penalized by having several days taken off his leave.

Finally, I would ask the minister if his department is considering a change in the type of steel hat worn by the private soldier. I have seen illustrations of new types of hats worn by the soldiers of the United States, Germany, France, and Japan.

Mr. RALSTON: I tried to make a note of each question as asked by my hon. friend and at the same time to listen to the next question he was putting, and I hope I have them all.

He asked first with regard to reinforcements. Naturally one must be arbitrary, because it is impossible to predict what will happen, but a scale was arrived at by Canadian military headquarters and the corps commander in consultation with the war office. The numbers of troops called for by that scale are overseas at the present time. My hon. friend will understand that I cannot give him the figures—he will not expect me to—but I can assure him and the committee that the troops provided for at full scale as laid down by the corps commander, and by Canadian military headquarters in consultation with the war office are overseas at the present time.

Mr. WHITE: Would the minister mind telling the committee the various types of reinforcements, what he means by ancillary reinforcements, what he means by holding companies, reinforcements with the unit, or any other ones?

Mr. RALSTON: I am afraid I do not understand my hon. friend. Reinforcements are kept in what we called "holding units" in England, but the name has now been changed to "reinforcement units." There are reinforcement units for the infantry, the artillery, the machine gun battalions, signals and so forth. Some units have reinforcements of several arms, and reinforcements go to the various reinforcement units and from there to the