

Supply—National Defence

which is not really adequate when one considers the opportunities available for year-round training which will be possible at this camp with the additional property. We will be permitted with this additional acreage to carry out a much wider variation of on-site training during a greater part of the year, which will in turn give us better and more effective use of training time for the troops who are normally stationed at that camp.

Mr. Churchill: Perhaps the minister will indicate the number of troops that are stationed at that camp, the type of service for which they are enrolled and the amount of practice firing involved. Perhaps he could indicate how many mortar shells would be used in the course of a year. I might say that I am not entirely unfamiliar with this type of training, but I should like the minister to give us some information in this regard.

Mr. Hellyer: The normal complement at that camp is up to three battalions, plus support troops. The infantry has now placed some orders for mortars, but as my hon. friend must know, I cannot tell him the actual amount of firing that will take place. Perhaps at a later stage when the standing committee meets, the commander of Mobile Command, who is one of the individuals interested in this development, will be called to enlighten my hon. friend as to the exact plans he has in mind to best use the training facilities we have acquired.

Mr. Churchill: May I ask the minister whether the three battalions there are resident throughout the year?

Mr. Hellyer: Three are resident, from time to time, although not at this moment.

Mr. Churchill: Does that mean they are rotated, with other battalions coming in to take their place?

Mr. Hellyer: Sometimes they are rotated overseas, as are other battalions.

Mr. Churchill: Perhaps the minister could indicate the amount of mortar firing these units carry out in the course of a year, what proportion of the battalions use mortars, and the number of men involved?

Mr. Hellyer: As I indicated last night, Mr. Chairman, the amount of mortar fire has been severely restricted in recent years as a result of ammunition restrictions. One of the plans we have for re-equipping the armed forces involves the provision of more ammunition so that more live ammunition can be used in training.

[Mr. Hellyer.]

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, I had the understanding that there was a restriction on mortar shells. Could the minister inform us as to the cost of a mortar shell?

Mr. Hellyer: There are many different types of mortar shells. Perhaps if the hon. member will give us the particular type, the mark number and the manufacturer we will be able to look up the cost for him.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, I will give the minister that information if he will indicate the type of mortar and the mark number now being used by the battalion. If the minister will tell me the kind of equipment used by the infantry in respect of mortars I will tell him which one I have an interest in.

• (8:30 p.m.)

It is obvious that the minister does not know. It is quite obvious that Valcartier camp is not required for mortar training. There is not a sufficient number of mortar shells at the present time. They happen to be expensive, you know, much more expensive than a rifle cartridge; and they come in different sizes. Also, not all battalions use these sizes and there are not very many men in the mortar platoons or sections that would be using them; and the battalions rotate from camp to camp. I suggest that mortar training could be carried out elsewhere.

The minister is trying to cure a deficiency at Valcartier camp, and perhaps he would answer this question: Where are the mortar ranges for our troops now? That is something that should not be too difficult to answer.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Ask him about motorcycles.

Mr. Hellyer: Gagetown, Petawawa and Wainwright.

Mr. Churchill: And how many troops normally take part in exercises at Gagetown?

Mr. Hellyer: Last year I think the exercises were at brigade level, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Churchill: It is quite obvious that there is plenty of opportunity for the mortar sections and platoons in infantry regiments to be trained elsewhere than at Valcartier. I make a plea to the minister, just as the Leader of the Opposition did before supper, to show some kindness of heart for 25 families who are being dislodged from their homes.

I cannot understand this attitude on the part of the minister. The Prime Minister is here and I am very glad to see him. I understand, Mr. Prime Minister, that these people sent a message to you asking for your