

Reports dealing with all matters referred to the Committee are appended hereto.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. L. BARROW,
Chairman

A. L. TOSLAND, Col.,
Member

E. B. ARMSTRONG,
Member

OTTAWA, March 20, 1946.
P.R. 18037.

Section 1

CORPS OF (CIVILIAN) CANADIAN FIRE FIGHTERS FOR SERVICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Interdepartmental Committee on Veterans Affairs examined the brief submitted by the Corps of Canadian Fire Fighters and representations by the Honourable the Premier of Alberta and by the Alberta Provincial Association of Fire Fighters. The Corps of Canadian Fire Fighters is an organization of 405 members who served overseas with the Corps of (Civilian) Canadian Fire Fighters for Service in the United Kingdom. A delegation from that body was heard.

The representations of the Corps urge that they be deemed to be members of the armed forces for the purpose of participation in all post-discharge benefits, income tax exemption, medals, and consideration by the Dependents' Board of Trustees. They argue that they endured the hazards of active service and were at times, by reason of the call of duty, unable to seek cover from enemy attack, that they were separated from their homes and business connections and in 65% of the cases from their normal occupation, and that they should be regarded as having borne arms by reason of their anti-incendiary equipment.

The Committee also had regard to the regulations established by Order in Council P.C. 76/1656 of March 3rd, 1942, which set forth the organization of the Corps, provisions as to suspension, conditions of service (from which it is noted that the rates of pay ranged upwards from \$1.30 per day), provision of clothing and equipment, the rules of procedure and the code of offences against discipline. The Committee found that generally the scope of discipline and punishment was less severe than would be applicable to the armed services as is evidenced by the fact that the maximum penalty which could be awarded to the fire fighters is dismissal, whereas a member of the armed forces could be awarded penal servitude, imprisonment with or without hard labour, discharge with ignominy (with all it involves), detention or (if an officer) be cashiered.

Of a total enrolment of 422 members of the Corps established by Order in Council P.C. 76/1656 of March 3, 1942, 408 proceeded overseas, with an average length of service of approximately 2 years 9 months; 3 were killed overseas, 5 were wounded and 3 seriously injured. Of the 14 members who did not proceed overseas, 3 remained on duty at Headquarters at Ottawa for a considerable time. Of the total membership, 148 (35%) were former members of paid fire departments, 113 of volunteer fire departments, 12 of auxiliary fire services and 149 had no previous fire fighting experience. At December 31,